

# Great Bear Rainforest

On SV Maple Leaf



A Frommer's "Trip of a Lifetime"



**T***he Inside Passage and British Columbia's central coast is a land of fjords, mountains, rainforests and great river estuaries. It is home to grizzlies, wolves and the mysterious white Spirit Bear.*

Journey into one of Earth's greatest wild places. Robert Kennedy Jr. calls it "the last stand of the great North American rainforest". Maple Leaf's trips in 3 seasons (spring, summer, fall) are timed for peak experiences of natural beauty and wildlife.

**Fjords and Forests That Humble**  
The Pacific ocean's eastern edge breaks against BC's western islands and sandy beaches. Then it snakes down glacier-hewn valleys at the foot of the mountains: these are the Great Bear Rainforest's fjords. You'll travel past the fjords' granite flanks, where waterfalls drop hundreds of feet to the sea.

Ancient rainforest of spruce and cedar clings to mountainsides and river valleys. People have described these forests of ethereal green light as "living cathedrals". In the eighteenth century the European explorers had another word: *sublime*.

**People of the Rainforest**  
You'll explore the worlds of several northwest First Nations: the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xaixais, Haisla, Gitga'at and Henaaksiala. Everywhere there is evidence of their civilization. Fish traps, bark-stripped trees and big-house remains give testimony to a life tuned to the rhythm of nature.

You'll visit modern villages and see the ancient art traditions still in place today. Our First Nations guides will not only tell you about their culture, but they'll also chat with you one on one.

**The Land of the Great Bears**  
At the foot of the mountains sprawl vast river estuaries. Here, you'll float in a shore boat or sit in a safe place to watch bears. B.C.'s largest population of grizzly bears visits the estuaries in spring and fall. Watch as a bear with chocolate-brown fur eats sedges and roots. Look for the white Spirit Bear, the continent's rarest bear, and for black bears.

**Nature's Peak Spectacles - 3 Seasons**  
Our experienced crew and naturalist will take you to areas where you'll be able to witness peak wildlife events: spring bird migrations, spring and summer bears on estuaries, mountain goats, porpoises, dense intertidal life. Humpback whales arrive in spring to feast until fall. In fall, witness the return of the salmon to spawn, which draws bears to the estuaries again, along with seals, eagles and elusive wolves. We often visit one of the natural, out-of-the-way hot springs here.



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# Great Bear Rainforest

*"Better than billed – loved seeing the goats and bears... wonderful caring crew. Thanks for the memories."*

- Marion Kerr, Comox, B.C.,  
about the Great Bear Rainforest &  
Kitlope Spring Supervoyage

## 2017 Dates & Prices - SV Maple Leaf **Vancouver Island & Great Bear Rainforest** **Supervoyage - Spring**

### **Vancouver Island Inside Passage**

**Apr 27 - May 4**, 7 nights, 8 days

Price: Can \$2800

Depart : Sidney, BC

Return: Campbell River, BC

See separate brochure for itinerary.

### **Desolation Sound & Discovery Islands**

**May 6 - 10**, 4 nights, 5 days

Price: Can \$1890

Depart : Campbell River, BC

Return: Campbell River, BC

See separate brochure for itinerary.

### **Spring Vancouver Island Inside Passage & Great Bear Rainforest:**

**May 11 - 19** 8 nights, 9 days

Price: Can \$3200

Depart: Campbell River, BC



## **Spring in the Great Bear Rainforest**

You'll explore here as spring enlivens the coast. Starting with the outer islands of the south, you'll explore the wild edge and beaches of the Great Bear.

As you cruise north through tight passageways and protected seas, the landscape steepens.

In the Great Bear Rainforest, picturesque snow still caps the mountain peaks but green estuaries burst with plant life and migrating birds. Oceanic plankton blooms begin, fuelling a bounty of krill and fish for returning whales. Newly-awakened bears graze on sedges.

You will cruise and walk among it all, often the only humans for hundreds of miles.

You'll also explore the past and present day life of coastal communities -- from First Nations' ancient history here, to more recent homesteaders.

Late spring and early summer are good times for viewing grizzly or brown bears. The earlier spring trips have some chance of bears but the amount depends on whether the spring is early or late in a particular year.

(Note: for those for whom the possibility of seeing a spirit bear is a make or break criterion, we recommend a fall trip. Spring is gorgeous in the Great Bear but it's not a good time for spirit bear viewing.)

## **Vancouver Island to Great Bear Rainforest**

**Day 1** Board at Campbell River. Cruising Quadra Island and Vancouver Island shores. Seymour Narrows, the dividing line between southern and northern climates. Historic Ripple Rock, watch for porpoises. Rainforest walk. Anchorage Port Neville.

**Day 2-3** Johnstone Strait and the steep-sided islands of the Broughton Archipelago. Coastal villages, Alert Bay cultural centre, marine mammals.

**Day 4-6** Sailing Cape Caution, exploring western islands and beaches of southern Great Bear. Entering the mainland inlets and fjords. Likely sea otters, humpback whales, early bears.

**Day 7** Fjordland where waterfalls cascade down granite cliffs. Petroglyphs, hot springs visit, cultural history, bear meadows.

**Day 8** Explore west coast islands as the goose group. West coast beach walks and zodiac excursions.

**Day 9** Cruise to Bella Bella. Wildlife viewing on route.



## **Maple Leaf Adventures**

PO Box 8845, Stn. Central,  
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3Z1 Canada

toll free 1-888-599-5323

local 1-250-386-7245



# Great Bear Rainforest

*"A charmed voyage. Better than we'd imagined. Great weather, awe inspiring sea and country, and wondrous wildlife sightings. Many thanks to the crew."*

*- Cheryl and Roger Moses, AB, Canada*



## SAMPLE ITINERARIES

### Great Bear Rainforest Spring Discovery

Cruise through the fjords and islands as the days lengthen and the wildflower meadows bloom. You'll cruise the coast's fjordlands to spectacular, mountain-ringed anchorages, hot springs, meadows, river valleys and rainforests, as wildlife and new growth rejuvenate the area in spring.

- Day 1** Board your ship in Bella Bella, orientation, cruise into Fjordland viewing spectacular mountains and waterfalls. Rainforest walk.
- Day 2** Visit great Fjordland river estuaries, wild flower meadows. Possible bear viewing.
- Day 3** Visit First Nations community of Klemtu, including guided tour and conversations at big house, example of First Nations artistry, culture and architecture.
- Day 4** Mainland inlet, bear viewing, rainforest walk, waterfalls, inside passage cruising, hot springs visit.
- Day 5** Visit coastal community, sailing down whale channel, viewing of marine mammals including whales and sea lions. Visit remote whale research station and speak with scientists. Cruise to west coast beach and explore.
- Day 6** Sailing the outer coast, exploring remote islands. Intertidal life, whales, seabirds, beaches.
- Day 7** Exploring north coast wolf habitat, cruising from outer coast to inner coast, rainforest walk.
- Day 8** Cruising to Kitimat, wildlife viewing.

*Actual trip itineraries vary depending on the interests of the guests, and the actions of weather and wildlife.*



### Whales & Grizzlies- Great Bear Rainforest Summer

- Day 1** Board Maple Leaf at Kitimaat Village, orientation, cruising into the Great Bear Rainforest, watching for marine mammals and birds. Anchorage at remote hot springs.
- Day 2** Morning exploration ashore, then cruising Whale Channel, an aptly named waterway popular with cetaceans. Visit whale research scientists at remote station. Marine mammal viewing (several species). Anchorage at remote island on west coast. Beachcombing, hike to view, beach fire.
- Day 3** Cruise to spectacular mainland inlet estuary popular with grizzly and black bears. Estuary meadow walk (wildflowers), learning about bear habitat, river exploration, look for bears.
- Day 4** Morning bear viewing in fjordland. Visit First Nations community of Klemtu, including guided tour and conversations at big house, example of First Nations artistry, culture and architecture.
- Day 5** Cruising in fjordland, estuary & rainforest walks. Bear viewing.
- Day 6** Cruise to Bella Bella, wildlife viewing on route.



*Photo credits: All photos by Kevin J. Smith except page 1 grizzly bear and ariel view by Ian McAllister, page 2 guests in zodiac and grizzly bear by Greg Shea, Maple Leaf sailing by Greg Shea, wolf by Ian McAllister.*

### 2017 Dates & Prices - SV Maple Leaf

#### Great Bear Rainforest Spring

**May 20 - 27, 7 nights, 8 days**

Price: Can \$4950

Depart: Bella Bella, BC

Return: Kitimat, BC

#### Whales & Wild Isles-Summer

**Aug 13 - 20, 7 nights, 8 days**

Price: Can \$4800

Depart: Prince Rupert, BC

Return: Kitimat, BC

See separate brochure for itinerary.

#### Whales & Grizzlies Great Bear-Summer

**Aug 21 - 26, 5 nights, 6 days**

Price: Can \$3650

Depart: Kitimat, BC

Return: Bella Bella, BC

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# Great Bear Rainforest

*"What an extraordinary trip! Sea otters, black bears, spirit bears, humpback whales, magnificent scenery, great shore trips, scrumptious meals, wonderful company with lots of laughter."*

- Jean Rissman, Calif, USA, autumn trip

## Autumn 2017 Dates & Prices - SV Maple Leaf

**Aug 27 - Sept 4, Sept 5 - 13, Sept 14 - 22 (Photo Tour)**

8 nights, 9 days

Cdn \$5950

Depart: Bella Bella, BC

Return: Bella Bella, BC

**Sept 24 - Oct 2**

8 nights, 9 days

Cdn \$5950

Depart: Bella Bella, BC

Return: Kitimat, BC

**Oct 3 - 11**

8 nights, 9 days

Cdn \$5950

Depart: Kitimat, BC

Return: Bella Bella, BC



## Autumn Great Bear Rainforest Trips

This fall, witness one of nature's most profound events: the journey of the wild pacific salmon into the rainforest. Follow the magic that unfolds during this important natural event.

Rivers are thick with fish burying their eggs in gravel. The spectacle brings bears and wolves to feast on the bounty. Eagles, ravens, harlequin ducks and gulls join in.

### Sample Itinerary - Bella Bella to Bella Bella- Autumn

- Day 1** Board Maple Leaf in Bella Bella, BC, orientation, cruising. Island anchorage, river exploration, and learning about the 'salmon forest'.
- Day 2** Beach walk. Cruising into Fjordland. Massive waterfalls, spectacular inlet\*, pictographs, estuary exploration and search for bears.
- Day 3** Cruising to one of the leading grizzly bear havens. Extended watching for grizzly bears. Optional evening kayak, fish ing, quiet time.
- Day 4** Morning shore walk, visit First Nations village, Klemtu. Big House tour by village guide. Intertidal life. Fjord anchorage.
- Day 5** Exploring coastal river by zodiac. Forest walk. Sea lion and black or grizzly bear viewing. Nature hike. Hot springs.
- Day 6** Spirit bear island anchorage. Shore excursion to spirit bear viewing site with bear stands. Whale Channel, humpback whale watching. Optional kayak.
- Day 7** Sailing down coastal channel, Island anchorage, cultural site visit. Optional evening kayak.
- Day 8** Outer coast beach exploration, sailing and cruising the western waters, whale viewing, shore trips.
- Day 9** Cruising to port in Bella Bella.

### Sample Itinerary - Bella Bella to Kitimat- Autumn

- Day 1** Board your ship in Bella Bella, orientation, cruise into Fjordland viewing spectacular mountains and waterfalls. Rainforest walk.
- Day 2** Visit great Fjordland river estuaries, wild salmon spawning. Possible bear viewing.
- Day 3** Visit First Nations community of Klemtu, including guided tour and conversations at big house, example of First Nations artistry, culture and architecture.
- Day 4** Mainland inlet, bear viewing, rainforest walk, waterfalls, inside passage cruising, hot springs visit.
- Day 5** Spirit bear island anchorage. Shore excursion to spirit bear viewing site with bear stands. Whale Channel, humpback whale watching.
- Day 6** Optional kayak, sailing down whale channel, viewing of marine mammals including whales and sea lions. Visit remote whale research station and speak with scientists. Cruise to west coast beach and explore.
- Day 7** Sailing the outer coast, exploring remote islands. Intertidal life, whales, seabirds, beaches.
- Day 8** Exploring north coast wolf habitat, cruising from outer coast to inner coast, rainforest walk.
- Day 9** Cruising to Kitimat, wildlife viewing.

*For Kitimat to Bella Bella, reverse this itinerary. Actual trip itineraries vary depending on the interests of the guests, and the actions of weather and wildlife.*

### Departure Notes

The August trips on SV Maple Leaf have an excellent chance for wildlife including grizzly bears, whales and salmon, but very low chance of spirit bears. The other trips have a higher chance of spirit bears, but please note that spirit bears are rare and while we have an excellent track record, a sighting is never guaranteed. The September & October trips include a full day at a bear stand in spirit bear territory. All trips include wild, completely natural bear viewing opportunities as well, without structures. Ask us about other dates.



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*"What a wonderful trip on a very special ship- a pleasure to be onboard with a fabulous crew!"*

-Diane Bohomis & Allan Seiersen,  
Comox, BC

## Dates and Prices - Photo Tour 2017 - SV Maple Leaf

### Great Bear Rainforest Photography Trip

Sept 14 - 22, 8 nights, 9 days  
Cdn \$5950

Depart: Bella Bella, BC  
Return: Bella Bella, BC



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## Great Bear Photography Trip

Capture images of wildlife and landscapes on this photo trip in British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest, guided by the expert crew of Maple Leaf Adventures.

This trip is designed specifically for photographers who seek images of grizzly bears, rainforest, fjords, and the rare, white Spirit Bear.

Led by a superb nature photographer and instructor, on this photo trip you'll have plenty of time to set up great shots, take advantage of the right light conditions and improve your technique.

### Sample Itinerary - Photo Trip

- Day 1** Board ship, orientation, cruising inside passage channels to island anchorage. Evening rainforest photography.
- Day 2** Ashore for morning photography. Cruising fjords. Ashore for evening bear photography.
- Day 3** Morning bear and fjord photography. Short cruise and afternoon/evening meadow, fjord and bear photography.
- Day 4** Inner islands rainforest cruising. Whale photography. Visit village of Klemtu. Village life photography.
- Day 5** Morning seascape photography while cruising. Afternoon / evening bear photography.
- Day 6** Morning bear, and river photography. Evening cruise, hot springs.
- Day 7** All day at spirit bear viewing/ photography site.
- Day 8** Cruising and exploratory photography sessions.
- Day 9** Morning photo session. Cruising to Bella Bella.



Actual trip itineraries vary depending on the interests of the guests, and the actions of weather and wildlife.

*\*Names of key areas we visit have been left out to protect wildlife from trophy hunting and unprofessional operators.*



## About the Ship



### The Ship, *SV Maple Leaf*

*Maple Leaf* is a beautiful 92-foot schooner.

#### The Coast's Beloved, Historic Tall Ship

Built of coastal Douglas fir, high elevation yellow cedar and mahogany, she is a **tough expedition vessel** and a **work of artistry**.

#### Transport Canada Certified

*Maple Leaf* is certified by Transport Canada as a passenger carrying vessel. This stringent, world-class designation is the **highest standard of certification for vessels** in Canada (higher than most charter boats, sail training vessels, and fishing vessels, for example).

#### Comfort and Beauty

*Maple Leaf's* accommodations are **very comfortable**. Mahogany and fir line the galley, dining salon and wheelhouse. The spacious main cabin is airy and divided by half-walls and heavy curtains into four "cabins," providing sleeping accommodations for eight guests. There are three heads (washrooms) aboard, all with hot running water and shower conversions.

#### Unparalleled Access to Special Places

*Maple Leaf* has an **extensive library** and **three decks**. Her **sea-kindly** attributes, **long range**, **sails** and size allow you to access extraordinary wilderness areas of the coast most people will never reach.

She is outfitted for engaging with the natural world: **rigid hull inflatable boats** for accessing wildlife colonies and remote beaches, **kayaks**, a **hydrophone** for listening to whales, small temporary tanks for exploring **intertidal life**, **GoPro underwater cameras**, **presentation screen & more**.



*Above: The Maple Leaf's wheelhouse lounge.*



*Right: One of the many on-deck seating areas, this one along the aft rail of the ship.*

# About the Ship



*Top: A detail from the wheelhouse at night.*

*Middle left: The dining lounge.*

*Middle right: A snack served on deck.*

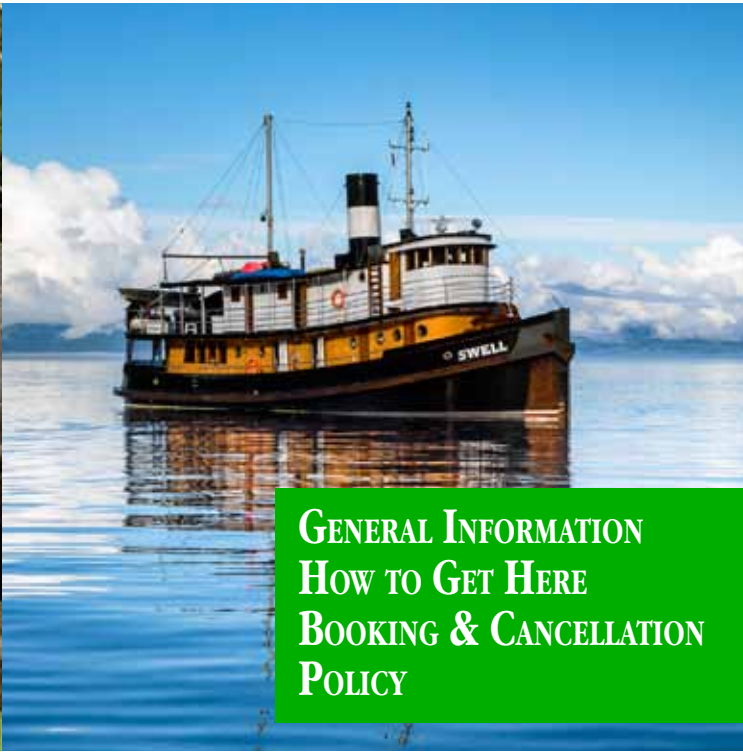
*Bottom left: One of the sleeping cabins.*

*Bottom right: One of the heads (bathrooms)*



# BOUTIQUE EXPEDITIONS BY CLASSIC SHIP

ALASKA | GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST | GULF ISLANDS | HAIDA GWAI | VANCOUVER ISLAND



**GENERAL INFORMATION**  
**HOW TO GET HERE**  
**BOOKING & CANCELLATION**  
**POLICY**





# The Trips

Since 1986, trips with Maple Leaf Adventures have been described by guests and international media as the “Trip of a Lifetime”.

Join us and discover the amazing natural wonders of the British Columbia and southeast Alaska coast. Your 5-day to 11-day tour explores this vast paradise of 50,000 islands and 40,000 km of shoreline.

You will travel in the spirit of adventure, aboard authentic, classic coastal ships. Unlike big or pocket cruise ships, these nimble, 8 or 12-passenger boats are a historic part of this coast. They give you the most exclusive access to remote areas and wildlife, while also providing an all-coastal, expert crew, and the luxuries of the good things in life, such as meals prepared by a chef, beautiful surroundings, great companions, and warm comfort.

**• Alaska Adventure**  
The best of Alaska’s inside passage and west coast: glaciers, rainforest, bears, whales, wilderness, towns, culture. Usually 9 days

**• Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands)**  
Explore the 150+ islands of “Canada’s Galapagos”, including Gwaii Haanas. Highlights include Haida monumental villages, spectacular whales, ancient rainforest and marine life. Usually 9 days

**• Great Bear Rainforest**  
Cruise the fjords of one of Earth’s largest great wild rainforests, home to grizzly, black and spirit bears, whales and spectacular scenery. Usually 7-9 days

**• Whales & Totems of the Rainforest (Broughton Archipelago)**  
Explore the world of the killer whale, humpback whale and other marine mammals, in the 200+ islands of the Broughton Archipelago. Wildlife viewing, lots of shore trips, cultural sites included. Usually 6 days

**• Vancouver Island & Desolation Sound**  
Explore the diverse inside passage of Vancouver Island and the spectacle of Desolation Sound. From the warm Gulf Islands to steep rainforest in the north. Usually 5-8 days

**• Gulf Islands National Park / Salish Sea**  
Island hop in the new National Park Reserve, visit wildlife colonies, walk the dry rainforest and rocky bluffs, explore remote beaches and tiny islands not visited by ferries. Usually 5-6 days

**• Craft Beer, Culinary & Nature in the Gulf Islands**  
Sample 50 of BC’s top craft beers and learn from an expert brewing historian, while exploring the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island. Usually 5 days



Photos: Kerin Smith

## All-Inclusive Highlights

- All accommodations included in your trip, including comfortable, classic ship-board accommodations with fluffy duvets, and local lodges if your trip includes a lodge stay.
- All shore trips, wildlife viewing, and zodiac excursions guided by our expert, knowledgeable crew/guides. All cultural site visits, and all additional local guides.
- All meals and snacks, prepared freshly for you by our chef. Meals feature great variety, and highlight local, fresh specialties.
- All beverages including coffee, tea, juices and sodas, filtered water, wine and craft beer.
- The services of our naturalist and crew both aboard the ship and ashore. These caring, entertaining and knowledgeable people are your hosts for the trip, always available for questions, teaching, or conversation.
- Open wheelhouse. You are welcome to come into the ship's wheelhouse, from which our crew are navigating the ship. On our sailing ships, you are also welcome to take the helm under our crew's guidance, and help sail the ships, if you like.
- Use of gear on board including kayaks, fishing gear, and rubber boots.

## Why travelling by water leads you to the best of the Inside Passage and Haida Gwaii

The coastline of British Columbia and Alaska undulates into bays, twists into island archipelagos, and stretches far down fjords that slice through mountain ranges. This is wild geography and there are few roads here. As a result, wildlife and nature thrive. The few coastal communities have a deep connection to the ocean. To experience it at all, and to reach the richest areas, you must travel by water, as people have done here for millennia. On our small ships, you'll reach special areas closed to big ships, and head down passages and make landings there that big ship passengers can only dream of.

## By Travelling with Maple Leaf, You Support Local, Conservation-Based Enterprises

By travelling with Maple Leaf, you are part of the important, emerging conservation-based economy on the coast. Our careful, thoughtful approach to our trips, to nature, and to all of the people we visit have earned us a reputation as a model for conservation travel. We are a coast-owned and operated business, and 99% of the money from the trips stays within the coastal economy. We dedicate time and resources to conservation of the coast -- our home that we gladly share with you.



# How You'll Travel



## Access to the Best Places on the Inside Passage & Haida Gwaii

Maple Leaf Adventures has been awarded special access permits to protected areas, allowing you entrée to worlds most people will never see. Our relationships can also give access to special cultural sites, and scientists in the field.

## Our Small Scale: Feel the Coast's Hugeness

The proximity you will feel to the coast's mountains, forest and islands is incomparable with any other form of water travel. Sail with an escort of dolphins. Feel the spray from waterfalls beside us. Walk in ancient forests that are cathedrals of green.

## Timed for Peak Wildlife Events, with Plenty of Shore Time

Our trips are timed to coincide with great natural events, ensuring sightings of a fantastic variety of wildlife including bears, whales, dolphins and hundreds of species of birds. There is always lots to do and see. Our shore trips include visits to intertidal areas, beaches, river estuaries, rainforests, and villages. One of the crew is an expert naturalist or fascinating specialist to help you understand the areas we visit.

## Gorgeous Classic Ships with Comfortable Finishings

Our ships are beautiful wooden ships, built here, with long histories on the coast. So even as you walk the deck or step into the wheelhouse, you are having a truly coastal experience, connected to more than a century of history.

## The Excitement of a Real Journey

Travelling with a small group of guests means that your experience, while carefully planned, is also natural and spontaneous. You will not feel like part of a crowd, and your experience is not limited by barriers and procedures used to manage large groups. Every second, you are on a real journey. We treat each guest as an individual. We notice your interests and help you to do everything you came for. Every Maple Leaf crew member is welcoming and generous - with their time, their knowledge, and their thoughtfulness.

## Expert, Local Guides, Crew & Company

Your trips are developed and operated by us -- expert mariners, naturalists, guides and managers who have grown up exploring the coast and who want you to experience the best of the best.

Veterans of local field research, our naturalists share their expertise and abundant knowledge from real experience here. Our relationships on the coast give you access to researchers and local residents to further enrich your trip.

## Natural History Exploration Tools

The ships have excellent natural/cultural history libraries, hydrophones for listening to whales underwater, DVDs, small aquariums, fishing gear, GoPro cameras, kayaks, and top-quality shore boats with clean and quiet engines.

## Cultural History

Coastal First Nations guides we work with and who share their long history and knowledge of the place with us are from the Gitga'at, Haida, Haisla, Heiltsuk, and Kitasoo-Xai'Xais, nations, and Kwakwaka'wakw of northern Vancouver Island, and Coast Salish of the southern Gulf Islands.

## Full But Unhurried Days

Our days are full but our pace is unhurried, giving time to linger with whales, sketch in a Haida village, beachcomb, and walk ancient forests. We go ashore often to experience the entire place, not just the view.

## Typical Activities

- Rainforest walks
- Beachcombing
- Exploring by small boat
- Wildlife viewing
- Coastal village visits
- Cultural site visits and experiences
- Photography
- Natural history learning, in all environments, with our naturalist
- Sailing (sailing ships only)
- Kayaking (optional)
- Hiking (optional; possibly one good hike on a trip)
- Cruising
- Fishing (with a licence)
- Foraging (sea asparagus, berries, and other items, some trips only)
- Whale identification for research (on trips with whales)
- Beach campfire and star watching

## The Benefits and Approach to Adventure Travel

This is a trip with a true sense of adventure. It's important to realize it's for people with adventurous spirits. The coastal ships are beautiful and comfortable but they are not Las Vegas. If you seek cruise ship amenities, including grand, hotel-room style cabins, this trip may not be for you.

But if you seek to explore in an authentic way, with the camaraderie of expert crew and guides, we look forward to welcoming you aboard.

# The Story of Our Company and People

## Passionate About Sharing Our Home with You

Maple Leaf Adventures and our trips are run by people who grew up on the islands and coast of the inside passage and Haida Gwaii.

Our lives and perspectives have grown from the rainforest, the beach, the curious gaze of harbour seals, and the channels of blue water that are the pathways of the coast. Our professional lives have honed our skills at hospitality, wildlife guiding, storytelling, navigation, operations, and other aspects of running a world-class company.

As we have come together at Maple Leaf Adventures, we have created a different kind of trip for you, where you can truly experience the best of life on

the coast, as a guest of expert locals and naturalists. Enjoy the friendship of great residents, smell the sweet coniferous forest as you step ashore, feel the rhythm of ship and ocean as you steer the Maple Leaf, taste the flavour of huckleberries or freshly caught prawns, and hear a whale's sharp inhalation of breath before it dives.

Our purpose is to give you the best of the coast, while also supporting the conservation of its ecosystems and cultural fabric. Our mission is to show that the best travel delights the mind and senses and can enrich, rather than harm, the places we visit. Care and attention to detail are at the heart of all we do.



## Kevin's Story

Kevin Smith, the president of Maple Leaf Adventures, has explored the coast by boat since before he could ride a bike. As a young backcountry and marine park ranger, Kevin witnessed the incredible power and beauty of nature, often alone on his patrol boat. He wanted to share it with others.

Kevin is a geographer by training, and he knows the best experiences are beyond roads' reach. To truly explore the landscapes, wildlife and culture of the coast, you need to go by water. But not in the traditional manner, with thousands of people on a huge cruise ship. He wanted to share the glory of the coast as he had gotten to know it.

He volunteered for five years on the team that

created British Columbia's ground-breaking land use plan, which preserves large tracts of the Great Bear Rainforest. The process pointed out a needed solution in the area: a conservation-based economy. Kevin realized that his vision of sharing the coast's wonders with others would fit. His business acumen, green ethics, expedition knowledge and love of hosting lead him to a new kind of travel: eco-adventure cruising.

Since 2001, Kevin has built Maple Leaf Adventures into an award-winning company. As the leader, he must spend time in the office. But he (as with all Maple Leaf Adventures staff) stays focussed by donning his GoreTex jacket and operating trips each year. It keeps him in touch with the interesting



guests who join us, and the geography, wildlife and people of the coast. After all, that's the dream that brings us - and you - together.



## About Our Company

Maple Leaf Adventures has been operating trips focused on the natural history of B.C.'s west coast and Alaska, and the culture of the First Nations peoples of the areas, since 1986. We have a reputation for quality, professionalism and sensitivity to natural and cultural landscapes.

Our institutional clients have included the Royal BC Museum and The Canadian Museum of Civilization. Our company has been recognized by the Canadian government as a leader in eco-tourism and our trips have been featured internationally in such travel guides as *Frommer's* and *National Geographic Traveler* and on the Oprah Winfrey television show.

We dedicate time and resources to coastal conservation, caring for the coast that gives us our livelihood.



Ocean Wise.  Recommended by the Vancouver Aquarium as an ocean-friendly seafood choice.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. Is this trip suitable for me?

A. Anyone is eligible so long as they are enthusiastic about participating, amenable to the vagaries of weather, agile enough to clamber in and out of shore vessels in an area where there are no docks, and friendly enough to get along in the relatively close quarters of a yacht. We have had people on board as much as 80 years of age. However, our trips are not suitable for people of failing health or physical disabilities.

### Q. What is included in the price?

A. Our price includes all meals, activities and guides throughout your voyage in the region you are visiting. Specifically:

- All meals, snacks and beverages prepared from the freshest ingredients by our superb chef.
- Fine wines featured with the evening meal, and a limited amount of beer included and available throughout the trip. (Liquor is not a large part of our trips, so plan on light consumption).
- Services of our naturalist and professional crew.
- Shore excursions.
- Use of gear on board, including raingear, boots, kayaks and fishing gear (*with fishing licence*).

### Not included in our price:

- Transportation to the trip's point of origin.
- Goods and Service Tax (Canadian trips only)
- Crew gratuities
- Sustainability Fee. As a professional ecotourism company, it is at the core of our operating principles to work with local communities, respecting regulations and contributing to local opportunities. Responsible operations cost a little more. We extract from the fare a

percentage of the increased costs that go towards sustainable communities add it to the list price as a 'sustainability fee' of \$100 per trip. Through it we hope our guests share in the pride that a trip with Maple Leaf is a contribution to the sustainability of the whole coast – as well as being a great experience.

### Q. Can you accommodate my special diet?

A. Yes. If you advise us in the pre-trip forms we can accommodate most dietary requirements.

### Q. Will I be seasick?

A. Sea sickness on our North America trips is rarely a problem as your trip is on a sturdy and sea-kindly ship. We travel short distances in protected waters and go ashore often.

### Q. Can I be involved in sailing the ship and performing other duties?

A. In North America, absolutely. We encourage our guests to participate in any aspect of the trip that interests them and to a level they are comfortable with. We are patient instructors (no yelling) and delight in helping people learn. On the other hand, you are not required to sail or perform duties while on your vacation. The choice is yours.

### Q: What makes you an eco-tourism company?

- A:
- Our trips have low impact (virtually no impact) on the planet and on the places we visit
  - We partner with local people. We have protocol agreements either signed or in process with First Nations in territories we visit.
  - Our naturalists – experts in their fields – and other knowledgeable crew members provide a wealth of knowledge on the areas we visit, as do our First Nations guides.

- We work within the regulations of parks and conservation areas, pay the applicable fees and obtain permits for all limited-use areas we visit.
- We dedicate time and resources to preserving the wilderness we travel in.

### Q. I've never been on a boat before – is that OK?

A: Yes, absolutely. You will be travelling on a large, strong boat run by an expert crew. You are aboard as our guest and we will look after you very well. You don't have to do anything other than enjoy yourself.

### Q. Will I go ashore?

A. Yes – usually a few times a day. Each shore trip is usually between 1 and 3 hours in length.

### Q. Do you have kayaks?

A. Yes, and you are welcome to go for paddles in the spectacular bays we anchor in.

### Q. How long have you been operating?

A. Since 1986.

### Q. How many people are typically on a trip?

A: In North America, max ten guests. We have a crew of 4 or 5 including chef and naturalist.

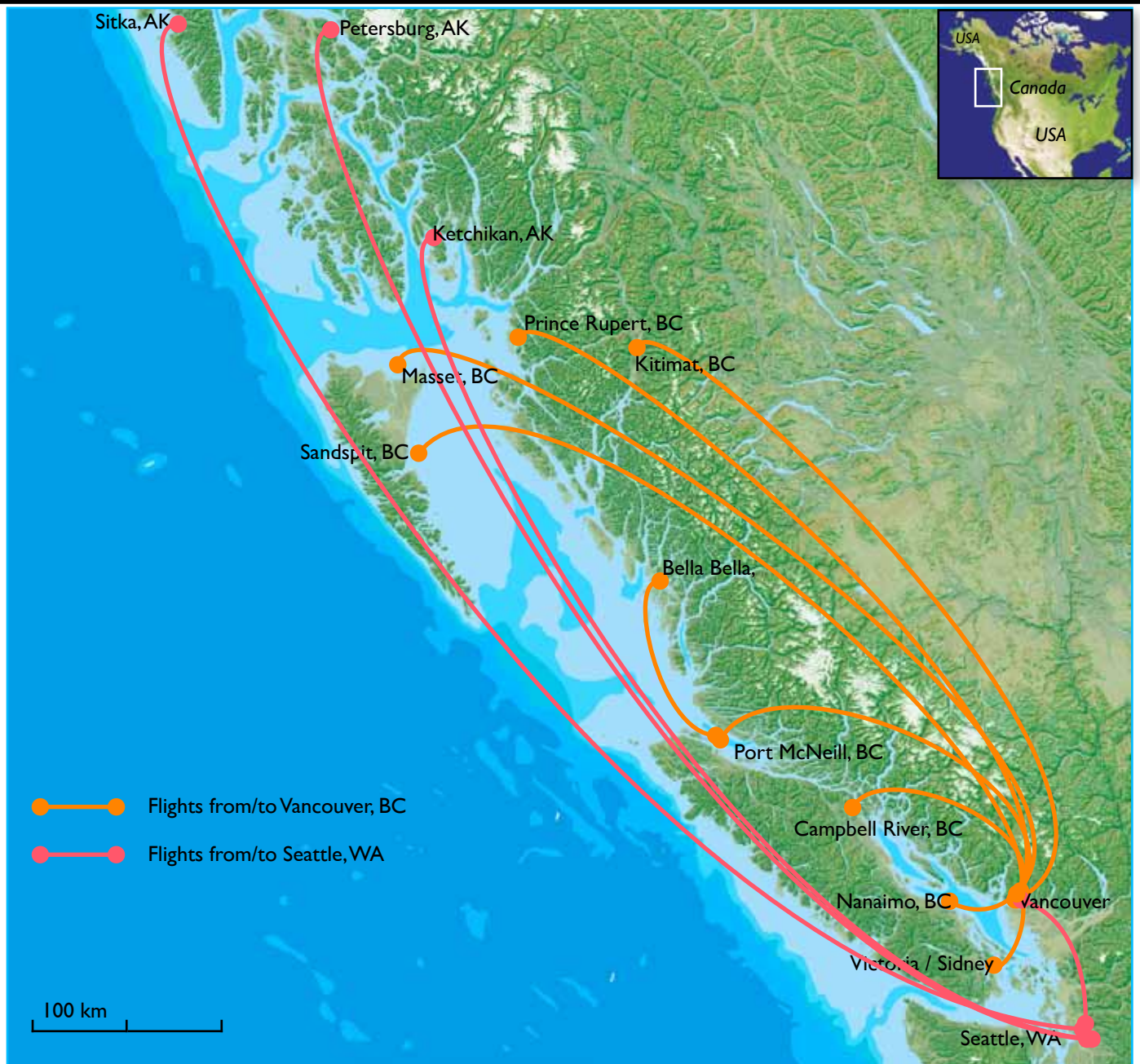
### Q. Is there a single supplement?

A. On the Maple Leaf, there is no single supplement. If the trip fills, you will share with another single person of your own sex. On the Swell there is a 50% single supplement.

### Q. What are the other guests like?

A. Our guests are people like you, who are interested in high quality experiences and in learning about the natural world, classic ships or culture. They are thoughtful, fun people and a joy to travel with. A large percentage of them return for additional trips.

# How to Get to Your Trip



## Airport Access

Our BC and Alaska trips originate from ports along the coast that are serviced by regularly scheduled flights. All of these flights except one originate from Vancouver International Airport, in Vancouver, BC. If you are flying from outside the area, and you are wondering where you need to get to in order to connect to your trip, then Vancouver International Airport is the answer.

Note that if your Alaska trip either starts at or ends at a port in Alaska (e.g., Petersburg), then any air travel to or from Alaska goes via Seattle-Tacoma airport, in Washington State, USA. You can connect to Seattle via a short flight to or from Vancouver, BC.

The map above shows the general flight routes.

We provide all of this information plus more detail and guidance in the Welcome Aboard package that you will receive upon booking your place with Maple Leaf. We are also happy to help any time!

## Ferries

Ferries transport passengers between Vancouver and Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo, Port Hardy and Prince Rupert, Prince Rupert and Haida Gwaii, Seattle and Victoria, and Alaskan ports and Prince Rupert. Travelling by ferry requires careful planning and sometimes a car.

## Driving

If you wish to drive to and/or from your trip, you may be able to. It's best to email or phone us or your travel agent for further information.

## Staying Beforehand or Afterward

Our Welcome Aboard packages lists some places you may wish to stay at before or after your trip.

## Travel Agent

If you would like the assistance of a travel agent, we are happy to provide contact information for one who has worked with our guests.



# Wild BC and Alaska - Boutique expedition cruises



*"Thanks for the best vacation ever."*

— Carrie Novick, Oregon.

## Contact Us

To book a trip or for help with any questions you may have, we welcome your call or email.

**Maple Leaf Adventures**  
PO Box 8845, Stn. Central,  
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3Z1 Canada

info@MapleLeafAdventures.com  
toll free 1-888-599-5323  
local 1-250-386-7245

## Booking and Cancellation Policy

To avoid disappointment, your reservation should be made early. The number of participants in each program is limited, and the demand is high. Our trips sell out early.

**Deposit:** A deposit of one third of the price of the trip will reserve your space for any trip.

**Balance:** The balance is due 120 days prior to departure.

**Cancellations:** If you are unable to participate and cancellation occurs at least 120 days prior to the departure date of your trip, the full amount of your deposit is refundable, minus a \$200 admin fee per person to cover costs we cannot recover. If cancellation occurs less than 120 days prior to the departure date of your trip, the fare is non-refundable.

### Group Bookings

For large group bookings, such as a family charter of the entire ship, the booking and cancellation policy may be different - please contact us for information.

## Cancellation Insurance

We highly recommend cancellation insurance, which protects you if you have to make a late cancellation in certain cases (such as a medical emergency). There are several kinds available for different cancellation reasons. Cancellation and any needed medical insurance can be purchased through a travel agent. This should be done at the time your booking is nonrefundable.

## Pre-Trip Information Package

We will send you a comprehensive Welcome Aboard package when you book your place. It includes information on clothing and other items to bring, how to get to your trip, a bit more about travelling in the area, forms to fill out and return to us and a reading list if you like to do pre-trip reading.

## Full Ship Charters

Charter an entire trip for your family and friends. Contact us for full ship charter pricing.

Note: Full ship charters require advance planning, as the trips are popular and once a trip has bookings, it can no longer be exclusively yours.

## How to Book Your Trip

To book, we welcome your call or email. We complete bookings by telephone.

For deposit payments we accept Visa, Master Card, cheque, money order or bank transfer. For final balance payments we accept cheque, money order or bank transfer.