



- New*
- Summer Trips
  - Private Charters



*The* **LEAFLET**  
 NEWSLETTER & CATALOGUE *OF* ADVENTURES  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, ALASKA, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS 2011



**1%**  
**FOR THE PLANET**  
 MEMBER

**2009**  
**ADVENTURE**  
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**TRAVEL**  
**COMPANIES**  
 [ON EARTH]

[ngadventure.com/ratings](http://ngadventure.com/ratings)

Photos: Paul Smith, Kevin J. Smith, Greg Sbea



# 26 Years of Sustainable Adventures...

*“From the moment we enquired and booked until the moment we got off the boat, the entire experience has been fantastic. What a magical adventure, made all the more special by the wilderness and wildlife... and the amazing crew. We enjoyed your company, your humour and the experience.”*

*Sue and Howard Wilson, New Zealand 2010*



## *You are part of a positive force: Businesses that flourish by allowing nature to flourish*

One evening in October, we sat on the edge of Queen Charlotte Strait, as the sun furled the daylight onto the horizon. We, guests and crew, were in 2 small zodiacs on the edge of this huge life force, the ocean. We watched the islands' silhouettes, and the sea and sky change colour.

Over the previous 5 days, this small part of the sea had produced for us transient killer whales, resident killer whales, humpback and minke whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals, porpoises, seabirds and a bear.

Now, we bobbed gently in the pale light, another tiny silhouette. We reflected on the potential for this area to become a national marine conservation area. So much life could be protected that way.

And contrary to some opinions, conservation doesn't have to be bad for business. For businesses like ours, conservation increases nature's richness, and hence amps up the joy that all people aboard Maple Leaf feel.

You - our guests, crew and friends - are part of a positive force: businesses that do well when nature is allowed to flourish.

It is of course very important that Maple Leaf Adventures contributes more than 1% of our sales to conservation each year. (Our accountant loves to point

out how much more than our 1% pledge we donate.)

But at least as important is the part that **you** play in making the world a better place simply by taking your Maple Leaf Adventures trips and having so much fun on them.

The delight and rejuvenation you feel from sailing through a world of rainforests, whales, seabirds and bears can change the world. **It is changing it.**

This year, British Columbia embarked on Canada's first sustainable tourism certification program. The government recognizes how desirable sustainable tourism is, and is allocating funds to promote it! This is a great change from when Maple Leaf Adventures began in 1986.

Together, you and Maple Leaf are proving the enormous value of the intact rainforest and the protected coastal seas. It's a multifaceted value: intrinsic, scientific, spiritual, and economic.

Here's to another successful year of making a living from the wonder of intact natural systems; to our incredible crew and staff who facilitate your experience; and to you, our thoughtful, fun-loving guests, who share your holidays with Maple Leaf, and make exploring the coast so fun for everyone.

If you are online, be sure to check out the year's slide shows and other goodies. See the back page for info.



Photos: Kevin J. Smith, Briony Penn



Cheers,

*Kevin Smith and Maureen Gordon*

# 2011 Adventures Catalogue



*“What an amazing adventure this has been!  
The trip has far exceeded any expectations I may have had.  
The crew has been exceptional. Everyone has seen to it that  
we can experience our dreams.”*

*Myrna Loewen, Mississauga, ON, 2010*



Photos: Kevin J. Smith, Greg Shea



## Natural & Cultural History Trips - North America



### Gulf Islands National Park / Salish Sea Apr. 11-16, Oct. 19-24

Celebrate spring's return or fall's golden days by sailing among these eclectic islands.

Guests are amazed at the wild beauty and the "hidden" islands in this National Park - places like Tumbo Is., Cabbage Is., the Belle Chains, D'Arcy Is. and Isle do Lis.

This adventure takes you far from roads, to wildlife-rich areas, secluded beaches and woodland trails with views. Seabirds, sailing, and marine mammals are other highlights.

You'll also learn from an elder the history of the islands from the First Nations perspective.

*(See also "Special Interest Trips" for a Beer & Culinary tour here.)*

Depart & Return Sidney, B.C. Price: CDN \$2180\* 5 nights, 6 days



### Great Bear Rainforest

Explore the last stand of ancient North American rainforest. Your journey encompasses fjords, islands, waterfalls and great river estuaries. There are no roads here. Instead, inhabitants you'll see, including bears, whales, smaller marine mammals and eagles, travel by water or air. You'll also explore the culture of the First Nations, developed over millenia as the human expression of this rainforest world. We travel here in three seasons, each a peak time for different natural events.

### Spring Great Bear Rainforest and Kitlope Apr. 17-24, Apr. 26-May 4

The best of the wild coast. Fjords that slice through mountains. Waterfalls that plunge hundreds of feet down cliffs of granite to the sea. Watch spring come to the rainforest, as bears munch the first sedges and birds migrate through the estuaries.

Take one leg, or combine them into the "supervoyage" to journey the entire coast.

Trip 1: Dep. Sidney, B.C. Ret'n. Bella Bella, BC Price CDN \$3225 7 nights, 8 days

Trip 2: Dep. Bella Bella, B.C. Ret'n. Kitimat, BC Price CDN \$4100 8 nights, 9 days

Supervoyage = Trip 1 + Trip 2: Dep. Sidney, B.C. Ret'n Kitimat, B.C. Price CDN \$7325 15 nights

### Great Bear Rainforest Summer

**Jun. 14-21, Jun. 23-Jul. 1**

Enjoy the full bloom of early summer in the Great Bear Rainforest: bear viewing, sailing fjords and channels, west coast islands and beaches, exquisite coastal estuaries.

In June, bears are still on the estuaries eating protein-rich sedges before they disperse throughout the rainforest for summer's berries. Long summer daylight means we can have extended days of exploring.

Trip 1: Dep. Victoria, B.C. Ret'n. Bella Bella, B.C. Price: CDN \$3575\* 7 nights, 8 days

Trip 2: Dep. Bella Bella, B.C. Ret'n. Prince Rupert, B.C. Price: CDN \$4470\* 8 nights, 9 days

### Great Bear Rainforest Fall

**Sep. 5-12, Sep.13-21, Sep. 22-30**

In autumn, runs of salmon flood into the rivers, providing peak wildlife viewing of grizzlies and the mysterious white Spirit Bear. To witness it is one of nature's greatest experiences.

Trip 1: Port McNeill to Bella Bella, B.C. Price: CDN \$4300\* 7 nights, 8 days

Trip 2: Kitimat, B.C. to Bella Bella, B.C. Price: CDN \$4900\* 8 nights, 9 days

Trip 3: Bella Bella, B.C., return Price: CDN \$4900\* 8 nights, 9 days - 2 places left



Photos: Kevin J. Smith, Brian Falconer (ship in fjord)

## Haida Gwaii-Queen Charlotte Islands May 7-15, May 25-Jun. 2



One hundred and thirty islands at the edge of the world: this is Haida Gwaii. Where moss drapes the ancient rainforest, and you'll see humpback whales and thousands of seabirds including puffins, murrelets and shearwaters. You'll visit remote Haida villages with carved poles and houses, including UN World Heritage Site SGang Gwaay and the new Kaay Llnagaay Haida Heritage Centre. *The best way to experience the entirety of Haida Gwaii.*

Dep. Masset, B.C. Ret'n: Sandspit, B.C. Price: CDN \$4550\* 8 nights, 9 days  
(See also the Art at Sea painting holiday here, p.6)

May 25 departure has 3 places left



*NEW! Family/friends full-ship charter dates: July 30-Aug. 7, Aug. 8-16. Contact us for details.*

## Alaska Supervoyage

Jul. 3-14, Jul. 16-27



This is the Alaska trip for those who want to experience the grandeur of Alaska by becoming a part of it, not just steaming through it.

SE Alaska is a wilderness of inlets, islands, and tidewater glaciers. Walk into the silence of rainforests. Spend time with humpback whales, sea otters, sea lions, playful porpoises, bears, and puffins. We also visit historic towns such as Sitka and Ketchikan and the tiny village of Baranof at Warm Springs Bay.

Trip 1 (northbound) Depart Prince Rupert, B.C. Return Sitka, AK. - 3 or 4 places left

Trip 2 (southbound) Depart Sitka, AK. Return Prince Rupert, B.C. - 2 places left

Price: CDN \$6090\* 11 nights, 12 days



## Whales and Totems of the Rainforest Oct. 3-8, Oct. 10-15



Northern Vancouver Island's unparalleled orca habitat. In autumn, salmon bring congregations of ocean mammals to these islands. Seals and sea lions lie on rocky islets. Gatherings of white-sided dolphins streak across the ocean. Large pods of orca (killer whales) navigate the channels. This is the best place in the world to spend time with these intelligent, social mammals. It is the land of the Kwakwaka'wakw people, home to the U'Mista Cultural Centre that we'll visit with a private guide.

Dep. & Ret'n. Port McNeill, B.C. Price: CDN \$2650\* 5 nights, 6 days

*NEW! Family/friends full-ship charter dates: Aug. 20-26, Aug. 28-Sep. 3. Contact us for details.*



Please reserve early to avoid disappointment.

Catalogue and booking info continued on next page

\*N. America trip price includes all accommodation, shore excursions, fine meals and snacks, wine and beer and use of gear on board including kayaks. Add \$100 sustainability fee per person. Trip price set in Canadian dollars. Schedule, prices subject to change. Galapagos trip price set in USD.

## Galapagos & Special Interest Trips



### Galapagos Islands Cruises

May 6-15, Oct. 27-Nov. 6

The Galapagos Islands are a nature-lover's paradise. We've found an exceptional small-group trip that is an excellent fit for Maple Leaf guests: high quality naturalist, superb cultural tour, excellent 16-passenger power yacht, and the best itinerary. Contact us for details.



Depart & Return: Quito, Ecuador

Price: US \$4850 or \$3950, plus approx. US \$450 in fees, 10 nights, 11 days



### Painting Holiday: Art at Sea *Haida Gwaii*

May 16-24

Combine the experience of nature and culture present in all Maple Leaf trips with learning techniques to paint what you see. Master painting teachers lead you in workshops and one-on-one instruction. Shore walks provide inspiration and close examination of your subjects, as well as time to sketch on shore. Maple Leaf's expert guides provide cruising, sailing and shore trips and the chef provides exceptional meals.

Haida Gwaii Depart Masset, B.C. Return: Sandspit, B.C. Price CDN \$4550\* 8 nights, 9 days



### Tall Sails & Ales - Beer, Culinary & Nature Adventure (*Gulf Islands*)

Oct. 26-31

An educational and entertaining journey through the social history of beer in B.C., while cruising the beautiful Gulf Islands. Led by brewing historian Greg Evans, the trip is packed with flavour, food pairing, historical anecdotes, and exclusive brewery tours with a *who's who* not available to the general public. Also includes Maple Leaf's trademark wildlife viewing, nature walks, kayaking and sailing.

Depart & Return: Sidney, B.C. Price: CDN \$2390\* 5 nights, 6 days



### Family and Friends Private Charters *NEW Summer Trips!*

For your next holiday, create an experience that excites and delights everyone: an adventure by sailing ship among the islands, wildlife and culture of the BC & Alaska coast.

Maple Leaf Adventures' award-winning team of experts will take away the stress of logistics management. They'll give you back time for fun with family and friends. They'll guide you to remote beaches and hot springs, while the Maple Leaf chef prepares superb meals for all ages.

The variety of activities on a Maple Leaf trip is perfect for multi-generational groups and includes:

- *wildlife viewing* • *sailing* • *shore time in the rainforest* • *remote beachcombing*
- *hotsprings* • *fishing* • *nature exploration with the naturalist*
- *kayaking* • *zodiac rides* • *learning about the ship and navigation from the crew*
- *exploring villages* • *helping steer the ship* • *climbing the bowsprit*
- *meeting Haida elders* • *photographing whales.*

Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Is. Jul. 30-Aug. 7, Aug. 8-16 Cdn \$36,400 + sF\* and tax (6-8 people)

Whales and Totems Aug. 20-26, Aug. 28-Sep. 3 Cdn \$26,600 + sF\* and tax (6-8 people)

Desolation Sound Aug. 20-26, Aug. 28-Sep. 3 \$26,600 + sF\* and tax (6-8 people)

For additional people, contact us.

\*sustainability fee, see previous page





Photos: Kevin J. Smith, Greg Shea

Maple Leaf Adventures has been operating adventure cruises since 1986. On our multi-day trips, we guide you through the planet's spectacular natural world, focussing on natural and cultural history.

## A Small Group for a Personalized Adventure

On Maple Leaf, we carry a maximum of eight guests per trip with a professional crew of five. We treat each guest as an individual. We take care to notice your interests and that you do everything you came for.

## Expert Local Knowledge & Exploration Tools

Maple Leaf Adventures has been exploring the BC & Alaska coast for twenty-six years. Our Canadian crew know the areas intimately, including the best places to view wildlife, explore ashore, find hot springs, and meet with First Nations communities and scientists. Our Galapagos crew, likewise, is experienced and local. The Maple Leaf has an excellent library, hydrophones for listening to whales underwater, DVDs, nets and other naturalist tools, kayaks, and top-quality shore boats.

## Spectacular, Informed Experience of Nature & Culture

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, rainforests and villages. One of the crew is an expert naturalist or fascinating specialist to help you understand the areas we visit. This expert provides formal interpretation and is also available for informal conversations any time.

## A Classic, Comfortable Sailing Ship with Chef and Kayaks

Maple Leaf is a spectacular ship. Built of Douglas fir, yellow cedar and mahogany, she is both solid and beautiful. With 2800 square feet of sail she is a thrill to sail! We carry enough crew to handle the ship under all conditions and, as patient instructors, are happy to involve you if you wish. You can also fish or kayak. Our chef prepares gourmet meals and snacks and can accommodate most special diets.

## Real, Sustainable Ecotourism

Our careful, thoughtful approach to our trips, to nature, and to all of the people we visit have earned us a reputation as one of Canada's finest tour operators. Frommer's, Canadian Geographic, National Geographic Adventure and PBS have featured our trips. We dedicate time and resources to conservation. By travelling on the Maple Leaf, you are part of the important, emerging conservation-based economy on the coast.

For the 2012 Schedule, please contact us.



## Ask Questions, Get a Full Brochure, Book Your Trip:

We're happy to help - just contact us:

Toll free in North America:  
**1-888-599-5323**

Local/Outside N. America:  
**+1-250-386-7245 (250-FUN-SAIL)**

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Victoria, B.C. V8W 3Z1 Canada

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## Book Your 2011 Trip!

Telephone Kimberly at:  
**1-888-599-5323 or +1-250-386-7245**  
 Email Kimberly at:  
**info@MapleLeafAdventures.com**

### Upcoming in e-Newsletters

- Tips on buying good binoculars by naturalist Heidi Krajewski
  - Video collage from the year's trips by Maureen Gordon
  - Maple Leaf "gift shop" items for sale
  - Trip news, crew news, wildlife news
- To sign up for the occasional (up to 5x per year) newsletter, email us at [info@MapleLeafAdventures.com](mailto:info@MapleLeafAdventures.com)

### On the Web

Maple Leaf's website offers a rich variety of information:

- Large photos, slide shows, maps and videos lead you through the spectacular coastal world.
- Trip descriptions, itineraries, planning information and electronic brochures.
- Magazine clippings share independent writers' experiences.

Check it all out at:  
[www.MapleLeafAdventures.com](http://www.MapleLeafAdventures.com)



### About the Photos

All photos in this newsletter were taken on Maple Leaf Adventures' trips.

### About the Paper

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Photos: Kerin J. Smith, bear cam courtesy of Raincoast



## News Sustainable Tourism

As we continue in our efforts to leave the lightest touch on the planet, we've added a few new systems. After our human-powered move to a new downtown Victoria office, we added a composting system to the office. (We've composted on the ship for decades.) Plus, all staff are able to walk to this centrally located office. For more about our efforts to create great experiences with low impact, check out the Ecotourism page on our website.

### Corporate Environment Award

Tourism Victoria honoured Maple Leaf Adventures with its Corporate Environment Award for 2010.

### Wanted Alive, Not Dead: The Value of Thriving Bears in BC

This informative essay by Kevin was published in *Faltering Light*, by Andy Wright, a visual petition presented to the BC government as part of an effort to end trophy hunting of bears in BC. It's a persuasive argument, full of facts and figures as well as insights from Kevin's decades of experience with bears, bear viewing and as a park ranger. You can read it on our blog at:  
[www.MapleLeafAdventures.com/blog/](http://www.MapleLeafAdventures.com/blog/)

### Welcome Valerie Sheppard

Valerie Sheppard joins Maple Leaf as our new business operations manager this fall. Her background combines academic research on sustainable tourism with industry experience at Tourism BC and the BC Partnership for Sustainable Tourism. We're very pleased to have her on the team!

## Maple Leaf's Annual Conservation Donations

**On top of** the money for local communities and the natural world that is generated through our regular business (through permit fees, voluntary protocol agreement fees, supplying our ship locally, hiring village guides, etc.), Maple Leaf Adventures donates at least 1% of all sales (not profits but sales) to coastal conservation each year. It's always more than 1%!

This year's accredited donations went to **Raincoast Conservation Foundation, Sierra Club, Valhalla Wilderness Society, and the Wilderness Tourism Association of B.C.**

We also continue to work as an active member of the WTA, the Commercial Bear Viewing Association, the Gwaii Haanas Tour Operators Association and the BC government's Joint Steering Committee on adventure tourism.



Remote camera photo from Raincoast Conservation Foundation's Salmon Carnivore research project



## Trip Slide Shows & Satellite Updates from the Field Online

Check out the Maple Leaf Adventures website Blog or our Facebook page for updates sent by the crew from the ship, and also for slide shows from the trips.

We hope this helps people share their trips with others, and also helps anyone who is considering a trip, by seeing the experiences that Maple Leaf guests have. Check it out at:

**Blog:** [www.MapleLeafAdventures.com/blog/](http://www.MapleLeafAdventures.com/blog/)

**Facebook:** Go to [Facebook.com](http://Facebook.com) and in the Search box, type **Maple Leaf Adventures**