



## Maple Leaf Adventures

28 Bastion Square, Inside Maritime Museum, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1H9

1-888-599-5323 or +1-250-386-7245 (250-FUN-SAIL)

[www.MapleLeafAdventures.com](http://www.MapleLeafAdventures.com)

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## Q & A

### 1. Q: How would you describe a cruise with Maple Leaf Adventures?

Maple Leaf Adventures journeys offer people the opportunity to relax, rejuvenate and learn about the natural world as they sail on a beautiful schooner into unspoiled wilderness.

Our trips are timed to coincide with peak periods of the amazing natural phenomena that occur on the Pacific Coast through the changing seasons. These include humpack whale migrations, spring wildflowers, seabird nesting, and salmon “fishing” by bears, wolves and orcas.

A common way to understand our trips is that they are like Galapagos small ship tours, but take place in the Pacific coast’s temperate rainforest.

Our 5 to 12-day journeys explore the coast up close. Typical experiences for guests might include:

- View grizzly bears eating sedges or fishing for salmon.
- Sail under coastal mountains, with an escort of playful dolphins.
- Walk in ancient rainforests where trees can grow for thousands of years.
- Learn from expert naturalists and from native elders from the cultures that have lived here for millennia.
- Soak in natural hot springs in remote wilderness locations.
- See the rare Spirit Bear, a white bear found only along the British Columbia inside passage.
- Spot colourful puffins nesting on remote islands.
- Experience camaraderie whether you travel alone, as a couple or in a group.

Northwest coast cultures we learn about include the Haida, Haisla, Kitasoo/Xai’Xais, Gitga’at and Kwakwaka’wakw.

The length of our trips and a small group of guests allow us a flexibility to respond to special natural events, weather and the particular interest of our group.

Our trips are accompanied by expert naturalists and a gourmet chef.

### 2. Q: Who are these trips for?

A: A Maple Leaf Adventures trip is for people with an adventurous spirit but who aren’t professional adventurers.

Perhaps they like to spend holidays immersed within a landscape, breathing the clear air, smelling the sea and forest. Perhaps they like to push off the familiarity of urban life without giving up some comfort, safety, superb food and great company. They like to learn and actively participate in their journey. They may love the romance of sailing a historic tall ship.

In a nutshell, Maple Leaf Adventures trips are for people who want to experience the North Pacific landscape close-up, wholly immersed in it.

Maple Leaf trips appeal to people interested in socially responsible companies, nature travel and educational alternatives to big-ship cruising.



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Anyone is eligible as 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 amenable enough to get along in the relatively close quarters of a sailing yacht.

Groups of friends and extended family like to book trips as a way to share meaningful experiences together in magical environments.

Many trips also include single people and couples.

### 3. Q: What areas do Maple Leaf Adventures trips visit?

A:

- Southeast Alaska
- Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii (British Columbia)
- Great Bear Rainforest (British Columbia Inside Passage)
- Gulf Islands (Southern British Columbia)
- The Broughten Archipelago (Island archipelago off Northern Vancouver Island, summer and fall home to resident orca pods)
- Northwestern Vancouver Island (The Wild Side trip)

See “Fact Sheet” for more information

### 4. Q: Where do the trips originate?

A: **Trips timed for peak natural phenomena.** Our trips take place in the best areas and at peak times for certain natural phenomena; therefore, they may originate from different places on the coast. This maximizes the amount of time we are able to spend exploring our chosen area.

### 5. Q: What makes Maple Leaf Adventures different?

A:

- We take a **small group of guests**, with a high crew:guest ratio. Crew includes professional naturalists and chefs.
- Our **classic tall ship** *Maple Leaf* celebrated her centennial in 2004. Guests are welcome to help raise her five huge sails and take a turn at the wheel.
- **We can go where most others can't.** Want to climb onto the bowsprit and drink from a waterfall that cascades down a cliff to the sea? Or drop anchor and walk into the coast's remote rainforest estuaries, where grizzly bears dig for rice root?
- **We hold unique permits to visit protected areas** – most operators are not allowed here (including parts of Alaska, Gwaii Haanas in Haida Gwaii and many wildlife rich parks in B.C.). No large or pocket cruisers are permitted in these places.
- **We work with the First Nations on the coast**, and with researchers, and we dedicate time and resources to preserving the wilderness.
- **We travel as fellow adventurers with our guests** and our biggest joy is to give them the most incredible experience. This is more than a sightseeing tour - it's a way to immerse yourself in the coast's great wildernesses, and still travel in comfort.

### 6. Q: How does a small group of guests benefit customers?

A: **Personalized, intimate voyages.**



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- A small group of guests allow us a **flexibility** to respond to special natural events (e.g., orcas show up), weather and the particular interest of our group.
- Our crew to guest ratio is very high, and our guests repeatedly tell us how well taken care of they feel. In addition, this ratio allows us to host our guests as friends. The hospitality and friendships are **authentic**.
- Our days are full but the pace is unhurried, giving us time to linger with a group of whales, paint or sketch in a Haida village, beach comb, or walk in the ancient forests.

### 7. **Q: How do Maple Leaf guests see the landscape?**

**A: Experience of landscape, not just ‘viewscape’.** We experience the entire environment on our trips (not just the viewscape). We spend all day every day within stunning natural beauty – the wilderness is always just an arm’s reach away. We go ashore often to experience the magic of different habitats and the special life that inhabits each area. We sleep in comfort anchored in a quiet cove, seabirds, sea otters, ocean and islands around us.

### 8. **Can guests sail the ship?**

**A: Yes, guests get to sail the ship!** (If they choose). Although Maple Leaf Adventures has a full, coast guard certified crew to sail the ship, our guests are welcome to participate in as much of the ship operations as they choose. Maple Leaf Adventures crew’s experience as professional sail trainers for youth, including the Royal Canadian sea cadets, makes them enthusiastic teachers.