



The 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 sea winds its way around western islands with sandy beaches. Then it snakes down glacier-hewn valleys at the foot of the mountains: these are the Great Bear Rainforest's fjords. On Maple Leaf you'll travel past the fjords' granite flanks, where waterfalls drop hundreds of feet to the sea.

The ancient rainforest of spruce and cedar trees 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.

Remote Hot Springs

We often visit one of the natural, out-of-the-way hot springs that bubble up here.



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Great Bear Rainforest

Spring & Summer Trips

Sail here as spring and summer's warmth makes this world come alive. Towering mountains are capped in snow. Estuaries burst with plant life and migrating birds. Newly-awakened grizzly and black bears graze on sedges. New growth unfurls in the forests.

Sample Itinerary - Spring 2

Day 1-3 Board Maple Leaf, orientation, cruising & exploring the islands of the Broughton Archipelago. Sailing Queen Charlotte Strait, and the Great Bear Rainforest's western islands.

Day 4&5 Fjordland and estuary (sea ducks, birds, seals, and possible bears). Exploration by zodiac and foot.

Day 6-8 Visit communities of Bella Bella and Klemtu including intro to First Nations culture, visit with scientists at research station, cruising & anchorage in Inside Passage.

Day 9-11 Mainland inlet, rainforest walk and exploration, hot springs soak, optional kayaking, travelling down the coast's longest fjord, exploring the Kitlope, the largest temperate rainforest on the planet, bear viewing.

Day 12 Cruising to port.

2011 Great Bear Rainforest in Spring

• 1: Inside Passage & Great Bear
Apr. 18-23, 5 nights, 6 days C \$2660
Dep: Sidney, B.C. Retn: Port McNeill, B.C.

• 2: Great Bear/ Kitlope Explorer
Apr. 23-May 4, 11 nts, 12 days C \$5900
Dep: Port McNeill, BC Retn: Kitimat, BC

• Supervoyage: Trip 1 + Trip 2

2011 Great Bear Rainforest - June

Jun. 21-28, Jun. 30-Jul 7
7 nights, 8 days, C \$3900
Depart & return: Bella Bella, BC

2011 Great Bear Rainforest - Sept.

• Sept. 13-21, 8 nights, 9 days, C \$4900
Dep.: Kitimat, B.C. Retn.1: Bella Bella, BC

• Sept. 22-30, 8 nights, 9 days, C \$4900
Depart & return: Bella Bella, BC

Maple Leaf Adventures

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Sample Itinerary - Summer

Day 1 Board Maple Leaf, orientation, cruising the channels and islands of the west coast.

Day 2 Sailing, beachcombing, whale viewing on the west coast.

Day 3 Hot springs, mainland inlet, bear viewing from river estuary.

Day 4 Visit community of Klemtu or Hartly Bay, including guided tour and conversations at big house, example of First Nations artistry and architecture.

Day 5 Cruising fjords, bear viewing, water falls. Optional evening kayak.

Day 6 Fjords, visit with scientific research station and talk with scientists.

Day 7 Rainforest walk, cruising the channels.

Day 8 Cruising to port, wildlife viewing.



"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, Davis, California

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

- Marion Kerr, Comox, B.C.

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 of this itinerary to protect the wildlife from trophy hunting and from unprofessional tour operators.

September Trips

This fall, witness one of nature's most profound events: the journey of the wild pacific salmon into the rainforest.

Rivers are thick with fish burying their eggs in gravel. The spectacle creates a feeding frenzy as bears and wolves feast on the bounty. Eagles, ravens, harlequin ducks and gulls join in.

Sample Itinerary - September

Day 1 Board Maple Leaf, 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, fishing, art.

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. 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.





General and Booking Information



Family & Friends Trips

Planning a family reunion? Thinking of spending some special time with friends?

Over the years, a number of extended families or groups of friends have booked a whole charter. They say it provides them quality time in an unhurried, magical atmosphere, allowing them to connect on a deeper level than in our normal “hurly-burly” world. Not to mention that the crew, chef and naturalist take care of the logistics!

If you think this is something you’d like to do, call us to discuss. Advance notice to book an entire trip is required, so let us know as soon as possible so that we can accommodate your plans.



About our company:

Maple Leaf Adventures has been operating trips focused on the natural history of B.C.’s northwest 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 both the natural and cultural landscapes.

Our institutional clients have included the Royal BC Museum, The Canadian Museum of Civilization and the John G Shedd Aquarium. 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 on the Oprah Winfrey television show.

About Our Trips and the Ship

Our trips take place in the best areas and at peak times for natural phenomena; therefore they originate from different places on the coast. Our guests fly, drive, or take a ferry to meet us at trips’ point of origin, which maximizes the amount of time we are able to spend exploring our chosen areas.

A small group of **8 guests** allows us the flexibility to respond to special natural events, weather, and the interests of our group.

Our pace is unhurried, giving us time to linger with whales, paint or sketch in a Haida village, beach comb, or walk ancient forests. We experience the entire environment, not just the view from on board. We go ashore often to experience the magic

of various habitats and the special life that inhabits each area.

Expert naturalists with a variety of backgrounds accompany us on every voyage. Veterans of field research projects in the areas we visit, they share their expertise and abundant knowledge on a very understandable and enjoyable level. They have guided us to some of nature’s most impressive events.

Maple Leaf is a beautiful 92-foot schooner. She and her crew are Coast Guard approved. She has a long and enviable reputation on the coast. Her accommodations are very comfortable. The spacious main cabin is airy and divided by curtains and walls into four “cabins,” providing sleeping accommodations for eight guests. Mahogany and fir line the galley and dining salon and wheelhouse. She has an extensive library.



Contact Us

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



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 sailing 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 included:

- 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).
- The services of our naturalist and professional crew.
- Shore excursions (there are several each day).

- Use of all gear available on board, including raingear, sea boots, kayaks and fishing gear.

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 the experience of a lifetime!

Q. Can you accommodate my special diet?

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

Q. Will I be seasick?

A. Sea sickness is rarely a problem as Maple Leaf is 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. Absolutely yes. We encourage our guests to participate in any aspect of the trip that interests them and to whatever 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.



Wild BC and Alaska Tours by Sail



"Thanks for the best vacation ever."

– Carrie Novick, Oregon.

Contact Us

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Maple Leaf Adventures

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www.MapleLeafAdventures.com

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.

North America Trips

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. If cancellation occurs less than 120 days prior to the departure date of your trip, we will do our best to try to fill your space on the trip, however no money will be refunded unless all the spaces on your trip are filled.

Galapagos Islands Trips

Deposit: A nonrefundable deposit of US \$1000 reserves a place on the trip. On payment of the deposit you will receive: receipt/invoice, medical information form, agreement and release from liability form, itinerary and additional information covering packing lists, visa requirements, health issues, etc.

Balance: The balance is due 3 months prior to departure date. On payment of the balance you will receive: receipt, final trip bulletin including participant list and rendezvous instructions.

Single Supplement: Accommodations are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodation, we will try to assign you a roommate. If there

is no one with whom you can share, or if you prefer single accommodation, you will be requested to pay a Single Supplement, as listed for each trip.

Cancellation Policy: At the time we receive written notice of your wish to cancel your trip, the following fees will apply: * 90 days+ from departure date: 100% of deposit; * 89 to 60 days from departure date: 50% of Land Cost; * 59 days or less from departure date: 100% of Land Cost

Group Bookings

For large group bookings, such as a family charter of the entire ship, the booking and cancellation policy may be different - please do 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). Travel insurance can be purchased through your travel agency or through our travel agent (contact us for info). This must be done at the time your booking is confirmed.

Pre-Trip Information Package

A comprehensive pre-trip information package will welcome you "aboard" at the time of booking. It includes information on clothing and other items to bring, how to get to your trip, insurance, visa requirements, etc.

Getting to & from the Ship

Our office staff can help you with these questions and arrangements - call or email any time.

Design: www.LotusDesign.ca