



# Great Bear Rainforest Whales & Wild Isles

A Frommer's "Trip of a Lifetime"



*Explore the whales, dolphins, islands, channels and beaches of the wild BC coast, also called the inside passage or Great Bear Rainforest, on this summertime supervoyage.*

## Trip Summary

Enter the spectacular world of the cetaceans of Canada's Inside Passage.

On this 9-night **expedition cruise** aboard the 92-foot schooner *Maple Leaf*, you'll explore with just 8 guests and an expert crew of five.

Your guides are all local experts who will take you to walk along remote **beaches**, explore the **rainforest**, and **sail the coast's** special places.

Departing from the north coast hub of Prince Rupert (where *Maple Leaf* has a long history), you'll cruise away from the colourful port in Cow Bay out into the whales' habitat.

Long days of light and warm temperatures enable you to sample the best of wildlife, shore explorations and sailing as we gradually make our way south along the Great Bear Rainforest.

You'll also explore the remotest parts of the coast: the **wild western shores**. Here the Pacific ocean sweeps in from Haida Gwaii or Asia, creating **sandy beaches** and rich habitat for **marine life**.

We'll stop at a couple of tiny coastal communities, too.

You'll **cruise and dine on the sailing ship**, view whales from the ship, go ashore and explore anchorages by **zodiac and/or kayak**, and **walk the beaches and rainforest** of the Inside Passage and outer coast.

At day's end you'll relax on the **comfortable vessel**, *Maple Leaf*, with **gourmet food** prepared by the

chef, in a wilderness anchorage with **nature as your 360-degree view**.

## Whales and Other Wildlife

In spring, summer and fall, many species of whales come to the inside passage and outer coast areas to feast. The waters of these temperate coastal seas are extremely rich in nutrients for a diverse food web.

With our ship's expert naturalist, we'll take in the majesty of whales and other marine mammals on this trip. Expect to see **humpback whales, killer whales, porpoises and dolphins**. We also expect to visit some whale researchers in remote stations along the way.

This is not a peak time for bear viewing but is possible (but not a given) to see some during early August. Other species we may see are **bald eagles, ravens, common murrelets, ancient and marbled murrelets, shearwaters, harlequin ducks, scoters, river otters, sea otters, and pine martens**.



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Photo credits: All by Kevin Smith except (sailing) Paul Smith (rainforest), Jacques Record (puffins) James Warburton



# BC Coast Whales & Wild Side

*“Any trip on this fabulous lady is a privilege; this one was exceptional in so many ways.*

*Maple Leaf and all the incredible coast she sails are in my heart always. Many thanks for another once-in-a-lifetime trip with the great lady and her extraordinary crew – all consummate professionals.”*

*- Sharon Godkin, Victoria, BC*

## Dates & Prices

### 2012

**Aug 2-10**, 9 days/8 nights  
C \$4650

**Depart:** Prince Rupert, B.C.

**Return:** Port McNeill, B.C.

### 2013

**Jul 30 - Aug 7**, 9 days/8 nights  
C \$4750

**Depart:** Prince Rupert, B.C.

**Return:** Port McNeill, B.C.



## Maple Leaf Adventures

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Victoria, B.C., V8W 3Z1 Canada

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local 1-250-386-7245



## Inside Passage and Outer Coast

The coast of British Columbia is one of the world's best cruising destinations, with thousands of islands that shield inland channels from the open ocean.

This creates a cruising area, called the Inside Passage, of thousands of miles of protected water. Rainforest-covered mountains drop into the sea here.

The Outer Coast is equally stunning.

The sea has sculpted hundreds of unnamed beaches on the islands' west coasts. Intertidal life clings to rocks and makes for colourful viewing at low tide.

Remote and rugged, the beautiful outer coast is not often visited by humans. To walk the beaches here is truly to land on untouched shores.

You'll also explore the rainforest and meet local people at research stations or coastal villages.

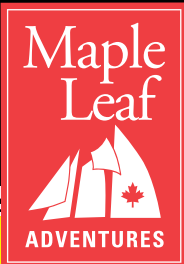


## Sample Itinerary

This sample itinerary gives you an idea of the typical trip.

- Day 1 Board Maple Leaf at Prince Rupert. Orientation, cruising inside passage channels, humpback whales. Island anchorage. Beach exploration.
- Day 2 Sailing the outer coast. Going ashore on wild islands, exploring intertidal life, sailing the schooner Maple Leaf.
- Day 3 Humpback whale viewing. Visit with whale researchers, hot springs.
- Day 4 Inner islands rainforest and wildflower exploration, porpoises. Visit village of Klemtu.
- Day 5 Sailing to remote island group, sea otter viewing, seabird viewing, beach combing, optional evening kayak.
- Day 6 Cruising the outer islands, scenic coastal hike with a view, humpback whale viewing, exploring islets by kayak or zodiac.
- Day 7 Rounding Cape Caution, whale watching, entering Queen Charlotte Strait.
- Day 8 Killer whale viewing, sea lion viewing, possible dolphins, rainforest hike.
- Day 9 Cruising to Port McNeill.





# Wild BC and Alaska Tours by Sail

A Frommer's "Trip of a Lifetime"



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

*Turn the page to start arranging yours.*

Join us and experience 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.

Relax, rejuvenate and learn as you sail on a beautiful schooner through fjords and archipelagos. You will visit the best areas at the best times to see them.

On Maple Leaf, the proximity you will feel to the coast's natural wonders is incomparable with any other form of water travel.

Sail with an escort of dolphins. Feel the spray from waterfalls driving straight to the sea. Walk into ancient forests that are some of the most unspoiled on the planet. The education you'll receive from our onboard naturalist, and from elders and coastal residents we visit, will enliven your world further.

You will encounter peak times for natural events like whale and bird migrations, and grizzly bear salmon fishing. You'll be well cared for by our chef and experienced crew who will interact with you as an individual, rather than as a number in a crowd.

Northwest coast cultures we visit include the Haida, Haisla, Kitasoo and Kwakwaka'wakw.





# 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.

## How to Book Your Trip

To book, we welcome your call or email (see back page for contact info). We accept cheque, visa or master card. You'll receive a trip planning booklet and we are always here to help you.

## 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.

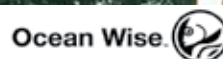
A small group of **8 guests** allows us the flexibility to respond to special natural events, weather, and the interests of our group.

Our 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.

**Expert naturalists** accompany you on every voyage. Veterans of local field research, they share

their expertise and abundant knowledge on a very understandable and enjoyable level. Our chef prepares amazing meals and snacks fresh every day.

*Maple Leaf* is a beautiful 92-foot schooner, certified by Transport Canada. 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, dining salon and wheelhouse. She has an extensive library and three decks.



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 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. can't >>

- 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 a great experience.

### 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



## 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.

*"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

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