



# Art at Sea

## Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Is.) Painting Holiday

*A Frommer's "Trip of a Lifetime"*



**A** hundred and thirty islands at the edge of North America.

*Rainforests draped with moss. Humpbacks rising from the ocean. The remains of beautiful totems and houses in remote Haida villages. This is the Queen Charlotte Islands, or Haida Gwaii.*

### Painting the Haida Islands at the Edge of the World

On this painting holiday, you'll explore the nature and the spectacular culture of the Queen Charlotte Islands / Haida Gwaii.

With plenty of time to paint both on board the ship and ashore, you'll be inspired by rugged islands, rain-forest, monumental Haida art, beach and sea-scapes, wildlife, and even the classic schooner *Maple Leaf*.

You'll travel with artist/instructor Karin Richter, a veteran leader of painting holidays in Europe and North America. You'll also learn the area's natural history from Maple Leaf's guides and about the villages from Haida guides.

### Emily Carr's Inspiration and "Place of Wonder"

You'll explore the north island then enter Gwaii Haanas, "Place of Wonder", a protected region of 138 islands.

Here are some of the greatest First Nations village sites in North America, including the UN World Heritage Site Ninstints (SGang Gwaay). You'll walk in the footsteps of renowned Canadian painter Emily Carr whose art and writing were inspired by these places.

The overall sense of power found in these villages is unforgettable.

### The "Canadian Galapagos"

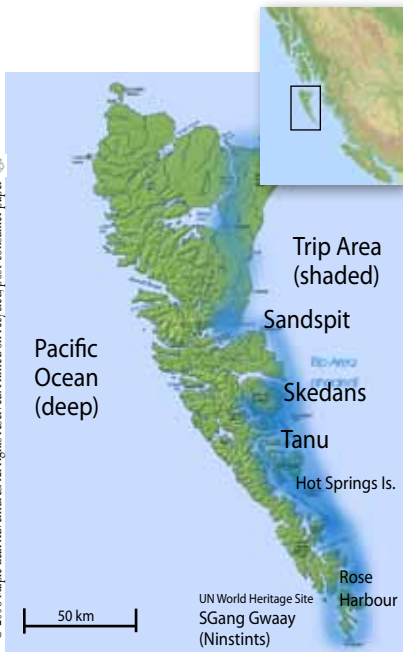
Haida Gwaii lies on the continental shelf. On the west coast, rugged cliffs drop straight into the sea, where

it plunges thousands of feet into the Pacific. The east coast lies on a shallow sea at the edge of the continental plate, and the coastline is a convoluted series of islands and anchorages.

Upwellings of nutrients from the Pacific create some of the densest intertidal life on the planet. You'll see humpback whales, feeding in great numbers beside you, splashing the water with fins up to 15 feet long. Pacific whitesided dolphins may bow ride with us.

You'll be in Haida Gwaii at the right time of year to see hundreds of thousands of nesting seabirds who return to land only for these few months to breed.

The islands' isolation from the mainland has given rise to species that differ from their mainland counterparts. For example, the bears on Haida Gwaii, which you may see on beaches, are larger.



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Photo credits: Kevin Smith



# Art at Sea - Haida Gwaii / Queen Charlotte Islands



*"This was an exciting and wondrous adventure into nature's pallet. As a girl born in the interior of B.C., I could only imagine what this part of my province was really like. I now have had a taste of this rugged country, feeling so much that it was and is being cared for our future generations to enjoy and appreciate as much as I have over the past 7 days. Thank you all, Maple Leaf crew, for your wonderful presence and care and professionalism throughout this week. I definitely will be seeing you again."*

*- Ingrid Vincent, Calgary, Alberta*

**2011: May 16 - 24**

8 nights, 9 days

C \$4550

Depart: Masset, B.C.

Return: Sandspit, B.C.

## 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



## Explore Rainforests and Hot Springs

You'll enjoy learning about the variety of ecosystems from our on-board naturalist. Walk through forests of enormous trees, some over ten centuries old and thickly draped with mosses. Soak in natural hot springs with a view over the sea to the mountains. Walk secluded beaches looking for shells.

## A Rare Opportunity with Experienced Guides

Travelling here is a rare experience. Although the area is listed as the top national park in North America by *National Geographic*, few are permitted to travel here.

Maple Leaf has been operating here since the 1980s and we are one of the founders of the Code of Conduct for the Gwaii Haanas Tour Operators Association.

We know the area intimately and travel with the permission and respect of the Haida and Parks Canada.

Award-winning artist and instructor Karin Richter is an elected member of the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolor (CSPWC), the Alberta Society of Artists (ASA), the Society of Canadian Artists (SCA) and a Master Signature Member with Pastel Artists Canada.



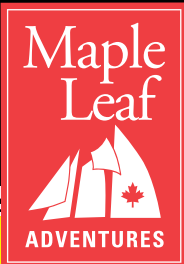
## Sample Itinerary

Note that itineraries can vary depending on the interests of the guests, and the actions of weather and wildlife. This sample give reflects a typical trip.

- Day 1 Tour kickoff, land-based tour of Masset, Old Masset, North Beach, Tow Hill. Time to sketch on beach. Dinner and lodge accommodation in Masset area.
- Day 2 Haida Heritage Centre at KAAAY LLNAGAAY, Board Maple Leaf, orientation, cruising, whale watching, island anchorage and paint, explore ashore.
- Day 3 Tanu village site, Burnaby Narrows for rich intertidal life, kayaking, cruising, painting.
- Day 4 Sailing south in Gwaii Haanas, Cape St. James. Paint, explore southern beaches.
- Day 5 Seabird viewing, UN World Heritage Site SGang Gwaay or Ninstints Haida village site, including lots of sketching/ painting time in village, Rose Harbour visit.
- Day 6 Cruising, forest walk, estuary walk, possible bear viewing.
- Day 7 Hot Springs Island, sailing, whale watching.
- Day 8 Windy Bay cultural heritage site, painting, Skedans/Koona Haida village site.
- Day 9 Cruising to Sandspit.



Photo credits: Kevin Smith, Brian Falconer (forest), Karin Richter (woman painting), Vancouver Art Gallery (Emily Carr's "Skidegate" 1928)



# 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.

## Contact Us

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

## 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.





## 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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## 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](http://www.LotusDesign.ca)