



# The Wild Side

Vancouver Island's Last Undiscovered Place

A Frommer's "Trip of a Lifetime"



*This Summer  
Discover  
Vancouver Island's  
Rugged Coast by Sail*

## Undiscovered and Beautiful

Veiled from most travellers by a mountainous spine, north-western Vancouver Island is still remote and wild.

Maple Leaf's Captain Kevin Smith came to love it as a marine park ranger and developed an intimate knowledge of the waterways, islands, wildlife and forests.

Join us for a rare journey on the beautiful classic schooner Maple Leaf into a special place few are ever privileged to visit.

## Rivers and Rainforests

You will board Maple Leaf in Coal Harbour, just 20 minutes from the airport, and travel down an inlet so long it almost cuts huge Vancouver Island in half. At coves along this sheltered inlet, we'll explore the

island's temperate rainforests. Richly productive rivers spill into the ocean from the folds of steep mountains. Here, towering trees draped in moss and lichens live thousands of years, providing a home to wolves, black bears, elk, eagles and many other species.

## One of the World's "Magical" Places

We plan to visit East Creek, one of the world's most magical rainforests -- and possibly one of the oldest. During the last ice age, the East Creek watershed and parts of the Brooks Peninsula escaped glaciation and flourished, while ice scoured other vegetation from the continent. In the mountains, plants grow that are found nowhere else on this coast.

## Wild Beaches, Sea Otters and More

After this world of towering forests and great rivers, you will sail along the west coast.

You'll walk on white sand beaches that unroll between forest and sea. In other places, the sea meets the Island's jagged coastline.

This area is home to multitudes of sea otters, sea birds and other wildlife. Indeed the recovery of Vancouver Island's sea otters began here. We may see transient killer whales, puffins, sea lions, black bears and wolves.

We plan to visit the beaches of Brooks Peninsula and Rugged Point. Weather permitting we may sail through the beautiful Cape Scott and Scott islands area.



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# Wild Side – Northwestern Vancouver Island



*"To the Maple Leaf & its incredible crew – FANTASTIC! Couldn't have asked for better weather, food, or adventures. This Wild Side trip gave us an incredible introduction to a part of the world we would have otherwise not seen. Thanks so much!"*

- Claire and Leesa, Winter Park, FL

2009: June 24-30  
6 nights, 7 days  
C \$3210  
Depart: Port Hardy, B.C. (Coal Harbour)  
Return: Port Hardy, B.C.

Maple Leaf Adventures  
PO Box 8845 (28 Bastion Sq.),  
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3Z1 Canada

toll free 1-888-599-5323  
local 1-250-386-7245



## Local Culture

This area is the traditional home of the Kwakwak'wakw, or Kwakwaka speaking, and Nuu-chah-nulth peoples, with Brooks Peninsula forming a natural boundary.

We will visit at least one remote community in the area, and explore the way of life for all who live on Vancouver Island's "wild coast".

The weather in July is the best of the season, with a summer high frequently blessing us with unexpectedly sunny weather.

## Endangered Spaces

Sadly, some of the areas we will travel through are threatened by industrial clearcut logging. If you have ever dreamed of a relaxing and educational journey in one of the world's secret "beautiful places", this is the trip for you.



## Sample Itinerary

Note that, as with all expedition cruises, itineraries vary depending on the interests of the guests, and the actions of weather and wildlife. This sample itinerary is meant to give you an idea of the typical trip.

- Day 1 Board Maple Leaf, orientation, exploring "hanging gardens or abundant intertidal life onshore. Optional evening kayak.
- Day 2 Cruising to Klaskish and East Creek. Bear viewing, shore excursion in East Creek.
- Day 3 Sailing around Brooks Peninsula. Puffin and seabird viewing. Beach exploration.
- Day 4 Forest and beach hikes. Optional morning kayak. Anchorage in Nesparti Inlet.
- Day 5 Kyuquot Sound exploration, sea otter viewing, visit village of Kyuquot.
- Day 6 Exploration of offshore group of islands with sandy beaches and salal-rich headlands. Heading north around Brooks Peninsula and Cape Scott. Seabird viewing.
- Day 7 Bear viewing, whale watching, cruising to Port Hardy.



Photo credits: Kevin Smith, Greg Shea (sailing)





# 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 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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## 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)