

JOHNSTONE STRAIT ULTIMATE TOUR INFORMATION PACKAGE

All the details you need to learn about and reserve your sea kayak adventure! Explore the spirit of the unique and wild Pacific west coast. Kayak in the realm of orca and humpback whales. Camping at our comfortable and well-appointed basecamp in beautiful Johnstone Strait. Come relax and enjoy!





JOHNSTONE STRAIT ULTIMATE

AT A GLANCE

TYPE	Sea kayaking & base camping in beautiful Johnstone Strait
LENGTH	4 days, 3 nights
GROUP SIZE	Maximum 13 guests and 3 guides
ACTIVITY LEVEL	Easy, suitable for beginners through experienced kayakers who like creature comforts.
HIGHLIGHTS	Wildlife viewing, kayaking in the realm of the Killer Whales, gourmet camp food, hot tub and shower with an ocean view, whales swimming past your tent at night, water taxi journey to and from camp - great for seeing the coast.
WILDLIFE	Killer whales, dolphins, porpoises, black bears, eagles, minke and humpback whales
PRICE	Low season \$1349.00 CAD + 5% GST High season \$1429.00 CAD + 5% GST (JUL 17 - AUG 25)
INCLUDES	Expert guiding service, water taxi transport to and from camp, all kayaking & safety equipment, camping equipment (except sleeping bag), food and drinks from morning snack on day one to lunch on day four (except alcohol), park and land use permits
TOUR DATES	Every four days throughout the summer JUN 30–July 3 JUL 3–6, 6–9, 9–12, 12–15, 15–18, 18–21, 21–24, 24–27, 27–30, 30–2 Aug AUG 2–5, 5–8, 8–11, 11–14, 14–17, 17–20, 20–23, 23–26, 26–29, 29–1 Sept SEPT 1–4, 4–7, 7–10, 10–13, 13–16

TO RESERVE YOUR
TRIP **CALL**

1 800 307 3982 Toll Free
1 250 285 2121 Overseas

TO REGISTER
ONLINE **VISIT**

kayakingtours.com/reservations

OR SEND US AN
EMAIL

info@kayakingtours.com



WELCOME TO SPIRIT OF THE WEST & THE REALM OF THE ORCA

This tour offers some of the best opportunities for viewing and paddling in the realm of killer whales in the wild. Traveling to and from our remote campsite by boat and base camping in comfort and style - all in one of the prime wildlife observation areas of Johnstone Strait - makes this our most popular tour.

THE AREA

Vancouver Island is one of the best places on earth to see killer whales, or orcas, in the wild. Most of British Columbia's 300 or so orca whales return to these waters to feed, sleep, play, and rub their bodies underwater on the pebble beaches of the world famous Robson Bight Ecological Reserve. It is truly a unique experience to encounter pods of gentle (and inappropriately named) killer whales while paddling your own sea kayak. Also sharing this diverse habitat are dolphins, porpoise, sea lions, harbour seals, humpback whales, eagles and black bears, to name just a few.

THE TOUR

Our adventure begins the moment we step off the docks of Campbell River and Quadra Island onto our high speed water taxi. Relax in comfort as we whisk you up the scenic waterways of the Inside Passage to our remote wilderness camp on the edge of Johnstone Strait. Our camp, located directly across from Robson Bight, which is considered one of the best killer whale observation areas. In fact, the whale researchers in this area live at the other end of our bay!

As we follow the coastline north, our journey by sea provides us with optimum wildlife viewing opportunities while en route. The Johnstone Strait Ultimate adventure offers the best opportunity to paddle in the realm of the orcas. On the rare occasion that we do not see the whales there will be plenty of other wildlife viewing opportunities. It is not uncommon to see black bears foraging along the shores for seafood during low tide. Equally as fascinating is the abundant and colourful marine life one can see below the surface. From our base camp we will spend our days exploring the area and return back to our established campsite for the evenings.

FOLLOW & SHARE OUR ADVENTURES

TO GET ALL OUR NEWS & SPECIALS

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH US ON **FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM TWITTER & TRIP ADVISOR**



WHY IS THIS TOUR SO POPULAR?

KILLER WHALES AND KAYAKS

Maybe it's because we take you right to the heart of the world of the orcas. About 230 of these majestic and playful creatures spend their summers in the Johnstone Strait area where the Spirit of the West Adventures base camp is located.

Watching the majestic orca from the water level while traveling in a silent kayak really makes for a special experience. See the water part with the spray from a whale's breath turn into mist against the sky and hear the telltale sound of a whale coming to the surface and it's sure to make your heart race and bring a smile to your face. With a better than 95% sighting success rate during the season, and the opportunity to see humpback whales, sea lions, dolphins, porpoise, black bears, eagles and more, this trip is a wildlife enthusiast's dream come to life.

GETTING THERE IS HALF THE FUN

Your Johnstone Strait Ultimate adventure begins when you climb aboard our high speed water taxi, head north through famous Seymour Narrows and into the wilderness beyond. Having a supply boat take our group in to a base camp means we can take in extra gear, plentiful fresh food and supplies, and get to our remote destination extra fast through some of the most striking scenery on the planet. The water taxi trip is often a highlight for our guests as it gives you a wonderful sampling of coastal scenery and provides excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. When you arrive at our camp, you're relaxed, rested and ready for adventure.

OUR BASE CAMP

For those who haven't tried it, base camping has some big advantages over a typical expedition style kayak trip. Coming back to the same comfortable, established camp each night means there is less time spent making and breaking camp each day. This leaves more time to be on the lookout for orcas and exploring.

Comfortable amenities include big tents on platforms, complete with thick sleeping mats & pillows, a wood-fired hot tub overlooking the ocean, an on-demand hot water shower with a view over the strait and a permanent gourmet wilderness kitchen to ensure happy campers with full bellies takes camping and kayaking to a whole new level.

'The sun was shining, water was crystal clear, whales were swimming around us and some even singing to us; life couldn't get any better!'

Connie L, Calgary, Canada

LISTENING TO THE WHALES SING

Our base camp is equipped with an underwater hydrophone so we can listen to the beautiful songs of the orca as they pass by our camp. We also carry portable hydrophones with us for while we are in the kayaks.

WHAT'S COOKING?

We just have to mention it. One of the perks that come with the base camp is a well established kitchen for our fantastic guides to prepare your food. We use mostly organic fresh fruits and vegetables to prepare gourmet meals, topped off with home baking. We also provide 24-hour snacks just in case you get a hankering for something late at night. It is a Spirit of the West Adventures guarantee you will never go hungry, even after a day's paddle in the fresh air. On the first evening we feature a wild and local fish dinner, and from here the creative, tasty and hearty meals keep coming. This is not your typical camping food!



SAMPLE ITINERARY

PRE-TRIP MEETING

DAY PRIOR

Your guides will go over the logistics of the tour and answer any questions or concerns you may have. This meeting will be held in the lounge at the Heriot Bay Inn on Quadra Island at 6pm the day prior to departure. If you cannot make it to the meeting just be sure to call in the day before departure to confirm your arrival.

The Heriot Bay Inn has one of Quadra Island's best restaurants so you may want to consider eating there after the meeting.

MEETING LOCATION

The Johnstone Strait Ultimate Tour departs from either Campbell River or Quadra Island (a 10 minute ferry ride from Campbell River). Spirit of the West Adventures is based on Quadra Island and we highly recommend making Quadra Island a part of your vacation plans. We are biased of course as we live here, but Quadra Island has a whole different and laid back feel to it, complete with endless opportunities for beach walks, hikes, biking and visiting local artisans.

THE TOUR

DAY 1

Good Morning! We will pick you up from your accommodation on Quadra Island and shuttle you to the dock where we will meet the water taxi that will transport us up to our campsite in Johnstone Strait. Our route takes us up the waterway of the Discovery Passage, and safely through the infamous Seymour Narrows renowned for its incredible tidal flows and whirlpools. Killer whales, black bears, dolphins, porpoises and eagles may all be seen en route. The 2.5 hour boat

ride continues into Johnstone Strait, eventually ending at our remote wilderness base camp, situated across from the pristine Tsitika River valley and the Robson Bight Ecological Reserve. After settling into our new surroundings, and a camp orientation, we will spend some time reviewing kayaking skills, tips for comfort and of course safety procedures before setting off on an afternoon paddle. That evening relax and enjoy the view from our wood-fired hot tub overlooking the water while your guides serve up an incredible meal.

DAYS 2 & 3

After a hearty breakfast we will paddle the scenic coast in search of the orca and the area's incredible wildlife. During low tide we will also keep a look out for black bears as they are known to forage along the shores rummaging for intertidal snacks. We may choose to hike up forest trails to the viewing area used by researchers studying the habits of the whales. Lunches will be savoured on one of the many beaches of the Strait. Sightings of dalls porpoises, sea lions, seals, otters, cormorants, marbled murrelets, and the eminent bald eagle are common. Although these days can be packed full of activities, there is also plenty of opportunity for those who want to kick back and relax at camp and enjoy the stunning surroundings. This is the joy of base camping, you choose the pace that works for you.

DAY 4

This is our last day to enjoy the marine environment of Johnstone Strait. Our boat transport will pick us up in the mid-afternoon for the trip home. We of course keep an eye out for wildlife and the beautiful scenery enroute back to our starting point. We arrive back on Quadra Island and Campbell River by late afternoon (between 4 & 6 pm, weather and wildlife dependent).



WHAT MAKES SPIRIT OF THE WEST SPECIAL?

- We are a small family-run business with many local staff. Developed and owned by kayak guides.
- We have been busy perfecting our craft over the last 20 plus years that we have been operating.
- We were fortunate to be one of the first companies to offer kayaking tours in many of these areas which helped us to secure top-notch campsites.
- We think of and take care of all the little details that make the difference between a good experience and a great experience think top notch gear, well-appointed base-camps, carefully selected expedition-routes, top-trained staff.
- We love to eat and it shows in our hearty & delicious meals.
Who thought chocolate fondue was camping food?!
- Our commitment to the environment and sustainability is woven into everything we do so you can feel good about traveling with us.
- We give back to research and conservation efforts so we can all continue to enjoy these beautiful areas and majestic wildlife. We are proud members of 1% for the Planet, the North Island Marine Mammal Association, the Wilderness Tourism Association of BC and many more.
- Most importantly, our team of guides, chefs, office and base staff love what they do and their passion, dedication, expertise, and professionalism shines through in all elements of your tour.

We could go on, but you are making us blush!

Don't take our word for it, check out our reviews on Trip Advisor, Facebook and Google.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below is a list of commonly asked questions. Feel free to visit our website, select your tour and find an even more detailed FAQ section. Of course, feel free to contact us with any questions at all, before or during your trip. We are happy to help you find the perfect tour for you and your comfort is very important to us.

What is the minimum age required to join our tours?

We cater to all ages of adventurers. Kids age 5 to 12 are encouraged to join the Family Orca Tours which have been designed with the needs of younger kayakers. For all of our other regularly scheduled tours we prefer a minimum age of 12. If your child is almost 12 or your family has a good deal of experience kayaking and camping we do occasionally make exceptions. We like to assess each case individually. We can also organize private, custom style adventures. Feel free to call us and we would be happy to discuss the options.

What is the average age of our guests?

We have guests from age 5 and up on our family tours and ages 12 to 85 joining our regularly scheduled tours. The average age ranges between age 30 to 65. Each tour and tour date is different, but we usually get a good mix of ages. For those concerned with being in 'their older years' or anyone unsure of which tour fits them best, we welcome you to contact us and we will be happy to help you find the perfect trip.

Are there any single supplement fees if I am travelling on my own?

There are NO single supplements. We encourage solo travelers to join us and often have several solo travelers on each tour. It should be no problem to have your own tent and you will have access to both single and double kayaks.

Can you accommodate food allergies/special diets?

Our food preparation crew are masters at accommodating dietary restrictions. We are able to offer gluten-free, vegetarian, pescatarian, dairy light and vegan menus with prior notice. Other dietary requests may involve additional charges and need to be discussed in advance with our food crew. We are NOT a nut-free facility.

Will I comfortably fit in the kayaks?

If you are over 6ft (182cms) tall, if you are on the more petite side of things, have larger hips or weigh over 250lbs (115 kg) we have certain kayaks that may work best for you. Please give us a call and we can ensure we have the appropriate kayak available for you.

What is included in the tour costs?

We supply everything that you will need for kayaking and camping except for a few personal items such as your clothing, toiletries, sleeping bag and rain gear (**sleeping bags and rain gear can be rented if needed**). Please note that bedding is provided on the Whales and Wilderness Glamping tour.

We pick you up free of charge from your accommodation on Quadra Island on the morning the trip starts and we will drop you off there when the tour is finished.

We provide all meals from morning snack on day one to lunch on the last day. Non-alcoholic beverages including a wide variety of teas, coffee, juices, hot chocolate are provided. Meals on the Whales and Wilderness Glamping tour are paired with wine. Alcohol is not provided on any other tours and you are welcome to bring your favourite wine, beer or pop to enjoy responsibly. There is a grocery and liquor store very close to the location of the pre-trip meeting if you would like to pick up extra beverages on the evening before the tour. There are no additional costs once on our tour unless you wish to purchase souvenirs.

What do I need to bring?

We send you a complete packing list a few weeks prior to your tour to help you prepare. If you would like to see what type of clothing and items we recommend visit kayakingtours.com/detailed-trip-info/ and select your tour. (Please note the packing lists (**page 4**) between tours varies so choose the correct trip for the most accurate information).

How much kayaking experience is required?

Our adventures are designed to cater to all levels of experience and abilities from first-timer to expert paddler. We have several different styles and lengths of tours so that everyone can find the perfect trip.

If you are new to kayaking and camping check out our base-camping style tours- the Whales and Wilderness Glamping and Johnstone Strait Ultimate tours.

If you are looking for more rustic camping and more paddling check out our expedition style tours; the Johnstone Strait Expedition, Orca Lite, Nuchatlitz, Desolation Sound or Great Bear Rainforest Tours.

Do I need to be in great shape for this trip?

The majority of our adventures are not considered to be overly strenuous or physically demanding and therefore do not require a high level of fitness. Each tour is slightly different in its demands so if you are concerned, please do contact us. As a general rule, you need to be capable of a few hours of moderate exercise each day and be comfortable with the uneven ground of a wilderness environment. The Whales and Wilderness Glamping tour can be suited to folks with mildly limited mobility or those who wish to be in the wilderness, but not do any kayaking (you can always choose to stay at camp on our base-camping style tours). Please keep in mind that good general health will go a long way towards the enjoyment of your tour. Most important though is an adventurous spirit.

How much paddling do we do each day?

Paddling time will vary depending on the trip, our destination, weather conditions and the group's abilities and desires. Generally, we travel between 3-5 hours a day on our

base-camping style tours (the Johnstone Strait Ultimate and Whales and Wilderness Tours) and slightly longer (4-6 hours a day) on all of our other tours, not including breaks and lunch. We set a pace which is manageable and enjoyable for all.

How stable are the kayaks?

What is the likelihood of flipping over?

The kayaks we use are stable and designed for comfort. Your guides will give you thorough instruction on how to safely use and enjoy the kayaks and what to do in case of a capsize. For those concerned about capsizing, the double kayaks are slightly more stable than the singles and we have a variety of both singles and doubles on every trip. The likelihood of a capsize is minimal and if it does happen your well-trained guides will be there before you know it to help.

What happens if my kayak flips over?

In the rare event of a capsize, all of our guides are trained in rescue procedures in order to quickly and efficiently get you back in your boat. At this point, we will take you to the nearest shoreline to change into some warm clothing and carry on with our journey when you are ready. While we are out on the water, it is of the utmost importance that the group stays together for safety.

If the weather turns bad? Will I be comfy and warm?

Our weather in the Pacific Northwest is generally pleasant from May through until September. In the Johnstone Strait area, the weather will generally be cooler than what you may see on the forecast for Campbell River – sometimes by as much as 10 degrees. Fog is very common on summer mornings, however, this nearly always clears at midday. Although it is uncommon, it can rain in the summer. Be prepared for any type of weather and you will stay comfortable. Layering is the key. It allows you to put on or take off layers while on the water if you need to. If you are very concerned about the weather then we recommend our base-camping style tours as these campsites have covered eating and lounge areas as well as dry tents to come home to at the end of every day. On our expedition style tours we carry tarps but we are a little more at the mercy of mother nature in these more rustic style campsites.

What sort of wildlife might we see?

The diversity and abundance of wildlife in the Pacific Northwest is one of our great privileges. From the rich marine life of colourful plants and invertebrates, seabirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, mink, otter, seals, sea lions, dolphins, and whales, to the land animals of deer, raccoons, cougars, wolves, and bears, we are bound to see something.

For those with an eye for eagles take note that they are most prominent in the earlier months before the salmon migration in the late summer/early fall.

For those keen to see humpback whales- you are in luck. The population of humpbacks in our area is doing well and we are fortunate to often see these whales any time of the year. If Orcas are your main priority then we recommend traveling between mid-July and mid-September. While it is possible to see orcas outside of these times, we see them with the greatest abundance and frequency during this peak period.

Please just remember that wildlife is just that wild and we cannot control sightings. That said the whales are the icing on the cake in this stunning, rich and diverse area.

Where is the best place to see orcas/killer whales?

On our tours to Johnstone Strait and Blackfish Sound, which includes the Whales and Wilderness Glamping Tour, the Johnstone Strait Ultimate, Family Orca Tour and Orca Lite tours, we stand a high chance of seeing whales, especially between mid-July and mid-September.

Understandably we cannot guarantee what nature will dictate, but we can tell you that this area has one of the highest concentrations of Killer Whales on earth and this is where they spend their summer holiday. Some trips view the whales from the kayaks, some while traveling on our water taxi or from our campsites on the shore and some see all of the above.

How close to we paddle to whales & other wildlife?

We do our very best to provide awesome sightings of whales but all the while ensuring that we do not disrupt the natural behaviour of all the wildlife we encounter. We abide by the Canadian whale watching regulations which means **we do not approach killer whales (orcas) any closer than 200 meters (656 ft) and all other cetaceans no closer than 100 meters (328 ft).**

To learn more about how we do our best to minimize our impacts on whales check out nimmsa.org the North Island Marine Mammal Stewardship Association. Your trip fees help to fund whale research and conservation efforts through the NIMMSA fund which Spirit of the West Contributes too.

What is the camp setup like?

The Johnstone Strait Ultimate tour, while in a wilderness setting, offers some amenities to make your stay quite comfortable. Amenities include a covered dining area, large dome-style tents on wooden tent platforms, thick Thermarest-style sleeping pads, pillows, a wood-fired hot tub and a hot water shower with a view of the ocean. If you are looking for the most comfortable camping experience than the Whales and Wilderness Glamping tour is for you. This trip provides large walk-in canvas wall style tents, real beds with organic soy foam mattresses, pillows of various levels of firmness, warm bedding, a hot shower, wood-fired hot tub, a professional chef and a million little touches to enhance your wilderness experience.

Where do we wash and are there toilets?

Johnstone Strait Ultimate and the Whales and Wilderness Glamping tour have hot freshwater showers and established pit style outhouses.

On all other tours, there is very little fresh water to be found. Therefore, seawater is your best bet for washing up. **Please use biodegradable, environmentally friendly soap brands.** Toilet facilities are not common in most wilderness settings, although some areas may have pit toilets. We also carry a portable toilet system. Your guide will generally designate an area that works for ensuring your privacy. We are very accustomed to making sure all of our guests feel comfortable and informed – please feel free to ask us any questions you might have, before or during your tour.



ACCOMMODATIONS

ACCOMMODATIONS WHILE ON TOUR

Spirit of the West will do our best to make you are comfortable and feel at home on your tour. Our Johnstone Strait Ultimate base camp provides many amenities (hot tub, shower, tent platforms, running water, solar chargers etc), which make for the most comfortable camping you will have ever experienced. Generally tenting is based on double occupancy, but if you traveling on your own, we will do our best to provide you with your own tent (please make your request when reserving your tour).

ACCOMMODATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER TOUR

We encourage our guests to stay on Quadra Island before and after your trip as Quadra is not to be missed. We work closely with two bed & breakfasts on the island, Quadra Island Harbour House and Chipperfield Hollow B&B. Both are located within easy walking distance of the pre-tour meeting location, the Heriot Bay Inn. These guesthouses are also within walking distance of Rebecca Spit Provincial Park, stores, a restaurant and pub. Staying here is the ideal way to

meet fellow kayakers on your tour, prepare for your trip and relax after your return. Hearty and healthy breakfasts are served. If you would like other suggestions for where to stay while on our island, from camping to resorts, we have a full listing of recommended accommodations included with our reservation package or we are happy to discuss options with you anytime.

QUADRA ISLAND - ACCOMMODATIONS

CHIPPERFIELD HOLLOW B&B

(Contact Mike or Robin)

Mike and Robin host you at their home in a secluded forest setting perfect for a friendly B&B.

Local & Overseas 1 250 285 2422

chipperfield@gicable.com | chipperfieldhollow.com

HARBOUR HOUSE B&B (Contact Susan)

Beautiful home above the ocean with the best island and mountain view around! Hot tub. Hearty breakfast served. Accommodates up to 10.

Local & Overseas 1 250 285 2556

harbourhouse@gicable.com | harbourhouse.bc.ca

WANT TO GET EXCITED FOR YOUR TRIP?

Check out our reading tips on

<http://www.kayakingtours.com/learning-kayaking/recommended-reading/>





TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR PAST GUESTS

“Great service from start to finish. Very detail oriented (hydrophone, whale book library, etc.). I love the travel mug we got, a great souvenir! The guides always made us feel super comfortable, they were competent kayakers, and knew a lot about the marine environment, ecosystems, going green...”

Martina and Patrick

“Really every comfort was considered in allowing us to experience the gorgeous wilderness as fully as possible. Can’t say enough about how excellent those guides were.”

Jennifer

“Exceeded expectations, guides were 200%! All facilities were top notch and equipment too! Food and dietary accommodation was superb. Our group had gluten, dairy and fruit allergies, all were well fed (an understatement).”

Andrea and Rod

“Ryan and Robin were brilliant. They both knew a lot about the area and wildlife which really adds to the experience. Food incredible.”

Vicki

“The group was excellent from the moment of pick up to the drop off. We have all got memories to last a lifetime. The camp area was spectacular. The hydrophone was brilliant, seeing and hearing Orcas was incredible. The guides’ knowledge was really broad; all of them were so enthusiastic and willing to share their knowledge.”

Mike, Caroline and Family

“I am very happy I came on this trip. Not only did I have fun, but I learned a tonne about the area and how precious it is. I’m so happy to be a resident of BC and be so close to pristine wilderness.”

Colleen

“Thank you for all the memorable experiences. We will recommend you to all our friends. I was able to fulfill a lifelong dream on this trip.”

Ben

“I highly recommend your paddling company. My experience was superb, food and guides were exemplary. I always appreciate a personal, yet professional approach and you have this mastered. Excellent job. Thanks so much for a wonderful time - it was good for the soul.”

Joni



TOUR TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVING YOUR TRIP

Reserving your adventure with Spirit of the West Adventures is simple. Just call 1-800-307-3982 to speak with one of our friendly and helpful office crew, e-mail your request to info@kayakingtours.com or reserve your trip on the web through our [online reservation request system](#).

If you're not sure if a particular trip is right for you or you're looking for more information, let us know and we would be happy to answer your questions or put you in touch with a past guest who has experienced the trip before.

To reserve space on our tours we ask for a deposit as well as a completed reservation form submitted online, over the phone or by fax. We require a deposit of 25% per person.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit to reserve your space on a tour is due at time of booking. The balance of your trip cost is due 90 days prior to departure. For your convenience, with your authorization, we automatically charge your credit card when the balance is due unless otherwise arranged. Payment can be made by cheque, money order, Visa or MasterCard; any processing charges or fees are your responsibility.

PRICING

All pricing for Canadian-based tours is listed and charged in Canadian dollars. All tours that take place outside of Canada are listed and charged in US dollars. Any foreign currency pricing is only approximate. Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. charges in the listed currency and it is your credit card company or bank who determines your exchange rate on the day your transaction takes place. Pricing is subject to change.

For all Canadian tours there is an additional 5% tax called the GST (Goods and Services Tax). Tours that take place outside of Canada are not taxed. Non-tour add-ons such as equipment rentals or merchandise must be charged both 5% GST and 7% PST (Provincial Sales Tax).

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you find it necessary to cancel your tour, please let us know as soon as possible. No refunds are given once tours have departed. Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. is not responsible for any additional costs that may arise in the event of a trip alteration or delay caused by circumstances beyond our control. To avoid confusion we require written notice of cancellation, by email, fax or standard mail. The following fees will apply to cancellations and are calculated as of the date we receive your written cancellation notice.

CANADIAN TOURS

If you must cancel your tour, your refund is as follows:

- Earlier than 90 days before trip – If we have not had to turn customers away, full amount is refunded less a \$100 administration fee. If we have had to turn customers away, the deposit is retained.

- 89-30 days before trip – 50% of total tour price is refunded.
- Later than 30 days before trip – No refund will be given, unless we can find someone to fill your space. In this case, only the deposit is retained.

INTERNATIONAL TOURS

If you must cancel your tour, your refund is as follows:

- Earlier than 90 days before trip – deposit is refunded less a \$250 administration fee and the guest is responsible for any costs incurred for cancelling any additional tours or travel arrangements. If we have had to turn customers away, the entire deposit is retained.
- 90-60 days before trip – 50% of total tour price is refunded.
- Less than 60 days before trip – No refund will be given, unless we can find someone to fill your space. If we can fill your space, only the deposit is retained.

We highly recommend that all guests purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance. Trip cancellation and interruption insurance is mandatory for all international tours. Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. is not responsible for ensuring the appropriate level or amount of coverage is purchased. Please contact your travel insurance provider to ensure you have appropriate coverage for your entire trip.

Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. reserves the right to cancel any trip prior to departure for any reason whatsoever, including insufficient bookings, safety threats including natural disasters, political instability, terrorism or logistical problems that may impede trip operations.

If we have to cancel a tour due to insufficient bookings you may choose between an alternate trip or a full refund. We will inform participants of cancellations due to insufficient bookings no later than 60 days prior to the tour. If the alternate trip chosen is of a lower value than the originally booked then you are entitled to a refund of the difference. If the alternate tour chosen is of a higher value then you will pay the difference in price.

If a tour has to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control, e.g. political instability, natural disasters, labour strikes etc, there will be no refund from Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. Please contact your travel insurance provider for details on how to start a claim.

Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. is not responsible for expenses incurred by trip participants in preparing for a cancelled trip (for example non-refundable advance purchase plane tickets, visa fees, inoculations, equipment etc. or for any additional arrangements for other travel plans associated with this tour.) Spirit of the West will make every reasonable effort to contact you as soon as it appears that a trip may be cancelled.

TRIP PREPARATION

Once you've made your choice and sent in your deposit, we'll send you a detailed document that includes everything that you will need to prepare

for your tour including an itinerary, packing list, transportation options, directions, meeting times and frequently asked questions. For international tour destinations, we include information about issues such as passports, visas, immunizations and currency exchange. All you need to bring is your passport, a sense of adventure, your clothing and personal items.

Let us know if you're planning a birthday or anniversary trip. We'll pack a surprise! If you have special dietary considerations, please let us know in advance and we'll make all the accommodations necessary if you're vegetarian, vegan or have food allergies. Please note we are not a peanut or nut free facility. On international tours the availability of ingredients or restaurant kitchens outside of our control may limit the type of dietary accommodation we are able to offer.

MEDICAL AND RISK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/ LIABILITY RELEASE FORMS

Each participant is required to fully fill out the medical form and liability release form. Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. must receive medical forms at least 30 days prior to tour departure. Please read and understand the liability waiver upon registration. You will be asked to sign the liability waiver on your arrival and before tour departure.

GUEST RESPONSIBILITY

Although no previous kayaking experience is required on our tours, as with any adventure there is always an element of risk. While our trips are not considered to be strenuous or physically demanding, and we do not require a high level of fitness, good general physical condition is necessary. If you have any physical limitations or concerns please let us know. As we are not qualified to evaluate your level of fitness we ask that you (possibly along with your doctor) determine whether or not you are able to join one of our adventures. If you have any special medical conditions, we encourage you to check with your doctor before you reserve your trip. Please also note that all of our tours take place in remote areas and evacuations can take a great deal of time and can be expensive. Persons with various disabilities are welcome on Spirit of the West tours, pending a discussion of any special needs and requirements.

You must also acknowledge that travel with Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. requires a degree of flexibility and understanding that the trip's route, itinerary, accommodation and modes of transport are subject to change without prior notice due to local circumstances. While traveling with Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. you agree to accept the authority of the leader at all times. You need to be aware that group travel may involve compromise to accommodate the diverse desires and abilities of group members. We ask that you welcome your adventure with an open mind and be able to laugh and have fun when encountering the unexpected. Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. is dedicated to providing safe, environmentally sensitive, well-organized, fun-filled adventures.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

You must carry a valid passport and/or necessary documentation and have obtained the appropriate visas when travelling with Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. Please ensure your passport is valid for 6 months beyond the duration of your trip. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of the correct visas for your travels. Spirit of the West Adventures

Ltd. does not accept responsibility if you are refused entry to a country because you lack the correct documentation or the authorities deem you unsuitable for entry.

ACCOMMODATIONS ON TOUR

Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. will do our best to make you comfortable and feel at home on your tour.

Canadian Tours: Keep in mind that our sea kayaking tours are a true wilderness experience that can involve camping in established and non-established sites with minimal facilities and rustic surroundings. This is all part of what we call an adventure! Tenting and lodging is generally based on double occupancy, however if you are traveling alone we do our best to provide you with your own tent or a suitable tent partner.

International Tours: Hotels in the Bahamas are NOT included in tour costs. Hotels in Chile are included in the tour price and are based on double occupancy. There is a \$200 single supplement for Chile tours if you require your own hotel room. Single accommodation on the Mothership in Chile is NOT possible. All tenting is also based on double occupancy, however if you are travelling alone we do our best to provide you with your own tent or a suitable tent partner.

TIPPING

Gratuities are always appreciated. If you feel the guides & crew have done an exceptional job, tipping is a great way to show your appreciation. We also appreciate other expressions of thanks including cards, letters etc.

STORAGE OF PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Due to the nature of our services, it is necessary to collect and store a certain amount of personal and financial information. By providing us with your address, personal and financial information, you consent to the storage of this information for a period of time deemed appropriate by Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. Personal information includes, but is not limited to, your first name, last name, phone number, email address and billing address. Financial information includes, but is not limited to, your card account number, card expiration date and cardholder name.

PRIVACY POLICY

Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. occasionally sends out an e-newsletter and updates that we think you'll want to hear about. We will NEVER to sell or share your email address with any third party company (unless it is for the purpose of coordinating trip logistics, for example booking airline tickets). You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing or clicking on the links in newsletters. For more information please feel free to call us at 1-800-307-3982 or email us at info@kayakingtours.com.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE

Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. reserves the right to take photographic or film records of any of its tours. Trip members should be aware that Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. may use these photos or film for promotional and or commercial purposes without remuneration to the trip participants.

SPIRIT OF THE WEST ADVENTURES

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