



SPIRIT  
OF THE WEST  
ADVENTURES

# GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST EXPEDITION RESERVATION PACKAGE

SPIRIT OF THE WEST ADVENTURES, Box 569, Heriot Bay, British Columbia, V0P 1H0, Canada  
Toll free 1 800 307 3982, Overseas 1 250 285 2121, Fax 1 888 389 5736, [info@kayakingtours.com](mailto:info@kayakingtours.com)



# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

## 7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS SEA KAYAK EXPEDITION & WILDERNESS CAMPING

**Please read through this package of information to help you to prepare for your tour.** Please also remember to return your signed medical information form as soon as possible and read and understand the liability waiver which you will be asked to sign upon arrival. We hope you are getting excited for your adventure!

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## ITINERARY

### THE TOUR

This is the proposed itinerary for our trip, but it is flexible and may be adapted to suit the interests of those who join the trip as well as weather conditions. On this tour we can expect a combination of exposed open coastline and more protected inner passageways. As this is an expedition style tour, we usually move campsites each night. We may have an opportunity to stay in the same place for two nights, if conditions allow.

### DAY PRIOR

Some folks may wish to start their travel towards Bella Bella, however we have also scheduled the start and end dates so it is possible to arrive Bella Bella on the day the tour starts either via ferry from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island or plane from Vancouver or Port Hardy. Please note: If you are traveling by ferry you will likely need to spend the night before in Port Hardy as the ferry leaves Port Hardy at 7:30am, arriving in Bella Bella at 12:50pm on the first day of your trip, just in time to meet your guides.

On the last day the return ferry to Port Hardy departs Bella Bella at 6:10pm and arrives in Port Hardy at 11:30pm. Ferry reservations highly recommended. (Times accurate at time of publication - please double check before planning your travel).

### DAY 1

Meet your guides in Bella Bella in the heart of BC's Central Coast. At the public dock we will sort out gear and prepare for our adventure, then set off on our water taxi. Once at the first beach we will begin with an

orientation to the kayaks and gear, learning efficient paddling techniques and safety procedures. Once everyone is comfortable with their boats we'll launch and have an afternoon intro paddle for our first strokes in the Great Bear Sea (*time and weather depend*).

### DAYS 2-7

This is a beautiful area to paddle and we work with the conditions and remain open to adventure. Each day, your guides will assess the weather, tides, and sea state to determine the destination for the day. Flexibility is key. Paddling options abound, and we'll generally travel north-south to take advantage of the prevailing northwesterlies. We'll aim to paddle among the Tribal, Admiralty, McMullin and McNaughton Island groups, with the hope to get out in the remote Goose Islands if weather allows. Moving southeast we'll enter the spectacular islands and beaches of the Hakai Conservancy.

### DAY 8

We will meet a water taxi this morning for transport back to Bella Bella. We expect to arrive in Bella Bella by midday, allowing us time for a quick visit to the village before either heading to the airport to catch an afternoon flight back to Vancouver or departing by BC Ferries. ***Please do not book any flight before 1pm.***

If flying, you can expect to be back in Vancouver between 3 and 5pm, or if travelling with BC Ferries you'll arrive in Port Hardy at 11:30pm. (*Please note these times were correct at time of publication - please double check before planning your travel*).



## MEETING LOCATION

**WHERE** Main public dock in the town of Bella Bella  
(NOT the BC Ferries terminal in McLoughlin Bay).

**WHEN** 2pm on day 1

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

Professional guiding service, all kayaking equipment (including kayaks, PFDs, paddles, pumps, ropes and sponges), meals (dinner day 1 to breakfast day 8), cooking equipment, camping equipment including tents and Thermo-rest sleeping pads, water taxi service, park and land use permits are included in your

tour package. If you are planning on bringing any of your own equipment please double-check the packing list to ensure you have the appropriate gear and please let our office know in advance of the tour to avoid us bringing duplicates.

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Not included in the tour cost are accommodation prior to your trip, flights, airport transfers, ferries, taxis, travel/medical insurance, alcoholic or carbonated beverages, rain gear, sleeping bags or personal items (toiletries, clothing, etc.). Sleeping bags may be rented if you prefer not to travel with them (please reserve in advance)

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## SANITATION IN THE WILDERNESS

The kayak cuts no grooves and leaves no scars, as it travels freely through the waters. However, on land, especially with the increasing number of kayakers venturing into new territory and seeking the un-traveled path, we must respect our surroundings and be aware of our impact on these environmentally sensitive areas. Spirit of the West Adventures makes every effort to ensure we leave our area as we found it, if not better.

Where do we wash? Are there toilets? These are some of the most common concerns but questions not always asked. All of our camping sites are in wilderness settings and therefore are basic and rustic – a true wilderness experience. On our expedition style tours

we use a portable toilet system set up in a private location in conjunction with pit toilets when available. We use salt water for washing as fresh water is limited and reserved for drinking.

Your guide will discuss proper elimination techniques and suggest a suitable private area. Your guide will carry a toiletry bag complete with toilet paper, Ziploc and paper bags as well as hand sanitizer. If you have any concerns while on tour please do not be shy to ask your guide – they are very used to making sure everyone feels comfortable while in the wilderness.



## WHAT TO BRING

On the Great Bear Rainforest Tour we will be packing everything into our kayaks each day in order to travel to our next campsite. While space is limited, please ensure you bring enough to stay warm and dry. The following is a list of suggested items that should keep you a happy camper. The key is to pack into small compact bags which we will provide. We will also provide some tips and tricks for packing when you arrive.

Sea kayaks are basically watertight, although small amounts of water may get in through the rudder lines and hatches. In the event of rain or dropping gear in the water we try to keep things as waterproof as possible. We provide you with waterproof storage bags also known as 'dry bags' (these will be given to you when we meet in Bella Bella). If you prefer to bring your own dry bags, please note; the largest bag should not be larger than a sleeping bag or 20 litres, several small bags are best. We will provide one 5 litre, two 10 litre and one 20 litre dry bags for you to pack into. Additional bags may be available depending on space in the kayaks. The 5 litre bag is good for storing small items such as cameras, sunscreen, glasses, etc. The larger ones will be used for storing the rest of your clothing. Please see our suggestions for waterproofing your sleeping bag. Shoes can generally be packed loose in the kayak. All participants will also pack some of the group gear and food in their kayak. Don't worry, it always looks like an impossible mountain of stuff to fit in the kayaks, but with some perseverance and coaching from your guides we always manage to fit everything.

### TEMPERATURES

Please note that our summer temperatures from July until September are generally quite comfortable with temperatures from 18-30 degrees Celsius / 70-85 degrees Fahrenheit. It's not uncommon to find mid day summers hot enough to want to cool off in the ocean!

ANY TIME OF YEAR we can have rain & wind, with temperatures occasionally as low as 13 C / 55 F. So, we say it is best to come prepared for any type of weather.

### PLEASE NOTE WHAT WE PROVIDE

- ALL KAYAK AND SAFETY GEAR
- TENTS & SLEEPING PADS
- DRY BAGS
- SMALL CAMP PILLOW

If you have your own gear and would prefer to use it on your tour, please call our office in advance of the tour to let us know, to ensure it is appropriate and to avoid us bringing duplicates.

The following is a list of suggested items to bring along. If you have any concerns or questions about the list, please do not hesitate to contact us.

- ❑ **Sleeping bag** – A 3-season synthetic bag is recommended. Down bags will work but please take extra care to waterproof. If you are uncertain about whether or not you have the appropriate bag just give us a call or check with your local outdoor store. If you do not have a sleeping bag or would prefer not to travel with one, these may be rented for \$25 plus tax. Please reserve in advance. To waterproof your sleeping bag line a compression sack with a heavy duty garbage bag. Press the air out of the bag with your knee and then keep compact with the compression sac which can be purchased at any outdoor shop. This also helps keep your bag small for travel.
- ❑ **Wetshoes** – A pair that can get wet such as sturdy full strapped sandals (such as Keens, Texas or Chacos), neoprene booties, crocs, or rubber boots. Please avoid flip-flops/thongs.
- ❑ **Camp footwear** – An additional pair of footwear that you plan to keep dry. Runners, trainers or light hikers are great.

- ❑ **Hat** – A sun hat such as a baseball hat or full-brimmed hat as well as a wool or fleece warm hat for evenings or cooler days.
- ❑ **Sunglasses & sunscreen** (stored in a Ziploc bag) – A must for protection from sun and glare off of the water. Safety cords on your glasses are highly recommended.
- ❑ **Bathing suit**
- ❑ **Medication** – If you are bringing medication please ensure that... 1) The name and expiry date of drug is on the container; 2) You have the detailed instructions of your dosage and frequency; 3) It is packed in a water and sunproof container; 4) You bring a full extra dosage of your medication in a separate container to leave with your guide, in case you misplace or lose yours, or are weathered in. If you are flying, **please pack all necessary medication in your carry-on luggage**. This will help eliminate some stress should your checked bags be misplaced in transit.
- ❑ **Personal items** – Toothbrush, toothpaste, biodegradable soap/shampoo, washcloth, feminine hygiene products, hairbrush, etc.
- ❑ **Mosquito repellent** – Insects are not a significant concern for us in our coastal ecosystem, however for those unused to insects or with particular sensitivities some repellent may come in handy.
- ❑ **Ziploc bags & several large garbage bags** – We will provide you with dry bags, but these come in handy for transporting laundry and/or wet clothing.
- ❑ **Small flashlight or headlamp** – With spare batteries. Headlamps are preferable as they allow for hands free operation
- ❑ **Water bottle** – Bike bottles or Nalgene-style bottles work best.
- ❑ **Camera** – In a waterproof bag or case, or you may use our dry bags.
- ❑ **Gloves** (optional) – Biking gloves work well to protect your hands from blisters. If you are really concerned about cold hands, and are paddling in the spring or fall seasons, you may want to invest in neoprene gloves or pogies.
- ❑ **Beverages** – We supply a wide range of teas and coffee as well as juices. You are welcome to bring along soda pops or alcoholic beverages if you choose to. Please note however that we do expect our guests to consume alcoholic beverages responsibly and strictly enforce a no alcohol on the water policy.

- ❑ **Fishing gear (optional)** – Make sure you have a valid B.C. fishing license. These can be purchased on-line at <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/licence-permis/index-eng.htm>
- ❑ **Book or journal**
- ❑ **Binoculars** (optional)
- ❑ **Gratuity for your guides** – at your own discretion.

## CLOTHING

Clothing should be suitable for the time of year, bearing in mind that it could become cold and wet at anytime of year. Layering is the best way to regulate body temperature and maintain warmth. We suggest avoiding cotton (except for those hot days). Cotton has no insulation value when wet. An inner material that wicks moisture from the body and gives a comfortable dry feeling even while wet is the best first layer (Polypropylene, Lycra, Nylon, Polyester). A synthetic material such as fleece or pile makes the best second layer to provide warmth. Wool is also suitable.

- ❑ **Rain jacket & rain pants** – For the unexpected nasty weather. To test your waterproofness – jump in the shower and see if you stay dry! (we're serious!) If you would like to rent/hire raingear from us, please reserve in advance of the tour. Tops and bottoms can be rented for \$25 plus tax for the set.
- ❑ **Light windproof jacket** (optional)
- ❑ **Long pants** – 1 pair of fleece or warm comfortable pants. 2 lighter pairs made of a quick drying, synthetic fabric. Athletic style pants (running or yoga) are generally appropriate. Jeans are NOT recommended for paddling.
- ❑ **Lightweight long underwear** – 2 pairs, helps to keep you warm at night or as a base layer during the day. We recommend one set for kayaking and one set which is reserved for sleeping and always stays dry.
- ❑ **Sweaters** – 2 warm wool or fleece sweaters (one may be all you need, but it is nice to have a spare in case one gets wet).
- ❑ **Long-sleeved non-cotton shirt** (synthetic/wool) -3
- ❑ **T-shirts** – 3 or 4.
- ❑ **Shorts** – 1-2 quick dry nylon
- ❑ **Warm socks** – 3 to 5 pairs (1 warmer pair for around camp)
- ❑ **Undergarments**
- ❑ **An extra set of clothes** that you may want to reserve for the end of the trip.

# 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 traveling 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**). 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. Alcohol is not provided 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 Great Bear Rainforest tour is considered moderate in nature and requires a moderate level of fitness. If you are capable of a few hours of moderate exercise each day with possible short periods of increased exertion you should have no problems. Keep in mind that good general health will go a long way if we happen to encounter some strong winds or time restrictions. Most important is an adventurous spirit. Please check with your doctor if you have any particular concerns.

## 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 4-7 hours a day on our expedition 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 capsizing. 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. The temperatures on the Central Coast will be cooler than the Vancouver area. 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](http://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?

All of our campsites are in wilderness settings, and shelter is provided by the tents and tarps we carry with us. We seek out sites with beautiful surroundings and those that offer solitude; these are all undeveloped and may be clearings in the forest or space on the beach. There may be times (on occasion) when we are camping next to another group of kayakers. Campsite choice will be based on weather conditions, route choice and group size and preference.

### Where do we wash and are there toilets?

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.

### Where can I leave my luggage I won't need on trip?

If you are staying on Quadra Island, many of the B&Bs offer free luggage storage. Alternatively, guests staying on either Quadra Island or in Campbell River have the option of storing excess luggage at our office.

### What is the industry standard for tipping my guides?

If you would like to express your appreciation through a gratuity, such recognition would be enthusiastically received. The industry standard for tipping is approx. 10% per person of the trip cost. All tips received will be collected and disbursed amongst your guides & basecrew by the trip leader.



# ACCOMMODATIONS

## WHILE ON TOUR

We provide high quality expedition style tents. Generally campsites can fit enough tents to accommodate the solo and double tent preferences of the group. We will do our best to match you up with a suitable partner if we need to.

## BEFORE AND AFTER TOUR

If you are planning to stay on the Central Coast for one or more nights before your tour starts, here is a list of accommodation options for Bella Bella or Denny Island. encourage our guests to also consider Denny Island. It is a beautiful island and just a short water taxi ride from Bella Bella. It is a beautiful island and just a short water taxi ride from Bella Bella. Some of the listed accommodations offer pick-ups from Bella Bella. Please contact them to find out more details. Otherwise see 'Getting here' on the next page for more details of the public water taxi.

## ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS IN BELLA BELLA

### BELLA GUEST CABINS

A friendly place to stay that is cozy, comfortable and tastefully decorated. The spacious decks boast a fantastic place to enjoy your morning coffee, and watch the eagles soar and ocean waves come in. Two self contained units accommodate up to 4 people each. Local & Overseas 1 250 957 8019  
bellaguestcabins@gmail.com, bellaguestcabins.com

### ANNETTE'S BEACH HOUSE

A peaceful and secluded house on the beach in central Bella Bella. Three rooms available (queen and two singles) with shared kitchen and bathroom. Wifi available. Local & Overseas 1 250 957 7423  
annettetstarr@gmail.com, annettesbeachhouse.com

## ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS ON DENNY ISLAND

### DENNY ISLAND BED & BREAKFAST

A self contained cabin nestled amongst the trees, atop a hill with stunning panoramic views of the ocean and Coast Mountain range. Accommodates up to 5. Local & Overseas 1 250 957 4248  
dennyisland-bb@explornet.com  
dennyislandbandb.com

### DRIFTER'S COVE CABIN

Hand built cabin on a large acreage with a private beach. The cabin features a master bedroom, loft, kitchen, dining area, living room, library and laundry. Accommodates up to 5. Local & Overseas 1 250 957 7177  
drifterscove@yahoo.com, drifterscove.com

### SPINDRIFT POINT CABINS

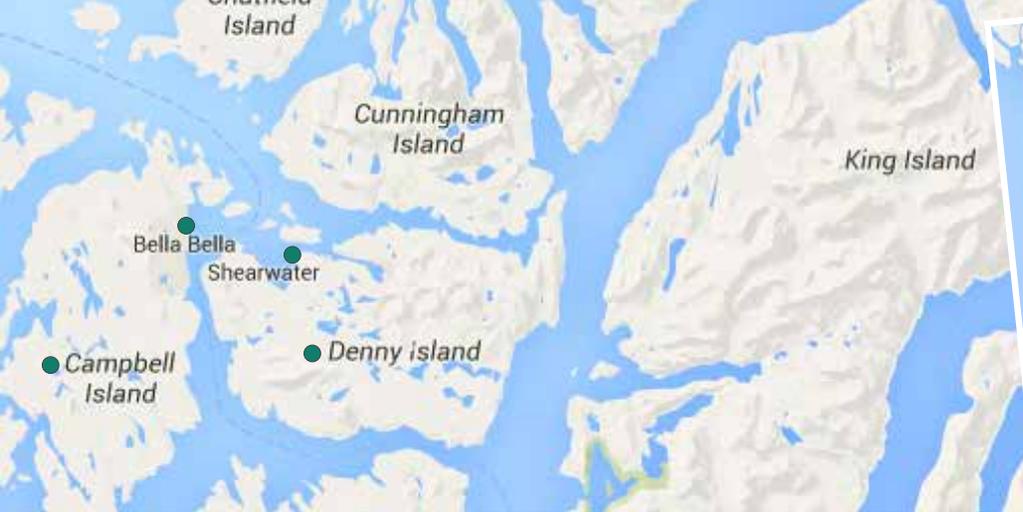
Spectacular waterfront cabin rentals, self-contained and private, in a forested setting. Accommodates up to 4. Local & Overseas 1 250 957 2920  
spindriftpoint@gmail.com, spindriftpoint.com

### INSIDE PASSAGE COTTAGES

Newly built in spring 2012, this self-contained cottage has a fantastic view of Pacific inlet. It's a perfect place to recharge and refresh before your kayaking adventure. Local & Overseas 1 250 957 2298  
info@insidepassagecottages.ca  
insidepassagecottages.ca

### SHEARWATER RESORT & MARINA

A variety of accommodation options are available at the resort, including private cottages, an upscale lodge, an RV park and campground. Local & Overseas 1 250 957 2666  
hotel@shearwater.ca, shearwater.ca/site/lodging.html



## GETTING HERE

The Great Bear Rainforest Expedition starts and ends in Bella Bella, Central Coast of British Columbia where you meet your guides on day 1 of your tour.

Below is some detailed information on how to get to Bella Bella and Denny Island (for guests who spend the night before and after tour on Denny Island).

**BELLA BELLA** is located on Campbell Island on Central Coast of beautiful British Columbia. To get there, you either can fly from Vancouver or Port Hardy or take the BC ferry from Port Hardy.

**DENNY ISLAND** is located next to Campbell Island and only 3 km (less than 2 miles) from Bella Bella.

**PORT HARDY** is located on northeast VANCOUVER ISLAND. To get there you can fly from Vancouver or take the ferry from Vancouver to Victoria or Nanaimo and drive up by bus or rental car.

### AIR TRAVEL

#### FROM VANCOUVER/PORT HARDY TO BELLA BELLA

Flights from Vancouver and Port Hardy to Bella Bella are regular and provided by Pacific Coastal Airlines (departing from the South/Cargo Terminal of YVR).

Pacific Coastal Air also flies from Vancouver to Port Hardy if you want to catch the ferry from Port Hardy.

PACIFIC COASTAL AIR

Toll Free 1 800 663 2872 | Overseas 1 604 273-8666  
reserve@pacificcoastal.com, pacificcoastal.com

### FERRY SERVICE

#### FROM VANCOUVER TO VANCOUVER ISLAND

BC Ferries provides year-round vehicle & walk-on ferry service for routes between Vancouver and Vancouver Island. Ferry reservations on major routes in mid-summer are highly recommended.

#### FROM PORT HARDY TO BELLA BELLA

BC Ferries also has regular departures from Port Hardy to Bella Bella on the Discovery Coast Connector route. Leave Port Hardy at 7:30am on the morning of your trip to arrive in Bella Bella at 12:50pm on the first day of your trip, just in time to meet your guides. On the last day the return ferry to Port Hardy departs Bella Bella at 6:10pm and arrives in Port Hardy at 11:30pm. Ferry reservations highly recommended. (Times accurate at time of publication - please double check before planning your onward travel).

Visit [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com) for current schedule information.  
1 888 223 3779, Overseas 1 250 386 3431  
customerservice@bcferries.com, [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com)

### TAXI & WATER TAXI SERVICE

Once in Bella Bella, taxis are available to transfer you from the airport to the dock where you meet your guides or can catch the water taxi to/from Denny Island, if you are staying there.

#### FROM BELLA BELLA TO DENNY ISLAND

The water taxi of Shearwater Resort & Marina offers public transport. Please check their website for scheduling and reservations.

northoffice@shearwater.ca, [shearwater.ca](http://shearwater.ca)

Toll free 1 800 663 2370, Overseas 1 250 957 2666



# 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](mailto: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 pos-

session 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](mailto: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

Box 569, Heriot Bay, British Columbia, V0P 1H0, Canada  
Toll free 1 800 307 3982, Overseas 1 250 285 2121  
[info@kayakingtours.com](mailto:info@kayakingtours.com), [kayakingtours.com](http://kayakingtours.com)

