



SPIRIT
OF THE WEST
ADVENTURES

DESOLATION SOUND EXPEDITION

GUEST HANDBOOK

All the information and details you need to learn about and reserve your unique sea kayak adventure! Explore the spirit of the unique and wild pacific west coast. Kayak in stunning Desolation Sound where the mountains meet the sea. Come, relax, enjoy!





DESOLATION SOUND EXPEDITION

AT A GLANCE

TYPE	Camp-to-camp sea kayaking expedition
LENGTH	5 days, 4 nights
GROUP SIZE	Maximum 10 guests and 2 guides
ACTIVITY LEVEL	Easy to moderate
HIGHLIGHTS	Stunning mountain scenery, many islands to explore, wildlife watching, island culture, swimming in warm lakes and ocean, protected paddling conditions. A great adventure.
WILDLIFE	While not known for whales, Desolation Sound is rich with intertidal and bird life.
PRICE	CA\$1129 + 5% GST
INCLUDES	Expert guiding service, all kayak & safety equipment, camping equipment (except sleeping bag / may be rented), food and drinks from morning snack on day one to lunch on day five (except alcohol), van and ferry transport to and from Quadra Island to Cortes Island where we start kayaking, all land use permits.

TOUR DATES 2021

JUNE	11-13, 14-18, 21-25, 28-July 2
JULY	5-9
AUGUST	23-27, 33-Sept 3
SEPTEMBER	6-10, 13-17

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 OUR SPECTACULAR BACKYARD

There are few places on earth as stunningly beautiful as Desolation Sound and kayaking these waters is a sea kayaker's dream. Paddling amongst the towering mountains of the British Columbia Coast Mountain Range is a truly awe-inspiring adventure. This is a kayaking trip where you spend more time looking up than looking down. The calm waters make this ideal for first time paddlers and the rugged mountain vistas make it suitable for anyone looking to experience some of Mother Nature's most amazing works of art.

THE AREA

The British explorer George Vancouver first described this area to Europeans in 1792. Though it didn't make a favourable impression on him at the time (hence the name), the coastal micro-climate of Desolation Sound produces the warmest ocean temperatures in the Pacific Northwest. This, along with breathtaking views on all sides, makes it our favourite place to paddle in May, June, early July and September. From sea to sky the Coast Range mountains tower over this network

of fjords. The feet of these giants reach the sea in a jumble of creeks, waterfalls and small islands which makes it a paddlers paradise. The rugged mountain terrain has made road access impossible into Desolation Sound and so kayaks are really the best way to visit this majestic and unspoiled area.

THE TOUR

Our adventure begins from Quadra Island as we journey across the northern reaches of the Georgia Strait on a 40 minute ferry ride to Cortes Island. After a short drive across Cortes Island from Whaletown to Squirrel Cove we depart on our expedition into the Sound. This tour is an out and back expedition style trip where we begin and end the paddling portion of our trip in Squirrel Cove. From here we journey out to the islands where we will camp for the trip's duration. Although this tour is a true expedition style trip, packing into our kayaking and moving campsites, it also offers the possibility of staying in one camp for multiple nights and enjoying day paddles from there.



WATCH OUR TOUR VIDEOS

See what it's like to kayak BC's coastal paradise.

[Click here](#) to watch now!



WHY DO WE LOVE DESOLATION SOUND?

Carried out in true Spirit of the West Adventures style, the Desolation Sound tour offers stunning views, warm weather and wonderful wildlife. All this while still providing outstanding guide service, first rate kayak equipment and delicious food.

PADDLING

Desolation Sound shares with us her sheltered, warm waters with many islands for exploring. Suitable for and loved by first time kayakers through veteran paddlers alike.

CAMPING

This is a true expedition style trip which means we will move from camp to camp. Our route and campsites will be decided based on weather and group preferences. We may decide to spend two nights at the same site, as this gives us an opportunity to explore the area in more depth.

FUN FOR EVERYONE

Other activities include hiking, kayaking skills development, and lots of opportunity to swim in the nearby lakes as well as the warmest ocean waters north of Mexico.

WHAT'S COOKING

Spirit of the West Adventures considers food to be a very important part of your tour. From our wild and local fish dinner to our chocolate fondue for dessert there are few camp menus that compare to the one you will experience on this tour. We take pride in having happy campers with full bellies. Our wonderful kitchen crew ensure all dietary needs and restrictions are met, and provide creative culinary alternatives that will please vegetarians, vegans, gluten and wheat-free diets, and those with various allergies and food sensitivities.

FOLLOW AND SHARE OUR ADVENTURES
to get all our news & specials

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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

For the Desolation Sound tour you can meet us either on Quadra Island or on Cortes Island. 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

Your guides will arrange meeting times and locations at the pre-trip meeting and will generally pick you up at your accommodation on Quadra Island (unless you prefer otherwise). Together we will catch the 9 am ferry to Cortes Island. We will then travel to our launch site at Squirrel Cove. After packing our kayaks we will spend some time reviewing kayaking skills and tips for comfort and of course safety procedures before our journey begins. Our route takes us on a paddle towards the fjords of Desolation Sound, providing us with a stunning mountain backdrop. There are a number of beautiful sites within an afternoon's paddle. Keep your eyes open for harbour seals or dall's porpoises along the way!

DAY 2

Savour our first hearty breakfast in the great outdoors before we pack up and head off on today's adventure. We continue on into the enchanting islands of Desolation Sound, where we take our time exploring as we head towards our desired camping site for the evening.

DAYS 3 & 4

These days may entail paddling through the scattered islands, interpretive forest walks, swimming in fresh water lakes, practicing some on-water skills, or simply lounging at our island campsites.

DAY 5

We will journey back to Cortes Island along the rugged shores of West Redonda Island. A visit to Refuge Cove or the lovely protected lagoon of Squirrel Cove will be our last stop of our 5-day kayak journey. A return in the early afternoon will allow for the time needed to return to Quadra Island between 3-6 pm.



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.

Where can I find Spirit of the West's updates related to coronavirus (COVID-19)?

All Spirit of the West Adventures updates about coronavirus (COVID-19) will be published on our website: kayakingtours.com, sent via our newsletter ([sign up here](#)) and posted on our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

To give you further confidence in our commitments we are introducing some more flexible terms and conditions for 2020 which you can find on page 10 and 11 of this Tour Info Package.

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**). 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.

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/tour-packages/ and select your tour.

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 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. 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 4-6 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 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 the end of September. The temperature will vary slightly depending on which area you visit. Our tours in Desolation Sound tend to experience warm and mild temperatures. Fog is very common on summer mornings, however this nearly always clears at midday to make way for clear skies and sun. Although it is uncommon, it can rain in the summer. A good rule of thumb is to be prepared for any type of weather and you will stay comfortable. Layering is the key, and it allows you to put on or take off layers while on the water if you need to.

What sort of wildlife might we see?

The diversity and abundance of wildlife in the Pacific Northwest is one of our privileges. With river run-off from the mountains, ocean currents, tide rips, eddies and upwelling these waters are among the most productive on earth. While not common to view whales in Desolation Sound, we are lucky to often experience rich marine life of colourful plants and invertebrates,

seabirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, mink, otter, seals, sea lions, dolphins and the land animals of deer, raccoons, cougars, wolves and bears. 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. **Please just remember that wildlife is just that wild and we cannot control sightings.**

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?

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.

Where can I leave my vehicle while on tour?

Free parking will be available for your vehicle while on tour with us. Many of the accommodations on Quadra Island also have free parking included with your stay. Parking is also available at Squirrel Cove for a daily fee. Parking details will be discussed further at the pre-trip meeting.

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

ACCOMMODATIONS WHILE ON TOUR

Spirit of the West Adventures will do our best to make sure you are comfortable and feel at home on your tour. We use high quality expedition style tents and thermarests. Most campsites can accommodate the solo and double tent preferences of the group. If you prefer your own tent, please just let us know when reserving your tour.

ACCOMMODATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER TOUR

We encourage our guests to stay on beautiful Quadra Island before and after your trip as Quadra is not to be missed! We work closely with an amazing bed & breakfast on the island- the Chipperfield Hollow B&B run by Robin and Mike. It is located within easy walking distance of the pre-tour meeting location, the Heriot Bay Inn. This guesthouse is also within walking distance of the amazing 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. 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 and 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

HERIOT BAY INN

Local & North America 1 250 285 3322

Overseas 1 888 605 4545

info@heriotbayinn.com | heriotbayinn.com



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

“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

“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

“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

“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

“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

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

Vicki

“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 Grundy

OUR TERMS & CONDITIONS

This policy applies to reservations made from Oct 15, 2020 onwards. If you reserved your tour before this, the terms and conditions that were included on your tour confirmation apply.

A NOTE ABOUT COVID-19

We recognise that travel has changed as a result of COVID-19 and we want to assure you we are here to help you have a safe and wonderful experience. We will work with you to help you find appropriate travel insurance protection for your adventure to give you the peace of mind to travel while protecting your hard-earned vacation dollars.

We are a small family-run company and really appreciate your understanding that we incur many expenses in preparing for these tours and our terms and conditions and cancellation policy reflect this. We are happy to provide any paperwork needed for your insurance claim if you are unable to join us and you seek to reclaim any retained travel or tour costs.

As our thank you to you for purchasing travel insurance, which helps to protect us both, we will offer you a \$50/per person credit towards your tour cost if you provide evidence of a valid Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) Insurance policy that will cover your tour costs if you had to cancel as a result of travel restrictions, advisories, quarantine, self-isolation and other COVID-19 related reasons. The credit will be applied to the final payment. For a list of policies/coverage that qualify for this credit, please click here (inserted link: <https://www.kayakingtours.com/travel-insurance/> | MVW) or call our office for more details. Please note, this insurance needs to be purchased immediately after reserving your tour to be valid; again, we are happy to help you sort out the details.

If Spirit of the West Adventures chooses to cancel a tour (NOT for reasons outside of our control; see force majeure below) then the full amount paid for the tour is refundable. Please note, expenses outside of the kayaking tour i.e. travel, hotel etc. would remain your responsibility and are another reason we strongly encourage purchasing travel insurance.

In order to participate in our tours you will need to complete and answer satisfactorily

- COVID - 19 Pre-Screening Questionnaire
- COVID - 19 Statement of Understanding
- Liability Waiver
- Medical Information Form

Please note that if you exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been ordered to self-isolate, you will be immediately isolated from the group and likely removed from the tour. There will be no refunds after tour departure and you will be responsible for the costs associated with being removed from the tour and any additional expenses incurred as a result. Please contact your travel insurance provider in order to submit a claim for expenses incurred.

Please visit our website for more details on the [Pre-Screening Questionnaire](#), [Statement of Understanding](#) and our [COVID-19 specific procedures and safety measures](#).

HOW TO RESERVE 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 reserving a private bubble tour, please contact us to have special group rates applied to your reservation.

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. We require a deposit of 25% on all tours.

Payment can be made by cheque, money order, Visa, MasterCard, or Interac e-Transfer; any processing charges or fees are your responsibility.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit to reserve your space on a tour is due at time of booking. For tours that take place in Canada, the balance of your trip cost is due 60 days prior to departure. For tours that take place outside of Canada, the balance of your trip cost is due 90 days prior to departure. If you book and pay after the final balance due date, all monies paid are non-refundable. For your convenience, with your authorization, we automatically charge your credit card when the balance is due unless otherwise arranged.

PRICING

All tours which take place in Canada are priced and charged in Canadian dollars; tours to Chile, the Bahamas and Greenland are priced and charged in US dollars. Any foreign currency pricing is only approximate. It is your credit card company or bank who determines your exchange rate on the day your transaction takes place. If for some reason you have to cancel and funds are refunded to your card Spirit of the West Adventures is not responsible for any differences in exchange rates. Pricing is subject to change.

For all Canadian tours there is an additional 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST). Tours that take place outside of Canada are not taxed. Non-tour add-ons (equipment rentals, merchandise) must be charged both 5% GST and 7% PST. All tours are also subject to a non-taxed voluntary \$20 per person sustainability fee which is donated to research and conservation organizations that work in the areas where we operate.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please understand that our trip dates and capacities are limited, and when we accept your reservation we may be turning others away from booking that trip. 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 or mail. The following fees will apply to cancellations and are calculated as of the date we receive your written cancellation notice, which can be sent by email or standard mail.

Tours that take place in Canada: If you must cancel your tour, your refund is as follows:

- 60 days or more prior to the trip departure date – Full amount is refunded less a \$150 administration fee (per person).
- 59-30 days prior to the trip departure date – 50% of total tour price is refunded.
- Less than 30 days prior to the trip departure date – No refund will be given.

Tours that take place outside of Canada: If you must cancel your tour, your refund is as follows:

- 90 days or more prior to the trip departure date – Deposit is refunded less a \$250 administration fee per person and the guest is responsible for any costs incurred for cancelling any additional tours or travel arrangements.
- 90-60 days prior to the trip departure date – 50% of total tour price is refunded.
- Less than 60 days prior to the trip departure date – No refund will be given.

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. If you use a credit card for payment for your tour expenses, you may have trip interruption insurance as part of your card benefits. This coverage, however, is often a limited dollar amount, may not cover COVID-19 related issues and does not usually include cancellation or medical coverage. Please check with your specific card provider to ensure you are adequately insured. Personal equipment, baggage and valuables (cameras, electronics, jewellery, etc.) are carried entirely at the owner's risk. Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. is not responsible for lost, damaged or delayed property.

Learn more about [Travel Insurance here](#). Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. reserves the right to cancel any trip prior to departure for any reason whatsoever, including but not limited to insufficient bookings. 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 at the earliest possible point and no later than 30 days prior to the tour departure. 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 and/or a circumstance amounting to "force majeure" such as war, threat of war, political instability, riots, civil disturbances, actual or threatened terrorist activity and its consequences, natural or nuclear disasters, fires, epidemics, health risks and pandemics, acts of God, industrial disputes, unforeseeable technical problems with transport for reasons

beyond our control or that of our suppliers, closed or congested airports or ports, hurricanes and other actual or potential adverse weather condition, and any other similar events, 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 your travel).

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 your tour is booked and your deposit is received by us, 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 tours outside of Canada, we also include information about topics 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!

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

We need to know as soon as possible about any dietary requirements we should consider when planning your trip menu. If you have food allergies or restrictions, we will do our best to accommodate your needs. However, people with severe food allergies may need to supply some or all of their own food as we can't entirely mitigate the risk of cross-contamination. Additionally, some specific needs can only be met if we charge you a supplemental menu fee to cover our increased costs.

Please note we are not a peanut- or nut-free facility. On Chile and Bahamas tours the availability of ingredients or restaurant kitchens outside of our control may limit the type of dietary accommodation we are able to offer.

Note: Pending a detailed discussion about a guest's specific dietary requirements, Spirit of the West Adventures may determine that a person with severe allergies and/or dietary restrictions is not suitable for our adventures due to the constraints of preparing food for groups of people in a wilderness setting.

MEDICAL & RISK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/ LIABILITY RELEASE FORMS

Each participant is required to fully fill out the [Medical Information Form](#), [Liability Release Form](#), a [COVID-19 Pre-screening Questionnaire](#) and [Statement of Understanding](#) in order to join the tour. Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. must receive the completed Medical Information Form, Liability Release and Statement of Understanding at least 30 days prior to tour departure. Please read and understand the COVID-19 Pre-screening Questionnaire as you will be asked to complete the questionnaire the day before or day of your tour departure.

GUEST RESPONSIBILITY

All guests will be required to complete a Pre-Screening Questionnaire and Statement of Understanding regarding COVID-19. Your honesty in self-reporting on these forms as well as compliance with our COVID-19 policies and procedures is required and will help to keep us all safe. **We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance that covers medical, interruption and cancellation as a minimum.**

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 overly strenuous or physically demanding, we do require a moderate level of fitness and good general physical condition. 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 physical limitations and/or 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 just 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 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

Tours within Canada: Keep in mind that our [sea kayaking tours](#) are a true wilderness experience that can involve camping in established and non-established sites. Our expedition style tours involve camping at sites with minimal facilities and rustic surroundings. Basecamp style tours afford more facilities and comforts. This is all part of what we call an adventure! Tenting and lodging is generally based on double occupancy, however if you are traveling solo we do our best to provide you with your own tent, please confirm this is possible when making your reservation.

Tours outside of Canada: Hotel portions of tours are based on double occupancy. If you prefer a single room there is an additional \$100/night single supplement charge. Availability of single rooms may be limited. Single accommodation on the mothership in Chile is not possible. All tenting is also based on double occupancy, however if you are travelling solo we do our best to provide you with your own tent.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are not included in your tour costs. Gratuities are always appreciated. If you feel the guides and 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 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 and date of birth. Financial information includes, but is not limited to, your card account number, card expiration date and cardholder name. Spirit of the West Adventures Ltd. is PCI compliant and is committed to ensuring the safety of your information.

PRIVACY POLICY

Spirit of the West Adventures occasionally sends out an e-newsletter and occasionally area- or activity-specific news that we think you'll want to hear about. We will assume you agree to email correspondence when you make an e-booking or provide us with your email in other situations such as competitions, promotions, prize draws and social media. We will NEVER SELL your email address to any third-party company. We do however sometimes share this information for the purpose of coordinating trip logistics, for example booking airline tickets, arranging travel and for helping with our marketing efforts. You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing or clicking on the links in newsletters. See our [privacy policy](#) for more details.

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.