



Whales & Totems

Of the Southern Great Bear Rainforest

A Frommer's "Trip of a Lifetime"



*"Some nights I
bear whales in
my dreams.*

*Some nights I
wake ... and find
it hasn't been a
dream at all."*

– Alexandra Morton,
Listening to Whales
(in the Great Bear
Rainforest)

This is the "Serengeti of the sea": rich in wildlife, home to a complex whale community, addictive cruising and ancient human cultures. It is the best place on earth to see killer whales. Among the 200+ islands of the Broughton Archipelago, the whales have come, along with dolphins, sea lions and seals, for millennia to eat salmon. The salmon support the Kwakwaka'wakw peoples, too, and a colourful frontier culture.

Islands of Natural Bounty

On Maple Leaf's Whales and Totems expedition cruise, discover this island world, where people live in houses that float on water, where it's possible to listen to whale song as you dine, and where white beaches turn out to be the shell middens from thousands of years of human villages.

In the forests grow ancient cedars, and in the shallow water constellations of colourful sea stars and other intertidal life flourish. (We may even catch some of the succulent crabs for dinner.)

As you explore the area aboard Maple Leaf, our expert naturalists will help you learn about all you see. Our crew's knowledge of the area and strong relationships with whale scientists will bring you your best travel experience ever.

Killer Whales, Dolphins and Other Wildlife

This area is the seasonal home to 275 killer whales known as the Northern Residents. Here, they socialize and gorge on salmon. Stand on deck and watch these whales deftly catch salmon or pop their heads out of the water to look at you.

Keenly intelligent, killer whales have a complex, matriarchal society and an appetite for play. Huge groups of pacific white sided dolphins and Dall's porpoises also feed on salmon here, often streaking across a channel to play in our wake. You'll be able to look them in the eye just inches away as they leap from the sea.

Thousands of seabirds – common murre, mergansers, harlequin ducks, scoters, cormorants and scores of eagles – abound. Seals and sea lions also share in the bounty of the area. Occasionally we'll see a grizzly or black bear fishing or eating beach crabs.



© 2008 Maple Leaf Adventures. All rights reserved. Printed on recycled, post-consumer paper.



Whales & Totems of the Southern Great Bear Rainforest



"I recall the beautiful and awesome solitude of the area you took us through; the wonder of seeing the whales as well as the myriad other creatures we encountered; the unspoiled wilderness around us; and the peaceful, gentle rocking of the ship as we slept. The entire trip, even a year after the fact, was totally awesome!"

- Syd Young, Provo, Utah

2010

Oct. 2-7, Oct. 9-14

5 nights, 6 days

C \$2575

2011

Oct. 3-8, Oct. 10-15

5 nights, 6 days

C \$2650

Depart & Return: Port McNeill, B.C.

Maple Leaf Adventures

PO Box 8845, Stn. Central,
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3Z1 Canada

toll free 1-888-599-5323

local 1-250-386-7245



Human Cultures

This trip is rich in variety and colourful villages. At Alert Bay, home to one of the most impressive First Nations cultural centers on the coast, you'll learn from local residents the stories of the Kwakwaka'wakw speaking peoples, see their world-renowned art and enter the world of the potlatch with a special guided tour.

At Village Island, explore an ancient village site, where original carved poles and house posts still rest.

At Telegraph Cove, a turn-of-the-century hamlet of wooden homes on a boardwalk, you can see the whale museum. Some trips visit orca researchers on a remote island, some visit a remote floating community.

Sailing on the Maple Leaf

Fresh autumn breezes make for great sailing and, depending on fate, we may find our selves at sail in the company of a whole family of killer whales.



Sample Itinerary

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

- Day 1 Board Maple Leaf, orientation, sailing. Porpoise and dolphin viewing. Optional evening kayak.
- Day 2 Killer whale watching for hours. Lunch in the company of whales. Afternoon forest interpretive walk.
- Day 3 Sailing, humpback whale viewing. Shore walk and intertidal life viewing. Visit remote Echo Bay float house community and Billy Proctor's Museum.
- Day 4 Cruising mainland fjord, river estuary walk, search for bears. Optional kayak, zodiac ride.
- Day 5 Village Island ancient Kwakwaka'wakw village site, personal guided tour at UMista Cultural Centre, Alert Bay.
- Day 6 Killer whale watching, cruising to Port McNeill.



Photo credits: Kevin Smith, Brian Falconer (ship, mask), Spence Parlo (boat home)



General and Booking Information



Family & Friends Trips

Planning a family reunion? Thinking of spending some special time with friends?

Over the years, a number of extended families or groups of friends have booked a whole charter. They say it provides them quality time in an unhurried, magical atmosphere, allowing them to connect on a deeper level than in our normal "hurly-burly" world. Not to mention that the crew, chef and naturalist take care of the logistics!

If you think this is something you'd like to do, call us to discuss. Advance notice to book an entire trip is required, so let us know as soon as possible so that we can accommodate your plans.



About our company:

Maple Leaf Adventures has been operating trips focused on the natural history of B.C.'s northwest coast and Alaska, and the culture of the First Nations peoples of the areas, since 1986. We have a reputation for quality, professionalism and sensitivity to both the natural and cultural landscapes.

Our institutional clients have included the Royal BC Museum, The Canadian Museum of Civilization and the John G Shedd Aquarium. Our company has been recognized by the Canadian government as a leader in eco-tourism and our trips have been featured internationally in such travel guides as *Frommer's* and on the Oprah Winfrey television show.

Contact Us

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

About Our Trips and the Ship

Our trips take place in the best areas and at peak times for natural phenomena; therefore they originate from different places on the coast. Our guests fly, drive, or take a ferry to meet us at trips' point of origin, which maximizes the amount of time we are able to spend exploring our chosen areas.

A small group of **8 guests** allows us the flexibility to respond to special natural events, weather, and the interests of our group.

Our pace is unhurried, giving us time to linger with whales, paint or sketch in a Haida village, beach comb, or walk ancient forests. We experience the entire environment, not just the view from on board. We go ashore often to experience the magic

of various habitats and the special life that inhabits each area.

Expert naturalists with a variety of backgrounds accompany us on every voyage. Veterans of field research projects in the areas we visit, they share their expertise and abundant knowledge on a very understandable and enjoyable level. They have guided us to some of nature's most impressive events.

Maple Leaf is a beautiful 92-foot schooner. She and her crew are Coast Guard approved. She has a long and enviable reputation on the coast. Her accommodations are very comfortable. The spacious main cabin is airy and divided by curtains and walls into four "cabins," providing sleeping accommodations for eight guests. Mahogany and fir line the galley and dining salon and wheelhouse. She has an extensive library.





Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is this trip suitable for me?

A. Anyone is eligible so long as they are enthusiastic about participating, amenable to the vagaries of weather, agile enough to clamber in and out of shore vessels in an area where there are no docks, and friendly enough to get along in the relatively close quarters of a sailing yacht. We have had people on board as much as 80 years of age. However, our trips are not suitable for people of failing health or physical disabilities.

Q. What is included in the price?

A. Our price includes all meals, activities and guides throughout your voyage in the region you are visiting. Specifically included:

- All meals, snacks and beverages prepared from the freshest ingredients by our superb chef.
- Fine wines featured with the evening meal, and a limited amount of beer included and available throughout the trip. (Liquor is not a large part of our trips, so plan on light consumption).
- The services of our naturalist and professional crew.
- Shore excursions (there are several each day).

- Use of all gear available on board, including raingear, sea boots, kayaks and fishing gear.

Not included in our price:

- Transportation to the trip's point of origin.
- Goods and Service Tax (Canadian trips only)
- Crew gratuities
- Sustainability Fee. As a professional ecotourism company, it is at the core of our operating principles to work with local communities, respecting regulations and contributing to local opportunities. Responsible operations cost a little more. We extract from the fare a percentage of the increased costs that go towards sustainable communities add it to the list price as a 'sustainability fee' of \$100 per trip. Through it we hope our guests share in the pride that a trip with Maple Leaf is a contribution to the sustainability of the whole coast – as well as being the experience of a lifetime!

Q. Can you accommodate my special diet?

A. Yes. If you advise us in the pre-trip questionnaire we can accommodate most special dietary requirements.

Q. Will I be seasick?

A. Sea sickness is rarely a problem as Maple Leaf is a sturdy and sea-kindly ship. We travel short distances in protected waters and go ashore often.

Q. Can I be involved in sailing the ship and performing other duties?

A. Absolutely yes. We encourage our guests to participate in any aspect of the trip that interests them and to whatever level they are comfortable with. We are patient instructors (no yelling) and delight in helping people learn. On the other hand, you are not required to sail or perform duties while on your vacation. The choice is yours.

Q: What makes you an eco-tourism company?

- A:
- Our trips have low impact (virtually no impact) on the planet and on the places we visit.
 - We partner with local people. We have protocol agreements either signed or in process with First Nations in territories we visit.
 - Our naturalists – experts in their fields – and other knowledgeable crew members provide a wealth of knowledge on the areas we visit, as do our First Nations guides.
 - We work within the regulations of parks and conservation areas, pay the applicable fees and obtain permits for all limited-use areas we visit.
 - We dedicate time and resources to preserving the wilderness we travel in.



Wild BC and Alaska Tours by Sail



"Thanks for the best vacation ever."

– Carrie Novick, Oregon.

Contact Us

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

Maple Leaf Adventures

PO Box 8845, Stn. Central,
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3Z1 Canada

toll free 1-888-599-5323

local 1-250-386-7245

www.MapleLeafAdventures.com

Booking and Cancellation Policy

To avoid disappointment, your reservation should be made early. The number of participants in each program is limited, and the demand is high. Our trips sell out early.

North America Trips

Deposit: A deposit of one third of the price of the trip will reserve your space for any trip.

Balance: The balance is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations: If you are unable to participate and cancellation occurs at least 120 days prior to the departure date of your trip, the full amount of your deposit is refundable, minus a \$200 admin fee. If cancellation occurs less than 120 days prior to the departure date of your trip, we will do our best to try to fill your space on the trip, however no money will be refunded unless all the spaces on your trip are filled.

Galapagos Islands Trips

Deposit: A nonrefundable deposit of US \$1000 reserves a place on the trip. On payment of the deposit you will receive: receipt/invoice, medical information form, agreement and release from liability form, itinerary and additional information covering packing lists, visa requirements, health issues, etc.

Balance: The balance is due 3 months prior to departure date. On payment of the balance you will receive: receipt, final trip bulletin including participant list and rendezvous instructions.

Single Supplement: Accommodations are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodation, we will try to assign you a roommate. If there

is no one with whom you can share, or if you prefer single accommodation, you will be requested to pay a Single Supplement, as listed for each trip.

Cancellation Policy: At the time we receive written notice of your wish to cancel your trip, the following fees will apply: * 90 days+ from departure date: 100% of deposit; * 89 to 60 days from departure date: 50% of Land Cost; * 59 days or less from departure date: 100% of Land Cost

Group Bookings

For large group bookings, such as a family charter of the entire ship, the booking and cancellation policy may be different - please do contact us for information.

Cancellation Insurance

We highly recommend cancellation insurance, which protects you if you have to make a late cancellation in certain cases (such as a medical emergency). Travel insurance can be purchased through your travel agency or through our travel agent (contact us for info). This must be done at the time your booking is confirmed.

Pre-Trip Information Package

A comprehensive pre-trip information package will welcome you "aboard" at the time of booking. It includes information on clothing and other items to bring, how to get to your trip, insurance, visa requirements, etc.

Getting to & from the Ship

Our office staff can help you with these questions and arrangements - call or email any time.

Design: www.LotusDesign.ca