

Desolation Sound & Discovery Islands, B.C.

On SV Maple Leaf

A Frommer's "Trip of a Lifetime"



Hundreds of sun-warmed islands lie in a protected sea between Vancouver Island and the snowy peaks of the Coast mountain range.

The Discovery Islands and Desolation Sound are the worlds that for decades have entranced the readers of M. Wylie Blanchet's coastal classic, The Curve of Time.

Islands & Fjords of Desolation Sound

Sail into a world where time stands still, beneath glaciated peaks, rainforested hillsides, and expansive waters that turn into secret coves you will explore.

While Desolation Sound is one of the world's most popular cruising destinations, you will enjoy the area in a unique way: without the bustle of other boaters. By touring Desolation Sound and the Discovery Islands in early May you will enjoy the tranquil waters in the calmness of spring, before other cruisers arrive.

Maple Leaf's crew know the area well. Together you will explore among islands, sail across blue-green waters, meander into steep-sided fjords, and set anchor in hidden coves that are near waterfalls and trails to secret island lakes.

Activities

Summary: Sailing, cruising, walking, hiking, natural history, wildlife viewing, scenic photography, beachcombing, explorations by small boat, kayaking (optional), swimming (optional), browsing local communities.

The possibilities are endless in this beautiful and eclectic region. The Strait of Georgia, Vancouver Island's inland sea, can offer exceptional sailing as you make your way around the Discovery Islands and into Desolation Sound. *En route*, visit an island village that is home to interesting crafts people and artists.

Within Desolation Sound's sheltered waters you will find bountiful wildlife as you discover marine birds, seals, sea lions, river otter, and bald eagles. Colourful intertidal life will delight you as we explore together from our zodiacs and on beach walks. Enjoy sandy

shore beachcombing or, for the most daring, a quick, invigorating dip in the chill ocean.

Walk with your experienced naturalist through the dry-rainforest to see up close the unique colors of arbutus trees and salmon berry flowers that bloom in spring. Discover hidden island lakes nestled in the forest.

These trips are a great opportunity to experience the relaxing pace but full days aboard Maple Leaf. In the quiet beauty of these islands, you will feel as if you are thousands of miles from anywhere.

Breathtaking Landscape: A Photographer's Dream

Take in the vibrant spring colors of this beautiful piece of coastline, where glacier-carved peaks plunge into deep water fjords. It is the perfect destination to join our experienced crew in photographing the natural beauty all around.

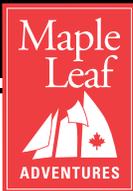
Landscapes change as you cruise past smooth stone islets laden with arbutus trees and towering cliffs such as those on West Redonda.

Sit back on deck and enjoy, and you'll see why this is known as one of the world's best cruising destinations.



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Photo credits: Kevin Smith, Thomas Kerr (sea lion)



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"Thank you for the privilege of being aboard this beautiful ship, experiencing the magical beauty of the islands."

- Elspeth McVeigh,

Vancouver, B.C. & United Kingdom

2017 Dates & Prices - Maple Leaf

Desolation Sound & Discovery Islands

May 6 - 10, 2017

5 days, 4 nights C \$1890

Depart: Campbell River, BC

Return: Campbell River, BC



Maple Leaf Adventures

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Shore Trips

Explore natural gems such as Prideaux Haven, a long bay dotted with islets at the heart of Desolation Sound. From the comfort of our zodiacs you will be able to wander into small passage ways, peer into shallow tidal pools, and venture ashore to explore beaches and rocky shores.

Enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch ashore, bask in the warm spring rays, or hike a forest trail to a nearby lake or lookout.

Venture into an eclectic coastal community that borders Desolation Sound, such as Cortez Island, Refuge Cove, or the coastal hamlet of Lund. Meet unique coastal characters and artists who will happily share their stories dockside.

Like a Private Charter with Friends

Maple Leaf's welcoming and expert crew and guides will tailor the trip to the interests of your group.

From consulting with you about dietary needs so that the chef can prepare everyone delicious meals, to knowing your particular hopes for the experience of the coast, this trip is designed to delight you.



Sample Itinerary -

Desolation Sound & The Discovery Islands

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

- Day 1 Welcome aboard in Campbell River and cruise to Cortez Island. Rainforest walk with naturalist. Small community visit. Welcome Dinner.
- Day 2 Cruise to spectacular Teakerne Arm on West Redonda Island. Here waterfalls plunge down a steep cut in the island's cliffs, where we'll moor. Dry rainforest and rocky buff walk to a lake with a picnic lunch. Cruising the scenic passages between West Redonda and the mainland. Entering a small fjord at Roscoe Bay. Anchorage and beach walk and optional evening kayak.
- Day 3 Sail or cruise into Toba Inlet. This spectacular fjord, 35 km long, cuts deep into the coast mountains. As you cruise the snow-capped peaks tower above. Watch for seals and sea lions, seabirds and other animals. Evening arrive at Prideaux Haven, at the confluence of Malaspina Inlet and Homfray Channel.
- Day 4 Explore Prideaux Haven. Cruise the mainland shore to the Copeland Islands. Investigate the wildlife that live on these small islets by journeying ashore with your naturalist.
- Day 5 Cruise to Campbell River across the Strait of Georgia watching for wildlife. Possible sightings of bald eagles, seals, sea lions, and marine birds.

Photo credits: Kevin Smith, Thomas Kerr (seals), Paul Smith (kayakers)