



CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC AND MAPLE LEAF ADVENTURES, WITH SEVERN CULLIS-SUZUKI, PRESENT

HAIDA GWAI EXPEDITION CRUISE

Canada's West Coast As You've Never Explored It



CANADIAN
Geographic

THE ROYAL
CANADIAN
GEOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY



LA SOCIÉTÉ
GÉOGRAPHIQUE
ROYALE DU
CANADA

Maple
Leaf



ADVENTURES



Severn Cullis-Suzuki



Capt. Kevin Smith



John Geiger, RCGS



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



Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that we have designed this trip with *Canadian Geographic*, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and Severn Cullis-Suzuki.

The Society's motto is to "make Canada better known to Canadians." It's something we appreciate here on the west coast of Canada.

Much of our coastline is rugged. It's remote from urban centres, and remains little known. This has its benefits. Haida Gwaii still teems with the richness that all of North America once had.

Ancient forests, millions of seabirds, whales, salmon, bears and shellfish. Life's richness extends to human life on Haida Gwaii. The sea provides bounty and the forest provides the materials for all of life's necessities. With such abundance, the Haida culture has long been known as one of the most powerful and complex in North America. When you walk ashore at the UNESCO World Heritage Site SGang Gwaay, you will feel it.

These are the Haida islands, and as new scientific discoveries are showing, the Haida have been here since 'time immemorial' and will always be here.

From a physical geographer's standpoint, the islands are also fascinating for their location: this

wedge-shaped archipelago lies along the continental shelf. To the east, spreads the shallow inland sea. To the west, the shelf drops quickly to 20,000 feet deep in the Pacific ocean.

One old name for the islands may have been "islands at the boundary between the worlds". We hope that on this epic voyage, you'll cross that boundary and be enriched by the varied worlds that open to you -- natural, human, terrestrial and oceanic.

This is a trip with a true sense of adventure. It's important to realize it's for people with adventurous spirits. The coastal ships are beautiful and comfortable but they are not Las Vegas. If you seek cruise ship amenities, this trip may not be for you.

But if you seek to explore with the camaraderie of expert crew and guides, including Severn, a renowned ethnobotanist and speaker who is a member of the Haida community, we look forward to welcoming you aboard.

Capt. Kevin Smith
President, Maple Leaf Adventures



Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands)



Hundreds of islands at the edge of North America, where ancient rainforests sweep to an ocean teeming with marine life.

Monumental poles and houses, both ancient and modern: the cultural expression of thousands of years' experience of what it is to be a human here.

This is Haida Gwaii.



Islands at the Edge of Canada

Jutting to the sky from the continental shelf off Canada's west coast, the archipelago of Haida Gwaii is a nature and culture lover's dream. As one of the planet's most biologically productive areas, the hundreds of islands teem with life in the ancient rainforest and the marine world. Haida Gwaii has also supported the powerful and artistic Haida culture for more than 14,000 years.

Trip Highlights

- A small group of between 8 and 18 guests max.
- 9 days with world renowned anthropologist, author, explorer, photographer and writer Wade Davis as your personal guide.
- The entire length of Haida Gwaii from Masset in the north to the southern end of Gwaii Haanas.
- Modern and ancient Haida Gwaii, with local Haida guides.
- Superb wildlife viewing access (whales, bears, seabirds and more), with expert naturalists as guides.
- Classic, comfortable expedition ships with an award-winning, local company that is part of developing the conservation-based travel here.
- Visits to old Haida village sites with original, monumental poles and house remains, in Gwaii Haanas.

Trip Activities

Moderate walking, beachcombing, zodiac rides, wildlife viewing, natural history, cultural site visits, mapping, cruising by small ship. Optional: kayaking, fishing.

The Full Length of Haida Gwaii, including Gwaii Haanas

Our very special trip, with engaging experts and local guides including ethnobotanist, educator and speaker Severn Cullis-Suzuki, immerses you in the power and beauty of Haida Gwaii -- from north to south, ancient to modern, from the small wonders of intertidal life to giant presence of baleen whales and thousand-year-old trees. This itinerary is designed to give you the best experience of Gwaii Haanas, which takes more than a week to experience properly. Gwaii Haanas is the protected, southern third of the archipelago.

The "Canadian Galapagos"

Upwelling of nutrients supports an amazing concentration of marine and birdlife. You'll see humpback whales, feeding in great numbers beside you, splashing the water with 15-foot-long fins. Dolphins, sea lions, seals and fish are in abundance here, too.

The islands' isolation from the mainland has created species that differ from their mainland counterparts. For example, the bears on Haida Gwaii, which you may see turning over beach rocks to find crabs, are the world's largest black bears.





Haida Gwaii – Queen Charlotte Islands



“We’ve just returned from an amazing trip on the Maple Leaf through Gwaii Haanas park and other parts of Haida Gwaii. The crew on board was a blast in addition to being professional and highly skilled - their attention to detail and ability to plan days that met the interests of everyone on board was quite astonishing.”

-MarkG, via TripAdvisor, 2014

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Explore Rainforest, Wild Beaches, Wildlife with Naturalists

You'll enjoy learning about the variety of ecosystems from our on-board naturalist. Walk through forests of enormous trees, some centuries-old and thickly draped with mosses and lichens. Explore secluded beaches looking for shells. View sea lions, birds, whales, bears and other life from on deck or in a zodiac, learning from our crew about the lives of these animals.

A Rare Opportunity with Local, Experienced Guides

Travelling here is a rare experience. Although the area is rated North America's top national park by *National Geographic*, few have permits to travel here.

Maple Leaf has been operating here since the 1980s and co-authored the respected Code of Conduct for the Gwaii Haanas Tour Operators Association.

We know the area intimately and travel with the permission and respect of the Haida and Parks Canada. Our small group, love of the place, and expedition ship means you gain access to special places most cannot reach, you have plenty of contemplative time in Haida villages, we can customize the trip for you, and we can be flexible to enjoy amazing and unexpected encounters.

Furthermore, Severn Cullis-Suzuki's personal and family history on the islands provides special opportunities and insights not available on other trips.

Peak Wildlife & Sun Time: May/June

In early summer, you'll be in Haida Gwaii at the right time of year to see groups of the 1.5 million seabirds that nest here, as well as very active humpback whales. You'll also benefit from the peace of the early season. This season also boasts the most sunshine hours in the year.

Ancient Culture, Villages, Monumental Art, and UNESCO World Heritage Site

On your trip, you'll encounter the world of the Haida.

You'll visit modern Masset and Skidegate, and you'll travel deep into Gwaii Haanas -- "Place of Wonder" -- a protected region of 138 islands. Here, the Haida sited what are now some of the greatest First Nations villages to view in North America, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site S'Gang Gwaay (Ninstints).

Travelling and going ashore by small boat, as the Haida themselves have done for millennia, you'll walk among ancient monumental poles and house remains. Our Haida guides will explain the purpose of the poles and the life of the people who had them carved. The overall sense of power found in these villages is unforgettable.





About the Expedition



Severn Cullis-Suzuki: You'll enjoy lectures and personal chats with Severn about Haida Gwaii, the larger ideas that bind humanity together, and the importance of interconnections and interdisciplinary collaboration in a globalized world.

Dates & Prices

June 1-9, 2016

8 nights, 9 days. **Price includes:** All accommodations, all meals and snacks, all beverages including wine and beer, all guides, permits, cruising, shore excursions, admission fees, local flights between Vancouver airport and the start and end of the trip, sustainability fee, and use of gear on board including (optional) fishing gear and kayaks.

MV Swell C \$8266 (category 1), \$8895 (category 2), \$9335 (category 3)

For stateroom and ship info see later page.

SV Maple Leaf C \$6850

Depart: Vancouver airport, BC

Return: Vancouver airport, BC

A One-of-a-Kind Trip

This trip is designed specifically for supporters of Canadian Geographic and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Here are some of the features that make this trip special:

- A significant portion of the trip price goes directly to **support the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's programs.**
- **Special lectures, as well as one on one chats, with Severn**, based on her research and work with cultures all over the world, including the United Nations, insights gained travelling with her activist family, and her familiarity with Haida Gwaii, her family home.
- On each ship, the **number of guests is limited, giving you unparalleled access to our extraordinary interpreters**, and personal attention from our crew/guides.
- The number of ships is limited to two, so you'll feel the **excitement and camaraderie of a true small ship expedition.**
- On our wildlife viewing expeditions, and on our visits to coastal sites or communities, you'll be in a small enough group to maintain an organic experience, rather than one hampered by techniques for managing and controlling crowds of people. The benefit of this is **interesting conversations, and unaffected wildlife**, who are comfortable and continue their regular activities for us to view.
- Your ship is a **beautiful ship with a long history on the BC coast.** It is crewed entirely by Canadians with decades of experience as coastal mariners and guides. They happily share their knowledge and local connections with you.
- **Special extra experiences, unique to this trip, on Haida Gwaii.**
- **Flights** between Vancouver and the trip start and end are included - different from our other trips.

Travelling Aboard Small

Coastal Ships

Although large cruise ships and ferries ply what is referred to as the Inside Passage, they stick to the main "highway" and never explore the many smaller channels, fjords, archipelagos and bays.

They are also forbidden from operating in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site. On this trip you will benefit from Maple Leaf Adventures' special permits to this spectacular region.

You're rewarded with access to spectacular, and remote places most people cannot visit.

Each ship is beautiful and strong, and each is unique. Travelling aboard is like having your private expedition with friends. As such, there are plenty of places to sit and enjoy peace and scenery or conversations with crew or other guests. We spend a large portion of every day out of doors -- either aboard the ship or ashore. Therefore the cabins are primarily for sleeping and are not palatial. You are welcomed into the wheelhouse by the navigators.

Depending on the level of interest, this expedition will consist of up to two small ships. If there is more than one ship, the ships will travel frequently as a floatilla, rafting together at anchorages. This allows our special interpreters to share their knowledge with each ship's guests. At points during the cruise, the ships will perform certain activities separately -- based on carrying capacity and permitted numbers ashore in any one area at a time. Interpreters will spend time on both ships.

The Ships: **MV Swell & SV Maple Leaf**

See a later page in this brochure for information and photos about the ships.



"It was one of the best trips we ever had.

"First class operation, really enthusiastic crew, excellent food and wine and a small group of like minded people made our trip a real pleasure. If you have ever wanted to see the totems on Haida Gwaii and visit the old village sites this is the way to do it."

-Marty56, on TripAdvisor, 2014



Sample Itinerary

Note that our local area expertise and small group gives us the flexibility to vary an itinerary based on the interests of you, our guests, and the actions of weather and wildlife. This sample itinerary is meant to give you an idea of the typical trip.

- Day 1 Meet at Vancouver airport south terminal for flight to Haida Gwaii. Tour kickoff, then land-based tour of Masset, Old Masset, North Beach, Tow Hill, tour of Graham Island. Dinner and lodge accommodation in Masset area.
- Day 2 Tlaal, Skidegate, Haida Heritage Centre at KAAY LLNAGAAY, board ship, orientation, cruising, whale watching, island anchorage and explore ashore.
- Day 3 T'aanuu village site, Burnaby Narrows for some of the planet's densest intertidal life, kayaking, cruising.
- Day 4 Sailing southward in Gwaii Haanas, Cape St. James (southern tip of Haida Gwaii), Woodruff Bay beach exploration, fishing.
- Day 5 Seabirds viewing, UNESCO World Heritage Site visit, SGang Gwaay (Ninstints), Rose Harbour visit (remote community, pop. 4).
- Day 6 Cruising, rainforest walk, possible bears.
- Day 7 Cruising Juan Perez Sound, whale watching, visit seabird researchers at seabird colony.
- Day 8 Windy Bay cultural heritage site, whale watching, K'uuna (Skedans) village site. Farewell dinner.
- Day 9 Cruising to Sandspit. Flight from Sandspit to Vancouver.

About the Royal Canadian Geographical Society

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society is dedicated to imparting a broader knowledge and deeper appreciation of Canada — its people and places, its natural and cultural heritage and its environmental, social and economic challenges.

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society was founded in 1929 with a mandate "to make Canada better known to Canadians and to the world". This mandate is fulfilled mainly through publication of the Society's magazines, *Canadian Geographic* in English and *géographica* in French, and through geographic education programs, speaker series, research grants and expeditions.

About Severn Cullis-Suzuki

Severn Cullis-Suzuki has been studying ecology and society since she was small—from fishing for smelt on the seawall in Vancouver to visiting communities from the coast to the Amazon. Born into an activist family, she started speaking out for intergenerational justice as a child, culminating in a powerful speech at the UN Earth Summit in Rio, which garnered worldwide attention.

Severn received a BSc in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (Yale), and an MSc in Ethnobotany (University of Victoria) for which she studied with Kwakwaka'wakw elders on the Pacific Northwest coast. She believes strongly in interdisciplinary and intercultural collaboration, and continues to speak and write worldwide about it, including as a special advisor to the UN's Secretary General. She has published several books, and hosted several TV series. Severn lives on Haida Gwaii, with her husband and two sons. She is studying the Skidegate dialect of the endangered Haida language with elders. She is an Earth Charter International councillor, and a board member of the David Suzuki Foundation and the Haida Gwaii Higher Education Society. She hopes her pursuit of traditional and scientific knowledge will help her promote a world of diversity, justice and respect.



MSV Swell

A classic tug refit into an expedition yacht

The Swell is an authentic, coastal tugboat. Her small size and ruggedness, combined with our special access permits and knowledgeable and well-connected crew, give you an unparalleled experience.

You have access to sites, phenomena and people you cannot get on larger ships, which are often banned from the special areas we take you. What's more, you have a full ship for just you and a few other guests. The cabins are beautifully and lovingly decorated, but they are not hotel rooms. They are authentic, small boat cabins. This means the beds are non-standard sizes but are comfortable. There are door sills to step over to enter each cabin. This does mean that you need to step aboard without thinking of cabins as hotel rooms, but rather as cozy cabins on a real heritage ship.



dining salon



galley



top deck lounge w/ hot tub



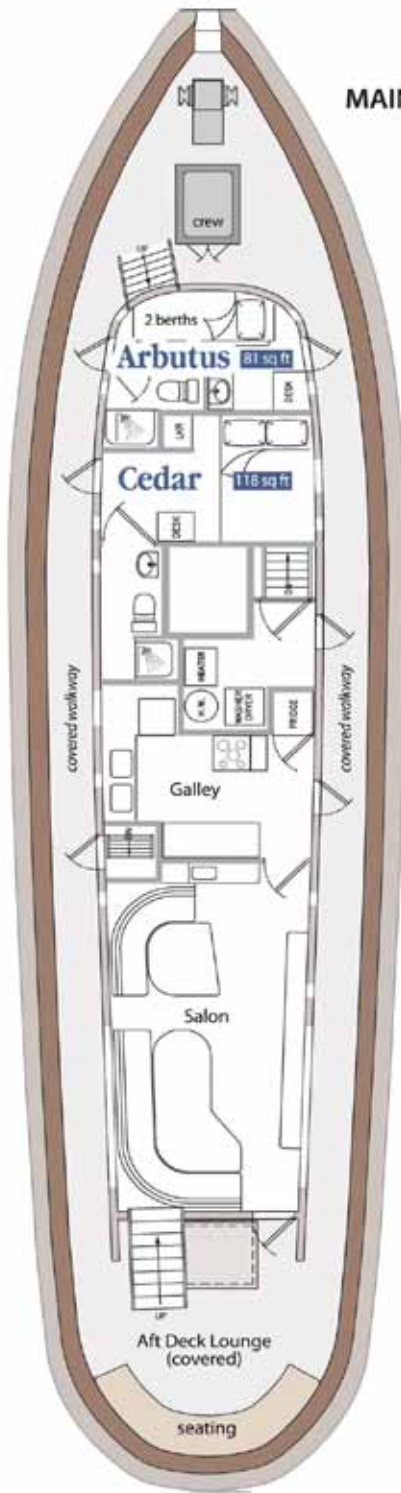
aft deck lounge



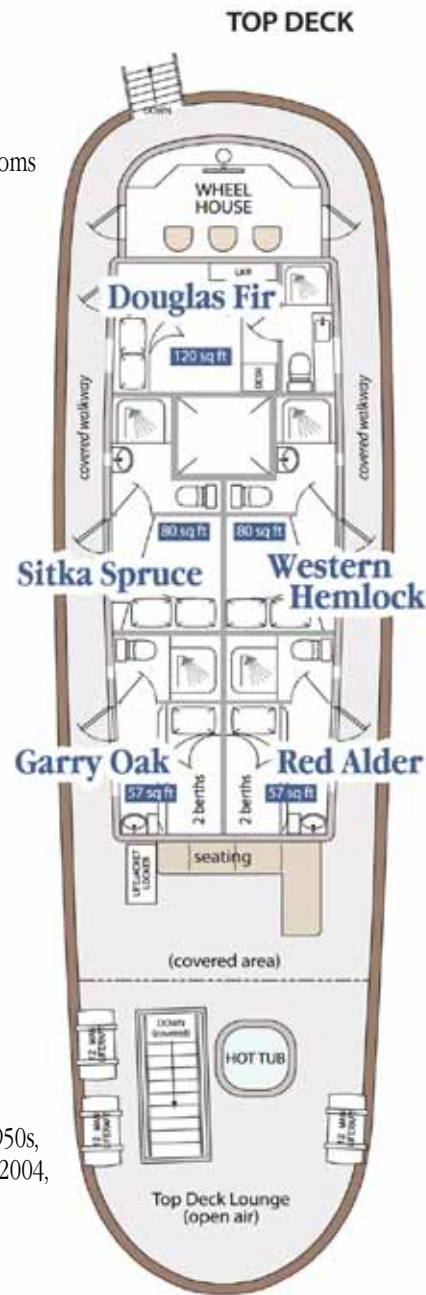
wheelhouse



MV Swell



MAIN DECK



TOP DECK

Private Staterooms: 6
 Private Ensuites: All staterooms
 Max Guests: 10 or 12
 Salon / Lounge Areas: 4
 Shore Boats: 2 Kayaks: 2

Length: 80 feet
 Beam (Width): 22 feet
 Propulsion: Diesel engine
 Registration: Canada

Year Built: 1912 (rebuilt: 1950s, 1980s, a \$3.5 million refit in 2004, a green refit in 2015)
 Where Built: Vancouver, BC
 Style of Ship: Tug

Cabin Features



Category 1

Outside door, opening portholes, private ensuite head, storage, natural light. Two up and down small, extra-long single beds (79.5" x 30").

Sink in main area, toilet and shower in head. Storage in tall cupboard with shelves, small under-sink cupboard, under bed. 57 ft²

Garry Oak, Red Alder

*Images are representative of cabin categories.
Some aspects of individual cabins may vary.*



Category 2

Mid-size cabin, outside door, opening portholes, larger private ensuite head, storage, natural light.

Angled boat double beds (approx 79" x 52", narrower at feet). These are comfortable beds for two people who are used to sleeping together and don't mind their feet near each other. Not for people who wish to sleep well separated from their partner. Luxurious for a single paying a single supplement.

3-piece bathroom. Storage in three small drawers, two cubbyholes under bed, and three shelves, plus cupboard in head. 80 ft²

Western Hemlock, Sitka Spruce



Mid-size cabin, outside door, opening portholes, larger private ensuite head, storage, natural light. Two up and down singles (approx 78" x 35"), plus desk and two small cupboards.

Sink in main area, toilet and shower in head. Storage in two small wardrobes, shelf on top of wardrobes, cupboard under sink and inside small desk. 80 ft²

Arbutus

a) Angled Boat Double

b) Two Singles

Category 3

Largest cabins, outside door, opening portholes, large private ensuite head, storage, natural light.

Small boat queen sized bed, which is half-way between a double and a queen (75.5" x 57"). One side of bed is against the wall.

3-piece bathroom. Storage in tall, slim cupboard, various drawers, one shelf and small entry shelf. 120 ft²

Cedar, Douglas Fir

Prices are per person. Single supplement for Category 1 and some Category 2 cabins, when available: 50%





About the Ship



The Ship, *SV Maple Leaf*

Maple Leaf is a beautiful 92-foot schooner.

The Coast's Beloved, Historic Tall Ship

Built of coastal Douglas fir, high elevation yellow cedar and mahogany, she is a **tough expedition vessel** and a **work of artistry**.

Transport Canada Certified

Maple Leaf is certified by Transport Canada as a passenger carrying vessel. This stringent, world-class designation is the **highest standard of certification for vessels in Canada** (higher than most charter boats, sail training vessels, and fishing vessels, for example).

Comfort and Beauty

Maple Leaf's accommodations are **very comfortable**. Mahogany and fir line the galley, dining salon and wheelhouse. The spacious main cabin is airy and divided by half-walls and heavy curtains into four "cabins," providing sleeping accommodations for eight guests. There are three heads (washrooms) aboard, all with hot running water and shower conversions.

Unparalleled Access to Special Places

Maple Leaf has an **extensive library and three decks**. Her **sea-kindly attributes, long range, sails** and size allow you to access extraordinary wilderness areas of the coast most people will never reach.

She is outfitted for engaging with the natural world: rigid hull **inflatable boats** for accessing wildlife colonies and remote beaches, **kayaks**, a **hydrophone for listening to whales**, small temporary tanks for exploring **intertidal life**, **GoPro underwater cameras**, **presentation screen & more**.



Above: The Maple Leaf's wheelhouse lounge.



Right: One of the many on-deck seating areas, this one along the aft rail of the ship.

About the Ship



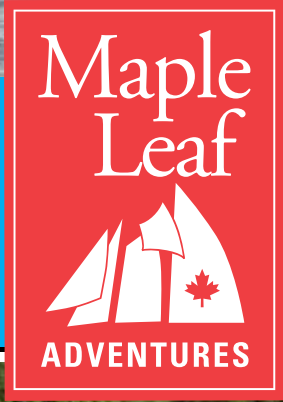
Top: A detail from the wheelhouse at night.

Middle left: The dining lounge.

Middle right: A snack served on deck.

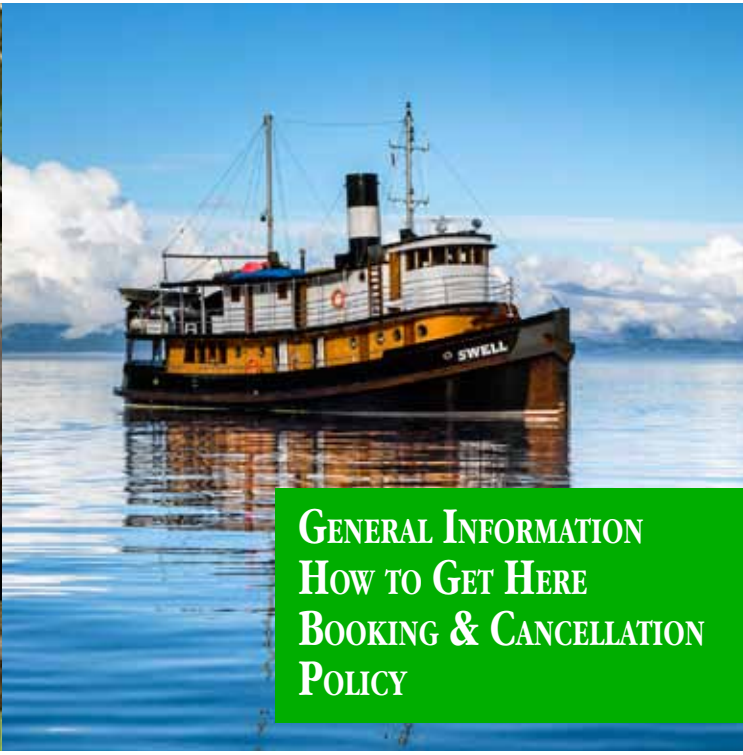
Bottom left: One of the sleeping cabins.

Bottom right: One of the heads (bathrooms)



BOUTIQUE EXPEDITIONS BY CLASSIC SHIP

ALASKA | GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST | GULF ISLANDS | HAIDA GWAI | VANCOUVER ISLAND



GENERAL INFORMATION
HOW TO GET HERE
BOOKING & CANCELLATION
POLICY



The Trips

Since 1986, trips with Maple Leaf Adventures have been described by guests and international media as the “Trip of a Lifetime”.

Join us and discover the amazing natural wonders of the British Columbia and southeast Alaska coast. Your 5-day to 11-day tour explores this vast paradise of 50,000 islands and 40,000 km of shoreline.

You will travel in the spirit of adventure, aboard authentic, classic coastal ships. Unlike big or pocket cruise ships, these nimble, 8 or 12-passenger boats are a historic part of this coast. They give you the most exclusive access to remote areas and wildlife, while also providing an all-coastal, expert crew, and the luxuries of the good things in life, such as meals prepared by a chef, beautiful surroundings, great companions, and warm comfort.

• Alaska Adventure
The best of Alaska’s inside passage and west coast: glaciers, rainforest, bears, whales, wilderness, towns, culture. Usually 9 days

• Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands)
Explore the 150+ islands of “Canada’s Galapagos”, including Gwaii Haanas. Highlights include Haida monumental villages, spectacular whales, ancient rainforest and marine life. Usually 9 days

• Great Bear Rainforest
Cruise the fjords of one of Earth’s largest great wild rainforests, home to grizzly, black and spirit bears, whales and spectacular scenery. Usually 7-9 days

• Whales & Totems of the Rainforest (Broughton Archipelago)
Explore the world of the killer whale, humpback whale and other marine mammals, in the 200+ islands of the Broughton Archipelago. Wildlife viewing, lots of shore trips, cultural sites included. Usually 6 days

• Vancouver Island & Desolation Sound
Explore the diverse inside passage of Vancouver Island and the spectacle of Desolation Sound. From the warm Gulf Islands to steep rainforest in the north. Usually 5-8 days

• Gulf Islands National Park / Salish Sea
Island hop in the new National Park Reserve, visit wildlife colonies, walk the dry rainforest and rocky bluffs, explore remote beaches and tiny islands not visited by ferries. Usually 5-6 days

• Craft Beer, Culinary & Nature in the Gulf Islands
Sample 50 of BC’s top craft beers and learn from an expert brewing historian, while exploring the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island. Usually 5 days



Photos: Kerin Smith

All-Inclusive Highlights

- All accommodations included in your trip, including comfortable, classic ship-board accommodations with fluffy duvets, and local lodges if your trip includes a lodge stay.
- All shore trips, wildlife viewing, and zodiac excursions guided by our expert, knowledgeable crew/guides. All cultural site visits, and all additional local guides.
- All meals and snacks, prepared freshly for you by our chef. Meals feature great variety, and highlight local, fresh specialties.
- All beverages including coffee, tea, juices and sodas, filtered water, wine and craft beer.
- The services of our naturalist and crew both aboard the ship and ashore. These caring, entertaining and knowledgeable people are your hosts for the trip, always available for questions, teaching, or conversation.
- Open wheelhouse. You are welcome to come into the ship's wheelhouse, from which our crew are navigating the ship. On our sailing ships, you are also welcome to take the helm under our crew's guidance, and help sail the ships, if you like.
- Use of gear on board including kayaks, fishing gear, and rubber boots.

Why travelling by water leads you to the best of the Inside Passage and Haida Gwaii

The coastline of British Columbia and Alaska undulates into bays, twists into island archipelagos, and stretches far down fjords that slice through mountain ranges. This is wild geography and there are few roads here. As a result, wildlife and nature thrive. The few coastal communities have a deep connection to the ocean. To experience it at all, and to reach the richest areas, you must travel by water, as people have done here for millennia. On our small ships, you'll reach special areas closed to big ships, and head down passages and make landings there that big ship passengers can only dream of.

By Travelling with Maple Leaf, You Support Local, Conservation-Based Enterprises

By travelling with Maple Leaf, you are part of the important, emerging conservation-based economy on the coast. Our careful, thoughtful approach to our trips, to nature, and to all of the people we visit have earned us a reputation as a model for conservation travel. We are a coast-owned and operated business, and 99% of the money from the trips stays within the coastal economy. We dedicate time and resources to conservation of the coast -- our home that we gladly share with you.



How You'll Travel



Access to the Best Places on the Inside Passage & Haida Gwaii

Maple Leaf Adventures has been awarded special access permits to protected areas, allowing you entrée to worlds most people will never see. Our relationships can also give access to special cultural sites, and scientists in the field.

Our Small Scale: Feel the Coast's Hugeness

The proximity you will feel to the coast's mountains, forest and islands is incomparable with any other form of water travel. Sail with an escort of dolphins. Feel the spray from waterfalls beside us. Walk in ancient forests that are cathedrals of green.

Timed for Peak Wildlife Events, with Plenty of Shore Time

Our trips are timed to coincide with great natural events, ensuring sightings of a fantastic variety of wildlife including bears, whales, dolphins and hundreds of species of birds. There is always lots to do and see. Our shore trips include visits to intertidal areas, beaches, river estuaries, rainforests, and villages. One of the crew is an expert naturalist or fascinating specialist to help you understand the areas we visit.

Gorgeous Classic Ships with Comfortable Finishings

Our ships are beautiful wooden ships, built here, with long histories on the coast. So even as you walk the deck or step into the wheelhouse, you are having a truly coastal experience, connected to more than a century of history.

The Excitement of a Real Journey

Travelling with a small group of guests means that your experience, while carefully planned, is also natural and spontaneous. You will not feel like part of a crowd, and your experience is not limited by barriers and procedures used to manage large groups. Every second, you are on a real journey. We treat each guest as an individual. We notice your interests and help you to do everything you came for. Every Maple Leaf crew member is welcoming and generous - with their time, their knowledge, and their thoughtfulness.

Expert, Local Guides, Crew & Company

Your trips are developed and operated by us -- expert mariners, naturalists, guides and managers who have grown up exploring the coast and who want you to experience the best of the best.

Veterans of local field research, our naturalists share their expertise and abundant knowledge from real experience here. Our relationships on the coast give you access to researchers and local residents to further enrich your trip.

Natural History Exploration Tools

The ships have excellent natural/cultural history libraries, hydrophones for listening to whales underwater, DVDs, small aquariums, fishing gear, GoPro cameras, kayaks, and top-quality shore boats with clean and quiet engines.

Cultural History

Coastal First Nations guides we work with and who share their long history and knowledge of the place with us are from the Gitga'at, Haida, Haisla, Heiltsuk, and Kitasoo-Xai'Xais, nations, and Kwakwaka'wakw of northern Vancouver Island, and Coast Salish of the southern Gulf Islands.

Full But Unhurried Days

Our days are full but our pace is unhurried, giving time to linger with whales, sketch in a Haida village, beachcomb, and walk ancient forests. We go ashore often to experience the entire place, not just the view.

Typical Activities

- Rainforest walks
- Beachcombing
- Exploring by small boat
- Wildlife viewing
- Coastal village visits
- Cultural site visits and experiences
- Photography
- Natural history learning, in all environments, with our naturalist
- Sailing (sailing ships only)
- Kayaking (optional)
- Hiking (optional; possibly one good hike on a trip)
- Cruising
- Fishing (with a licence)
- Foraging (sea asparagus, berries, and other items, some trips only)
- Whale identification for research (on trips with whales)
- Beach campfire and star watching

The Benefits and Approach to Adventure Travel

This is a trip with a true sense of adventure. It's important to realize it's for people with adventurous spirits. The coastal ships are beautiful and comfortable but they are not Las Vegas. If you seek cruise ship amenities, including grand, hotel-room style cabins, this trip may not be for you.

But if you seek to explore in an authentic way, with the camaraderie of expert crew and guides, we look forward to welcoming you aboard.

The Story of Our Company and People

Passionate About Sharing Our Home with You

Maple Leaf Adventures and our trips are run by people who grew up on the islands and coast of the inside passage and Haida Gwaii.

Our lives and perspectives have grown from the rainforest, the beach, the curious gaze of harbour seals, and the channels of blue water that are the pathways of the coast. Our professional lives have honed our skills at hospitality, wildlife guiding, storytelling, navigation, operations, and other aspects of running a world-class company.

As we have come together at Maple Leaf Adventures, we have created a different kind of trip for you, where you can truly experience the best of life on

the coast, as a guest of expert locals and naturalists. Enjoy the friendship of great residents, smell the sweet coniferous forest as you step ashore, feel the rhythm of ship and ocean as you steer the Maple Leaf, taste the flavour of huckleberries or freshly caught prawns, and hear a whale's sharp inhalation of breath before it dives.

Our purpose is to give you the best of the coast, while also supporting the conservation of its ecosystems and cultural fabric. Our mission is to show that the best travel delights the mind and senses and can enrich, rather than harm, the places we visit. Care and attention to detail are at the heart of all we do.



Kevin's Story

Kevin Smith, the president of Maple Leaf Adventures, has explored the coast by boat since before he could ride a bike. As a young backcountry and marine park ranger, Kevin witnessed the incredible power and beauty of nature, often alone on his patrol boat. He wanted to share it with others.

Kevin is a geographer by training, and he knows the best experiences are beyond roads' reach. To truly explore the landscapes, wildlife and culture of the coast, you need to go by water. But not in the traditional manner, with thousands of people on a huge cruise ship. He wanted to share the glory of the coast as he had gotten to know it.

He volunteered for five years on the team that

created British Columbia's ground-breaking land use plan, which preserves large tracts of the Great Bear Rainforest. The process pointed out a needed solution in the area: a conservation-based economy. Kevin realized that his vision of sharing the coast's wonders with others would fit. His business acumen, green ethics, expedition knowledge and love of hosting lead him to a new kind of travel: eco-adventure cruising.

Since 2001, Kevin has built Maple Leaf Adventures into an award-winning company. As the leader, he must spend time in the office. But he (as with all Maple Leaf Adventures staff) stays focussed by donning his GoreTex jacket and operating trips each year. It keeps him in touch with the interesting



guests who join us, and the geography, wildlife and people of the coast. After all, that's the dream that brings us - and you - together.



About Our Company

Maple Leaf Adventures has been operating trips focused on the natural history of B.C.'s west 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 natural and cultural landscapes.

Our institutional clients have included the Royal BC Museum and The Canadian Museum of Civilization. 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 *National Geographic Traveler* and on the Oprah Winfrey television show.

We dedicate time and resources to coastal conservation, caring for the coast that gives us our livelihood.



Ocean Wise.  Recommended by the Vancouver Aquarium as an ocean-friendly seafood choice.



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 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:

- 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).
- Services of our naturalist and professional crew.
- Shore excursions.
- Use of gear on board, including raingear, boots, kayaks and fishing gear (*with fishing licence*).

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 a great experience.

Q. Can you accommodate my special diet?

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

Q. Will I be seasick?

A. Sea sickness on our North America trips is rarely a problem as your trip is on 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. In North America, absolutely. We encourage our guests to participate in any aspect of the trip that interests them and to a 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.

Q. I've never been on a boat before – is that OK?

A: Yes, absolutely. You will be travelling on a large, strong boat run by an expert crew. You are aboard as our guest and we will look after you very well. You don't have to do anything other than enjoy yourself.

Q. Will I go ashore?

A. Yes – usually a few times a day. Each shore trip is usually between 1 and 3 hours in length.

Q. Do you have kayaks?

A. Yes, and you are welcome to go for paddles in the spectacular bays we anchor in.

Q. How long have you been operating?

A. Since 1986.

Q. How many people are typically on a trip?

A: In North America, max ten guests. We have a crew of 4 or 5 including chef and naturalist.

Q. Is there a single supplement?

A. On the Maple Leaf, there is no single supplement. If the trip fills, you will share with another single person of your own sex. On the Swell there is a 50% single supplement.

Q. What are the other guests like?

A. Our guests are people like you, who are interested in high quality experiences and in learning about the natural world, classic ships or culture. They are thoughtful, fun people and a joy to travel with. A large percentage of them return for additional trips.

How to Get to Your Trip



Airport Access

Our BC and Alaska trips originate from ports along the coast that are serviced by regularly scheduled flights. All of these flights except one originate from Vancouver International Airport, in Vancouver, BC. If you are flying from outside the area, and you are wondering where you need to get to in order to connect to your trip, then Vancouver International Airport is the answer.

Note that if your Alaska trip either starts at or ends at a port in Alaska (e.g., Petersburg), then any air travel to or from Alaska goes via Seattle-Tacoma airport, in Washington State, USA. You can connect to Seattle via a short flight to or from Vancouver, BC.

The map above shows the general flight routes.

We provide all of this information plus more detail and guidance in the Welcome Aboard package that you will receive upon booking your place with Maple Leaf. We are also happy to help any time!

Ferries

Ferries transport passengers between Vancouver and Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo, Port Hardy and Prince Rupert, Prince Rupert and Haida Gwaii, Seattle and Victoria, and Alaskan ports and Prince Rupert. Travelling by ferry requires careful planning and sometimes a car.

Driving

If you wish to drive to and/or from your trip, you may be able to. It's best to email or phone us or your travel agent for further information.

Staying Beforehand or Afterward

Our Welcome Aboard packages lists some places you may wish to stay at before or after your trip.

Travel Agent

If you would like the assistance of a travel agent, we are happy to provide contact information for one who has worked with our guests.



Wild BC and Alaska - Boutique expedition cruises



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.

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 per person to cover costs we cannot recover. 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.

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). There are

several kinds available for different cancellation reasons. Cancellation and any needed medical insurance can be purchased through a travel agent. This should be done at the time your booking is nonrefundable.

Pre-Trip Information Package

We will send you a comprehensive Welcome Aboard package when you book your place. It includes information on clothing and other items to bring, how to get to your trip, a bit more about travelling in the area, forms to fill out and return to us and a reading list if you like to do pre-trip reading.

Full Ship Charters

Charter an entire trip for your family and friends. Contact us for full ship charter pricing.

Note: Full ship charters require advance planning, as the trips are popular and once a trip has bookings, it can no longer be exclusively yours.

How to Book Your Trip

To book, we welcome your call or email. We complete bookings by telephone.

For deposit payments we accept Visa, Master Card, cheque, money order or bank transfer. For final balance payments we accept cheque, money order or bank transfer.

"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.

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