

Maple
Leaf



ADVENTURES

The LEAFLET NEWSLETTER & TRIP CATALOGUE 2017

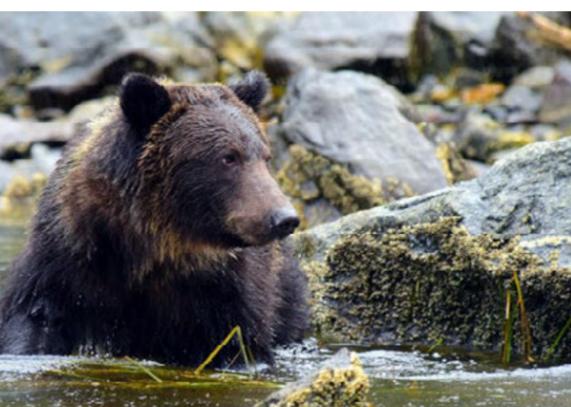
ALASKA | GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST | GULF ISLANDS | HAIDA GWAI | DESOLATION SOUND

Spring
Flight Promotion

book your April trip
before Feb 15, 2017
for a FREE local flight!

see page 9
for full details &
available trips

about MV SWELL or SV MAPLE LEAF



Dear friends,

A phrase bubbling up more and more in travel industry circles these days is, *transformational travel*. It's a short-cut that some guides use to explain a trip that gives you such a great experience, it takes you out of your everyday to a place of bliss or to a new sense of place in the world.

If you've travelled on this beautiful coast of BC and Alaska aboard Maple Leaf or Swell, I think you know what they're talking about.

I've thought about the phrase; it's usually used in reference to the guests' experience on the trip. Although they didn't necessarily go on the trip for any reason other than to see a wonderful place, they find their perspective has been transformed by the experience.

But I think it goes both ways. I think transformational travel, like all good and resilient parts of an ecosystem, gives back to the guides and to the places it operates, too.

There is something inherently healthy for humans in knowing that their work both creates delight and protects the place they call home. In our case, we know that by sailing down fjords and through archipelagos, walking in the rainforest and exploring wild places and important cultural sites, we're helping humanity to value them. Simply by travelling here with us, and by appreciating what you experience, you are helping to protect these incredible treasures.

You, our guests, are helping to transform the travel industry into a more holistic, conservation-based activity. You're ensuring that the ancient trees you walk under will continue to regulate the climate and create habitat for salmon and bears. You're ensuring that smart and competent people like our crew and staff are able to perform rewarding work that gives them the satisfaction of knowing they are taking care of the planet that gives them life. That's transformational, on all fronts.

Thank you,

Kevin Smith
President, Maple Leaf Adventures

Photos: Jeff Reynolds, Greg Shea, Ianish Campbell



2017 Adventures Catalogue



★★★★★ *"We came home wondering why we had not done this trip before now, so much so, we have booked another adventure."*
– Online review, guest from Canada, July 2016

Photos: Greg Shea



Photos: Roman Gurn (top), Travis Campbell



Photos: Greg Shea, Jeff Reynolds



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 locally 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.



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.

A Small Group for a Personalized Adventure

We take up to twelve guests with a crew of four or five on our trips, plus other guides ashore sometimes. 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. You will feel well cared for but also stimulated.

Expert Local Knowledge & Exploration Tools

Maple Leaf Adventures has been exploring the BC & Alaska coast since 1986. Our Canadian crew know the areas intimately, including the best places to view wildlife, explore ashore, find hot springs, and meet with First Nations communities and scientists. 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.

Beautiful Meals Prepared by Amazingly Creative Chefs

Your chef, who is aware of your dietary needs, creates three beautiful meals and two snacks a day, as well as making snacks available all day long if needed. They use lots of variety, and also highlight local ingredients, such as freshly caught fish or berries you might have picked.

Spectacular, Informed Experience of Nature & Culture

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 -- through formal interpretation and also informal conversations any time.

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 (sailings 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

For Questions, Brochures with Itineraries, and to Book:

We're happy to help - just contact us:

Toll free in North America:
1-888-599-5323

Direct from anywhere:
+1-250-386-7245 (1-250-FUN-SAIL)

www.MapleLeafAdventures.com

info@MapleLeafAdventures.com

We accept cheques, Visa & Master Card

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

Please reserve early to avoid disappointment.

Waitlists & Additional Trips

If a trip says sold out, a cancellation may occur, so inquire about the waitlist.

If all trips in an area are sold out, we may add additional trips, as demand requires, so please ask us if you are interested.

Note: Some trips are full and taking waitlists at the time of publication. If you are interested in a trip, please let us know right away so that we can hold a place for you.



Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

Celebrate spring's return or fall's golden days by sailing among these sheltered islands. Visit the wild beauty and the "hidden" islands in this National Park - places like Tumbo Is., Cabbage Is., the Belle Chains, D'Arcy Is. and Isle de Lis. Seabirds, sailing, and marine mammals are other highlights. Depart & Return: Sidney, BC *Some trips qualify for April promotion; see pg 9 for details*

On SV Maple Leaf

Apr 15-19* \$2390; \$Apr 22-26, \$1890
Oct 24-29, \$2190

On MV Swell

Apr 20-24, \$2709 / \$3021 / \$3472

**See: Special Salish Sea trip in recognition of Canada 150, page 8*



Vancouver Island, Desolation Sound & Broughton Arch.

These multi-day cruises of Vancouver Island's inside passage and surrounding sounds and archipelagos are an odyssey through both time and nature. From the dry Gulf Islands, through spectacular narrows, past historic sites and stopping frequently, the trips cruise the beautiful and grand, but forgotten, route that coastal British Columbians used to take by steamship. Features wildflowers, marine mammals, island hopping, wild, remote coast, towns, possible bears (but bears are not a feature of these trips).

On SV Maple Leaf

Apr 27-May 4 \$2800 (Sidney to Campbell River)
Oct 13-18 \$2500 (Port McNeill to Nanaimo)

On MV Swell

Apr 25-May 2 \$2995 / \$3323 / \$3724 (Sidney to Port McNeill)

Qualifies for April promotion see pg. 9

Oct 19-26 \$4172 / \$4610 / \$5967 (Port McNeill to Sidney)



Desolation Sound & Discovery Islands

Cruise scenic channels and inlets ribboned with waterfalls, as spring returns to one of the world's most beautiful archipelagos. Explore the beaches, forest trails and meadows beneath the coast mountains' stunning snowfields. View marine mammals and migrating birds.

Depart & Return: Campbell River, BC

On SV Maple Leaf May 6-10 \$1890 *Qualifies for free flights; see pg 9 for details*

Great Bear Rainforest

Explore the last stand of ancient North American rainforest: fjords, islands, waterfalls and great river estuaries. There are no roads here, so bears, whales and birds thrive. We offer several itineraries:

Vancouver Island to Great Bear Rainforest

This epic adventure up the BC coast moves from the natural but populated south coast, through the outer islands near Cape Caution and enters wilder and wilder landscapes as it proceeds north, finishing with some great fjords. Along the way, spring wildlife from seabirds to marine mammals enliven our visits to incredible beaches, river estuaries, island groups, rainforests and fjords.

SV Maple Leaf: Depart Campbell River, BC; Return Bella Bella.

On SV Maple Leaf

May 11-19 \$3200



Great Bear Rainforest in Spring

Cruise the spectacular Great Bear Rainforest as spring flourishes. Travel past waterfalls that crash down the fjords' flanks, and walk into the rainforest, enlivened by the green leaves of new growth and pink salmonberry flowers. Note the return of migratory ducks and birds like the hummingbird. View marine mammals, visit coastal communities. You may also view some bears that have come down to the shores' edge for sedges and crabs, and the returning whales and other marine mammals. Likely a dip in a hot spring will be featured. Depart: Bella Bella, BC Return: Kitimat, BC

On SV Maple Leaf

May 20-27 \$4950

On MV Swell

May 5-12 \$4816 / \$5362 / \$6151



Great Bear Rainforest including the Kitlope in Spring

The rainforest in spring, including several days cruising the Kitlope area. This is a place of superlatives: longest, largest, deepest, tallest. Sail far into the snow-capped Coast Mountains, past goats and waterfalls. Soak in hot springs, walk the rainforest, view marine mammals. Explore the grand Kitlope, a place of First Nations cultural history and an estuary frequented by bears. Depart and Return: Kitimat, BC

On MV Swell May 14-20 \$5027 / \$5523 / \$6200

Great Bear Rainforest Late Summer and Fall

In autumn, salmon flood the rivers, providing peak wildlife viewing of grizzlies and the white spirit bear. To witness this event is one of nature's great experiences. Depending on the itinerary, some trips have a higher likelihood of orcas, and others a higher likelihood of a spirit bear.

For departure / return ports, please contact us for a brochure. *Also: Great Bear Photo Trips, see pg 8*

On SV Maple Leaf

Aug 21-26 | \$3650
Aug 27-Sep 4, Sep 5-13, Sept 14-22 (photo trip),
Sept 24-Oct 2, Oct 3-11 | \$5950

On MV Swell

Sept 6-14, Sept 15-23,
Sept 24-Oct 2, Oct 3-11
\$7177 / \$7838 / \$8552

Possible additional dates coming late 2016. Contact us if interested or sign up for our enews to get word.

The Aug 27 trip typically has grizzly and black bear viewing. The Sept and Oct trips have higher likelihood of spirit bears with days at bear stands.

Haida Gwaii

These hundreds of wildlife-rich islands, on the continental shelf off BC, are known as Canada's Galapagos Islands. They also may be the site of the oldest human habitation in Canada. On this trip, you'll explore the ancient rainforest and the ocean that supports whales and seabirds including puffins, murrelets and shearwaters. You'll explore the Haida culture, and visit remote Haida village sites with monumental poles and houses, including UNESCO World Heritage Site SGang Gwaay. You'll also visit modern Masset and Skidegate, and have the chance to speak with Haida guides. The best way to experience the entirety of Haida Gwaii. Depart Masset, BC Return: Sandspit, BC

On SV Maple Leaf

May 30-Jun 7*, Jun 8-16, Jun 16-24 (photo),
Jun 24-Jul 2, Jul 2-10, Jul 10-18 \$5690

On MV Swell

May 23-30, May 30-Jun 7*, Jun 7-14,
Jun 14-21, Jun 21-28, Jun 29-Jul 6, Jul 6-13
\$6580 / \$7188 / \$7844

** May 30-Jun 7 trip is a different price; see below*

See also: Haida Gwaii trip with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society Jun 1-9, see pg 8

Whales & Wild Isles of the Great Bear Rainforest

One of our most epic trips. Explore the wild outer reaches of the coast, view summer's whales and seabirds, and walk the rainforest. Travelling the entire stretch of the Great Bear, this summertime supervoyage takes you to wild and seldom visited beaches. A trip for people who love to explore, it focusses more on whales (humpback, orca and possibly fin) and less on bears, due to the season. Depart: Prince Rupert, BC Return: Kitimat, BC

On SV Maple Leaf Aug 13-20 \$4800

Whales & Totems of the Rainforest

In summer and fall, abundant fish attract marine mammals to northern Vancouver Island's Broughton Archipelago. Seals, sea lions, dolphins, and pods of orca (killer whales) navigate the channels. Humpback whales gorge on fish and krill. This is an astonishingly rich place to spend time with these intelligent, social mammals. It is also the land of the Kwakwaka'wakw people, home to the U'Mista Cultural Centre that we may visit with a Kwakwaka'wakw guide. Depart & Return: Port McNeill, BC

On MV Swell

Oct 14-18 \$3417 / \$3758 / \$4130



see the full map on the back cover



ALASKA and more trips ...
continued on next page

Photos: Kevin J. Smith, Jeff Reynolds (Swell), Chris Bonchert (top)
Photos: Kevin J. Smith, Brian Falconer (pole)



Alaska Adventure

This is the Alaska trip for those who want to experience the grandeur by being a part of it, not steaming through it. You'll explore this wilderness of fjords, islands, and tidewater glaciers. Spend time with humpback whales, sea otters, sea lions, and puffins. View Admiralty Island's brown bears with our special access permit for Pack Creek. We also visit historic towns such as Petersburg, Ketchikan and the hamlet of Baranof. From outer coast to inside passage, this is the ultimate Alaska expedition.

Depart: Jul 17 Petersburg; Jul 21 Prince Rupert; Jul 26 Sitka; Aug 1 Petersburg; Aug 4 Petersburg; Aug 14 Prince Rupert; Aug 25 Sitka

Return: Jul 17 Sitka; Jul 21 Petersburg; Jul 26 Petersburg; Aug 1 Prince Rupert; Aug 4 Prince Rupert; Aug 14 Sitka; Aug 25 Ketchikan

On MV Swell Jul 17-25, Jul 26-Aug 3, Aug 4-12 \$7894 / \$8622 / \$8980 | Aug 14-24 Supervoyage \$9895 / \$10,805 / \$11,251 | Aug 25-Sep 3 Supervoyage \$8895 / \$9713 / \$10,115

On SV Maple Leaf Jul 21-31, Aug 1-11 \$7125

Special Interest Trips

Photography Trips

Capture images of wildlife and landscapes on these photo trips on the BC and Alaska coast. Designed especially for photographers, and led by an experienced photography instructor, this trip gives you plenty of time to set up great shots, take advantage of light conditions and improve your technique.

Haida Gwaii Photo Trip, on SV Maple Leaf: Jun 16-24 \$5690

Great Bear Rainforest Fall Photo Trip, on SV Maple Leaf: Sep 14-22 \$5950



Craft Beer Culinary, History & Nature Cruise (Gulf Islands)

An educational and entertaining journey through the social history of beer in BC. (which is, in essence, the social history of post-contact settlement), while cruising the Gulf Islands. Led by brewing historian Greg Evans, the trip is packed with flavour, food pairing, historical anecdotes, and exclusive brewery tours with a who's who not available to the general public. Also includes Maple Leaf's trademark wildlife viewing, nature walks, and optional kayaking. Depart & return: Sidney, BC

Gulf Islands National Park Trip, on MV Swell: Oct 27-31 \$2790 / \$3112 / \$3576

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society Trips

Salish Sea with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society & Elder Florence James

On this special trip with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, you'll explore the place where Canada's west-coast history began, and delve beyond that into the human history here that dates back thousands of years. Other highlights include frequent shore trips, wildlife colonies, wildflowers, beach and woodland walks, history interpretation and special extras from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Depart & return: Sidney, BC

Apr 15-19 SV Maple Leaf: \$2390;
MV Swell \$3109 / \$3421 / \$3872



Haida Gwaii with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society & Severn Cullis Suzuki

Severn Cullis Suzuki will be joining a special Haida Gwaii trip with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and Maple Leaf. Ethnobotanist, television host, educator and member of the Haida community, Severn has a deep knowledge to share with her travelling companions on this special trip. **Flights, sustainability fee and special extra experiences not available on the other trips are also included** in this trip, which also supports the Society. Depart & return: Vancouver, BC

May 30-Jun 7 SV Maple Leaf: \$7380; MV Swell \$8976 / \$9671 / \$10,155



Photos: Greg Beza, Jeff Reynolds (flower), Kevin J. Smith (sea lions)

Spring Flight Promotion

Trips Booked Before Feb 15, 2017

To kick off trips in the beautiful month of April, we're offering a little extra.

Book an April 2017 trip on either Maple Leaf or Swell before February 15, 2017, and you'll receive a free local flight from the end of your trip back to either Vancouver airport or Victoria airport (your choice).

If you prefer, on the Gulf Islands / Salish Sea trips you can opt for a night in a suite at the beautiful Sidney Waterfront Inn, in Sidney, BC, before your trip instead of the flight.

Value: Up to approx \$250 per person.

These trips are:

- Salish Sea with Canadian Geographic, Apr 15-19
- Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, Apr 20-24
- Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, Apr 22-26
- Vancouver Island's Inside Passage, Apr 25-May 2
- Vancouver Island's Inside Passage, Apr 27-May 4

Note: If you are already booked on these trips, we will contact you this winter about your flights.



Full Ship Charters for Family and Friends Groups

Charter an entire trip for yourself and your group of family/friends.

SV Maple Leaf: Maximum 8 guests*

MV Swell: Maximum 12 guests.

You may bring up to the maximum number of guests per sailing on your full ship charter, but you don't have to bring the maximum. Here's how:

Price: Full ship family/friends charters have a special price of 95% of the total cost of booking ALL spaces as individuals. (GST is 5% and each person also pays the \$100 sustainability fee.)

* It may be possible to bring one or two additional guests on the Maple Leaf for an additional fee. Contact us to discuss your booking.

Schedule: People start booking each year's trips early, so it's best to contact us well in advance to arrange a full ship charter.

Back-to-Back Trips

Some trips make great back-to-back voyages. Examples include the Vancouver Island / Desolation Sound trips + Vancouver Island to Great Bear trips in spring. On these trips we'll pay for a night in a local hotel in between your two trips.

Included in the Price

Trip price includes all accommodation, all shore excursions and guides, fine meals and snacks, wine and beer and use of gear on board including kayaks. Add \$100 sustainability fee per person. Trips in Canada also have 5% federal tax. Trip prices are in Canadian dollars. Schedule, prices subject to change.

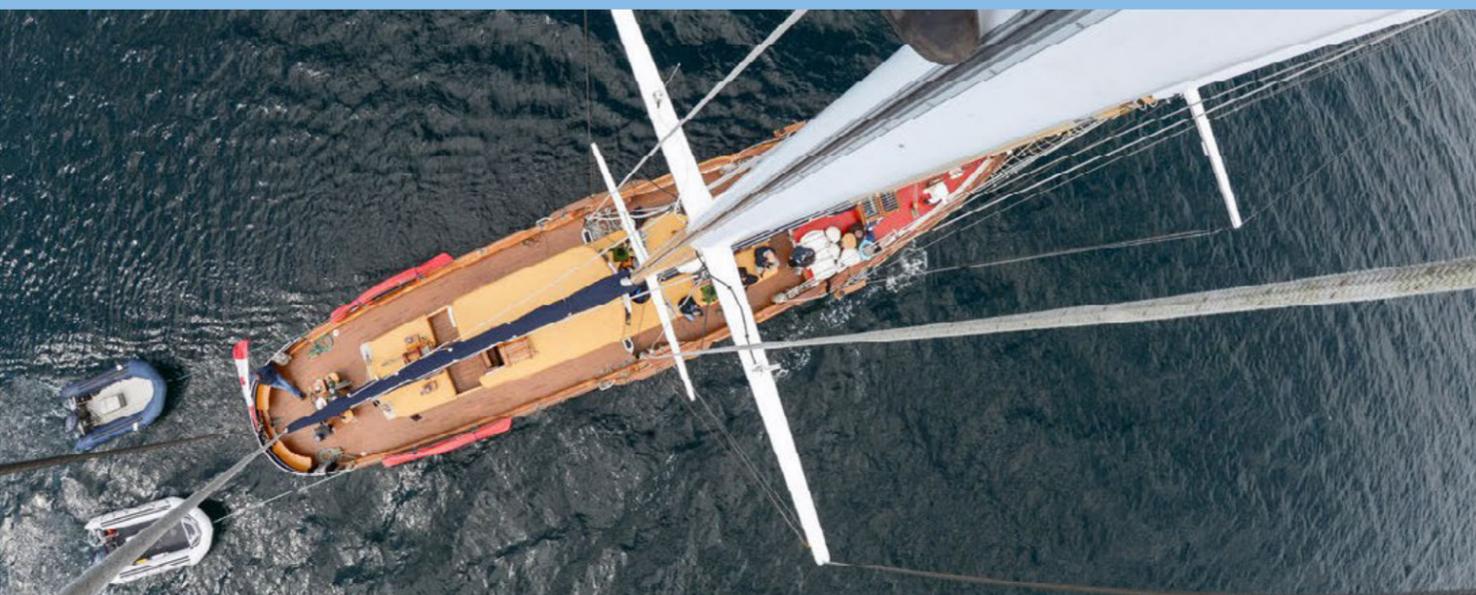
SV Maple Leaf

Our beautiful, classic flagship. Maple Leaf accommodates up to 8 guests, with three shared washrooms.

Length overall: 92 feet | Dining lounge, wheelhouse lounge, deck space with seating.



Photos: Kevin Smith, Tarish Campbell (chef James, ship from above), Gáten Davies (Maple Leaf dining)



MV Swell

Our classic, converted tugboat. Swell accommodates 12 guests, with full ensuites in each private cabin.

Length overall: 88 feet | Salon, aft deck lounge, wheelhouse, top deck seating area, hot tub.



Category 1



Category 2



Category 3



Category 2



On Both Ships

Open wheelhouse: You are welcome to come into the ship's wheelhouse, from which our crew are navigating the ship.

Take the helm: On our sailing ships, you are also welcome to take the helm under the crew's guidance.

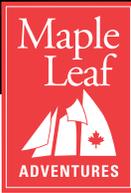
Help sail: On our sailing ship, you are welcome to help sail the ships, if you like, under the crew's direction.

Fishing: If you bring a fishing licence, you can try your hand at fishing, using the ship's gear.

Hydrophones and natural history tools: The ships are well stocked to explore the wonders of nature.

Kayaking: You may go for a paddle in coves and bays.

Gear: We have a limited amount of gear we can loan you.

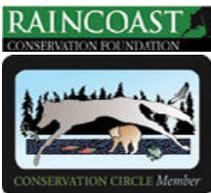


British Columbia & Alaska Boutique Expeditions

To Book Your Trip

Phone Kayleen, Jaz or Maureen at:
1-888-599-5323 or +1-250-386-7245

Email us at:
info@MapleLeafAdventures.com



Schedule at a Glance *Details inside*

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alaska				.	.		
Great Bear Rainforest	
Gulf Islands National Park Reserve	.						.
Haida Gwaii		.	.	.			
Vancouver Island & Desolation Sound	.	.					.
Whales & Totems Trips (Broughton Arch.)							.
Photography Trips			.			.	
Art / Painting or Culinary Trips							.