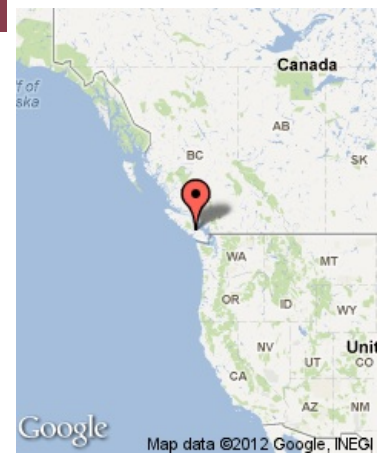


Sea Kayaking Clayoquot Sound, Canada



Highlights

Located on the west side of Vancouver Island, Clayoquot Sound and the encompassing waters are a haven for sea kayakers. This seven-day guided kayak tour is sure to spellbind as you explore Canada's golden beaches and sweeping forests.

Clayoquot Sound is a 860,000 acre collection of islands and temperate rain forest, water inlets and pristine coastal stretches. The Sound is part of the ancestral home of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth First Nations. Archeological digs in the area show evidence for over 9,000 years of habitation by indigenous peoples. As well as its human settlers, Clayoquot is a natural habitat for whales and dolphins in the waters and large carnivores such as bears, wolves and cougars on land. In the air and where they land, Bald eagles and a multitude of birdlife makes this a great area for your binoculars.

In 2000 Clayoquot Sound was recognised as a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO which subsequently issued a multi-million dollar grant to help research and education in the area. Sadly, conflicts between the logging industry and protesters still continue, although laws have been passed in the last few years in an attempt to protect the rain forests.

Clayoquot is a premier location on the global level for sea kayaking and camping. Whilst a good location along the west coast of Vancouver Island for kayakers to improve their skills, it also features sheltered waters suitable for the absolute beginner to really get a taste of what sea kayaking in Canada is all about.

If you're looking for a unique way to see the coasts and waterways of British Columbia, this is it! Even though no experience is necessary, the sense of adventure on this tour is what will keep you talking about it for years to come.

With the open waters of the vast Pacific ocean flanking you, your group will explore the many facets of this dynamic area with full supervision from an expert guide. The scenery is of typical Canadian proportions, and when you're not kayaking you'll be enjoying down time in a luxury camp in the middle of the lush wilderness.

Is it for me?

Sea kayaking is a fun and easy skill to learn, and the west coast of Vancouver Island is one of the best places on Earth in which to do so! The Clayoquot Sound tour is slightly more technical than the Broken Group island trip we also have listed, but you'll never feel out of your element even as a complete novice. The age limit is 10 and up and the maximum group size for the trip is eight people, making this tour perfect for families looking to do something a bit different in Canada.

The only people who wouldn't be blown away by this tour are those who hate getting wet. As you've read this far you're probably not in this category, so there really isn't any reason not to book up and have a phenomenal holiday.

Accommodation

On the first and last nights of the tour you'll stay in either a country B&B located just outside Port Alberni (dubbed the 'Salmon Capital of the World') or in a B&B within the city itself overlooking the harbour.

Prices from

971 GBP (7 days) per person

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Surrounded by scenic mountains, the two-room suite in the country B&B is accessible through a private flower garden features a wood fireplace, leather sofas, library, heated bathroom flooring and a computer with web access. The city B&B offers the same level of luxury and is close to local amenities with an awesome view across the Port Alberni harbour and beyond.

Once you're out in the water you'll be staying in camps on the Sound's islands (Clayoquot is massive and the distance between the coastal islands large, so the camp will be moved once during the week to aid get around it all.) Top-of-the-line gear is brought along by your guide for the campsites, including a large 3 person tent (for two plus gear) with large screen entrance, self-inflating bedroll, large synthetic sleeping bag, camp furniture and full kitchen supplies.

When out in the field, your guide will cook for everyone at the camp. All meals and snacks are included and are nothing short of gourmet cuisine - there is also an abundance of it, enough to make sure you neither go hungry nor get bored with the options available. If anyone manages to catch a fish, they're welcome to bring it back to camp and have the guide cook it!

Itinerary

Day One: The tour starts with a meeting at the chosen accommodation in Port Alberni at 5pm on any given Saturday in time for briefing, dinner and overnight stay.

Day Two: an early start will see the group transfer to nearby Tofino by van, departing at 7:30am and arriving at 9:30am. After loading up and learning the basics of sea kayaking, the adventure begins as you head out into Clayoquot Sound.

Days Two to Six: The next five days will be spent exploring Clayoquot Sound and its many islands, coastal paths and inlets by kayak and camping in the rain forests.

Day Six: You'll return to Tofino by 3pm and transfer back to your chosen B&B in Port Alberni.

Day Seven: Tour concludes in Port Alberni after breakfast.

Details

Getting there

International flights service to Vancouver city - from here, you can catch a bus/ferry to Port Alberni (approx. 2 hours.)

Price includes

Price quoted is per person for two people booking inclusive of 5% GST and includes skilled professional guide, kayaking equipment, dry bags, 2 nights B&B accommodation, camping equipment including tents, sleeping bags, liners, and sleeping bags, and all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day.

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed