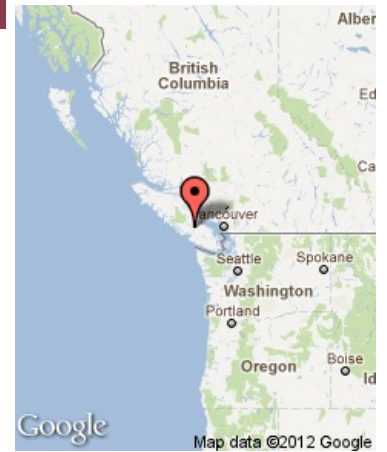


Kayak The Broken Group Islands



Highlights

If you're looking for a unique way to see the coasts and waterways of British Columbia, this is it! With no prior experience required, this is a uniquely relaxing way to kayak Vancouver Island on a trip to the Broken Group Islands on either an extended weekend or week-long basis.

Located on the mouth of Barkley Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island, the Broken Group is a small cluster of islets much loved by water sports enthusiasts. The island group is protected as one of the three regions of the Pacific Rim National Park in recognition of its outstanding and unspoilt beauty.

There are over one hundred small islands in the Broken Group which can only be reached by boat, and, of course, sea kayak. This is a favoured site for kayaking since it is sheltered enough for beginners and offers unobstructed access to the Pacific for experts.

This tour assumes you are a beginner with a guide showing you the ropes and leading you into exciting waters. The guides are experienced in quickly making you comfortable in your kayak and soon it will be less about sea kayaking and more about the discovery and exploration of your environment. Intermediate and above paddlers always enjoy paddling in the open ocean. As a protected nature reserve, the Broken Group Islands have barely changed in the last few thousand years. As you kayak toward them (taking around two hours from the starting point) you'll be paddling in waters that list a whole host of animals who call this stunning ecosystem their home, including sea lions, multiple species of whales, dolphins and seals.

A great factor to this tour is its flexibility, as you can enjoy a mini-break from Thursday to Tuesday or a week-long marathon from Sunday to Saturday. Either is an excellent introduction to sea kayaking, and the Broken Islands group is an exhilarating setting in which to do it.

Is it for me?

Sea kayaking is a fun and easy skill to learn, and the Broken Group Islands is one of the best places on Earth in which to do so! There are no physical limitations or age restrictions for this tour (well, five and up), so feel free to bring the kids or anyone else who'd like to come - the maximum group size for the trip is eight people.

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.

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.

Whilst camping at the islands, you'll use top-of-the-line gear including a large tent (for two plus gear) with large

Prices from
1,102 GBP (7 days) per person

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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. When you think of 'camp food' you're likely to conjure images of baking potatoes and beans over a fire - not so in this case, as every meal from breakfast to dinner is fresh, varied, cooked from scratch and is something you can expect from a 4 star restaurant.

Itinerary

Itinerary depends entirely on your chosen tour duration. A brief overview:

The weekdays kayaking experience sees the group meet in Port Alberni on a Sunday at 5pm for overnight B&B stay before setting off in the morning via ground transportation to Torquart Bay. Here the sea kayaking begins with a two-hour journey to the Broken Island Group, arriving at around noon. The next five days will be spent exploring the myriad of islands by kayak and camping in their lush forests, returning to the B&B in Port Alberni on Friday and concluding the tour after breakfast on Saturday.

The weekend itinerary follows the same template as above but less one day of kayaking the islands, starting on a Thursday in Port Alberni and ending on the following Tuesday morning.

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 2 people booking a weekend trip 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