



TELEGRAPH COVE



ENGLISH



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WELCOME ABOARD

We want to share the majesty of our marine life with you—but it's more than that. We're ardent stewards of the sea, conservationists who have placed orcas and humpback whales on the same pedestal as your experience since our humble beginnings.

So, when you're on the water with us, you'll feel the pulse of passion that flows through each of us. You'll learn why we love the Salish Sea and these whales—and you may step ashore a bit more passionate about protecting our marine life.

OCEAN MAGIC II

We have two washrooms on board, which are located on the back deck by stairs. They are marine toilets, so they work a little differently than toilets on land!

Please flush only toilet paper and natural waste. No sanitary products, paper towels, tissues, or wipes. Please sit down while using our facilities - keep it clean for the next guest!

To flush, there is a foot pedal - press and hold for 5 seconds. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



SEASICKNESS

Please let a crew member know if you start to feel unwell at any part of the trip. We have a few remedies we can use to help you feel better. If you know you are prone to seasickness, we suggest staying towards the back of the vessel and in the fresh air for the most calming boat ride.



SAFETY INFO & RULES

WE HAVE A FEW RULES ON BOARD TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE.



Please maintain 3 points of contact while moving around the boat.

The boat can and will move unexpectedly.



No smoking anywhere on the boat.

This includes e-cigarettes and vapes.



No alcohol or drugs.

No open alcoholic-beverage containers or drugs are allowed on these premises.



There is no standing on the seats, climbing, running, jumping.

Or generally treating the boat like a playground. No monkeys, just whales!

1929

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2022

TELEGRAPH COVE

Archeologists have dated the first Indigenous residents of this area back to at least 12,000 years ago. Today the area around Telegraph Cove is home to the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations and encompasses the Namgis and the Mamalilikulla, as well as the Gwawaenuk Nation and the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation. Telegraph Cove's small, historic village was established in 1912 as an old sawmill town, and today, you'll find an 800-foot-long boardwalk and dock surrounding the old village. Gordie and Marilyn Graham eventually restored the original houses and buildings used today for tourist accommodation.

Johnstone Strait is home to the famed "Robson Bight rubbing beach." A population of killer whales, known as the "Northern Residents," frequently visits this area in the summer to rub themselves on the beach's smooth pebbles. In 1982, the Robson Bight became a protected ecological reserve. Today, this area is known as the "Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve." It is closed to public access, by land and water, to preserve this sensitive habitat for generations to come.

In 1970, Dr. Paul Spong founded OrcaLab, a small land-based whale research station on Hanson Island just off of Telegraph Cove. A network of hydrophones positioned around the orcas' "core habitat" helps monitor their movements. Since 1994, OrcaLab has operated a video monitoring station on Cracroft Point in Johnstone Strait that allows the collection of both surface and underwater images of orcas and other nearby ocean life.

In 2002, the Whale Interpretive Center (WIC) was also established. Gordie and Leo Tureczek tore down an old warehouse situated on the docks and built a sizable yellow cedar structure to display preserved skeletons of the many marine mammals of this area. Their centrepiece item is a 20-metre long fin whale skeleton, donated graciously by Jim Borrowman.

Alert Bay, directly across the water, is home to the largest totem pole in the world and the capital of the Namgis Nation. The U'mista cultural centre in Alert Bay discusses in detail the history of the Indigenous people of Northern Vancouver Island.

WHO TO WATCH FOR

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1 KILLER WHALE / ORCA: *Orcinus orca*

Two types of killer whales regularly inhabit BC's waters. The Northern Resident fish-eating killer whales are commonly spotted around Northern Vancouver Island. Resident killer whales congregate in coastal locations during summer and fall to intercept salmon migrating to their spawning rivers. Northern Residents are frequently found in Johnstone Strait, a designated critical habitat for this population. Although Residents eat six species of salmon, Chinook salmon (the largest salmon species) is their preferred prey. They rely on echolocation or bio-sonar to locate their prey. They communicate using a variety of clicks, whistles and pulsed calls and are often more vocal than the mammal-eating killer whale population known as Bigg's/Transients. Members of Resident matriline (family groups) travel together, rarely separating by more than a few kilometres or for more than a few hours. Matriline often travel in the company of other closely related family groups. Matriline that spend the majority of their time together are known as pods.

Bigg's (Transient) mammal-eating killer whales are found year-round in this area. They have been documented feeding on eight different species of marine mammals, including porpoises, seals, sea lions, and dolphins. They are usually found in smaller groups of two to six and don't vocalize as often, relying on stealth to hunt their prey. Bigg's are widespread and show a degree of seasonal shifts in distribution. This population ranges from the coastal waters in BC to Glacier Bay, Alaska and Oregon. Bigg's family groups are not as close in structure; females may separate from their matriline after birthing offspring of their own before forming a new family group.

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2 HUMPBACK WHALE: *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Humpback whales are highly migratory, moving seasonally between summer feeding areas (BC) with productive cold-temperature waters and their winter breeding grounds in tropical waters (Mexico or Hawaii). Humpbacks undertake some of the longest migrations of any mammal, the record being a whale that migrated 18,000 km round-trip. As the population recovers from depletion by whaling, these whales are reoccupying many areas where they once were formerly abundant. Humpbacks are known as “gulp-feeders” that lunge at schools of prey with open mouths. Humpbacks feed primarily on krill and juvenile Pacific herring. Historically, humpbacks were primarily hunted for their blubber, which was used to make oil products, and by the mid-1900s, there were zero humpback whales left in these inland waterways. Now hundreds of humpbacks have been spotted in the Salish Sea and Coastal BC waters. Over 1,000 individuals have been spotted along the coast of BC in what is known as the “Humpback Comeback.” The humpbacks that feed in BC waters in the summer are known to use a few different feeding methods that are different to each area including “trap-feeding” in Northern Vancouver Island which has not been recorded in any other populations of humpbacks, and bubble-net feeding on the central coast.



3 DALL'S PORPOISE: *Phocoenoides dalli*

This species of porpoise was named after the American naturalist William Healey Dall. Dall's porpoises can be found year round throughout British Columbian waters in groups averaging 2-10 individuals. The porpoises feed on a variety of schooling fishes such as Pacific herring. The Dall's porpoise is among the fastest of cetaceans (during short-duration sprints) and has outpaced Bigg's/Transient killer whales in half of the pursuits observed by researchers in British Columbia. Dall's porpoises can recognize the differences between Resident and Bigg's/Transient killer whale ecotypes and react very differently to the two.

4 PACIFIC-WHITE SIDED DOLPHIN:

Lagenorhynchus obliquidens

Pacific white-sided dolphins, who are usually spotted in groups of 10 to 200, tend to inhabit cold water environments and are one of the most abundant cetacean species in the North Pacific. The Pacific white-sided dolphin is a fast swimming, energetic, and social species. They are known for their acrobatic displays, sometimes cartwheeling, tail-slapping, or belly-flopping. When swimming quickly, they tend to “porpoise” or “dolphin leap” and are often seen clearing the water when they surface to breathe. They are opportunistic feeders and prey on more than 60 species of fish and 20 species of cephalopods.



5 HARBOUR SEAL: *Phoca vitulina*

Harbour seals are found in all coastal areas of British Columbia. Harbour seals are usually spotted within 20km of the coast but are sometimes spotted up to 100km offshore! Harbour seals are generalist eaters, feeding on whichever prey is most abundant and easily accessible in relation to season and region. Preferred prey, however, are medium-sized schooling fish. Most often, squid, octopus, and shrimp are consumed. Harbour seals congregate on haul-outs or large rock areas in groups of males and females, ranging from a few individuals to hundreds. Nearly 1,400 haul-out sites have been identified in the province.

6 **STELLER SEA LION:** *Eumetopias jubatus*

The Steller sea lion is the largest eared seal in the world. Adult males grow 2-3 times the size of females and develop a thick neck and mane with age. Steller sea lions are non-migratory, but individuals may travel considerably from breeding sites. Adult males start arriving at rookeries in early May, establishing territories of around 200 square metres. Sea lions are polygynously competing for space on rookeries and mating with multiple females. Steller's feed on over 50 species of fishes and invertebrates. In BC, prey includes Pacific herring, hake, sand lance, spotted spiny dogfish, Pacific sardine, and salmon. Salmon makes up about 10% of their diet.



7 **SEA OTTER:** *Enhydra lutris*

The sea otter is the most aquatic member of the weasel family. The sea otter's body is entirely covered with thick fur except for the eyes, nose, pads of feet, and small ear flaps. Sea otters are often confused with northern river otters. However, river otters are much smaller, with a long tail, usually swimming belly down, whereas sea otters float on their backs. Sea otters generally rest in groups of individuals called rafts at the surface. Sea otters were hunted to extinction in the 18th and 19th centuries in many areas, but following protection in 1911, populations began to expand. In the 1970s, translocations from Alaska took place, reintroducing sea otters to this coast. Sea otters are in southern BC but they are making a comeback.



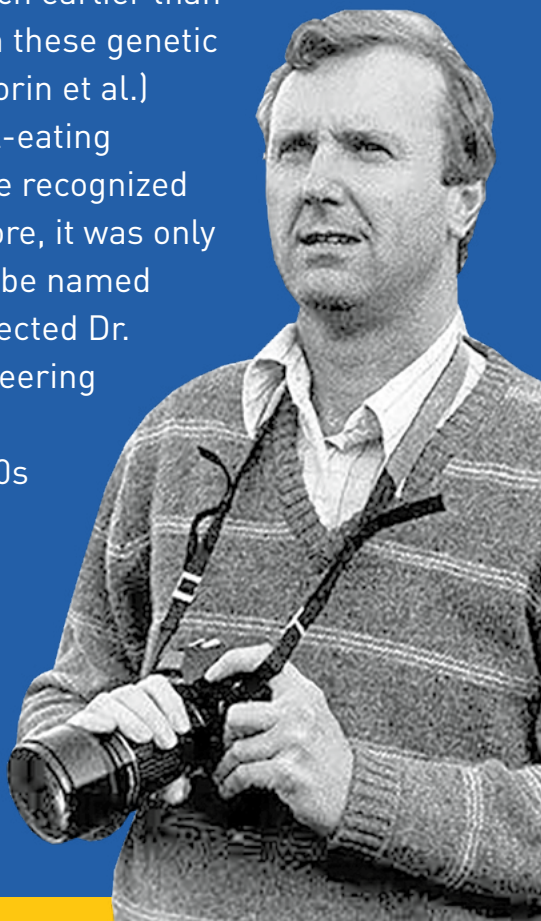
8 **BALD EAGLE:**

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Bald eagles are not actually bald. Instead, the name derives from an older meaning of “white-headed.” The adult is mainly brown with a white head and tail feather. The bald eagle is an opportunistic feeder which subsists mainly on fish, which it swoops down and snatches from the water with its sharp talons. Young eagles are called “eaglets” and are light grey and fluffy when they first hatch. Eagles build the largest nest of any North American bird and the largest tree nest recorded for any animal species, up to one tonne in weight. Sexual maturity comes at the age of four to five years. The feathers on their heads and tails won’t turn white until they’re about four or five years old. The bald eagle is the only eagle exclusive to North America. They are at the top of the food chain and have few natural enemies. The sexes are identical in plumage, but females are about 25 percent larger than males. The yellow beak is large and hooked. The plumage of an immature bald eagle is brown and mottled white. Most of Canada’s bald eagle population is found along the Pacific coast of British Columbia.

DR. MICHAEL BIGG

Dr. Michael Bigg, a marine biologist from Duncan, is known as the founder of modern research on killer whales. A 2010 study found that the mammal-eating ecotype of killer whales (Bigg’s/Transients) diverged from other ecotypes some 70,000 years ago – much earlier than previously thought. Based on these genetic findings, the researchers (Morin et al.) suggested that this mammal-eating population of killer whales be recognized as a distinct species. Therefore, it was only appropriate that the species be named in honour of the greatly respected Dr. Michael Bigg. Dr. Bigg’s pioneering ID research in the Pacific Northwest in the 1970s -1980s revealed that killer whales have distinct populations, minimal numbers within these populations, and, ultimately, that these populations have different cultures.





Telegraph Cove

24 Boardwalk, Telegraph Cove, BC, V0N 3J0

Sustainability is key to the success of our business. We educate our guests about why it is important to protect the environment, where these animals live, and how safe and responsible whale watching aids in the sustainability of these waters.



Prince of Whales donates a minimum of 1% of its annual sales to local conservation initiatives.



Prince of Whales is a Climate Positive designated marine adventure company, enhancing our ongoing commitment to sustainability.

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