



VANCOUVER



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.

CATAMARAN

We have two washrooms on board, which are located on the back deck under either side of the 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 are two black buttons on the side of the sink - press one to fill the toilet with water, and press the other to flush. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

i There are very large steps at each door. Please watch your feet and take a nice big step when moving in and out. The sliding doors at the front of the cabin are extremely heavy; they are not locked, simply give them a good tug when you need to enter or exit.



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!

VANCOUVER

Recent genealogical evidence shows that the ancestors of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam (Xw'muthk'i'um), Tsawwassen, Coquitlam (Kwayhquiltam), Katzie, and Semiahmoo people arrived from Siberia. They arrived at beaches teeming with seafood, forests plentiful with wildlife, and nearby rivers emptying into a vast ocean where large, silvery salmon swim six months out of every year. What is now more commonly known as English Bay was once referred to more commonly as "Ayyulshun," by the First Nations peoples. Ayyulshun translates to "soft under feet."

In the 1870s, Vancouver was just a tiny sawmilling settlement called "Granville." It was incorporated as a city in April 1886 (just before it became the western terminus of the first trans-Canada railway, the Canadian Pacific). It was renamed to honour the English navigator George Vancouver of the Royal Navy, who had explored and surveyed the coast in 1792. Unfortunately, just two months after incorporation, a disastrous fire destroyed the city in less than an hour. However, the city persevered and recovered to become a prosperous port, aided in part by opening the Panama Canal (1914), which made it economically feasible to export grain and lumber from Vancouver to the East Coast of the United States and Europe.

In February and March of 2010, the region enthusiastically hosted the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. More than 2.5 billion people worldwide tuned in to watch 2,600 athletes from 82 nations compete.

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 recognize the differences between Resident and Bigg's/Transient killer whale ecotypes and react very differently to the two.

4 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.



5 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.

6 **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.





GRANVILLE ISLAND

The city of Vancouver was called Granville until it was renamed in 1886, but the former name was kept and given to Granville Street, which spanned the small inlet known as False Creek. The area in which Granville Island is now located was originally a sandbar used by Indigenous populations to capture shellfish. Eventually, a permanent village was established called Señákw (interpreted as “The place inside the head of False Creek”). Starting in 1975, formerly industrial buildings were rejigged for a wide variety of studios, shops, markets, restaurants, and community groups. However, the centrepiece of Granville Island is the Public Market, one of the first buildings to reopen in 1978. Today, the Public Market is the jewel in the Island’s crown. An indoor market featuring a fascinating assortment of colourful food and produce stores, showcasing handcrafted products and the very finest in unique gifts, the Public Market attracts over 10 million visitors each year.



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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