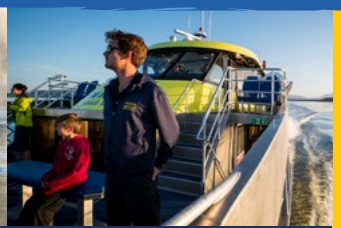




VICTORIA



ENGLISH



Explore

- 1 WELCOME ABOARD

- 2 SAFETY INFORMATION

- 3 HISTORY

- 4 WHO TO WATCH FOR



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!



VICTORIA

Victoria's rugged and pristine wilderness was home to First Nations people for thousands of years. All part of the Saanich Nation of Coast Salish Peoples, the Songhees, Esquimalt, Tsartlip, Tseycum, Pauquachin, Scia'new, Tsawout, and T'Sou-ke Nations are all important bands that have called Southeastern Vancouver Island home, long before Captain James Cook became the first non-Indigenous person to set foot on Vancouver Island in 1778. Many Indigenous families lived on Southern Vancouver Island, each with distinct family group names. These peoples could be separated into three groups, each speaking a different dialect of the North Straits Salish, or Lekwungaynung language. These three groups became known as the Songhees, the Saanich, and the Sooke First Nations. Victoria retains deep ties to Indigenous culture and continues to be the home of several First Nations groups.

Victoria has maintained a vital, but comfortable, quality of life inspired by a relaxed 'island mindset' with its growing regional population, pleasant climate, and scenic setting. Victoria has a wealth of natural and man-made riches, including stunning heritage architecture, ocean views, and mountain vistas. Millions visit our city every year and enjoy the natural beauty, temperate climate, and heritage charm Victoria offers its citizens every day.

WHO TO WATCH FOR

4

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.

1



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 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.



7 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.



RACE ROCKS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Energy and nutrient-rich currents feed this reserve. In addition, light penetration in these shallow, clear waters is excellent. These factors result in the high production of algae and invertebrates, making the marine communities unusually luxuriant and rich here. Many species of algae have been recorded, including extensive stands of bull kelp. Invertebrate features include long-surviving specimens of mussels, an abundance of anemones, sponges, coral, and the presence of showy high-current species like the sea stars.

Marine mammals sighted in the reserve are the killer and gray whale, harbour seal, Steller and California sea lion, elephant seal, and fur seal. The killer whale is a regular visitor to this area. Both Steller and California sea lions have used Race Rocks as a winter haul-out in recent years. Seabirds nest on eight islets in the reserve, including Great Race Rock. Nesting seabirds include pelagic cormorants, glaucous-winged gulls, pigeon guillemots, and black oystercatchers. Illuminated in 1860, it is the only lighthouse on that coast built of rock (granite) purportedly quarried in Scotland. This area is traditional fishing territory for Coast Salish First Nations - called XwaYeN (pronounced shwai'yen).



Victoria

812 Wharf St, Victoria, BC, V8W 1T3

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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