

OCEAN RIVER ADVENTURES



SATURNA ISLAND KAYAK TOUR

(3 hours) Kayaking on Saturna Island in the Gulf Islands!

Our tour leaves from our Saturna Kayak Shack – next to the BC Ferry Terminal Dock, Lyall Harbour, on beautiful Saturna Island.

On this enjoyable tour, we'll paddle through some of the most scenic areas of beautiful Saturna Island. We have more than one route we can offer from this location, and either route will be sure to be a memorable experience!

Our first route will take us past beautiful sandstone rock galleries and sheer rocky cliffs. Home to nesting sea birds and many varieties of Raptor, we often see and hear Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Red tail hawks, Pigeon Guillemots and others. Our paddle continues through Breezy Bay to historic Saturna Beach, where original settler, Warburton Pike, built his house, and our Canada day lamb barbeque has taken place for over 35 years. We will pull up on the beach, do a short interpretive walk around the park, and enjoy a snack. After a short break, we will return to Saturna Kayak Shack.

Our second route will take us to the King Islets, home to rare wild flowers and plants. These Islets are very dry and one of the only places in Canada that are home to the native 'Prickly Pear' cactus. We paddle further to Minx Reef, a very popular haul-out for Harbour Seals. Don't be surprised if a seal comes up right next to your kayak! Next, we will stop at Veruna Bay, a lovely, west-facing, sandy beach, where swimming is a popular activity. If you wish to swim, bring a bathing suit and towel along. After a quick rest and snack (or swim), we will paddle back to our Saturna Kayak Shack.

Tours are weather dependent and we may offer an alternate tour if the wind is too strong.

Itinerary

This tour leaves from Saturna Kayak Shack, next to the BC Ferry Terminal Dock, Lyall Harbour on Saturna Island in the Gulf Islands.

Weather

Weather in southern Vancouver Island is classified as sub-Mediterranean, and this area boasts the mildest climate in Canada. This means our weather is warm, but not too warm, and surprisingly dry. In spring and fall, we often get a mix of sun and cloud—certainly reasonable weather for sea kayaking, as your spraydeck covers the bottom part of your body and can keep it dry even during some rain. Combine this with a light raincoat and hat and you should be comfortable. If you are concerned about being outdoors in cooler weather with the possibility of rain, consider registering in a program that takes place during the summer, rather than the spring or fall. Summer is comfortable paddling weather, with temperatures from 18° to 32°C (65° to 90°F). The average monthly rainfall in summer is less than 2.5 cm (1"). Actually, this particular region is in a rain shadow. However, while this region is in a rain shadow, we're very close to the rainforest, which dominates the northern pacific coast. This means that neighbouring areas experience plenty of rain. As such, you must be prepared for the possibility of rain by bringing adequate clothing. Usually, rain doesn't last very long. We take this all in stride in the great outdoors! Programs run rain or shine.

Equipment List

What You Provide for Your Program

Please read the following equipment list carefully, as it indicates what you will need to bring with you on the tour. Cotton keeps you cold when it's wet, and takes a long time to dry. If possible, bring clothing designed for outdoor wear and made from Merino (wool), silk, or synthetic materials, such as Capilene™, polyester, polypropylene, or nylon.

Ocean River Sports stocks many of the items listed below. If you need advice or would like to purchase gear, check out our website at www.oceanriver.com or call us!

- Eyeglass retainer strap if you wear glasses
- Sunglasses, sunscreen
- A broad-brimmed sun/rain hat
- Clothing like you might wear for a short hike (dress in appropriate layers depending, on the weather). Bring a light rain jacket on days when there is a chance of rain. If you don't have one, we can provide you with a waterproof paddling jacket.
- Low-heeled shoes
- Water and snack (optional)
- A watertight plastic bag for electronics (optional)
- A camera (optional)

If you have an extra bag with you that you would like to store, we have a small storage room located close to the waterfront. Your guides can help you access this room so that you can store extras not needed for your tour. You can pick these up again after your tour.

Preparing for Your Program

Kayaking requires some upper body strength and endurance. If you are lacking this, it is rarely a problem as we don't paddle huge distances, and usually folks get by quite well with only occasional minor muscle aches. However, if you feel you could use some upper body conditioning before your

trip, exercising with light weights can be quite helpful. Concentrate mainly on shoulder strengthening exercises, focusing on endurance rather than strength.

Gratuities

Please let our guide staff know if they have done a good job—tips are accepted and appreciated.

How to Register

Reservations are easy! Simply choose your departure time and date online at www.oceanriveradventures.com. Already in the city? Give us a call and we would be happy to get you out there on our next tour.

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