



Traveling to Your Broughton Archipelago / Johnstone Strait Mothership KAYAKING Adventure

Important points:

- **Columbia III will be moored at the CAB Fuel Dock in Port McNeill (250) 956-4044. See enclosed map.**
- **Board the vessel punctually between 6:00 pm and 6:15 pm. Not earlier, not later.**
- **We serve snacks the first night but not dinner. We suggest you have dinner before boarding.**
- **The Columbia III returns to Port McNeill at approximately 2 pm on the last day of the tour.**

Our Broughton Archipelago / Johnstone Strait Kayaking Adventure begins in the town of Port McNeill, about 200 miles north of Victoria on the east side of Vancouver Island. Here the Columbia III will await your arrival at the CAB Fuel Dock. (250) 956-4044 / 956-3336

Getting to Port McNeill:

There are a number of ways of getting to Port McNeill. The simplest are to fly directly from Vancouver to Port Hardy Regional Airport (a 25 minute drive from Port McNeill), or by seaplane from Seattle to Port McNeill Harbour. Flying time from Vancouver to Port Hardy is about 1.25 hours. Other ways include the combination of car and ferry to Vancouver Island, or bus and ferry to Vancouver Island. Ferry crossing time from Vancouver to Vancouver Island is Approx. 2 hours. Driving time from Nanaimo to Port McNeill is 4.5 hours, or from Victoria to Port McNeill is 6 hours. Another option is to fly to Campbell River Regional Airport (half way between Victoria and Port McNeill) then bus or drive the rest of the way (2.5 hour drive).

By Air:

From Vancouver

Pacific Coastal Airlines: <http://www.pacificcoastal.com>-numerous daily flights to Port Hardy (a town 25 minutes north of Port McNeill) (see Port McNeill Shuttle Bus service below)

From Seattle

Kenmore Air Seaplanes: direct flights to Port McNeill 1-800-543-9595 or 425-486-1257 (in Seattle) <http://kenmoreair.com>

From Calgary, Alberta

West Jet: daily flights to Comox (a town 3.5 hours south of Port McNeill by road) 1-888-937-8538 <http://www.westjet.com>

By Surface:**Ferry services to Vancouver Island:*****From Vancouver***

B.C. Ferries: year round vehicle and passenger service - Routes include: North Vancouver (Horseshoe Bay) to Nanaimo (Departure Bay), South Vancouver (Tsawwassen) to South Nanaimo (Duke Point) and South Vancouver (Tsawwassen) to Swartz Bay (near Victoria). 1-888 223-3779 or outside B.C. 250-386-3431 <http://www.bcferries.com>

From Washington State

M.V. Coho: vehicle and passenger service from Port Angeles WA to downtown Victoria B.C. <http://www.northolympic.com/coho/>

Washington State Ferries: vehicle and passenger service from Anacortes WA to Sidney B.C. (near Victoria) 1-888-808-7977 or 206-464-4600 (Seattle) <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/>

Victoria Clipper: passengers only, downtown Seattle to downtown Victoria B.C. 1-800-888 -2535 <http://www.victoriaclipper.com>

Bus services:***In Vancouver Area***

Greyhound Canada: service from Vancouver's downtown bus station to Port McNeill. Ferry crossing included. 1-800-661-8747 or 604-681-3526 (in Vancouver) <http://www.greyhound.ca>

On Vancouver Island

Island Coach Lines: (a division of Greyhound Canada) frequent service between Victoria, Nanaimo, Campbell River, and Port McNeill 1-800-318-0818 or 250-956-3556 (in Port McNeill) <http://www.victoriatours.com>

The Airport Shuttle Bus: will transport people anywhere on Vancouver Is. 250-286-3000

In Port McNeill

Port McNeill Airport Shuttle: servicing Port Hardy Airport 250-956-8294

North Island Taxi: 250-949-8800

Car Rental Providers:

Budget Car Rentals: 1-800-268-8900 or 250-923-4283

National Car Rentals: 1-800-227-7368 or 250-923-1234

Visiting Vancouver Island:

Many of our guests like to explore Vancouver Island before or after their adventure on the Columbia III. Please contact Tourism Vancouver Island (250)754-3500 or www.islands.bc.ca for ideas and information. Accommodation through out B.C. can be arranged through 1-800-435-5622 or HelloBC.com.

Port McNeill:

For those guests who wish to arrive prior to our Sunday departure, or stay later after our trip, the following accommodations are available in Port McNeill. Further information is also available from: Port McNeill & District Tourist Bureau: (250) 956-3131 or www.portmcneill.net/chamber.

Accommodation in Port McNeill:

- The Beach House (250) 956-4993 ~ 1-877-956-4993
- C-Shasta (250)956-4610 ~ 1-866-956-4610
- Soaring Eagles Bed & Breakfast (250) 956-4729
- Orca Rose (250) 956-4116 ~ 1-866-389-9995
- At Waters Edge (250) 956-2912 ~ 1-866-956-2912

Parking:

If you would like secure parking, contact CAB Industries (250) 956-3336 where the Columbia III is moored, or Sellars Enterprises (250) 956-4162. For free/unsecured parking ask for directions at the boat when you arrive .

Contacting Columbia III:

The Columbia III can be contacted at these cellular numbers:1-888-833-8887 and 250-202-3229. In the case of an **extreme emergency**, the boat can be contacted directly by calling the Canadian Coast Guard in Comox (250) 339-3613. Ask them to send a message to MV Columbia III (quote this number: MMSI# 316-003-614) sailing in the Broughton Archipelago area. We are often off the boat so expect a response to take 12 hours.

The ship's phone is not for guest use.

Meals:

We are happy to accommodate any personal dietary needs including vegetarian and vegan. Wine will be served with the evening meal. If you would like an alternative to alcohol please let us know on your medical form. **Please notify us of any food allergies or needs on the medical form well in advance of your departure date.**

Medical, Allergies, and Other Concerns:

Mail us your completed Medical Form ASAP. Your tetanus vaccination must be up to date (less than 10 years old) before you leave. Be sure to bring enough of your required medications as you will be far from any drug stores. We may encounter minor ocean swells so if seasickness is a concern, please bring anti nausea medication. But rest assured, we travel in very sheltered areas and overnight in calm, protected bays. We do our best to avoid swells and waves!

Weather, Clothing, and Packing:

Our skipper and certified guides will not take you in any weather conditions that are dangerous to you or the group. We will likely encounter some wind and waves (the ocean is not always flat!), but nothing that would compromise the safety of a beginner kayaker.

For maximum comfort, a layering system of lighter “quick-dry” and warmer fleece clothing works best. Merino wool is excellent as well. Avoid cotton which stays wet for a very long time. **Waterproof raingear is essential. When getting in and out of your kayak on shore your feet WILL get wet. We suggest a pair of sturdy water sandals/ shoes.** Sports gloves for paddling

may add to your comfort and help prevent blisters. Proper protection from the sun is **essential** so bring sun glasses, a sun hat, sun block and lip screen. Bring a water bottle. **Staying hydrated in the outdoors is very important.** When aboard the mothership, comfortable casual clothing is nice to change into after paddling.

Consider bringing the items listed on the packing list we provide.

We have waterproof bags (dry bags) onboard that you can use for your cameras or other small items in your kayak if you like. Large Ziploc bags work as well. Hard suitcases are difficult to fit into the small storage compartments on the Columbia III, so if possible, bring your things in soft duffel type bags.

Packing List:

- sun hat / warm hat
- fleece jacket
- windbreaker or shell
- waterproof** rain gear (jacket **and** pants)
- t-shirts, shorts, swimsuit
- warm layered clothing
- shore shoes (for walking or hiking)
- sturdy water sandals/ shoes (for kayaking)
- toiletries
- medications, prescription and non prescription
- beach towel
- day pack
- sunglasses, spare pair of eyeglasses
- sun block, lip screen
- insect repellent
- water bottle
- sports gloves (for use while paddling)
- binoculars, journal, sketchbook (optional)
- waterproof bag
- a good book