



## ***Traveling to Your Desolation Sound/Discovery Islands Kayaking Skills Workshop***

### **Important points:**

- **Columbia III will be moored at the Discovery Harbour Marina in Campbell River (250) 287-2614.**
- **Board the vessel punctually between 6:00 pm and 6:15 pm.  
We serve snacks the first night but not dinner. We suggest you have dinner before boarding.**
- **The Columbia III returns to Campbell River at approximately 2 pm on the last day of the tour.**

Our Discovery Islands Kayaking Skills Workshop begins in the town of Campbell River located about 160 miles north of Victoria on the east side of Vancouver Island. Here the Columbia III will await your arrival at the Discovery Harbour Marina.

### **Getting to Campbell River**

There are a number of ways of getting to Campbell River. The simplest is to fly directly from either Vancouver or Seattle to Campbell River's regional airport. (CYBL) Flying time from Vancouver to Campbell River is approx 45 minutes. Other ways include the combination of either car and ferry or bus and ferry. Ferry crossing time from Vancouver to Vancouver Island is approx. 2 hours. Driving time from Nanaimo to Campbell River is 1.5 hours, or from Victoria to Campbell River is 3.5 hours.

### **By Air**

#### ***From Vancouver***

**Pacific Coastal Airlines:** numerous daily flights to Campbell River 1-800-663-2872 or 604-273-8666 (in Vancouver) <http://www.pacificcoastal.com>

**Central Mountain Air:** daily flights to Campbell River  
1-888-865-8585 or 250-847-5000 <http://www.flycma.com>

**Air Canada:** acts as a booking agent for Pacific Coastal Airlines and Central Mountain Air if an Air Canada ticket has been purchased to a connecting airport. (ie. Vancouver) 1-800-247-2262 (in Canada) or 1-800-776-3000 (in USA) <http://www.aircanada.com>

#### ***From Seattle***

**Kenmore Air Seaplanes:** direct flights to Campbell River 1-800-543-9595 or 425-486-1257  
<http://www.kenmoreair.com>

*From Calgary, Alberta*

**West Jet:** daily flights to Comox (a town 45 minutes south of Campbell River by road) 1-888-937-8538 <http://www.westjet.com>

## **By Surface**

### **Ferry service 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.bcf ferries.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, from downtown Seattle to downtown Victoria B.C.  
1-800-888-2535 <http://www.victoriaclipper.com>

## **Bus Services**

*In Vancouver Area*

**Vancouver airport shuttle:** hourly service from airport to downtown bus station  
1-800-668-3141

**Greyhound Canada:** service from Vancouver's downtown bus station to Campbell River.  
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 and Campbell River 1-800-318-0818 or 250-287-7151 (in Campbell River)  
<http://www.victoriatours.com>

*In Campbell River*

**Campbell River Airporter:** 250-286-3000

**Campbell River Taxi:** 250-287-8294

**Bee Line Taxi:** 250-287-8383

## **Car Rental Services**

**Budget Car Rental:** 1-800-299-3199 or 250-923-4283 (in Campbell River)

**National Car Rental:** 1-800-227-7368 or 250-923-1234 (in Campbell River)

## **Guest Information**

**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](http://www.islands.bc.ca) for ideas and information. Accommodation throughout B.C. can be arranged at 1-800-435-5622 or HelloBC.com.

**Campbell River:**

For those guests who wish to arrive prior to our departure, or stay later after our trip, many hotels and bed & breakfasts are available in Campbell River. Further information is also available from: Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce: (250) 287-4636 or [www.campbellriverchamber.ca](http://www.campbellriverchamber.ca).

**Parking:**

There is a variety of parking available. Please ask for directions at the boat when you arrive.

**Meeting Columbia III:**

The Columbia III will be moored at the Discovery Harbour Marina (250-287-2614), between the Superstore and the Zellers behind the Rip Tide Pub.

**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 Discovery Islands 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 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. A dry suit is highly recommended. A wet suit is second best. 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:**

- dry suit (or wet suit)
- 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

