



ADVENTURES
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SAN JUAN ISLANDS EXPLORATION

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sea kayaking in the beautiful archipelago of the San Juan Islands
- Visiting a world class lavender farm
- Hiking up Young's Hill and visiting a National Historic Park
- Seeing a variety of wildlife such as seals, bald eagles and much more
- Hiking Mount Constitution with 360-degree views of the islands at the summit
- Sailing through the islands on a wooden sailing boat
- Experiencing island life on two different islands: San Juan and Orcas Island

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

- Location:** San Juan Islands, WA
- Activities:** Paddling
- Arrive:** The trip starts in the lobby of our Seattle hotel at 4PM on Day 1.
- Depart:** Our trip ends back in Seattle. We will catch a ferry and drive to the airport together on the last day. You can plan for flights out after 4:30PM on the last day.

Trip Overview

The San Juan Islands, located off of Washington State, are known as one of the most spectacular island archipelagos in the country. Craggy coasts, deep blue-green waters with abundant sea-life, and pastoral landscapes abound. Known as one of the best sea kayaking places in America, it also offers interesting small towns, a rich human history, diverse marine and bird wildlife, scenic hiking, and a unique opportunity to learn how to sail a traditional wooden schooner. Our trip starts and ends in Seattle and if you have never visited Seattle in July, you'll find out why everyone falls in love with it. Maximum group size: 12

Rating

The trip is rated 2 and is appropriate for any active woman who regularly walks briskly for exercise and wants a vacation that mixes being active in the outdoors with learning about the human and natural history of the area. No prior kayaking experience is needed. Prior to beginning the trip, participants should be walking regularly, including hills or stairs, at a **brisk** pace 3 to 4 days a week for 35 - 45 minutes. **Rating:** 1 [\[2\]](#) 3 4 5.

What's Included

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- Seven nights double occupancy lodging
- All meals as listed on the itinerary
- Two days and one half-day of sea kayaking
- A full day learning to sail on a traditional wooden schooner
- All transportation once you arrive in Seattle and transportation back to the airport (SeaTac) at the end of the trip

What's not included: Travel insurance, guide gratuities and meals as excluded on the itinerary

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Fly into Seattle during the day today and take the convenient and free hotel airport shuttle to our hotel for the first night. Aim to be at the hotel by early evening in order to meet the group for an orientation meeting at 7PM. Wondering what to do if you have some free time in Seattle? Grab a book, take a look! Seattle is the most literate city in the U.S., and it shows in its abundant bookstores and coffee shops. If you have time, you could also check out the Space Needle, Pike Place Market, Museum of Pop Culture and the Chihuly Garden and Glass. Overnight Holiday Inn Express or similar.

DAY 2

Meet at 7AM in the lobby of the hotel. The group will embark on a 2.5 hours drive north to the Anacortes Ferry. The ferry ride is approximately an hour long to Friday Harbor. Lunch is on your own today and your guides can point you in the right direction for purchasing something tasty prior to ferry departure. Once on San Juan, our adventure kicks off with a kayak tour of Griffin Bay. After an introduction to kayak safety and touring techniques, we will set off on a 2 to 3-hour kayak adventure. This is an ideal first kayak in a uniquely peaceful environment with superb views of glacier-covered Mt. Baker and the Olympic Mountain Range. We will explore picturesque Dinner Island and its resident colony of chubby harbor seals, then turn south toward quiet coves. We may see bald eagles, Dall's or Harbor porpoise, river otters, mink and migratory seabirds such as scoters, harlequin ducks, loons and mergansers along with our local herons, cormorants, gulls and kingfishers! After getting checked into our lodgings and cleaning up, we will head back to Friday Harbor for a relaxing dinner and sunset over the water. Overnight: Friday Harbor, Earthbox Inn. (B, D)

DAY 3

This morning we will see the San Juan Archipelago from the perspective of a traditionally gaff-rigged sailboat. Wooden boats run deep in the heritage of this area, from native canoes to tall sailing ships to the modern-day wooden boat renaissance. We'll get a rare opportunity to learn to sail a traditional schooner and work together to handle the lines and take the helm during a full day sailing trip. As we sail the channels and visit the quiet bays and inlets, we'll be sharing the waters with orcas, otters, seals and porpoises as well as a plethora of other sea life and aquatic birds. Our on-board naturalists will share stories and life histories of the fascinating local environment and wildlife. This afternoon we'll visit a world class lavender farm just down the road from our lodging. Overnight: Friday Harbor, Earthbox Inn (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Today we'll enjoy a scenic drive to San Juan Island's west side and launch our kayaks into prime orca whale country! We'll have a picnic lunch along the way. For a different perspective, we'll take a short walk on a spectacular coastal trail and, from an elevated viewpoint, enjoy nothing but islands and ocean as far as the eye can see. Diverse wildlife, stunning vistas, and spectacular coastline are the highlights today. Wildlife can be seen in the sky, in the sea or on the shore, so bring your cameras and binoculars. Overnight: Friday Harbor, Earthbox Inn. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

This morning we see the island from another perspective with a steep but rewarding short hike up Young Hill (the hike is optional and those that wish can relax at the inn this morning instead) and a stroll around the National Historical Park, English Camp. When the maritime boundary could not be settled swiftly in 1859, Great Britain and the United States each set up a military camp on opposite sides of the island to wait out the dispute. Here we can explore where the British troops occupied San Juan Island for 12 years.

Then we will take some time to explore Friday Harbor with lunch on your own, a great chance to experience the bustling seaport teeming with galleries and museums. After lunch, we will take a short ferry to Orcas Island which is slightly larger, but less populated, than San Juan Island. Orcas Island is shaped like a pair of saddlebags, separated by the fjord-like Eastsound. Overnight: Eastsound Village, Landmark Condominiums. (B, D)

DAY 6

Today we get back in our kayaks to paddle through emerald waters to Sucia Island. Among the northernmost of the San Juan Islands, this horseshoe-shaped island is accessible only by watercraft. Boaters venturing into its coves and harbors quickly discover why Sucia Island is considered the crown jewel in the state marine park system. The main island, surrounded by picturesque rocks and smaller islands, gave pause to the Spanish explorers who navigated its waters in 1791. They called it "sucia" or "dirty," describing navigational obstacles such as the rocks around the island. The island and its waters are, in fact, pristine, and the satellite rocks make for interesting kayaking and beautiful vistas. Overnight: Eastsound Village. (B, L, D)

DAY 7

After a delicious breakfast, we'll drive to Moran State Park for a hike to the high point on the San Juan Islands - Mount Constitution. At the summit we can climb the stone observation tower, patterned after a medieval watch tower, for panoramic views of the surrounding islands, the Cascade Mountains and on a clear day Mount Baker, Mount Rainier and Vancouver, B.C. The majority of the San Juan Islands are quite hilly, with some flat areas and valleys in between, often quite fertile. The coastlines are a mix of sandy and rocky beaches, shallow and deep harbors, placid and reef-studded bays. Gnarled, ochre-colored madrone trees grace much of the shorelines, while evergreen fir and pine forests cover large inland areas. Hiking 6.7-7.7 miles, 1500-foot elevation gain. Overnight: Eastsound Village, Orcas Island. (B, L, D)

DAY 8

Today we must say goodbye to these beautiful islands. We will catch a morning ferry back to the mainland. From there we will drive together back to Sea-Tac Airport. You can plan your flight out for any time after 4:30 p.m. If you want to extend your adventure you can take the light rail into Seattle from the airport. (B)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

The airport in Seattle (SeaTac) is served by all major airlines and is a bustling hub. You can fly into Seattle any time on Day 1. Hotel check in starts at 3PM. If you arrive early, you can take the light rail to downtown Seattle from the airport.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

Accommodations

The first night is in a modern and convenient hotel close to the airport. The next 3 nights are at the [Earthbox Inn](#) in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island. The double-occupancy rooms are classic retro chic with small kitchenettes. The Inn also has an indoor swimming pool. The next three nights we stay on Orcas Island at the [Landmark Condos](#), each with 2 bedrooms and one bath, living room and kitchen. Rooms are an assortment of shared and individual rooms (which will be assigned randomly) and all have shared bathrooms.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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