

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2010

July 12-18
July 26-August 1
August 2-8

Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any day. Call or email for details.

2011

July 11-17
July 25-31
August 1-7

Trip Size

8-16 participants

Total Days:

7 days/ 6 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Victoria/Vancouver

Activity Level:

Moderate
30-50+ km
(20-30+ miles) daily
van supported

Terrain:

Gently rolling with some short steep hills.

Gulf Islands, Biking

Biking in an Archipelago of Natural Wonders

Tucked protectively between the mainland of southwestern B.C. and Vancouver Island is an archipelago of islands known as the Canadian Gulf Islands. Each has its own charm, with natural history and coastal scenery unique in North America.

Starting from Victoria, we visit the islands of Saltspring, Galiano and Mayne as we explore the pastoral island life. Whether by bike, on foot, or by kayak, you will be seduced by this unique island charm. We'll stay in inns and hotels that are welcoming and dine on inspired northwestern cuisine.

Only Great Explorations:

- Small groups, extraordinary guides, and authentic experiences.
- Dinner at the atmospheric Treehouse Restaurant, on Saltspring where you will be entertained by musicians under the stars.
- A picnic at Lighthouse Park on Mayne Island, where whales may be spotted offshore.
- Order off the menu at restaurants you won't find in guidebooks.
- Distinctive, charming hotels too small for larger groups.
- We design and operate our own trips so there are only good surprises.

Itinerary



Getting there:

Victoria, the beautiful capital city of British Columbia, is easily accessible by ferry from Vancouver, and Seattle, Washington.

DAYS 1+2:

Saltspring Island - Meet in Victoria. We cycle north along a cycle path to Swartz Bay before crossing by ferry to Saltspring Island. Lots to see and do in

Ganges, full of artisan shops and galleries. The 2nd day we'll ride a route that gives us outstanding views of Trincomali Channel with the snow-capped Coast Range mountains as a back-drop. We'll dine in Ganges at the best restaurants on the island.

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Cost

Land Cost (current year):
CAD \$1950/US \$1650
Includes 6B/2L/5D

Single Supplement:
CAD \$400/US \$340

Bike Rental:
CAD \$140/US \$120



DAYS 3+4:

Galiano Island - After a ride out to Long Harbor, we'll ferry over to Sturdies Bay, Galiano where the options for riding are many. For hikers, we'll lead a walk up to the top of Mt. Galiano, where views are outstanding. We'll dine out one evening at the Hummingbird Inn, with local entertainment and the other in our comfortable lodge.

DAYS 5+6:

Mayne Island - We'll ferry across Active Pass to reach Village Bay, and cycle the quiet roads through temperate rainforest on this enchanting island. You'll want to have lunch on the deck of the Springwater Lodge where fresh fish never tasted better. You will also want to visit Georgina Point Marine Park where you might glimpse whales off of Lighthouse Point. The highlight of our stay here will no doubt be the Ocean Wood Country Inn.

DAY 7: For those departing, we decided the best way to end a trip like this was to offer a scenic flight by sea-plane back to Vancouver (unless we can talk you into a couple of additional days).



What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

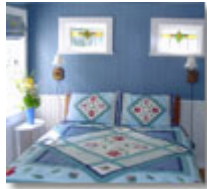
- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 6 nights lodging
- all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off including sea-plane flight to Vancouver at end of trip (see arrive/depart cities)

Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 5% must be charged on trips in Canada.

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

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Accommodations



The Old Farmhouse, Salt Spring Island

This beautifully restored Victorian style Bed & Breakfast was built in 1894 and sits amid 3 rolling acres of meadows and orchards. All bedrooms in the adjoining guesthouse feature a private balcony or patio. Breakfast is served in the intimate dining room and will be a memorable experience. Ganges town center is a short cycle away.



Woodstone Lodge, Galiano Island

This award-winning, timeless country inn sits in a secluded valley amid rustic forests and sweeping grasslands. Each of the guest rooms here features antiques, oriental carpets, and original artwork. The Library Lounge, with its welcoming stone fireplace, is a favourite area to unwind. Explore the beauty of Mount Galiano and Bluffs Park - mere walking distance from the inn.



Oceanwood Inn, Mayne Island

This secluded inn, located in a private cove, boasts 10 acres of waterfront with beautiful gardens. Each room in this cozy English country house shares its own features: an intimate bedroom or a suite with a sunken living room; a whirlpool tub with ocean view; a private deck; an outdoor soaking tub. Dine in the award-winning restaurant known for serving outstanding Northwest cuisine.