



MOONDANCE

SEA KAYAK ADVENTURES

You are about to embark on an adventure filled with the natural beauty of sparkling coastal islets, abundant and extraordinary inter tidal life, and the haunting of ancient native living. The enclosed information should help you prepare for a comfortable and memorable experience. If you have any questions feel free to call or contact me via email. I look forward to sharing an awesome trip with you!

~Sharmon Hill

Directions to the launch site:

- Your destination is **Toquart Bay** on Vancouver Island.

Preliminary drive:

- Once you arrive at **Interstate 5** on the west side of Washington, follow it **north** to the US-Canadian border. To cross the border you will need a picture ID and birth certificate or passport. Apples, oranges, mace, and weapons are not allowed across the border in either direction.
- Follow Canada Highway 99 to the **Tswwassen Ferry exit**. There are 2 exits. The first is the Ladner Trunk Rd. the second puts you directly on **Hwy 17**. Either exit will get you to the ferry. Check www.mapquest.com under Tswwassen, BC, Canada for a visual map.
- At the ferry, take the **Duke Point/Tsawwassen** lane. The charge for this crossing one way is around \$40 CDN for a vehicle and \$10 per person. They accept VISA but also give you a good exchange rate on your US dollar. Check www.bcferrries.com for a schedule. Reservations can be made for an additional \$15CDN each way. (I usually pay this on my way over-coming back I am so relaxed I don't care if I get "bumped") If you make a reservation be sure to arrive ½ hour ahead to secure it. Without a reservation, plan to be in line at least an hour ahead.
- The ferry ride is 2 hours. Sit back and enjoy or wander around and keep a look out for Orca whales or porpoise!
- **Now you are on Vancouver Island!** Either choose to spend the night in Nanaimo. Port Alberni, or a Provincial Park along the way or drive all the way to our launch site at Toquart Bay and camp there. Toquart Bay campsite offers awesome views, pit toilets and picnic tables.

From Duke Point, plan on a 4½ -5 hour drive to Toquart Bay including stops and grocery shopping.

- From Duke Point, take **Hwy 19 north** towards Parksville then **Hwy 4 west** to Port Alberni. This takes about 1½ hours.
- **Port Alberni** is your last chance for a major grocery store.

- Stay on **Hwy 4** towards Tofino. There is a nice rest stop about 40 minutes away at Taylor River.
- Now here's where it gets tricky, **in about 25 miles from the Taylor River rest stop there is a turn off for Toquart Bay** on the left side of the road. You will just be coming to Kennedy Lake on the right. There is a sign at this turnoff, but you could easily miss it if you blink.
- You are now 10 miles away from the launch site, but this can be a long 10 miles because it is a dirt logging road. So if you care about your vehicle, you may want to take it slow. **Leave yourself 30 minutes.**

DAY 1 OF THE KAYAK ADVENTURE!

- We will **meet at Toquart Bay at 1:00 pm**. This gives you a chance to drive from Nanaimo or any point in between that morning. I will be waiting for you on the first beach that you see when you arrive! There is a large area for parking at a charge of about \$4 per day US. Arranging to carpool to this site will help minimize impact and save costs.
- After our initial greetings and becoming acquainted we will unload the vehicles and pack up the boats. **We could be on the water by 3:00 pm!**
- Our initial paddle will be about 2 hours. **Let the journey begin!**

DAY 2, 3, 4, 5, OR 6 OF THE KAYAK ADVENTURE

- These days will be spent drifting, paddling, languishing, exploring. There may be some sun, there may be some rain, and there may be some wind. I have provided you with a suggested list of clothing and equipment to help you plan for a comfortable, full, and safe experience. One of my goals for the trip is to give you the opportunity to experience this wild and beautiful realm at your desired pace. We will generally plan our time as a group, but there will be plenty of flexibility built-in to accommodate your individual needs.

LAST DAY OF THE KAYAK ADVENTURE

- Packing up! Hopefully by now you are brimming over with the sights, sounds and wonder of these resplendent islands with all its mystery. This final day we will pack up and paddle out leaving enough time to savor the moments as our islands drift away.
- Returning to the launch site by 12 noon should give you enough time to pack up and catch the 5:45 ferry leaving Duke Point. Of course, you may want to linger on Vancouver Island for another day. It is not far to the coastal communities of Tofino or Uclulet where accommodations abound.

Suggested reading:

Alberni Prehistory, by Alan McMillan & Denis St. Claire
 Wisdom of the Elders, by Ruth Kirk
 Cedar, by Hilary Stewart
 Barkley Sound, by Bruce Scott
 White Slaves of the Nootka, by Heritage House
 Daughters of Copper Woman, by Anne Cameron