

Bicycle Tours in Canada: Bicycling British Columbia's Islands in the Wild (TourzPlus™)

OVERVIEW

Welcome to our "Islands in the Wild" bicycling tour. This trip has been designed to help you get the most enjoyment out of your visit to the Canadian Southwest Coast: a place so full of beauty and natural splendour that it defies description - where every day brings fresh discoveries and renewed awe. Lush, evergreen rainforests, shimmering emerald sea, secluded bays, fjords, towering mountains with snow-capped peaks and the beautiful city of Vancouver are the backdrop for our island hopping adventure. Small ferries connect islands and coast across waterways and inlets. Witness the dramatic natural beauty and abundance of marine life while riding on peaceful roads or hiking to remote beaches. For one day we will embark on an introductory level sea kayak excursion to see the islands from a whole new perspective. After days filled with adventure, bicycling and discovery you will be treated to cozy Bed & Breakfasts where you may relax in an ocean side hot tub and will enjoy excellent West Coast cuisine.

Learn more about our [TourzPlus™ partner tours](#) and how they differ from regular ExperiencePlus! bicycle tours.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sunshine Coast, Desolation Sound, Sea kayaking, Salt Spring, Beaver Point, Mt. Wilcox, Coastal Hwy 101

TOUR FACTS

Tour Style	■ TourzPlus: Learn more about our TourzPlus tours at https://www.experienceplus.com/choosing-the-best-tour/styles/tourzplus
Includes	Use of a 27 speed lightweight hybrid bike, 5 nights accommodation in spectacular lodges and B&Bs, 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners (no alcohol), snacks, Sea kayak rental and lesson, ferry tickets, professional guides
Countries	Canada
Begin/End	Vancouver
Arrive/Depart	Vancouver Int'l Airport (YVR)
Total Distance	141 - 166 miles (230 - 270 km) plus hiking and kayaking
Avg. Daily Distance	14 - 34 miles (22 - 55 km) per riding day
Tour Level	▶▶▶▶▶
Keep in Mind	We work hard to maintain consistency across all of our tours, but some trips have unique differences. Here are some things to keep in mind about this tour. Wonderful bicycling, cozy B&Bs, excellent cuisine

Please Note: We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the ■ [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/bike-tours/canada/bicycling-british-columbias-islands>

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DATES & PRICES

DAILY RIDE SUMMARY

Day	Distance/Gain	Terrain	Day Level	Notes
1	64km / 0m (40mi / 0ft)			
2	90km / 0m (56mi / 0ft)			
3	0km / 0m (0mi / 0ft)			
4	35km / 0m (22mi / 0ft)			
5	80km / 0m (50mi / 0ft)			
6	0km / 0m (0mi / 0ft)			

Bicycle Tours in Canada: Bicycling British Columbia's Islands in the Wild (TourzPlus™)**Vancouver****DAY 1**

Highlights Sunshine Coast, the famous coastal Hwy 101

After meeting at Canada Place on the Vancouver waterfront we shuttle to Horseshoe Bay, where we board the ferry and take a 45-minute ride across Howe Sound to the Sunshine Coast. We'll hop on our bikes and begin our ride in Gibsons, famous from the TV series "Beachcombers". This is the northern most part of world famous Hwy 101, which takes us along the ocean and through evergreen forests toward Pender Harbour. In the evening we take a harbour ferry to a beautiful seaside restaurant.

Distance 64 km (40 mi)

Meals Lunch, Dinner

Desolation Sound Resort**DAY 2**

Highlights Tidal rapids, Fjord cruise, Desolation Sound Resort

We start the day with a hike to Skookumchuck Narrows to witness one of the most powerful tidal rapids in the world or with a bike ride to Jervis Inlet. Afterwards we are treated to a 50-minute mini-cruise across this spectacular Fjord. On the following stretch of Hwy 101 we ride through some of the most pristine marine wilderness on the West Coast. We will settle into luxurious Desolation Sound Resort, our home for the next two nights, before we top off the day with a gourmet dinner at the Laughing Oyster restaurant.

Distance 90 km (56 mi)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Desolation Sound**DAY 3**

Highlights Sea kayaking

Desolation Sound is famous for its coastal wilderness, warm waters and an abundance of marine wildlife. The best way to explore this area is by sea kayak. This will be our mode of transportation today. The kayak, dubbed the "bicycle of the ocean", will allow us to explore the coastline of Desolation Sound with its cliffs, beaches and coves from a totally new perspective. Kayaking is easy and beginner friendly. Our guides will help you get settled into your new mode of transportation. There is plenty of opportunity to sample the famous Malaspina Oysters right off the beach while kayaking.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Bicycle Tours in Canada: Bicycling British Columbia's Islands in the Wild (TourzPlus™)**Salt Springs**

Highlights Salt Springs one of the best little art towns in North America, Mediterranean microclimate

Another day, another cruise. This time it's 80 minutes across the Strait of Georgia toward Vancouver Island. With a little luck we should encounter orcas or dolphins while onboard. Once we land we'll shuttle to Crofton where we take another short ferry ride to Salt Spring Island, the largest of the Gulf Islands. The warm Japan current, the protection of encircling islands and the Olympic Mountain rain shadow, all contribute to a temperate Mediterranean microclimate - the best weather in Canada! Salt Spring is not only Canada's most famous artist haven, it was chosen as one of the best little art towns in North America. In the afternoon we bicycle along the coastline around the northern part of this beautiful island, before settling into our lovely B&B. In the evening you have the opportunity to sample local fare on your own.

Ganges

Highlights Beaver Point, beautiful ride and optional hike

Today we cycle south on quiet winding roads toward Beaver Point in Ruckle Park. On our way, you may stop at one of more than 30 home studios (potters, painters, sculptors, candle makers and more) that are hidden among the hills, farms and forests. After a delicious lunch with awesome ocean views at Beaver Point you have two options: You can hop on your bike again and take the coastal route back to Ganges or you join our guide for a little hike in Ruckle Park and take the shuttle afterwards.

Back to Vancouver

Highlights Views from Mt. Wilcox

Today we hike through some beautiful old growth forest to the highest point in the Gulf Islands. The view from 680-meters-high Mt. Wilcox is breathtaking and stretches as far as the Olympic peninsula and the Juan de Fuca Strait to the West and Vancouver and Mt. Baker to the East. After a mountaintop lunch we will return by van to Ganges where you will have some more time to explore artists studios. In the afternoon we will have to say goodbye to our Island paradise and return by ferry to Vancouver. Arrival in Vancouver around 6.00 p.m.

DAY 4

Distance 35 km (22 mi)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5

Distance 80 km (50 mi)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6

Meals Breakfast, Lunch