



Program Information Package

The Whale Migration Trip in Barkley Sound

Program Description

SKILS in partnership with Hello Nature, are super stoked to be offering the Whale Migration Trip. The herring spawn is one of the most spectacular natural events that occurs annually on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Each year, millions of herring migrate from the open ocean to coastal areas. This spawning event usually colours the water white and draws an enormous number of predators and scavengers to feed on the herring and the eggs. Grey whales, humpbacks and orcas are joined by sea lions, seals, bears, wolves and sea birds, all taking advantage of the feast. This two day overnight trip puts us at the heart of the Barkley Sound herring spawn, witnessing the feeding frenzy, with great opportunities to see grey whales and other marine life.

Program Logistics

The evening before your tour departs we would like to meet with you at our office in Ucluelet to give you your dry bags, try on paddling gear and go over any last minute details.

Goals and Expectations

The main goals of the trips are enjoying stunning wildlife, gourmet food and a unique wilderness experience on a beautiful island that we have exclusive rights to use. This tour will satisfy everyone from active adventurers to those seeking a more relaxed vacation. Our itinerary will be determined by the weather and needs of the group.

What is provided

This trip is fully catered. All your meals, snacks, desserts, and hot drinks are provided, starting with lunch on the first day and ending with lunch on the second day. You will be blown away by the quality of the food and beverages on the trip! We are not kidding! To give you top of the line comfort while in camp and on the water your tour includes everything you will need for this unique adventure such as high quality fiberglass kayaks with a rudder or a skeg, a spacious MSR Mutha Hubba tent, Exped sleeping mat and a Helinox cot and beach chair. You will only need to bring personal items and a sleeping bag! If you are not travelling with a sleeping bag, we can provide you with a clean and comfortable sleeping bag for a small additional fee.

The Weather

The weather is variable at all times on the West coast; during the expedition we can expect sun, rain and wind in varying amounts. Please come prepared. The water temperature varies from 10 degrees Celsius to 12 degrees Celsius in the Spring. Bring warm clothing. We can rent you a drysuit or a wetsuit if required.

Program Outline

Day 1

We will meet at the kayak launch at Secret Beach Campground at 9 am to load our gear and head out. We will assist you with how to fit everything into the kayaks. Your guide will do a safety pre-trip talk, explaining and demonstrating the fundamentals of kayaking. You will learn or review how to get in and out, proper sitting position, paddle

techniques, what to do in an emergency and of course answer any questions or concerns you might have. Your guide will assist you if needed with launching your kayak. Never be shy of asking questions, whether about safety, kayaking, the sea and wildlife we encounter or the forest ecology. Our guides have been working in this part of the world for many years and are very knowledgeable about kayaking and about the area. Our itinerary will be determined by group ability and weather. We are aiming to paddle 4-6 hours per day leaving plenty of time for wildlife viewing and for relaxing. There will be plenty of opportunities to take photos, have a snack or to go for that washroom break. Our goal is comfort, we believe that fun and adventure shouldn't be painful or too strenuous. We will stop for a lunch break and your guide will prepare a delicious meal while you kick back, relax and take in the surrounding beauty. Once we arrive on our chosen campsite your guide will point out all facilities and campsites and assist you with setting up your tent. Snacks and hot drinks will be served after camp is set up. Dinner will be served between 6 and 7 pm. After a wholesome meal and dessert, we look forward to bonding through everyone pitching in to cleanup. All designated campsites permit campfires. Storytelling around the fire or enjoying time alone is your choice but before we all say good night, we will have a quick briefing with the whole group regarding the next day's schedule.

Day 2

On the final kayaking day we aim to have breakfast between 7 and 9 am. We will paddle in different locations within the Sound, concentrating on where the whales are feeding. We'll enjoy lunch on one of the beautiful islands. There will be opportunity to discover intertidal life and explore old-growth forests. After paddling for the day, we will arrive back at Secret Beach, unpack kayaks and travel back to Ucluelet for 4-5 pm. We will exchange email addresses and hugs so we can share photos and keep in touch.