



**OUTER SHORES**

EXPEDITIONS

BC •  • CA

# Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

5-days navigating more than 300 islands and islets in an astonishingly rich cultural and wilderness environment

*With exploration of ancient cultures and coastal rainforests*

## 2020 Edition



### Discover

The Nuu-chah-nulth cultural heritage of Barkley Sound and the Broken Group Islands

### Encounter

Black bears, grey whales, sea otters, and orca

### Learn

About the fascinating archaeological research in this region



# Pacific Rim National Park

Vancouver Island's West Coast

Our expeditions to the west coast of Vancouver Island explore and experience the wildlife, wilderness and rich Nuu-chah-nulth cultural heritage of Barkley Sound and the Broken Group Islands, an archipelago of more than 300 islands and islets long considered the jewel of the Pacific Rim National Park.

## At a Glance

Spring is a spectacular time to discover the many wonders of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Aboard the Schooner Passing Cloud and through shore walks, zodiac and kayak excursions, we'll explore the vast diversity of the Broken Group's many islands, beaches, shores, old-growth rainforests, rocky intertidal zones, kelp forest communities, estuaries and fjords of this incredible region, while partnering with local Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nations, researchers and historians to learn about its ancient and intact cultural heritage. We'll arrive to the region earlier in season in hopes to catch a glimpse of the herring spawn phenomenon which attracts a feeding-frenzy of species, including emerging black bears from hibernation, bald eagles and other birds of prey, whales, seals, sea lions, and an incredible array of seabirds. We'll also hope to catch the tail end of one of the longest migrations of any mammal – the grey whale, that pass through these waters from mid-March to early May.

5-days / 4-nights

2020 departures: April 1, 6, 12, 18

Price per person: **\$2,800 CAD**

Departs from / Returns to: Ucluelet

### What's Included?

All meals, accommodation, transportation, user fees, use of onboard gear and resources, rubber boots.

### What's not included?

5% GST, travel and accommodation before and after the expedition, gratuities, any personal expenses incurred due to weather, logistical delays, delayed departures of chartered aircraft, taxis, ferries.

CLAYOQUOT SOUND

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER

Port Alberni

VANCOUVER ISLAND

BARKLEY SOUND

Ucluelet

BROKEN GROUP ISLANDS UNIT  
PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Bamfield



*"We continue to be in awe of all of the experiences you devise for these trips, from the big seascapes with rainbows, whales, and native villages, and ancient fish weirs, to life in small coastal communities. We love all of it, the camaraderie, superb food, and sailing at 8.9 knots!"*

- Sharon and Hans, Outer Shores' Travellers

## Sample Itinerary: Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

Day  
1

### Ucluelet Aquarium, Embark the Passing Cloud

Our expedition to Pacific Rim National Park begins with a 10:00 AM tour of the award-winning Ucluelet Aquarium, where we'll learn about the amazing marine life that inhabits the waters of Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds. Almost all the specimens are collected from the nearby waters and seasonally released back into the ocean. We'll meet with the curator to find out more about the Aquarium's work in progress. Afterwards we'll board the schooner *Passing Cloud* in time for lunch, settle into our accommodations, and set sail for Barkley Sound. As we sail through Macoah Passage we'll be on the lookout for spawning herring and the grey whales, seabirds, and sea lions that congregate here to feast on this ecological bonanza. Tonight, we'll anchor in a small group of islands just outside the National Park Reserve where we have a good chance of spotting coastal black bears. We'll also set our prawn and crab traps for a taste of fresh local seafood.



Day  
2

### Broken Group Islands, Dodd- Willis-Turtle Lagoon

This morning we'll drift our inflatable boat into a small nearby estuary and salmon stream. We'll explore the forest and look for the black bears that come here in the spring to feed on grasses and shellfish. This is also a great time of year to watch for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Back aboard the ship, we'll enjoy lunch as we travel into the Broken Group Islands Unit of Pacific Rim. We'll drop anchor in a natural lagoon between Dodd, Willis, and Turtle Islands and take the opportunity to sea kayak, zodiac tour, and shore walk, exploring the old growth forest and white-sand beaches found here. We'll view and discuss the deep shell middens, stone fish traps and ancient clam gardens we encounter here, built by the Tseshaht First Nation over the thousands of years they've inhabited this region.





Day  
4

## Wouwer, Benson, and Dicebox Islands, Great Tidepool

This morning we'll sail back to the Broken Group Islands, keeping a close lookout for the humpback and grey whales, harbour porpoises, and occasionally orcas that frequent these waters. We're also hoping to encounter some of the newest arrivals to Barkley Sound, the sea otter population that is currently re-colonizing this region. We'll discuss how these "ecosystem engineers" are rapidly transforming kelp forest and fish communities throughout the BC coast. We'll explore a kelp forest via our inflatable boat and sea kayaks and go ashore on Wouwer Island to examine ancient stone fish traps at the "Great Tidepool" before sailing past an outstanding sea lion haul-out site later in the day. After lunch we'll travel to Benson Island to tour the ancient village site of "C'isaa", birthplace of the Tseshaht First Nation, that was occupied for at least 5000 years. Here we will see the large shell middens that are the result of thousands of years of marine subsistence at this site. Later this morning we'll cruise past the tiny ancient "fortress island" of Dicebox Island and learn about archaeological research conducted here.



Day  
3

## Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, Deer Group Islands

An early morning beach walk kicks-off Day 3, as we take advantage of the low tide to explore the world of diverse creatures like giant green anemones, lemon nudibranchs, bat stars, giant gumboot chitons, frilled dog whelks, peanut worms, purple encrusting sponges and iridescent seaweeds. We follow up our morning of discovery with a hot breakfast, fresh coffee, and tea as we prepare to heave anchor and sail across Imperial Eagle Channel to the historic fishing community of Bamfield. Here we'll stroll the boardwalk and visit the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. We'll go ashore for a guided tour of the Kiixin Village and Fortress National Historic Site of Canada, the only known remaining traditional village site in Southwestern BC. We'll discover hose deposits, Midden beaches, and ancient poles telling the story of a once-bustling community of the Huu-ay-aht people. In the past, the Huu-ay-aht drew all they required from the wilderness and wildlife of this exceptionally productive environment. We'll anchor for the night in the Deer Group Islands.



Day  
5

## Disembark at Ucluelet

Looking to squeeze every last drop out of this expedition, we will take a final morning shore walk or zodiac excursion before heaving anchor and heading back to Ucluelet, all the while keeping our eyes peeled for more sea otters, whales and seabirds as we return to port to say our reluctant farewells prior to disembarkation.



If you have any questions about our expeditions, or a specific detail about the expedition you have booked, please let us know by phone or visit our website for more information.

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