

SMALL GROUP NINE-DAY PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR WITH MARK KILLER WHALES ALONG THE COAST OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

Two trips in September 2019

Very limited places – only 9 passengers per trip (plus Mark)

Non-photographers are welcome, too, of course – but only if you fancy spending lots of time watching killer whales!



About our trip

The Salish Sea is a large, biologically-rich, sheltered sea shared between British Columbia and Washington State. An intricate network of coastal waterways, with hundreds of islands and islets (including the famous San Juan Islands), it is the core summer and autumn range of a well known community of killer whales called the Southern Residents – the main focus of our trip.

We also expect to see mammal-eating transient killer whales, which are frequently in the area, as well as humpback whales, minke whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins, Dall's porpoises, harbour porpoises and other species. On a good day, this corner of British Columbia is like a whale soup.

Along the way, we'll be on the lookout for a wide variety of other wildlife: Steller sea lions, northern elephant seals, harbour seals, sea otters, bald eagles, rhinoceros auklets, tufted puffins, surf scoters, Bonaparte's gulls and much, much more.

We have our own boat at our disposal all day every day, so can go where and when we please. Depending on the weather, and the whales, most days we'll probably be out on the water until after sunset (to get the very best light). We'll take packed lunches with us, giving plenty of flexibility (we might choose to stay on the water all day, or eat lunch on a remote islet somewhere, or return to base for a bit during the middle of the day). And in case you're worrying ... the boat is equipped with a washroom (and we'll include shore breaks as well)!

Throughout the week we'll be based in the delightful town of Sidney, on the Saanich Peninsula, southeastern Vancouver





Island, which overlooks the Salish Sea. The Canada-US border runs right through the middle of the whale-watching area and during the holiday we'll be moving freely backwards and forwards across the border – wherever the whales happen to be.

The Southern Resident killer whales

These fish-eating killer whales have been studied intensively since 1976 and every individual is known to researchers (and, of course, to our whale-watch operator). They all have stories to tell: Slick, for example, recently gave birth to her sixth young calf (who would have died without the help of Aunt Alki); and Princess Angeline was one of three females all of whom were pregnant at the same time (they were affectionately known as 'The Pregnancy Club').

We'll take a hydrophone with us, to listen to the killer whales talking to one another underwater (their other-worldly vocalisations send a shiver down the spine).

Dates

TRIP 1: Saturday 31 August – Sunday 8 September

TRIP 2: Saturday 7 – Sunday 15 September

Itinerary

Sat: Fly from the UK to Vancouver – transfer to our base for the week in Sidney, on Vancouver Island (including a ferry crossing or flight from the mainland). We will supply full advice on which flights and/or ferry to book. Welcome dinner.

Sun - Fri: Six full days of whale watching.

Sat: Transfer to Vancouver Airport for the overnight flight home.

Sun: Arrive in the UK.

About the boat

We have chartered K-Ko (*top*), which is a 30-foot aluminium vessel and perfect for photography. It comfortably takes 12

passengers, but there will only be 10 of us (including Mark) to give plenty of space for equipment and moving around. We also have the opportunity to use a rigid-hulled inflatable, which is extremely stable, highly manoeuvrable and low in the water, which is also perfect for photography. Please note that both vessels have washrooms.

About the hotel

We'll be staying in the fantastically located Sidney Pier Hotel & Spa with excellent amenities. Everyone will have an ocean view room.

Price

£4,295 per person sharing hotel room (excluding flights); £725 single supplement.

- Non-refundable deposit on booking: £500 pp.
- First-stage payment 1 March 2019: £1,897.50.
- Final balance of £1,897.50 (and single supplement, if applicable) 31 May 2019.

Price includes

Seven nights hotel accommodation in a comfortable hotel with private facilities in Sidney, simple breakfasts, packed lunches and snacks every day, welcome dinner, whale watching as described, guide services of Mark Carwardine in Sidney, information pack.

Price does not include

Flights, transfers between Vancouver Airport and hotel in Sidney, Canadian visa ([eTA](#)), departure taxes, travel insurance, dinners (except welcome dinner on the first night), extra nights in hotels, alcoholic drinks, crew tips, personal items.

To book (and more information)

Please contact Rachel Ashton on 0117-904-8934 or email her on rachel@markcarwardine.com.



This trip is financially protected by Wildlife Worldwide, and so the money you pay is safe even in the highly unlikely event of cancellation or insolvency.