

Pacific Northwest & San Juan Islands Cruise

With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

May 2 – 9, 2020

866.900.1146

800.426.7781

520.558.1146

naturalistjourneys@gmail.com

www.naturalistjourneys.com

or find us on Facebook at

Naturalist Journeys, LLC





Tour Summary

8-Day / 7-Night Olympic Peninsula Cruise with Woody Wheeler

Starting at \$4395

Airport is Seattle-Tacoma International (SEA)

This cruise is a perfect intro to nature cruising. Wind your way through the San Juan Islands for a week of wildlife watching, kayaking, hiking, and exploring. Paddle Puget Sound, hike in Olympic National Park see seals and sea lions cavorting. Beachcomb and explore the tide pools on shore, searching for the smaller marine wonders and watch for pods of Orca playing in the waters. Our host, Woody Wheeler, is a Seattle local and helps interpret this beautiful landscape. He loves early May for birds and colorful Rhododendrons.

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Transit the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, cruise the Seattle waterfront
- ✓ Visit Olympic National Park—UNESCO World Heritage Site, San Juan archipelago & Deception Pass
- ✓ Kayak and skiff in island channels formed by glaciers
- ✓ Hike in temperate rainforest, ancient forests, state parks, and at Mt. Constitution
- ✓ Watch for whales, Orcas, seals, sea lions, eagles, and sea birds
- ✓ Tufted Puffin, Marbled Murrelet, Harlequin Duck, auklets, oystercatchers, and more
- ✓ Eat local! Oysters, clams, salmon, wine, cider, and microbrews

salty playground of islands. A guided kayak excursion reveals local inhabitants—sea stars, anemones, jelly fish, and perhaps even inquisitive Harbor Seals. Walk along a curiosity-rich intertidal zone or stretch your legs on a mossy hike. Tides and current permitting, we sail through the swirling waters of Deception Pass between Fidalgo and Whidbey Islands. Cap off your first day of Pacific Northwest adventure with a front-row view of the sunset from the bow.

Itinerary

Sat., May 2

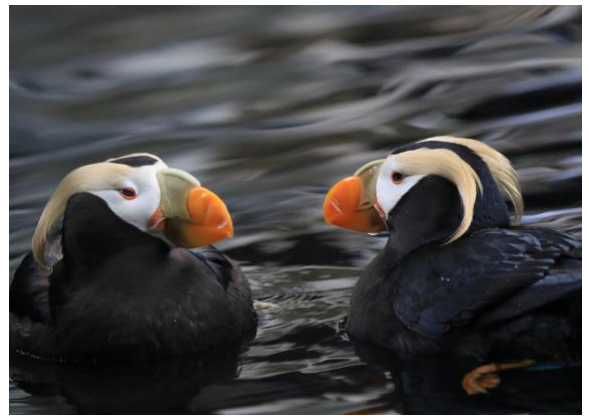
Seattle, Washington—Embarkation

Seattle was founded along the shores of Elliott Bay. Today, we set sail via either the historic Hiram M. Chittenden Locks or picturesque Shilshole Bay and cruise along the city's shoreline before dropping anchor in a tucked away cove for the evening. We watch for migrant and resident birds—especially gulls and terns, various waterfowl, and shorebirds—as well as Bald Eagle, and other raptors, and of course, marine mammals like Orca, seals, and sea lions.

Sun., May 3 Salish Sea | Deception Pass

Wake up surrounded by the wilderness of the Salish Sea.

Today, there are many opportunities to investigate this sea-



Mon., May 4 Lopez Island | San Juan Island

We land in one of the most scenic areas of the Salish Sea. The rocky outcroppings of Lopez Island play host to Harbor Seals—and it's also Orca territory. When kayaking, keep your eyes peeled above and below the surface. Join your expedition team on deck searching for whales, seals, and sea lions as you cruise through the myriad San Juans—no two islands are the same. Drop anchor near San Juan Island, the second largest landmass in the archipelago, to explore the tide pools and skiff or kayak into hidden coves, as conditions permit.

Tues., May 5 Orcas Island

Our Captain navigates through the islands to our basecamp at Orcas Island for a day of exploration where the options are unending. A local favorite, hike Mt. Constitution—it's the highest peak in the San Juan Islands (2,409 feet high) and has a mind-blowing view of the archipelago. If you're interested in skiff exploration or more paddling, the kayaks are available to work your way into intimate coves. You might also visit the charming community of Eastsound—it's nestled above Fishing Bay and been around since the late-1880s.

The San Juan Islands and surrounding waters are home to Pacific Harbor Seals and Dall's Porpoises; land mammals include Red Fox and Columbia Blacktail Deer; bats; reptiles; amphibians; more than 200 species of birds; 32 species of butterflies; 200 species of fish; and hundreds of species of marine invertebrates.

Wed., May 6 Sucia Island

The treats keep coming! With no paved roads or even ferry access, we enjoy our day on picturesque Sucia Island (total year-round population of four), a Washington State Marine Park filled with hidden coves and bays. We feel



a million miles away from it all, exploring the intertidal zone with our guides, hiking across the island, and kayaking in a protected bay. Weather permitting; we even a barbeque ashore.

Thurs., May 7 Captain's Choice

Make it an ideal morning by starting off with an early soak in the on-deck hot tub, a paddle along the shores of the Olympic Peninsula, or a enjoy a quiet coffee on deck. Your Captain sets the course today for explorations in the rain shadow of the Salish Sea. We may find ourselves hiking deep into the mossy, towering old growth of the Olympic Peninsula or beachcombing for anemone and hermit crabs along the shores of Puget Sound. Or perhaps we have a chance to kayak, investigate bird rookeries, or search for whales in the Sea's rich emerald waters.

Fri., May 8 Olympic National Park

Hike in Olympic National Park—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—surrounded by rainforest, old growth forest, and top of the world 360 degree views. Your trek at Hurricane Ridge takes you across fields of sub-alpine flowers in warmer weather and snow-covered hills in the colder months. On a clear day, you can see Canada across to the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Learn more about the adaptations of plants and animals to high elevation and alpine climates as we watch for one of the Olympic Peninsula's endemic species, the Olympic Marmot. Among the stunted and wind-sculptured groves of pygmy trees in the krumholtz zone, we may find Sooty Grouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, and White-crowned Sparrow. Mountain Goat were introduced to the Peninsula and provide a dilemma for park management, as they are fond of foraging on unique and rare native plants.

This evening, we wrap it up with a farewell dinner and slide show highlighting your week's adventures. Waterfalls and cascades occur alongside the road, and scenic stops abound. The panorama of glacially carved peaks is so abundant here, and provides us with amazing scenery and a living geologic classroom.

Sat., May 9 Seattle—Disembark

This morning, we cruise into Seattle either via the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks or at Shilshole Bay. After breakfast, the Captain and crew bid you a fond farewell. Safe travels to all!

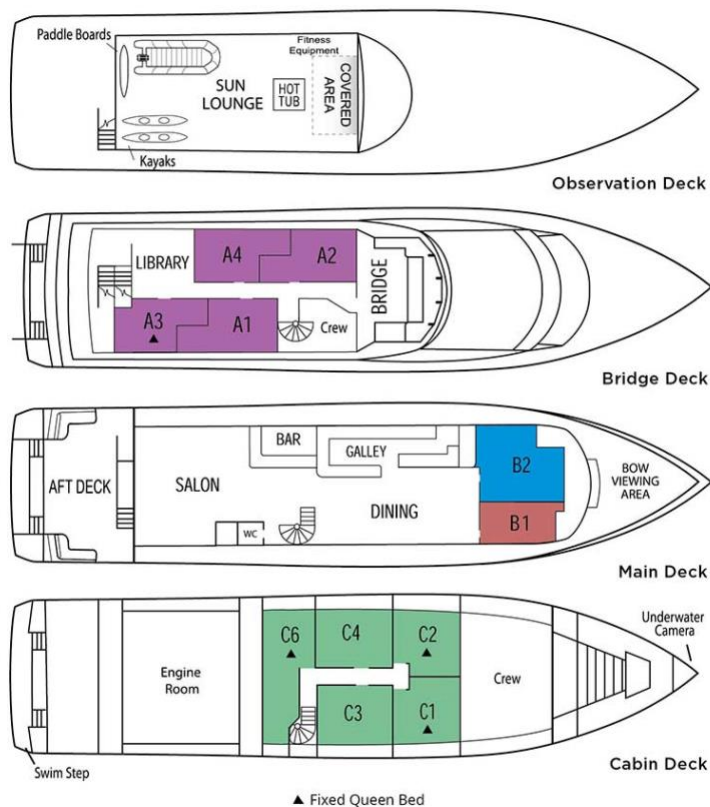
Lake Quinault & Lake Crescent Extension

Sat., May 9 – Wed., May 13 Lake Quinault & Lake Crescent Lodges

We enjoy four nights at the lovely Lake Quinault and Lake Crescent Lodges. Lake Quinault is a fine example of the lush temperate forests of Olympic National Park. Chestnut-baked Chickadee should be on hand to greet us! Learn about the native trees and plants of the region and experience the splendor of a cathedral-like ancient forest while searching for old-growth forest birds like Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Pygmy, and possibly, the elusive Spotted Owl. Under the intricate canopies of these lush forests we look for feeding flocks of Townsend's Solitaire, Townsend's Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. On large Black Cottonwoods along rushing streams we may find Orange-crowned Warbler, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Tanager, or chattering above us, Vaux's Swift. With luck, we may encounter the forest-dwelling Roosevelt Elk. Take time to relax, paddle on the lakes, or simply sit lakeside enjoying the view.

This is a relaxed paced extension with time to savor the Olympic Peninsula's scenic beauty. *Accommodations at Lake Quinault and Lake Crescent Lodges (meals included are Lunch day one through lunch on the last day).*

Our Ship: The Safari Quest



cabin/ship diagram not to scale



Agile, spry, and with clean design lines, the Safari Quest—carrying just 22 guests—can cut into the tiniest nooks that even our other small ships can't reach. This includes coveted wilderness areas with highly limited access of no more than two groups of twelve guests per day. For those most special adventures, she is the ticket in. While small is her secret for access, on the inside this yacht is anything but. Spacious and comfy cabins. A cozy and welcoming lounge and dining room. And plenty of onboard niches for nestling and relaxing.

Onboard Features: Full-beam swim step; underwater bow-mounted camera; kayaks, paddle boards, inflatable skiffs, hiking poles; on-deck hot tub; fitness equipment; DVD and book library

Cabin Features: TV/DVD player; Tempur-Pedic mattresses; heated tile floor in all bathrooms; hair dryer, bathrobes, conditioning shampoo, body wash; binoculars; reusable water bottles



Captain Cabins: A1-A4 | \$6295 pp based on double occupancy

King, queen, or twin beds; sliding glass door opening to a small balcony; private bath with shower.

Mariner Cabins: C1-C4, C6 | \$4395 pp based on double occupancy

King, queen, or twin beds; elevated port lights (not suitable for viewing); private bath with shower.



Cost of the Journey

Plan Ahead!

Protect yourself with Allianz Travel Insurance. As of January 2017, Naturalist Journeys pays 100% of your flight carbon offset.

Travel Information

Please plan to arrive no later than the morning on Saturday, May 2 in Seattle; airport is Seattle-Tacoma International (SEA). Please plan flights out after 1:00 PM on Saturday, May 9. We **STRONGLY** recommend you arrive the night before—you don't want to miss the boat! **Please check flight times with us before you book them.**

Photo Credits

Skiff Whale Watching, courtesy UnCruise Adventures (UA); Orca, Peg Abbott (PA); Kayaking, UA; Bald Eagle, Bob Hill; Tufted Puffins, PA; Black Oystercatcher, Steve Wolfe; Northern Harrier, Greg Smith; Kayaking and Ship, UA; Harlequin Duck, PA; *Safari Quest* Images, UA.

Naturalist Journeys, LLC is an equal opportunity service provider and committed to the goal of ensuring equal opportunity for all in employment and program delivery.

Cost of the Journey

The cost of the cruise is \$4395 - \$6295 per person based on double occupancy, plus a \$200 port tax/fee per person. Other cabin types may be available—please inquire. The tour cost includes 7 nights aboard the *Safari Quest*, Onboard meals; spirits, wine, beer; non-alcoholic beverages; transfers and baggage handling between airport/vessel on embark/disembark day; entry fees to national parks/preserves; all from-the-vessel activities and equipment; wellness amenities: hot tub and yoga mats.

Not included is the round-trip flight to Seattle. The tour cost does not include items of a personal nature such as telephone charges or optional activities.

We recommend a gratuity for local guides and the ship crew, which is left to the discretion of each participant; guidelines will be provided.

Cost of the four-night extension is TBD. Thank you for your patience.