

Customized Instructional Trips

Clayoquot Sound or Broken Group Islands, British Columbia

SKILS is known as the leader in intermediate and advanced kayak training in North America. Collectively, SKILS is made up of the most experienced trainers in North America. We are committed to providing the most highly trained and professional staff in the sea kayak industry.

Our customized instructional trips are markedly different from traditional guided tours. Our customized instructional trips are made to give you all the tools and knowledge you need to be self-sufficient to organize your future personal trips.

Give a man a fish, and you'll feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you've fed him for a lifetime." ---Confucius

Our customized instructional trips are for already formed groups of kayakers (beginners, intermediates or advanced) seeking a unique learning experience. The minimum trip length is 4 days. To focus the experience, each group may choose among any combination of the following:

- Learning the natural and human history of the area
- Touring and exploring the area
- Viewing and learning about local wildlife
- Developing and practicing navigation skills
- Understanding weather and making forecast predictions
- Developing camp craft skills
- Planning your own expedition
- Playing beach games
- Leadership scenarios
- Using a VHF Radio
- Performing and polishing basic strokes
- Performing and polishing advanced strokes
- Performing basic rescues
- Performing advanced rescues
- Paddling through rock gardens
- Paddling in swells
- Surfing waves (Clayoquot Sound only)
- Playing in the currents (Clayoquot Sound only)

Please let us know if there are other items you would like to work on that are not mentioned. All our trips include a session on low impact touring.

SKILS provides:

- ❑ Advanced wilderness first aid kit
- ❑ Kitchen and group cooking equipment
- ❑ Water for the entire trip
- ❑ 2 expedition tarps
- ❑ Camping fees
- ❑ Logistic support (meals, transportation, etc.)
- ❑ Instruction and instruction books
- ❑ Helmets
- ❑ Paddle floats

Our instructors are Lead Guides and Guide Trainers certified by the Sea Kayak Guides Alliances of British Columbia (SKGABC).

Members of the group provide:

- ❑ Tent
- ❑ Sleeping bag
- ❑ Sleeping pad
- ❑ Personal food for all the meals
- ❑ Personal clothing
- ❑ Drybags
- ❑ Kayak and kayaking equipment (PFD, pumps, paddles and spare paddle)
- ❑ Immersion gear (wetsuit or drysuit)
- ❑ Transportation to the launch site

A detailed list of equipment will be provided upon registration.

If needed, SKILS rents kayaks and immersion gear at very competitive prices.

Reservations

Reserve soon to ensure we have staff available for your trip. After you make your reservation, we will contact you to help organize your trip. Documentation and instruction manuals will be sent to you. A deposit of 50% is required to secure your spot. No refunds will be issued within 30 days of the beginning of the course. The balance is due 30 days before the start of the program. Please make your payment by cash or cheque to SKILS, Box 727, Ucluelet, BC, V0R 3A0

Cost

Groups of 5 people or less: \$500 per day for the group

Groups of 6 to 10 people: \$850 per day per day for the group

GST (5%) will be added to these rates

Ratio is maximum 5 participants per instructor

Maximum group size for Clayoquot Sound: 12 participants including 2 instructors

Maximum group size for the Broken Group Islands: 10 participants including 2 instructors

About Clayoquot Sound

Clayoquot Sound is a sea kayaker's paradise and famous for its secluded long and spectacular sandy beaches and old growth forests. This temperate coastal rainforest provides important refuge and habitat for a significant number of animals. Bald eagles, ospreys, humpback whales and gray whales are common in the area.

Plenty of time is made available to participants for reading, playing games on the beach, hiking in old growth forest, exploring amazing white sand beaches, socializing, surf kayaking and simply relaxing on the beach!

About the Broken Group Islands

The Broken Group Islands (BGI) are one of the most famous sea kayaking destinations in the world, unmatched in its natural beauty and diversity of wildlife.

This unit of the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, on Vancouver Island, has much to offer kayakers. The inner islands have sheltered waters with quiet lagoons. The outer islands are exposed to the open ocean.

As a wilderness area, the Broken Group Islands brim with life. A wide variety of intertidal critters, marine mammals, land mammals and birds live in this archipelago of over 100 islands. This area is a popular summer feeding ground for the once endangered gray and humpback whales. Sightings are common.

Although kayaking is the main activity in the BGI, tidepooling, exploring the islands, and wildlife viewing enhance your experience. The numerous beaches, lush forests with their giant western red cedar trees, and entertaining sea lions will all add to your enjoyment.

This paradise is also rich in human history, dating back more than 5000 years and signs of First Nations occupation can still be found.