

# TOFINO AND BEYOND... Sea-Kayaking

## VARGAS ISLAND DISCOVERY ITINERARY

2 NIGHTS—3 DAYS

### Logistic Details:

**Dates:** Weekly Departs every  
Tuesday morning  
May to October

**Start:** Tofino—9 am 1st day  
**Finish:** Tofino—3 pm last day  
**Level:** Beginner  
**Guests:** 4—10

**HighLights:** Hiking to Outer Coast  
Ceaches, Old Growth Rainforest, Rock  
Gardens and Wildlife.

**Price:** \$780.00  
\*(Price includes kayak gear & all  
meals. Excludes 6% sales tax. Visi-  
tors to Canada are eligible for a 50%  
tax refund.

### Our Mission Statement

To strive for excellence in providing quality sea kayaking programs which promote environmental awareness, safety on the water, physical well-being and cultural sensitivity through the experience of wilderness and our human connection to the natural world. We are dedicated to the protection of Clayoquot Sound as a unique wilderness area and a quality paddling destination.



The Vargas Inn is a beachfront wilderness resort, which is owned and operated by the Buckle Family. It marks the east end of the historic telegraph and life-saving trail for shipwreck survivors. The trail crosses Vargas Island to white sand open beaches.

The Inn is listed with the ministry of Tourism Approved Accommodation Guide" and in Best Places Pacific Northwest. Tofino Sea Kayaking has reserved guest rooms for our tours. We sometimes book the cabin, a separate unit that can accommodate six.

Rooms are small but cozy. Full linen and towels are supplied. There is a large living room area with fireplace, a dining room, indoor and outdoor kitchen. There are two bathrooms. Water is supplied from a well. We do bring drinking water from Tofino as the water supply, though adequate, is limited at the Inn especially in summer. A real highlight is the wood fired sauna and private shower house by the beach. The Inn receives electrical power through a combination of generator and solar power.

### DAY 1

You arrive at Tofino Sea Kayaking fuelled up and excited about the next three days. You meet your guide and the other kayakers—everyone takes the time to make introductions and share a bit about what brought them on the trip. Your guide orients you to Clayoquot Sound and answers any questions. Next, you are off to the beach with your gear and, after an introduction, you are packing your kayak. Once everything is stowed, the guide spends about half an hour introducing you to kayaking technique and safety, aimed at giving beginners a solid foundation.

Once on the water, you feel the bustle of Tofino fade away behind you. The group travels along the shoreline, hopping from one island to the next. You make your way past a First Nation community and you can feel the rich history of the area. The group stops for a beach picnic and

you stretch your legs while combing the beach as lunch is being prepared. When your group is ready, everyone is back on the water, heading towards the Vargas Island Inn, your accommodation for the night. Following the shore you check out the sea stars and other intertidal life along the way. When you arrive at the Inn, you tour the grounds and pick a room before unloading your gear. Dinner Preparations begin while

some relax with a beer on the deck, others have a shower or settle in with a book in the sun. After a great seafood dinner and a glass of wine, everyone pitches in to help



With the dishes before gathering around the fire to share stories and desert. It's been a big day and soon everyone is off to bed.

**Day 2**

You wake and join the group for coffee and breakfast. The group weighs the options—hiking or kayaking—and decides to get on the water before the afternoon wind picks up. You head to the exposed coast of Vargas Island and take advantage of the calm water to explore the rock gardens and kelp forests along route. After a shore lunch, the group ventures into the woods to get a glimpse of the old growth rainforest for which Clayoquot Sound is famous. The late afternoon winds are picking up and you let them push you back to the lodge, making it an easy return trip. Everyone gathers to enjoy a well deserved meal, delicious and nutritious, prepared by the guides. The sauna is lit and you take this opportunity for some deep relaxation and more stories before heading to bed.

**Day 3**

After a hearty breakfast, you pack up your things and strap on your sandals for a trek across the Island. Venturing through the bog forest to an exposed outer coast beach—sometimes the whales are feeding in Ahous Bay, sand dollars buried—nothing between you and Japan! On the return trip, you snack on the ripe summer berries that your guide points out. Once back at the Inn everyone is ready for a sandwich before you pack the boats to begin to head east to Tofino. A couple of crows harass an eagle in the trees, making for simple entertainment. Completing the final leg of your journey, no one is ready to return to Tofino. The promise of a cold drink or latte keep everyone on track, and once the boats are unpacked, everyone gathers on the deck to look back on the trip. Email addresser are exchanged and after on last group picture, you are off on the next leg of you holiday.



When paddling to Vargas Island, we will be combining the adventure of exploration by sea kayak with on-land adventures and the amenities of roofed accommodation. This tour is a delightful trip that you can do time and again with renewed pleasure.

*"Varied & interesting, I really enjoyed venturing into outside waters and hiking through the beautiful forest."*  
 - Pauline Fletcher  
 Alberta



*"We saw lots of wildlife. Experienced and informed guides knew the area and explained about tides, plant, fish life and local history. They were enthusiastic and very environmentally responsible—they were a credit to your company and its philosophy."* - H. McK. Calgary AB

**TOFINO SEA KAYAKING COMPANY**

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