



FULL WEEK SCHEDULE

Gunkholing the Islands of British Columbia

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If giant cruise ships aren't your thing, you may want to consider "gunkholing"—and the Harmony Islands of British Columbia is the perfect place to do it.



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I had never heard of "gunkholing" before I set out on a yacht cruise with [Un-Cruise Adventures](#), a provider of unusual cruising experiences. But my cruise around the lovely islands of British Columbia certainly fit this term, which is used to describe a style of boating, meandering from place to place and seeking out isolated anchorages.

Used to the behemoth cruise ships of the large cruise providers, I had an adjustment to make as I settled into a yacht with about 20 other passengers and a handful of crew—but I adjusted quickly and appreciated the much slower pace of the cruise and the ability to pause and just enjoy the scenic beauty of a destination.



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I was on an adventure to explore the islands that cluster along the coast from Seattle, Washington, to Victoria, British Columbia, and some even further along, like the Gulf and San Juan Islands.

Part of this unspoiled and gorgeous area is the Harmony Islands, known as the “Sunshine Coast” because of the beautiful weather—and it lived up to its name as warm sun shone every day while we traversed the smooth green water and explored hidden inlets. Soaring snow-capped mountains loomed over us, clearly reflected in the water like a mirror. The Harmony Islands are tucked away off Jervis Inlet in British Columbia and the Harmony Islands Marine Provincial Park covers the southernmost of the four Harmony Islands, the smaller northernmost island and most of the inside foreshore. There is no road access to the Harmony Islands so they are a boater’s paradise with warm water for swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, fishing and observing wildlife.

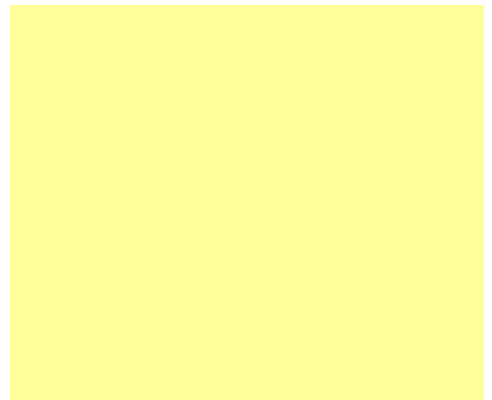
Kayaking inlets like Princess Louisa became an adventure in seeing just how many river otters, harbour seals, bald eagles and huge clusters of bright purple starfish we could count. We didn’t spend all our time on the water, though, because Chatterbox Falls empties into the Princess Louisa Inlet and a hiking trail leads right up to the falls.



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There’s more adventure in places like the Skookumchuch Rapids, which line the entrance of the channel leading to the beautiful Jervis Inlet, and where hardy kayakers ride the rapids while their kayaks threaten to capsiz from the waves. It was easy to imagine the surrounding soaring mountains watching as they had

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watched the Sechelt First Nations people traverse these same rapids hundreds of years before.

A cruise through this remote part of Canada's west coast brings you back to nature, to the eternal quiet of what feels like a beautiful hidden and undiscovered paradise.

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JAN ROSS



After a lifetime of travel, Jan Ross can pack a bag and hit the road with very little notice, although she will always have a little black dress and some snazzy shoes in there. She loves to travel with her husband of more than 35 years as he is a great photographer and she is often way too busy having fun to think about taking pictures. Active travel or relaxing, she is up for it all!

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