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## Yacht Cruising in British Columbia

Travelled by [Jan Ross](#) on 27 September 2013 | [0 Comments](#)



### Travelled By

**Jan Ross**



Jan Ross has been traveling since she was an infant as her father was a career Marine Corps officer and her family traveled the globe. ...[Find out more!](#)

Water dripped off the huge, purple starfish our resident marine biologist had just plucked off an outcropping of stone which lined the pristine inlet we were exploring in one of the lushly forested islands off the coast of British Columbia. An amazing number of the dark, bright purple starfish clustered everywhere both under and above the water, clinging to the rocks. She held it out so we could all of us in the skiff could see it and I marveled once again at the incredible experiences we were having "gunkholing" our way around the islands.



"Gunkholing" is a term boaters use in British Columbia to refer to cruising in shallow water, wandering from place to place and spending the night in sheltered coves. In addition, we were seeking places to kayak, hike, view wildlife and just enjoy the amazing views every day. Many of the boaters are in small yachts but we were lucky enough to be gunkholing in a luxury yacht called the Safari Quest, courtesy of Un-Cruise Adventures, a cruise company which focuses on casual cruising which offers unexpected experiences – like viewing this amazing purple starfish up close and personal.

The waters surrounding the islands of British Columbia are quiet and it's one of the first things you notice. Even before the lush growth of dark green evergreen trees, the granite slopes scoured by glaciers, the snow topped mountains, the waterfalls, you notice the quiet. The area is a boater's paradise with warm, clear, clean water for swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, fishing and observing wildlife.



As we had approached the Skookumchuch Rapids which line the entrance of the channel leading to the beautiful Jervis Inlet in the Harmony Islands, our yacht had paused long enough to disgorge a skiff for those adventurers in the group who wanted to brave the rapids for photos. Hardy kayakers were riding the rapids and shouting with excitement as their kayaks threatened to capsize from the waves. The surrounding, soaring mountains watched placidly as they had watched the Sechelt First Nations people traverse these same rapids hundreds of years before.

We headed into the Jervis Inlet, gliding along on the dark green water, as smooth as molten metal. The water was so smoothly flat that the reflections of the surrounding mountains, left behind when glaciers scoured their way through the countryside millions of years ago, were clearly reflected in the water, almost like an underwater world of duplicate mountains.



Harbor seals and river otters floated past, poking their heads up to gaze at us inquisitively as we cruised past, unafraid and unabashedly lazy as they lounged in the warm sun. A bald eagle soared above us in the cloudless, dark blue sky, checking out these intruders in his domain as we neared the end of the channel and anchored in tranquil Jervis Inlet.

We have cruised on dozens of big cruise line behemoth ships and have even downsized to a river cruise ship in Europe, but this yacht was the smallest cruise ship so far with cabins for 22 passengers and several crew members. With a 2:1 ratio of crew to passengers on the ship, we were constantly amazed at how the crew was always concerned with making sure we were all comfortable and having a good time.



Our cozy stateroom on the lower deck was small but was designed for maximum organization and was amazingly comfortable. The floors in the bathroom are even heated! There are also suites available on the top deck and they are quite a bit roomier. The sun lounge on the top deck of the ship became the most popular location as we enjoyed the warm, sunny days. There were kayaks neatly stored up there, along with the skiff, which was used for excursions to view the local scenery and wildlife, and a roomy hot tub. The salon with comfortable furniture and an open bar was the gathering place in the evenings as everyone congregated to discuss the adventures of the day.

My husband's favorite place on the ship was the bridge. The Safari Quest has an open bridge policy with a bench in there for passengers to sit, and the captain is always very welcoming, explaining everything from where we were headed to what wildlife we could expect to see. Every evening, after a long day of kayaking, taking out the skiff, hiking and exploring, we gathered in the dining room for one incomparable dinner after another. The chef and pastry chef did a great job with all the meals and we enjoyed every one. In fact, we were never allowed to go hungry on the ship; in addition to three full meals, we had delicious appetizers every night before dinner and every time we arrived back from one of our adventures, we had some interesting food and drink waiting for us.



Our luxurious and comfortable yacht from Un-Cruise Adventures was the perfect way to cruise this incredibly beautiful, unspoiled location.

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