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Natural History Tour by Kayak 3-day Sample Itinerary

Day one of the trip: Get off the ferry at Lopez Island - the first stop out of Anacortes. Please arrive, with clothes ready to go kayaking. We'll load your gear into our vehicle and shuttle you to our launch site. We will stop at Lopez Village along the way for a quick visit to a delicious bakery and a bathroom stop. YAHOO! YOU MADE IT!

Then we are off to Hunter Bay, where we will unload the boats, learn some skills and head out on the water. We will paddle the protected waters of Lopez Sound, passing many small islands like Rim, Ram and Rum Islands. Seals, otter, raccoon, eagles and heron are all common sights in this area. Grey Whale and Orca Whales are also possibilities as we tuck out into Rosario Strait on our way to James Island. After a full day of paddling in and around the well protected waters of Lopez Sound, we will set up the base camp on James Island.

PADDLING TIME EACH DAY: Our paddling mileage/speed is based on the weather and general strength of the group. For safety reasons, we travel at the pace of the most leisurely boat and stay together. Typically, we cover 3 to 7 miles. We will generally paddle up to one and a half hours at a stretch between breaks.

CAMPING ACCOMMODATIONS DURING OUR TRIP: Weather permitting, we will paddle to and camp on beautiful James Island overlooking Rosario Strait and the Cascade Mountains. The park provides composting toilets, picnic tables, and fire pits. Deer, otter, sea birds, seals, and bald eagles frequent the area. Should weather ever be unusually stormy, we would camp at one of the two beach side parks on Lopez.

MEALS: Elakah will provide wonderful breakfasts and dinners, complemented by any wild edibles we may find during the day. The meals tend to be mostly vegetarian and consist of appetizer, salad, main dish, and desert. Main courses include dishes like Roasted Red Pepper and Salmon Pasta, Kelp Chowder, and Thai Peanut Noodles. You are responsible for 3 simple lunches, including preparation, cleaning and storage. Things like bagels and cheese, peanut butter and jelly with crackers, fruit and veggies (foods that do not require cooking and will not spoil without refrigeration) work well. Please omit extra packaging—for space reasons and excess garbage. All garbage must be packed out by you.

Day two: We generally camp at James Island both nights on the three day trip. On the second day, depending on the tides and currents, we paddle to destinations like beautiful Watmough Bay on the south end of Lopez Island, which offers the best opportunity of running across an occasional pod of Orcas. Because we are not breaking and setting up camp each day, all of our day trip route options leave us with time to enjoy the natural surroundings, go for a walk on the beach, and enjoy a sunny paddle.

Day three: On the last day of our adventure, we enjoy a hearty breakfast, break camp and begin our travel back to Lopez Island. The last day usually involves circumnavigating Decatur Island. We will island hop our way back towards Hunter Bay, stopping for lunch on a private island called Trump Island. Once back to Hunter Bay, we rejoin the vehicle, and unload and clean boats. From there, we shuttle you back to the ferry dock to meet the Anacortes-bound ferry at 5:40 PM. Plan to arrive back in Anacortes about 6:20 PM. (During peak season, ferries may run a little late.)