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## San Juander by Kayak 5-day Sample Itinerary

The San Juander 5-day itinerary is as amazing as it is varied. Weather and tides will play a huge role in the actual itinerary of the trip, however, below is outlined a common itinerary.

**Day one.** The first day of our trip begins in Bellingham at 8:30 am. We will meet, and introduce everyone and board our private sea taxi for our 40 minute cruise to Lopez Island. Along the way, your guide and captain will point out areas of local natural and cultural history, as well as any of the local flora and fauna, like seals, loons, Rhinoceros Ocleths, and Marbled Muirlets.

We will soon arrive on Lopez Island, where we will load our kayaks, learn some skills and head out on the water. After a full day of paddling in and around the well protected waters of Lopez Sound, we will make our way to Jones Island to set up camp for the first evening.

**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. Days are usually longer and fuller in the islands, as we watch the sunrise & set, stop for lunch at beaches, view eagles, herons, native flora, and marine life. Typically, we cover 3 to 7 miles. Some days, when we have the opportunity to take a one-way coastal jaunt, we may paddle 9 miles using the currents, as much as possible, to help us along.

**CAMPING ACCOMMODATIONS DURING OUR TRIP:** Weather permitting, for the San Juander 5-day, we will paddle to and camp on beautiful James, Sucia, Jones and Doe Island Marine Parks overlooking Rosario Strait, the Olympic Mountains and the Cascade Mountains. Each of these state park islands provides outhouses, picnic tables, and fire pits. *Should weather ever be unusually stormy, we have the option of camping at one of many beach side parks on Lopez and Orcas Islands.*

**Day two of the trip:** We will get an early start this morning, break camp on Jones Island and start making our way around the lovely western shore of Orcas Island. This stretch of the trip offers us the best opportunity to encounter Orcas (Killer Whales), as well as a multitude of less charismatic, but equally meaningful wildlife including seals, bald eagles, otter and loons. We will make our camp on the awe-inspiring shore of Sucia Island, considered by many to be the most beautiful island in the San Juan archipelago.

**Day three of the trip:** We will have a layover day on Sucia Island. Options include a day trip to the lovely island of Patos with its historical lighthouse, exploration of the shores and inlets of Sucia Island, or just lying about on the beach basking in the warm Pacific Northwest sun.

**Day four of the trip:** We break camp and travel the eastern shore of Orcas Island to our campsite on Doe Island. This beautiful small island offers gorgeous views over Rosario Strait toward the local volcano called Mt Baker. We will also have the unique opportunity to relax our tired muscles in the natural water hot tubs at the Doe Bay Resort, just a short evening paddle across the bay.

**Day five of the trip:** We break camp and travel back to Odlin Park on Lopez Island. Once there, we unload and clean boats and board the Pacific Sea Taxi for your shuttle back to Bellingham. Plan to arrive back in Bellingham about 6:30 PM.

Plan for full, exciting days outdoors. Please be prepared for any kind of weather and bring plenty of warm clothes, food and a fun-loving attitude. In addition to paddling along Orcas Island's varied shore, strolling its beaches or hiking its meandering trails, there will be plenty of time to relax, read a book, or sun ourselves on the beaches. Enjoy!