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Wild Harvest Tour by Kayak 3-day Sample Itinerary

Day one of the trip. The first day of our trip begins in Bellingham at 8:30 am. Please arrive, with clothes ready to go kayaking. We will check to make sure everyone has everything they need for the trip, make sure it is packed appropriately, size each person for a life jacket, and load up our sea taxi for the 40 minute ride out to Lopez Island. Along the way, your guide and captain will point out areas of local natural and cultural history, including local flora and fauna, seals, loons, Rhinoceros Ocleys, and Marbled Murrelets.

Upon arrival at Lopez, 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 visit to the world famous Holly B's Bakery and a bathroom stop. Then we are off to Hunter Bay, where we will unload the boats, learn the basics of kayaking 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 James Island to set up the base camp for the remainder of our stay in the Islands.

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 generally will paddle no more than an hour and a half between breaks.

CAMPING ACCOMMODATIONS DURING OUR TRIP: Weather permitting, we will paddle to and camp on beautiful James Island Marine Park overlooking Rosario Strait and the Cascade Mountains. The park provides outhouses, 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 of the Trip: We generally camp at James Island both nights on the 3-day trip. Join world renown ethnobotanists Jenny Hahn and Mac Smith as we kayak and hike along Lopez Island. Learn the ecology and uses of sea vegetables, shellfish and a host of terrestrial plants. As we wild-harvest, we'll discuss how to collect in a safe, legal and environmentally sensitive manner. In the evening, we'll prepare feasts with such delicacies as kelp chowder or chocolate pudding from carrageen-rich seaweed.

Day three of the trip: We break camp and travel back to Lopez Island. Once there, we rejoin the vehicle, and unload and clean boats. We shuttle you back to meet the sea taxi for another relaxing boat ride home. Plan to arrive back in Bellingham by between 6:00 and 7:00 PM.