



Story Starters

Kayaking on the Wild Side

A high adventure, low impact approach to paddling Johnstone Strait.

Northern Vancouver Island's Johnstone Strait is world renowned as a destination for sea kayaking with orcas. Indeed, for many visitors it has become a bucket list experience to check off. The majority of the outfitters in the area now offer it with 'glamping' style amenities, with built up basecamps, heavy use of motorized vessels to move guests around and a large carbon footprint.

At The Water's Edge Adventures has taken a different approach. "I found guests were so focussed on seeing orcas that they missed everything else," says Wesley Gibson, lead guide and owner, who recently started the business after years of working in the industry. Wildlife here is abundant and raw and best experienced from a kayak with no-trace, nature based camping. Humpback whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins, minke whales, bald eagles and bears are just some of the other impressive wildlife found here. The intertidal marine life is a kaleidoscope of colour with anemones, sea stars and soft coral.

"We try to blend seamlessly into nature, to feel small, and be humbled by it," says Gibson. AWE has invested heavily in the highest quality expedition grade gear, and guides are trained wilderness cooks who know how to prepare delicious meals in remote locations, so time spent on and off the water is very comfortable. AWE's small group trips are self-propelled, fully nomadic and explore the myriad islands and secluded inlets of the Broughton Archipelago. And if you're lucky, you may even spot an orca.

Can Paddling a Kayak Relieve Stress?

A nature-based staycation to the wilds of Johnstone Strait.

Most people know a walk in a park or hike on a nature trail can relax them and make them feel better. And recently, psychologists have proven that being in nature can actually [improve our mental health](#), which for most people has taken a beating since the COVID crisis. As people slowly emerge from their bubbles from the past few months, many will want to do so safely and to experience the well being of being in nature. Paddling a kayak is great exercise and escaping into nature might just be exactly what you need right now.

About At The Water's Edge Adventures: At the Water's Edge Adventures offers multi-day kayaking tours and kayak rentals for Johnstone Strait, Blackfish Sound, and the Broughton Archipelago from our base in Telegraph Cove, BC.

Experience the serenity of whale watching from a kayak. Spot majestic humpbacks and white-sided dolphins. All our trips are fully nomadic, so we go where the wildlife and conditions are best. No two trips are the same. Our small group tours practice no-trace camping on the many remote islands of the archipelago.

For experienced kayakers, we can outfit you with all the gear rentals you'll need including tents and camping equipment, backcountry cooking gear and even meal plans. Our expedition-grade kayaking gear is the best in the business, so your paddling experience will be superior.

For further information or to plan a media trip contact us at media@atthewatersedge.ca