

# Charter Preparation Checklist

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## Thank you for choosing NW Explorations for your charter vacation!

### PLANNING AHEAD

In order to make the most of your time on your vessel, we suggest that you do some preliminary planning. There are a number of excellent resources and cruising guides covering the Pacific Northwest: *Dreamspeaker Cruising Guides, Vols. 1-3*, written by Anne and Laurence Yeadon-Jones and the *Exploring* series by local authors, Don Douglass and Réanne Hemingway-Douglass. Both guides can be found at [www.fineedge.com](http://www.fineedge.com).

Each vessel in our fleet will have a copy of *The Waggoner Cruising Guide*, which is updated annually and best for directories of harbors. Useful planning charts would include: Canadian #3310 (Gulf Islands), NOAA 18421 (overview of the San Juans) and NOAA 18423 (details of San Juans and inner harbors). Canadian and U.S. tide tables may be helpful in your route planning as tide change here can be up to 15 feet. Those tables will be available onboard your vessel.

### WHAT TO BRING

You are chartering a premium Grand Banks trawler with exceptional operating, safety, galley and cleaning equipment. Everything you need will be on board, including marine t.p. You will need to bring your own clothing, provisions and personal gear. All of the boats are outfitted with pillows, blankets, sheets and towels for the stated number of berths.

The weather varies from cool and wet to hot and sunny; be prepared for both! Rain gear, sun hats and sunscreen are essential; fleece is always appropriate because it dries quickly. Leave the ties and fancy dresses at home, but something casually smart is appropriate in bigger towns. ***\*Please remember to bring along appropriate life-jackets for all children onboard.***

### FISHING AND SHELLFISH

Required licenses for salmon, bottom fish, crabs, oysters and clams may be purchased locally, along with bait; be sure to check for conservation closures. Before clam digging or oyster picking, it is a good idea to check in at the nearest town or marina for a Red Tide report. Red Tide is a poisonous algae that occasionally accumulates in clams and oysters to a level that can be fatal. For more information check out: <http://wdfw.wa.gov>

### PROVISIONING

There are several 24-hour grocery stores within close driving distance of our office. Costco, Trader Joe's, liquor, sports equipment, clothing and pharmaceuticals are also nearby.

### CANADIAN CUSTOMS

**Important: Passports are required to clear customs.** Clear at Sidney, Victoria, Bedwell Harbour, Nanaimo or Vancouver. You may not anchor or touch ground prior to clearing customs. No firearms, mace, pepper spray or controlled substances (i.e. drugs).

Certain items are allowed duty free into Canada. Should you have over the amount, declare all excess. Alcohol has high duties but is reasonably priced in BC liquor stores; plan to buy it there. The following is a list of some of the items that are/are not allowed into Canada.

- 40 ounces alcoholic beverages (liquor, wine, or liquors in any combination) or 288 ounces (1 case) of beer or ale per person over 19 years of age.
- 200 cigarettes per person or 50 non-Cuban cigars or 2 pounds of tobacco per person over 16 years of age. (Please remember there is no smoking inside our charter boats.)
- No fresh fruits with pits, corn on the cob, potatoes, apples or pears are allowed. Canada may ban other fruits depending upon conditions.
- For more information check out: [http://canadaonline.about.com/od/customs/Canada\\_Customs\\_and\\_Border\\_Services.htm](http://canadaonline.about.com/od/customs/Canada_Customs_and_Border_Services.htm)

### YOUR RETURN

Clear into the USA at Roche Harbor or Friday Harbor. Keep a record of your Canadian and US customs clearance numbers. We can refund Washington sales tax for each full calendar day spent outside the State. **You must turn in your clearance numbers the day of your return in order to get your sales tax refund.**

**YOU NEED TO BE OFF YOUR BOAT BY 12:00 NOON ON YOUR RETURN DATE.** Please return it fueled, broom clean, with the heads pumped, garbage emptied, and dishes washed. We will do the rest.

### DIRECTIONS TO NW EXPLORATIONS

- From I-5 North or South, take Exit 256 Meridian Street
- Turn South onto Meridian Street (away from Bellis Fair Mall)
- Turn Right at the second stoplight (over the railroad tracks) onto Squalicum Parkway
- Turn Right onto Squalicum Parkway
- Turn Right onto Coho Way (at LFS Marine Supply)
- Go to the end - NW Explorations is under the Gate 3 sign

**WELCOME ABOARD!**