

CRUISING THE SAN JUAN & GULF ISLANDS



SAN JUAN ISLANDS SAMPLE ITINERARY

The 172 islands scattered off Washington's mainland are a cruiser's delight! With more than 408 miles of rocky and sandy waterfront, the San Juan Islands boast more shoreline than any other county in the nation. An important ecosystem, 83 islands in the San Juan Islands are part of the San Juan Wildlife Refuge, offering protection to seabirds,

seals and sea lions and approximately 90 Orca whales who are residents of the area. Discover the San Juan Islands – hike, fish, crab and explore the quaint towns scattered throughout the islands. Our spectacular scenery and protected waters are truly a boater's paradise! A sample cruising itinerary is below.

DAY 1: SUCIA ISLAND

After a nice, short, three-hour cruise through Hale Passage, you will arrive at Sucia Island. Echo Bay has a safe and easy anchorage; however, Fossil Bay, Fox Cove, and Shallow Bay have good secure anchorages as well as buoys. Walk the island! Sucia is abundant in sandstone, which was once mined here to build the foundation of the Hotel de Haro at Roche Harbor.

DAY 2: ROCHE HARBOR

A morning cruise through the "fingers" of Sucia is quite nice with a cup of coffee, and then around the top of Orcas Island through President Channel. Continue heading west through Spieden Channel. Take Pearl Island to port.

Roche Harbor Resort: A visit to the San Juans would not be complete without at least a quick visit to this establishment.

DAY 3: VICTORIA, B.C.

Plan on an early departure to Victoria, BC – a quaint city on the southeast side of Vancouver Island, with many shops, museums, and tourist attractions.

As you enter Victoria Harbour, stop at the Customs Dock off to port. Once you have cleared Customs, continue heading north toward the beautiful Empress Hotel. Plan on arriving at the dock around 11 a.m.

DAY 4: FRIDAY HARBOR

While heading east through the Strait of Juan de Fuca toward Cattle Point on the southern end of San Juan Island, keep an eye out for killer whales. You may wish to head up on the west side of San Juan Island toward Eagle Cove, Pile Point, and Lime Kiln Point. This area is frequented by killer whales during feeding times. Proceed through San Juan Channel to Friday Harbor.

Friday Harbor is the largest town in the San Juan Islands, and offers fine dining, groceries, and marine supplies. Take time to visit the Whale Museum just off Main Street.

DAY 5: JONES ISLAND/DEER HARBOR

Head northwest through San Juan Channel and spend the day and evening at Jones Island. Jones Island is a state park with many scenic trails, good fishing, and secure anchorage on the north end. One can often see deer swimming over to Jones from Orcas Island.

If it is a resort that you have in mind for the evening, Deer Harbor Resort is on the northeastern shore of Deer Harbor on Orcas Island. This popular resort offers moorage, fuel, groceries, ice, a restaurant, gift shop, swimming pool, cabins and cocktail lounge.

DAY 6: EAGLE HARBOR/CHUCKANUT BAY

Take a trip just south of North Pass, through the Wasp Islands. We suggest that you take Crane Island to port; it is a bit easier to navigate. Continue heading east through Harney Channel, through Peavine Pass, over Cypress Island to Eagle Harbor.

If you feel like being a little closer to Bellingham on your last evening, we recommend Chuckanut Bay – no mooring buoys but excellent mud holding.

DAY 7: BELLINGHAM

Welcome back! Please be sure to give yourself enough time after you return to Bellingham to prepare the boat for inspection. You need to be checked-in and off the boat by noon.