

GUNKHOLING CRUISE

August 21-24, 2017

led by Jon and Jennifer Healey

Day 1: Sailing Club to Winter Cove (distance ~14 miles)

Leave about 10:00 with a possible noon stop at Hope Bay to visit the store and/or take a short walk in the Pender countryside. The Hope Bay Cafe has had another reincarnation and is now called Philly's Diner @ Hope Bay (<https://www.phillysdiner.com>). At Winter Cove there is a very nice short walk through the woods to Boat Passage.

Day 2: Winter Cove to Narvaez Bay (distance ~16 miles)

The route to this bay on the south end of Saturna Island goes through Georgeson Passage with a look into Horton Bay, then south along the east side of Saturna and around Boiling Reef to Narvaez Bay. One option along the way is to stop at Cabbage and Tumbo Islands for lunch. This adds a couple of miles to the distance but both islands are lovely to visit. Another possibility is to stop in Fiddlers Cove on the east side of Narvaez Bay and walk to the East Point Light Station. There is a fine historic display in the old Fog Alarm Building. Overnight anchorage in Narvaez Bay depends on the weather. It is open to the southeast and, if the weather is not suitable, then an alternate option for day 2 is to go south through Plumper Sound and around into Bedwell Harbour. Those with motor boats might like to try transiting Pender Canal from Shark Cove in Browning Harbour and through to Bedwell.

In Bedwell Harbour there are several choices:

- explore Peter Cove
<https://islandhomeblog.wordpress.com/2013/07/25/sunshine-and-sea-peter-cove-north-pender-island/>
- anchor off Beaumont Park,
- moor at the Poets Cove marina (a reservation might be advisable).

Day 3: Narvaez Bay (or Bedwell Harbour) to Sidney Spit via Rum Island and Mandarte Island (distance ~18 miles)

Rum Island (Isle de Lis Marine Park) is reputed to have been an important station during prohibition days. It is a small temporary anchorage situated

close to the U.S.–Canada border and is hidden from the U.S. Border Patrol vessels. The rum runners are no longer, but it is a fine place to visit in early spring when the island is cloaked in Fawn Lilies.

Mandarte Island is an important sea bird sanctuary. Although the nesting season is over we may see a good variety of birds and a slow pass is called for in order not to disturb the residents. Along the way we skirt Boundary Pass and Haro Strait, and have a good chance to see a pod of resident Orcas. If we encounter whales, stop or travel slowly to minimize disturbance and underwater noise.

Those who are up for a longer trip this day might want to visit D'Arcy Island and explore the old Leper Colony site. There is a nice bay and beach on the southeast corner of D'Arcy suitable for temporary anchorage. The D'Arcy option adds about 8 miles to the day's run.

The salt marsh and lagoon just to the south of the Sidney Spit anchorage offers bird sighting and warm swimming. The east side of Sidney Island has a long beach for beach combing and deer can often be seen on the park trails.

Day 4: Return to Salt Spring or stop for another day at Portland Island.

At Portland Island, there are opportunities to enjoy fine walks, swimming, or kayaking and dinghying among the rocky islets and small islands along the shoreline.