

GoMedia **Canada 2020**

British Columbia, Vancouver Island

Coastal Rainforest Safaris

September 13-16, 2020

Theme

An immersive West Coast adventure combining luxury with the rugged wilderness of Vancouver Island North. To further elevate this unique nature experience, you'll have the opportunity to learn from local Kwakwaka'wakw guides who are proud of their heritage and excited to share their culture, stories, and knowledge of the land.

Description

Experience the ultimate West Coast Canadian wildlife and cultural adventure on Vancouver Island North with [Coastal Rainforest Safaris](#). Coastal Rainforest Safaris offers an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime nature experience that includes whale watching, grizzly bear viewing, and a unique opportunity to learn about the Indigenous culture of the Kwakwaka'wakw people, who have resided in the area for over 14,000 years. Stay in luxury safari-style tents at Skull Cove base camp on Branham Island (40 kilometres north of Vancouver Island's Port Hardy), which is strategically situated in the heart of wildlife-rich waters on an island covered in temperate rainforest.

Explore the waters surrounding northern Vancouver Island and the adjoining mainland coast of British Columbia on a three-day safari that will give you a truly special experience of the [Great Bear Rainforest](#) which encompasses a quarter of the world's coastal temperate rainforest. You'll also have a unique opportunity to learn from local Kwakwaka'wakw guides, who are proud of their heritage and excited to share their culture, stories, and knowledge of the land.

Coastal Rainforest Safaris is the only tour operator in the North Island region to offer a fully immersive eco-tour and safari experience from an Indigenous perspective. A long-term relationship and agreement with the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation enables Coastal Rainforest Safaris to access wildlife viewing areas and stunning beaches that most tour operators do not have the permission or the necessary permits to visit.

Considerations

- Limited Internet access on certain legs of the tour with access available in the hotel, airport and town of Port Hardy
- Limited cellular phone service with cellular phone service available in Port Hardy, but calls from your hotel are your own expense
- While this adventure is not overly strenuous, participants must be of "fair" physical fitness. (e.g. must be able to walk on uneven terrain, endure outdoor conditions)
- Participants should advise of any dietary restrictions or food allergies
- Single accommodation is included at each hotel
- Day of arrival includes two meals
- Day of departure includes one meal
- During your Coastal Rainforest Safari experience all meals are covered. Local wines and craft beer are included with dinner at the safari camp.
- Travel and wildlife adventures in the remote north are at the mercy of Mother Nature. All water related activities are very weather dependent and may need to be cancelled in the event of heavy rain or high winds. Travel delays can also happen. Participants must be of a flexible nature and disposition.
- Fluency in English is required

- Other guests will be joining you on this tour that are not part of the GoMedia Conference
- Gratuities are included
- There is solar powered electricity at the safari camp. Recharging camera batteries is not a problem, but high energy consuming items like hair dryers are not permitted. They can accommodate medical devices, like CPAP machines that require electricity, but please notify us in advance if you require this.
- A credit card will be required at hotel check in to cover personal incidentals such as long distance calls, laundry, movies, etc.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Sunday, September 13

2:50 pm	Transfer from your hotel to Victoria International Airport with a Tourism Vancouver Island representative.
3:50 pm	Check-in for your Pacific Coastal flight to Port Hardy at the Victoria International Airport, compliments of Tourism Vancouver Island.
4:50 pm	Afternoon flight from Victoria to Port Hardy with Pacific Coastal Airlines .
8:00 pm	Arrive in Port Hardy where you will meet a Coastal Rainforest Safari staff member to transfer you to your hotel.
8:15 pm	Check into the Kwa'lilas Hotel , compliments of Coastal Rainforest Safari and Tourism Vancouver Island.
Dinner	Dinner at the Kwa'lilas Hotel with a Coastal Rainforest Safari staff member, compliments of Coastal Rainforest Safaris and Tourism Vancouver Island.
Overnight	Kwa'lilas Hotel, Port Hardy.

Day 2 – Monday, September 14

6:00 am	Enjoy breakfast at the Kwa'lilas Hotel before checking out and settling any incidentals you may have incurred.
7:00 am	Meet a Coastal Rainforest Safari staff member in the lobby of the hotel and prepare for your float plane or water taxi transfer to the base camp on Branham Island which is covered in temperate rainforest and situated in the heart of wildlife-rich waters.
7:30 am	Arrive at Skull Cove base camp, get oriented and settle into your safari-style tents
8:30 am	Depart on your full day of grizzly bear viewing tour.
Dinner	Enjoy Indigenous inspired cuisine at the base camp. Beer and wine are included with your meal.
Overnight	In your safari tent at the base camp.

Day 3 – Tuesday, September 15

Morning	Enjoy a hearty breakfast at base camp.
Afternoon	Depending on the weather, the tides, possible wildlife sightings, and the wishes of the group, your guides may decide on another day of bear viewing or whale watching, or perhaps you'll experience seabird and sea otter spotting, or a visit to the picturesque long sandy beach at Burnette Bay – or you may even enjoy an action-packed day that includes a combination of these activities.
Dinner	At the base camp. Beer and wine will be included with your meal.
Overnight	In your safari tent at the base camp.

Day 4 – Wednesday, September 16

Morning	We'll have breakfast and then load the boat to head back to Port Hardy. We take our time cruising back to port, always on the look-out for more wildlife to view.
Mid-morning	Arrive back to Port Hardy and have lunch, compliments of Tourism Vancouver Island.
1:10 pm	Check-in for your flight to Vancouver's YVR South terminal .
2:10 pm	Depart on your flight to YVR South.
3:15 pm	Arrive in Vancouver's South terminal.
	Flights home

**accommodation can be provided for media departing on early morning flights Thursday, September 17.*

Recommended items to bring

Personal items

- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Medication and spare medication
- Insect repellent
- Toiletries. They provide eco-friendly shampoo, conditioner, and body wash. Please do not use perfumed toiletries, such as scented soaps, perfumes, or cologne.

Clothing

- 2 pair of pants
- 2 long sleeve shirts
- 2 short sleeve shirts
- 1 sweater or sweatshirt
- 4 pairs of socks
- 4 pairs of underwear
- 1 set of long underwear
- 1 swimsuit
- 1 pair of short
- 1 fleece jacket
- 1 baseball cap or sun hat
- 1 light weight rain jacket or windbreaker
- Walking or running shoes
- Sandals or shoes you can get wet
- Coastal Rainforest Safaris provides a heavy hooded rain jacket, rain pants, rain boots, and a warm hat

Additional items to bring

- Camera equipment including charging cords.
- Binoculars. If you don't have any, they have a number available for guest use.