Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures

Guest Handbook

Great Bear Rainforest Explorer
10-Days

WELCOME

Thank you for deciding to spend your vacation kayaking with us at Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures.

The purpose of this handbook is to inform you about what to expect on your trip, provide you with important pre-trip information, and assist you in planning your trip. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions that are not covered here.

Pre-Trip Checklist:

- Trip Cancellation and Interruption insurance: purchase through your travel agent or other provider in case unforeseen events prevent you from going on your trip. While every policy is different, most need to be purchased within days of booking your trip.
- Medical Travel insurance: purchase through your travel agent or other provider. Please ensure it includes wilderness activities and that it not only covers the cost of medical attention but also the cost of evacuation from a remote wilderness setting.
- Participant Detail Form : please complete and return to Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures by May 1st. Please note any dietary restrictions on the Participant Detail Form as we do our meal planning in advance. Some dietary requirements incur extra cost.
- Waiver: please read and understand. You will sign the waiver at the pre-trip meeting.
- Transportation to Port McNeill: Flight or car rental reservations if necessary.
- Ferry reservations if you are driving from Vancouver to Vancouver Island: reservations are highly recommended all summer to avoid lineups. Fridays and Long weekends are especially busy.
- Hotel reservations in Port McNeill for before and after your kayak tour.
- Trip clothing and personal items packed as per “What to Bring” checklist.
- Additional travel clothing packed for before and after kayak trip.
    - In case of flight or luggage delays, we recommend carrying essentials, such as medications, and one day’s kayak clothing in your carry-on bag.

What is not included on our tours: Kingfisher does not provide transport from your home to Port McNeill and back. Accommodations in Port McNeill before and after your kayak tour. Any meals outside the kayak portion of the tour are your responsibility (this includes meals on the ferry to and from the Great Bear Rainforest - 2 lunches and a dinner).
As noted above, travel insurance for cancellations, accidents or emergency evacuation is not provided; we recommend you purchase a policy before leaving home.

The trip price does not include guide gratuities; For the guide team, we suggest $25-$75 per day per guest ($250-$750 for a 10 day trip), based on the service and attention provided. You can tip your guides directly with cash or by credit card at our office or online.

ITINERARY

Day 0: Arrive in Port McNeill the day before the kayak tour departs.
There is a pre-trip meeting **at 7:00pm with your guides at the Kingfisher Office**, located at 1790A Campbell Way, across the street from the Haida Way Inn and next to the Black Bear Resort. Your guides provide you with an overview for your trip, distribute dry bags to pack your clothing, and answer any questions you may have.

Meals Included: None

Day 1: An early morning. The ferry to Bella Bella departs at 7:30am but we need to be there 2 hours before departure, so we will pick you up at your hotel at 4:45am.
We will walk on the ferry with our kayaks and gear. After a scenic ferry ride we arrive in Bella Bella around 1:00pm and will load our kayaks and gear on the beach and make our way to our first camping area for the night.

Meals Included: Dinner. Breakfast and lunch are at guests' expense on the ferry.

Days 2 to 9: This trip is run 'expedition' style, we leave our itinerary very open to ensure our flexibility. This is a beautiful area to paddle, but we must work with the conditions and remain open to adventure. Each day, your guides assess the weather, tides, and sea state to determine the destination for the day. The general plan is to begin the trip in the islands and channels just north of Seaforth Chanel. From here we cross Millbanke Sound and through Higgins Passage to Laredo Sound. We then head north exploring Swindle Island and the southern reaches of Princess Royal Island before heading east through Meyers Pass toward Klemtu.

We can expect a combination of exposed open coastline and more protected inner passageways during this trip. Swell, wind, and open water crossings are common. As this is a nomadic tour, camp is usually moved each night. We may have an opportunity to stay two nights at one camp if conditions allow.

Meals Included: Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

Day 10: Our last morning is spent kayaking to the village of Klemtu. We arrive in the village early in the afternoon and if available we may visit the village's Big House. The ferry departs Klemtu at 4:00pm and arrives in Port Hardy at **11:30pm** where our van is waiting to transport the group, gear, and kayaks back to Port McNeill. If you are staying at the Black Bear or Haida-way Inn, our staff can pre-check you in and have your key available upon return to Port McNeill. You may also choose to spend the night in Port Hardy and fly to Vancouver the next day. The cost of the ferry between Klemtu and Port Hardy is included in the tour price. You can use the comfortable chairs to sit in for the evening or for an additional cost you can rent a cabin with bunks (contact us for more details). Please note that due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances it is possible we may arrive back after this time.

Meals Included: Breakfast - Lunch. Dinner available on the ferry at guests' expense.

TRAVELLING TO PORT MCNEILL, BC

If driving from the Vancouver area on the Mainland of British Columbia to Port McNeill, you need to sail on BC Ferries to either Nanaimo or Victoria on Vancouver Island. From Washington State, Coho Ferry sails between Port Angeles and Victoria. Drive time from Victoria to Port McNeill is approximately 5.5 hours, and from Nanaimo to Port McNeill is approximately 4 hours.

Driving to Port McNeill is quite straightforward. From Victoria drive north on Highway 1 to Nanaimo. From Nanaimo head north on Highway 19 until you see the sign for Port McNeill. Port McNeill is 1 minute off the main highway. The only other option for this route is north of Nanaimo just before you reach Parksville you can take the seaside route on Highway 19A. This route rejoins the main Highway 19 at Campbell River. The seaside route may add an extra hour to your trip.

Flights to Port Hardy (YZT), the closest airport to Port McNeill, depart from the south terminal of Vancouver International Airport (YVR) and are approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. These flights are operated by Pacific Coastal Airlines. Port Hardy Airport is a 30-minute taxi ride from Port McNeill.

If you are planning on renting a car on Vancouver Island (and not stopping in Vancouver), you can also fly with Air Canada to either Nanaimo (YCD), Victoria (YYJ) or Campbell River (YBL) on Vancouver Island. Another option is to fly with WestJet Airlines via Calgary (YYC) or Edmonton (YEG) to Comox (YQQ) on Vancouver Island. Comox is about 2 1/2-hour drive south of Port McNeill.

Transportation	**Phone**	**Toll Free**
Pacific Coastal Airlines	604-273-8666	1-800-663-2872
WestJet Airlines	403-444-2446	1-888-937-8538
Air Canada	514-393-3333	1-888-247-2262
BC Ferries	N/A	1-888-223-3779
Coho Ferry	250-386-2202	1-800-264-6475
Waivin Flags Taxi	250-230-8294	N/A
Island Link Bus	Email only	info@islandlinkbus.com

Recommended Port McNeill Accommodation

Black Bear Resort	250-956-4900	1-866-956-4900
Humpback Inn	250-956-3131	1-888-956-3131
Dalewood Inn	250-956-3304	N/A
Ocean Comfort B&B	250–956-0002	N/A
Cluxewe Resort	250-949-0378	N/A

WHAT TO BRING

While the summer months in British Columbia are mostly warm and sunny, we still have a few cool and wet days. After all, the coast of British Columbia is the world's largest temperate rainforest. For maximum enjoyment on your trip in all types of weather please bring the items listed below.

It is important that your clothing be made of **synthetic materials or wool** to retain their warmth when wet. Most synthetics also have the advantage of being quick drying. **Avoid cotton clothing** because they lack warmth if wet and take a very long time to dry. All of the items listed below need to fit into four dry bags (which we supply). If you have any questions on what you need to bring please feel free to contact us.

Sleeping bag - must fit into 20 litre dry bag
We supply sleeping bags, liners, and pillows to all guests but if you prefer to bring your own we recommend:

- A three-season synthetic insulated bag - please bring it with you to the pre-trip meeting

Clothing - must fit into 20 litre dry bag
To ensure your comfort in the event of wet and cold conditions, please bring everything listed below. Long underwear (synthetic or wool) may be considered a winter item, but it is common for guides to wear them. It can make a world of difference on a cool summer evening and can double as leggings under shorts during the day. A warm hat is also a great way to prevent heat loss. Proper layers will work wonderfully to ensure your warmth and happiness.

• 1 pair of short	• 2 sets of long underwear
• 5 to 7 pairs of socks	• 6 to 10 pairs of underwear
• 2 long sleeve shirts	• 1 swimsuit/ 1 small Towel
• 2 short sleeve shirts	• 1 fleece jacket
• 1 sweater or sweatshirt	• 1 baseball cap or sun hat
• 2 pairs of pants	• 1 wool or fleece cap

Rain gear - must fit into 10 litre dry bag
We provide waterproof kayaking jackets but you still need rain gear for around camp. Rain gear does not need to be breathable but it should be waterproof - not water-repellent.

- *1 waterproof rain jacket with hood or rain hat*
- 1 pair of waterproof rain pants

Personal items - must fit into 10 litre dry bag

● Toiletries	● Medication
● Sunscreen	● Spare medication
● Sunglasses with a retainer	● Insect repellent
● Prescription eyeglasses or contacts	● Book
● Spare eyeglasses or contacts	● Flashlight or headlamp and batteries
● Wet Wipes	● Camera & Binoculars
● Sanitary Products	● Extra digital storage and batteries

Footwear - to be worn or packed loose

- You need one pair of watersport shoes for paddling and one pair of closed shoes - running shoes (or light hiking boots) to wear around camp. The camp shoes will be packed loose in the kayaks, not the dry bags we provide.
- For your safety and protection, flip flops and open sandals are not acceptable for our tours due to rocky and often slippery shorelines.
- We highly recommend proper watersport shoes such as Keens or Tevas, with straps, or running shoes/trainers that can get wet.
- Rubber boots can be difficult to pack but have proven to be a good choice for some of our guests. Some guests prefer these instead of wet shoes or sandals for kayaking. But if you go too deep when entering or exiting your kayak the boots will be wet for the remainder of the trip. Some guests may prefer to wear rubber boots around camp or on the beach.

Optional Items to Bring

- Wool or fleece gloves or mitts (if your hands easily get cold these are good to have for the evenings)
- Small towel in case swimming is one of the activities.
- Paddling or cycling gloves (we provide kayaking mitts for warmth, but if you are prone to blisters you may find cycling or paddling gloves to be beneficial).
- Farmer Jane/John wetsuit to wear kayaking- this item is good for those who get cold easily but is not completely necessary if you bring lots of layers.
- If you own and regularly wear a dry suit, feel free to bring this item to wear. Though it is nice to have, it is not a requirement. Many guests do not own one and find they are happy to wear good base layers along with the paddling jackets that we provide.

Guests who wish to use personal gear such as PFDs, paddles, sleeping bags, etc must bring items to the pre-trip meeting to allow your guides to determine if they are suitable for your tour.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Getting Your Feet Wet
Plan to get your feet wet. Getting off the water taxi when arriving at camp, you can expect to step into ankle deep water. When getting in and out of kayaks you need to step into water that may be as deep as your shins. Flip flop (thong) type sandals are not to be worn as they are very unstable on slippery beaches. Water shoes / closed – toe shoes, or sandals must securely fasten to your feet.

Physical Fitness
Most guests rate the physical exertion level needed, from moderate to high. If you are not normally a moderately active person or do not use your upper body much you may find a few weeks of moderate exercise before your trip will enhance your enjoyment. Upper body training, a few times a week, for 6 to 8 weeks before your trip is a great way to get your kayaking muscles into shape. You need to have the strength and mobility to get in and out of your kayak with little to no assistance – other than someone stabilizing your kayak for you. Independent mobility is required to move about onshore as the terrain is often uneven.

Carrying Gear and Kayaks
Each trip brings in supplies for the trip on the same ferry as the guests. This includes all the guests' personal gear, sleeping bags, tents, plus all food and drinking water for the trip. Guests should be able to carry 20 to 35 pounds. However, we can accommodate most guests who have physical limitations. Please discuss these with us and disclose them on your medical form.

- Water canisters weigh 22 pounds and food boxes weigh up to 35 pounds.
- We ask all guests to help load and unload the ferry and move supplies.
- Kayaks are kept above the high tide line on shore and must be carried up to 100 meters to and from the water each day.
- Single kayaks weigh about 60 pounds when empty. At least two people carry empty single kayaks.
- Double kayaks weigh about 100 pounds when empty. At least four people carry empty double kayaks.
- Kayaks are often moved with gear and supplies packed in them. Due to this additional weight at least four people will help move packed single kayaks and at least six people to move packed double kayaks.

Snacks and Water Bottles
A variety of snack bars and individual water bottles are provided to all guests during the trip. We often stop for short snacks and water breaks while kayaking. Guests are welcome to bring additional personal snacks and their own water bottles if they wish. Personal snacks are to be kept in your kayak (not in your tent) so that little critters do not chew into your personal belongings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alcohol
Guests are welcome to purchase and bring wine, beer, or spirits on trips. You can purchase wine, beer, and spirits at the Shearwater store. Guests are strongly encouraged to make their purchases prior to the pre-trip meeting.

Please be advised that for safety reasons, alcohol may only be consumed after the completion of the day's paddling. Guests are expected to be responsible when consuming alcohol. For the comfort and safety of all guests, drunkenness is not allowed. Please be mindful that space is limited on expedition trips. The use of illicit drugs is also prohibited.

Camp Cleanliness
To keep our camps clean and free of food (and food like) odours, we have a few requests. We'd like all guests to remember that no food or drinks are to go to your tent area. In addition to no food, no scented items are to go to the tent areas. This includes soap, toothpaste, deodorant, and sunscreen.

Hand Washing
Good sanitary practices are extremely important, and it all begins with frequent hand washing. Your guides go over some basics on proper wilderness hand cleaning techniques both at the pre-trip meeting and at the base camp.

Hair and body washing
Fresh water can be collected from streams when possible and your guides will instruct the group in proper low impact methods to bathe. Due to the nomadic nature of these tours we do not provide solar showers (they very rarely warm thoroughly). We provide biodegradable soap for your use. Some guests find "Wet Wipes" to be a satisfactory substitute.

Brushing Teeth
To keep the camp clean and free of odours that may attract animals we ask that all teeth brushing is done on the beach below the high tide line. Spitting and rinsing is done right into the ocean.

Toilets
No toilet facilities exist within this area. The preferred method of human waste disposal is the "inter-tidal flush". However, depending upon the area different methods may be used which your guides will instruct as necessary. All toilet paper is either burned or packed out. Each tour has a group toilet bag that includes toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and zip-lock bags for used paper and sanitary products.

Sanitary products
Wilderness travel can cause changes in menstrual cycles. So, even if unexpected, we suggest that female guests bring a supply of feminine hygiene products for the trip. All sanitary products are packed out and zip lock bags are included in our toilet bag for disposal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cell Phones
To maintain the natural setting during your tour, we ask that use of technology be restricted to your tents and not be used in communal areas of camp. Ringers should be silenced so as not to disturb the enjoyment of others in this wilderness setting. Better still, turn it off all together. You are on holiday.

We understand that many people use their cell phone cameras for their vacation photography. We just ask that they are not used for calls and texting during your tour. If you must text or make a call when cell reception is available, we request that it be done out of earshot of other guests, away from the group.

Photography
Photos are a great way to share and reminisce about your experiences with us. However, you have to be careful you don't spend your whole time looking through a viewfinder in the attempt to document everything or trying to get the "perfect" photo. When your time is spent this way you may miss a lot of the beauty and action that is all around you. Sometimes you just have to put the camera away and sit back and take it all in.

That being said, we recognize many guests will want to bring their cameras on their trip and this is completely fine. We often enjoy taking photos while we are kayaking too. Visit our blog to learn about kayak photography, including pros and cons of different camera types, considerations needed on how to carry and store these cameras while kayaking, and details on charging your camera.

Camera Batteries
We have no way to recharge camera batteries on our expedition-style tours so it is important that you bring any additional batteries you may need. Check out our blog for suggestions for additional information on power packs and batteries.

Gratuities
While gratuities are not required, they are appreciated. You can tip your guides individually or just tip one of them to share with the other. For the guide team, we suggest $25-$75 per day per guest ($250 to $750 for a ten-day trip), based on the service and attention provided. You can tip your guides directly with cash or by credit card at our office or online.

PAPERWORK

Waiver
In order to join the trip that you have booked, we require that you sign a waiver at your pre-trip meeting. Please ensure you have read and understand the waiver prior to arriving at the meeting. Seek legal advice if you have any questions. If you do not sign the waiver at the pre-trip meeting, we have no choice but to regard this as a last minute cancellation of your trip, with no notice, and consequently provide no refund.

Parental Consent
A parental consent addendum to the waiver is required to be completed at the pre-trip meeting for all guests under the age of 19. If the child's parent or legal guardian is not accompanying them on the trip please contact us to discuss our further requirements.

Participant Detail Form
IMPORTANT Please complete the Participant Detail Form in full **before May 1st.** This form is separate and more detailed than the form attached to our booking page. As all our tours operate in wilderness settings, the more information we have in advance of the trip the better we can prepare. In the unlikely event of an emergency this form may be provided to outside medical attendants, so please ensure it is accurate.

Travel Medical Insurance
While unlikely, a medical evacuation plus any required medical attention can be expensive and all costs are the responsibility of the guest. For this reason, we highly recommend purchasing adequate medical and travel insurance through your travel agent or other provider. You should ensure this covers you for wilderness activities, the cost of medical attention, and the cost of evacuation from a remote wilderness setting.

Tetanus
Tetanus, also known as lockjaw, is a serious illness caused by tetanus bacteria. The bacteria live in soil, saliva, dust and manure. If you get tetanus there is usually a long course of treatment. The tetanus vaccine can prevent tetanus but its protection does not last forever. Adults should get a tetanus shot, or booster, every 10 years. Without a current tetanus shot, if you were to get cut on your trip (even a minor cut) we would require you to be evacuated from the trip at your own expense for medical care. With a current tetanus shot, if the cut is manageable in the field you would likely be able to continue the trip.

Medication
Please note that we do not provide medications on our trips, even something as basic as aspirin or Tylenol. Please include all prescription, non-prescription and homeopathic medications plus any vitamins or herbal supplements you may be taking. For medications that must be taken regularly please bring a second supply in a crush-proof and UV-proof container clearly marked with drug name, dose and instructions clearly labeled. Please have separate containers for each medication. Provide this second supply to your guide at the pre-trip meeting and for them to store it in a separate waterproof container just in case your main supply gets lost or destroyed.

WILDLIFE VIEWING ETIQUETTE

Visit www.kingfisher.ca/whale_watching_guidelines_for_kayakers.htm for more info on marine mammal viewing guidelines

One of the greatest attractions to our trips is the wide variety of wildlife we may encounter while paddling. Our guides are well versed in the areas we kayak, the habits of the local wildlife, and they regularly communicate with other kayakers, whale watchers, and researchers to improve our wildlife viewing possibilities. But please keep in mind that wildlife is just that, wild, and we cannot guarantee any wildlife sightings.

When we do encounter wildlife, we have some basic rules that must be followed to ensure that wildlife is not adversely affected by our presence. At your pre-trip meeting your guides review our approach to wildlife viewing both on the water as well as on land.

We have listed below some of the animals we receive the most questions about as well as our approach to viewing and dealing with them. We may see many other animals and birds that are not listed below. The main goal when viewing any wildlife is not to disturb their normal activities. Your guides instruct you to stay close together as a group when viewing any wildlife and position the group appropriately to minimize any disturbance to the wildlife. Feeding of wild animals is strictly forbidden. There are provincial and federal laws that can result in fines and/or jail terms for feeding wildlife.

While kayaking, our approach to viewing orcas and other marine mammals varies depending upon their behavior. Quite often we form a tight group by “rafting” our kayaks together so that we do not form an obstacle course they need to maneuver. We may paddle alongside orcas at a reasonable distance as they travel but we must be careful not to cross in front of them. Approaching too close or placing ourselves in their path may force them to change their route and normal behaviors.

Orcas
Northern Resident orca and Transient (Biggs) orca sightings occur in the areas we paddle, usually from mid-July through mid-September and intermittently during other months. The main goal when paddling with orcas is not to disturb their normal activities. To achieve this, we do not approach any closer than 200 meters to travelling, feeding or resting orcas.

Whales, dolphins and porpoises
Humpback whales are frequently seen in the areas we paddle. We also occasionally sight Pacific White Sided dolphins and Harbour and Dall’s porpoises. As with orcas, the main goal is not to disturb their normal activities and we do not approach any closer than 100 meters to travelling, feeding or resting cetaceans.

Seals and Sea lions
Harbour seals and Steller sea lions pose another set of concerns that whales do not. We may often see seals and sea lions hauled out of the water on rocks. This is an important time

for them to rest. The closest we should approach is 100 meters but if the animals seem agitated by our presence at greater distances we give them even more room.

Black Bears and Grizzly Bears
Black bears are quite common on our expedition style trips. Grizzly bears also live in parts of the Great Bear Rainforest and we can come across one on this tour. When we see bears it is usually from our kayaks as they forage for food along the tide line. When in our kayaks we approach from downwind and come no closer than 100 meters, keeping noise to a minimum. If the bears become aware of our presence, we immediately back away. To ensure bears do not become habituated to kayakers and associate people and kayaks with food we must follow some basic procedures when in camp. All food, trash and recyclables must be properly stored to minimize scent and access. No food, gum, toiletries, or other scented items are to be taken into tents at any time. If leaving camp, take a "buddy" and make a lot of noise in the woods so as not to surprise an animal. Your guides cover basic precautions to be taken to avoid animal conflicts at your pre-trip meeting.

Wolves
The Central Coast has a population of coastal wolves that if we are lucky, we get to see on our tours. It is one of the shyest and most elusive creatures in the area that usually stays far from human activity. We do often spot their tracks in the sand, but it is rarer to spot a wolf walking down the beach in search of seafood. To ensure wolves do not become habituated to kayakers and associate people and kayaks with food we must follow the same procedures we apply to bears and other wildlife when handling food and other scented items.

Cougars
Cougars are rarely seen on our trips but they are present throughout British Columbia. We have had five sightings in 17 years and each sighting was without incident. Like all cats, cougars can be curious but due to the size of our groups they usually avoid us as much as possible. In the unlikely event that we do encounter a cougar, below are a few points to keep in mind:

- Stay calm and keep the cougar in view. Pick up children immediately. Back away slowly, ensuring that the animal has a clear avenue of escape. Make yourself look as large as possible. Never run or turn your back on a cougar.
- If the cat shows intense interest or follows you, respond aggressively. Maintain eye contact with the cat, show your teeth and make loud noises. Arm yourself with rocks or sticks as weapons. Crouch down as little as possible when picking things up off the ground.
- If the cougar attacks, fight back. Always keep the animal in front of you. Convince the cougar you are a threat, not prey. Use anything you can as a weapon. Focus your attack on the cougar's face and eyes.

**We do not wish to alarm our guests and we have never had a problem encountering any wild animals. We wish to keep it that way by following the above precautions. For more info on bear and cougar safety, visit www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/conserve/bearsandcougars.pdf
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GRIZZLY BEAR VIEWING

If you have opted to add a Grizzly tour in Port McNeill after your Great Bear Rainforest Explorer tour, please be advised of the following information:

The grizzly bear viewing day trips are operated by our friends at Sea Wolf Adventures. They are a separate company from Kingfisher.

Meet at 6:45am at Sea Wolf's office at 1514 Broughton Blvd. in Port McNeil (same building as MacKay Whale Watching). These times may change due to weather and tides.
You will return around 5:00pm to Port McNeill.

The use of photographic flashes or strobes is not permitted. Flashes will disturb the bears.

Avoid the use of perfumes, aftershaves, deodorants, insect repellents or any potent fragrance. Strong scents will disturb the bears.

Avoid bright and/or flashy clothing such as red, white, yellow, and orange.

For your comfort and convenience, we recommend bringing:

- Sturdy walking/hiking shoes, preferably waterproof
- Dress warm (layers of synthetic, quick-dry clothes)
- Light-weight waterproof jacket and pants
- Sunhat, unscented sunscreen, sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Camera, memory cards, batteries, monopod

Included in the tour:

- Boat Transportation
- Breakfast, lunch, snacks, and drinks
- Binoculars
- Rain Poncho (sizes small to large)
- Cultural sustainability fee

SOCIAL MEDIA

Before you join us this summer please visit and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter by clicking the icons below.



Many of our guests enjoy sharing their experiences, photos, and videos on social media. To make it easier to share photos and videos from your kayak tour with your fellow guests add the hashtag #KingfisherWildernessAdventures to your social media posts.

Hashtags don't work as well on Facebook so tagging our page, *Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures*, on your posts also makes them easier to find.

FEEDBACK

About two weeks after your kayak tour you will receive an email from us with a link to an online feedback form. While we love to hear what we do well, we also want to hear about areas that we may be able to improve. In the unlikely event something is not right; please don't wait until after your tour to bring it to your guides' attention. It is too late to fix it for you at that point. Please let us know immediately and we will do our best to make things right. But please keep in mind, no matter how good your guides are, they still can't control the weather and the wildlife.

REDUCE YOUR FOOTPRINT

We know that our guests share our love of the natural world. Here are some ways you can reduce your impact on the environment when you join one of our tours.

Before You Leave Home

- Set your water heater to low.
- Turn off your air conditioning/heat or change your thermostat setting.
- Turn off and unplug lights and electronics, they can still use power when they are plugged in
- Turn off your ice maker.
- Call to suspend your newspaper delivery.

Pack Eco-consciously

- Pack light, to reduce weight and therefore carbon emissions.
- Take advantage of the fact that we provide kayaks, tents, bedding, and dry bags, rather than bringing your own, unless you will be using them on another segment of your trip.
- Although we do provide water bottles and mugs on tour, if you have room consider packing a travel mug, reusable water bottle, and shopping bag, to reduce your use of single-use items en route.
- Pack your own toiletries in reusable travel-sized containers rather than using the miniature toiletries supplied by hotels.

Transportation

- Your travel carbon footprint varies greatly depending on how far you are travelling, how many people you are travelling with, and what form of transportation you use.
- Travelling by bus is the greenest option.
- When flying, choose to fly economy over first class and choose the most direct flight route.
- If renting a car, choose the smallest, most fuel-efficient car as possible.
- Consider purchasing carbon offsets for your transportation footprint. The David Suzuki Foundation provides a good overview of carbon offsetting.
  Less and Offsetters are two highly-ranked (Gold Standard-certified) organizations through which you can purchase offsets.

Invasive Species

- To prevent the spread of invasive plants, please ensure your footwear and any personal camping gear you may be bringing has been cleaned of any mud and seeds.
- The use and transport of watercraft, including kayaks, can spread aquatic invasive species in coastal areas. If you are bringing your own kayak on one of our tours, please inspect and clean your boat and ensure all bilge water is drained. If possible, rinse your boat and equipment that normally gets wet with hot tap water (greater than 50°C), or dry your boat and equipment in the sun for at least 5 days before transporting them to another body of water.