



The magnificent seven

- Orca
- Pacific White-Sided Dolphin
- Dall's Porpoise
- Harbour Porpoise
- Minke Whales
- Steller Sea Lions
- Harbour Seals
- often, Humpback Whales

Vessel

The 60-foot vessel, the M.V. Gikumi, is integrally linked with the rich history of Telegraph Cove and the surrounding area. Initially, the Gikumi was built to tow logs for the Telegraph Cove sawmill. She also served as a coastal pilot boat and cargo vessel all along British Columbia's rugged coastline before becoming B.C.'s first whale watching vessel in 1980. The Gikumi offers a great sense of history and romance in addition to providing an ideal vantage point for viewing wildlife. The Gikumi has an inside heated galley and washroom. She is equipped with a hydrophone (underwater microphone) that allows for the possibility of hearing live Orca vocalizations. The vessel is fully certified and undergoes Coast Guard inspection every year.

Please note that we will provide full-days of structured wildlife viewing opportunity but the timing will be adapted to the activity in the area. For example, when we have planned to make the Steller sea lions the focus of our study, we may receive a report of there being a Humpback sighting. We will then adapt our programme, and see the more predictable sea lions at a later time. We can anticipate where we will see Dall's porpoise but likely, the Dall's will find us first! Your opportunities to photograph bald eagles and the many migrating bird species will be abundant but will be opportunistic rather than being included in our planning. In short, we will adapt we will adapt our planning to Mother Nature's agenda.

The natural splendour of the Blackfish and Broughton Archipelagos is so great that we can predictably see seven species of marine mammal. Most famed are the Orca and indeed, the area is the most densely trafficked area of Killer Whales in the world. However, in October there are also hundreds of Pacific white-sided dolphins, Dall's and harbour porpoises, Minke whales, Steller sea lions and harbour Seals. Together these marine mammals are the "Magnificent Seven" and, often, there are eight as humpback whales too are found in increasing numbers in this area.

The "Magnificent Seven" Tour will allow for participants to get so much more than just a "snapshot" of the wildlife of the area. With 5 days of wildlife viewing, it is possible to gain true insight into the full marine ecosystem. The M7 tour provides a rare opportunity to view the characteristics and behaviours of the wondrous marine mammals. Thereby, this tour is ideal for all with a true love and respect for the ocean and its life.

Awe-inspiring biodiversity! In addition to the Magnificent Seven, the myriad of islands is home to large numbers of Black Bear, Northern River Otter, Gray Wolf, American Mink, Northern Raccoon and Black-tailed Deer. The number and diversity of migrating birds is also a source of wonder. The full richness of the marine ecosystem is reflected in its awe-inspiring diversity of invertebrate life. Use of an ROV (remote operated vehicle) will allow for viewing of the life that makes this one of the highest ranked dive locations in the world.

Day 1

Arrival and reception; meet Jim, Mary and Jackie.

Day 2

8:30 AM -meeting to provide introductory information about the wildlife and boat orientation. Departure from Telegraph Cove at 9:15 AM. The day is dedicated to observing the Resident Orca and listening to their vocalizations. Lunch will be aboard the M.V. Gikumi with return to Telegraph Cove at approximately 5:00 PM. After dinner, Jackie will present a slide show illuminating the biodiversity of the area.

Day 3

8:30 AM -guided tour of cetacean bones. Departure from Telegraph Cove at 9:15 AM. The wildlife focus of the morning will be Steller sea lions. Lunch aboard the M.V. Gikumi. The afternoon will be spent touring seal haul-outs and the habitat of Transient Orca and harbour porpoise. Return to Telegraph Cove at approximately 4:30 PM. After your dinner, enjoy the video presentation "Realm of the Killer Whale". Your hosts will be Jim and Mary Borrowman.

Day 4

Departure from Telegraph Cove at 10:00 AM. The day's focus will be aimed at viewing humpback whales and Pacific white-sided dolphins. We will extend our tour into the early evening to enjoy the stunning lighting of sunset in the Johnstone Strait. Return to Telegraph Cove at approximately 7:00 PM.

Day 5

Departure from Telegraph Cove at 9:00 AM. The aim for the day will be to view Minke whales and Dall's porpoise. Return at approximately 4:30 PM.

Day 6

Departure from Telegraph Cove at 9:00 AM. We will again dedicate our efforts watching the Orca. Return at approximately 4:30 PM.

Please note that it is not possible to guarantee wildlife sightings.

Location-highly conducive to the study of marine mammals

Secluded Telegraph Cove on northern Vancouver Island is the point of picturesque, boardwalk community with a rich history. The Cove opens onto Johnstone Strait and the Blackfish Archipelago. This area of great tranquility has one of the richest marine eco-systems in the world and has proven to be the ideal location to study marine mammals.

The package includes

- 5 full-days of the Broughton and Blackfish Archipelagos aboard the classic 60' vessel, MV Gikumi
- Small group size to maximize comfort and opportunity
- Expertise from Captain Jim Borrowman gained from his many years of field experience
- Service of our Head Naturalist, Jackie, an avid diver and biologist specialized in studying animal behaviour seen while on tour and will include presentation of cetacean acoustic samples and discussion of conservation and research issues
- Use of on-board hydrophone
- Evening slide show and video presentations to provide insight into the characteristics and behaviours of the Magnificent 7
- Guided tour of the collection of marine mammal bones
- Use of an ROV (remote operated vehicle) to view the invertebrate life beneath the ocean's surface
- Breakfast each morning (including day of departure)
- Heart lunches and homemade snacks each day served on-board the Gikumi
- Dinner each evening (including day of arrival)
- Accommodation in the unique period homes of Telegraph Cove

