"RAFT UP" PADDLING EVENT: CVPC & SISKA - VICTORIA: JUNE 13-15, 2023

Tuesday, June 13 Oak Bay Coastline, Haro Strait

Tides (Oak Bay): LT 0750 3.6', HT 1439 6.3'

Current (Baynes Channel): 0829 slack, 1118 max flood +2.7, 1412 slack, 1720 max ebb –2.1

Oak Bay Marina Launchsite

Coffee/tea/etc at Dockside Eatery in Oak Bay Marina, on the dock past the Ocean River store.

Option 1: Oak Bay Marina to Chatham/Discovery Islands

https://siska.ca/prod/images/paddleplots/obm4.pdf

Launch @ 10 am from roadside beach on Beach Ave (across from 1440) in Oak Bay across from Marina docks.

Paddle north around Cattle Point, E of Jemmy Jones I, cross Baynes Channel NE to Strongtide I, E across the top of Chatham I and S down the E side of Chatham and Discovery I to Rudlin Bay for lunch. After lunch continue clockwise around Discovery I and set a course through the Chain Islets back to Oak Bay Marina.

Distance ~ 9 nm. Return to launch site by 3 pm.

Option 2: Oak Bay Marina to Cadboro Bay

https://siska.ca/prod/images/paddleplots/oakbaymarina-parkinglot8.pdf

Launch @ 10 am from roadside beach on Beach Ave (across from 1440) in Oak Bay across from Marina docks.

After picking our way through the interesting boats moored in Oak Bay we will follow the coastline and make our way past Willows Beach to Cattle Point and then on to Cadboro Bay. Shortly after entering Cadboro Bay, and depending on the weather and sea state, we may cross the Bay and head toward Flower Island on the way to Cadboro Point. We will then turn around and head to our lunch spot at Gyro Park in Cadboro Bay.
After lunch we will follow the coastline back to Oak Bay Marina. If you have not paddled this way before you will be surprised by the interesting rock features and the contrast between modest homes and opulent villas that are only visible from the water.

Distance ~ 7 nm. Return to launch site by 2 pm.

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Wednesday, June 14 Becher Bay, Juan de Fuca Strait

Tides (Becher Bay): LT 0711 2.7', HT 2328 9.8'

Current (Race Passage): 0920 slack, 1223 max flood +4.5, 1535 slack

Cheanuh Marina Launchsite

Coffee/tea/etc at Pedder Bay Marina Café, Pedder Bay, on the way back to Victoria.

Option 1: Cheanuh Marina, Spirit Bay - Becher Bay to Whirl Bay

https://siska.ca/prod/images/paddleplots/becherbay4.pdf

Launch @ 10 am from ramp at Cheanuh Marina, 4901 East Sooke Road (launch fee is $10/kayak)

Paddle out along the E shore of Becher Bay, crossing the tombolo to Long Neck Island, and continuing along the shore of Rocky Point to Whirl Bay for lunch. Return the same way across the tombolo, then cross to Fraser Island and back to Cheanuh Marina ramp.

Distance ~ 8 nm. Return to launch site by 3 pm.

Option 2: Cheanuh Marina, Spirit Bay - "Becher Bay 360"

https://siska.ca/prod/images/paddleplots/spiritbay1.pdf

Launch @ 10 am from ramp at Cheanuh Marina, 4901 East Sooke Road (launch fee is $10/kayak)

We'll noodle the whole shoreline, exploring islets, coves, islands and even a tombolo! Whales have occasionally been spotted in Becher Bay, but we're sure to see lots of smaller critters so bring your camera. The Bay is usually well protected, mostly undeveloped, and particularly scenic - a lovely place to paddle. Most of the land along the shore belongs to the Sc'ianew (Cheanuh) First Nation which is building the attractive homes at Spirit Bay, upgrading their popular Marina, and operating a Spill Response Vessel. There is a launch/parking fee of $10 per kayak for use of the ramp, and washrooms are available.

Distance ~ 6 nm. Return to launch site by 1 pm.

Thursday, June 15 Victoria Gorge Waterway

Tides (Victoria Harbour): LT 0832 1.6', HT 0033 9.7'

Current (Gorge/Tillicum Narrows): max ebb -8.9 0702, slack 1405, max flood +1.4 1549

VCKC Launchsite

Coffee/tea/etc at Serious Coffee, 1153 Esquimalt Road on the corner of Esquimalt Plaza

Option 1: Victoria Waterway Loop

Paddle Loop clockwise from Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club (VCKC) Ramp/beach, 355 Gorge Road West

http://vicwaterloop.ca/downloads/VWL-Brochure-web.pdf

Note: Paddlers must have a set of kayak wheels.

Launch @ 10 am from ramp at VCKC.

Paddle from VCKC under the Tillicum Bridge through the Narrows with the ebb (~6kts), out the Gorge and Victoria Harbour under the Selkirk Trestle, Bay and Johnson Street Bridges, past the Inner Harbour and marinas, then following the Esquimalt shoreline W to Fleming Beach/MacAulay Point for lunch. After lunch continue W along the Esquimalt shore, into Esquimalt Harbour to Portage Beach. Load boats on wheels and follow the 1km trail to Portage Inlet. Launch into Portage Inlet and paddle out the Gorge Waterway to VCKC.

Distance ~ 8.4 nm. Return to launch site by 3 pm.

Option 2: Gorge Waterway Exploration

Paddle Upper Gorge Waterway/Portage Inlet from VCKC Ramp/beach, 355 Gorge Road West

https://siska.ca/prod/images/paddleplots/vckcclubhouse1.pdf

Note: This paddle does not include a portage, so kayak wheels are not required.

This tour of the Gorge and Portage Inlet will take advantage of the very sheltered waters in this unique 'inland' and tidal waterway. The plan is to go west from the VCKC clubhouse along the Gorge and under the Craigflower bridge and then up to and around the Portage Inlet basin. On the way back we can stop if needed at Craigflower-Kosapsom Park for a 'bio break' or leg stretch before proceeding back to our launch point.

Launch @ 10 am from ramp at VCKC - **no wheels required**

Distance ~ 5 nm. Return to launch site by 1 pm.

Other Paddles - in case relocation required due to wind/weather

1. Telegraph Cove to Cormorant Point, 6-8nm (hide from W/SW winds)
2. Brentwood Bay to McKenzie Bight, 6-8nm (hide from E winds)
3. Amherst Beach, Sidney to Portland I, 8-10nm (when JDF winds strong but Haro light)