



# SAN JUAN ISLANDS AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>PACIFIC NORTHWEST OVERVIEW</b> .....    | 2 |
| The Cruising Areas .....                   | 2 |
| • Puget Sound .....                        | 2 |
| • San Juan Islands .....                   | 2 |
| • Gulf Islands .....                       | 2 |
| • Princess Louisa Inlet .....              | 3 |
| • Desolation Sound .....                   | 3 |
| • The Broughtons & Inside Passage .....    | 3 |
| <b>CRUISING GROUNDS LOCATION MAP</b> ..... | 4 |
| <b>BASE LOCATION MAP</b> .....             | 4 |
| <b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b> .....           | 5 |
| • Base Address .....                       | 5 |
| • Base Location .....                      | 5 |
| • Yachts .....                             | 5 |
| • Embark/Disembark .....                   | 5 |
| • Cruising Experience .....                | 5 |
| • Base Open Hours .....                    | 5 |
| • Pump-Out .....                           | 5 |
| • Heaters .....                            | 5 |
| • Food & Lodging .....                     | 5 |
| <b>HOLIDAYS: U.S.A &amp; CANADA</b> .....  | 6 |
| <b>AREA, CRUISING, AND WEATHER</b> .....   | 7 |
| • Moorings .....                           | 7 |
| • Marinas .....                            | 7 |
| • Cruising Conditions .....                | 7 |
| • Tides .....                              | 7 |
| • Temperatures/Winds .....                 | 7 |
| • Charts & Plot Books .....                | 7 |

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST OVERVIEW

## The Cruising Areas

The Pacific Northwest offers a variety of cruising grounds like no other place on earth. The different areas are typically defined by the crossing of a straight. Our cruising areas cover mostly the inland waterways because the western sides of the Kitsap Peninsula and Vancouver Island are harder to get to and not as protected. Northern British Columbia and Alaska are not included in this summary as it takes more time and preparation for such a trip.

- **South Puget Sound:** From Olympia up to Tacoma Narrows. The waters between these towns and Shelton to the west are usually flatter and very scenic with limited boat traffic as most cruisers tend to go north.
- **Central Puget Sound:** From Tacoma and Gig Harbor in the south to Poulsbo in the north (including Seattle, Bremerton, and Bainbridge Island). As this includes the Seattle area, Lake Union, and Lake Washington, it tends to be busier with a lot of land based activities.
- **North Puget Sound:** Included are the Hood Canal area, Admiralty Inlet, Whidbey Island, Camano Island, and Everett as well as the area east of San Juan Island (including Bellingham Bay). This is a very diverse and large area with protected waters and parks in the Hood Canal, and more open water in Bellingham Bay and La Conner along the way.
- **San Juan Islands:** This is the main cruising destination for locals and visitors alike. This island chain is comprised of three main islands (Lopez, San Juan, and Orcas) and numerous smaller islands (like Decatur, Blakely, Shaw, Stuart and Sucia). This area has everything a boater could wish for from small quaint harbors and little towns, to secluded anchorages with plenty of mooring balls to settle for the night. With whales, eagles, seals and more, nature puts on a show everyday under the impressive background of Mount Baker.
- **The Gulf Islands:** This area includes parts of Vancouver Island from Victoria to Nanaimo. Like its southern neighbor, this chain of islands is in the shadow of mountains therefore it is dryer in summer than most of the Northwest. The San Juan Islands are peaks from submerged mountains whereas the Gulf Islands are sandstone folds. You will find numerous protected anchorages and small marinas as well as vibrant cities like Sidney or Nanaimo (the last main harbor and service center before cruising north to Princess Louisa and Desolation Sound).

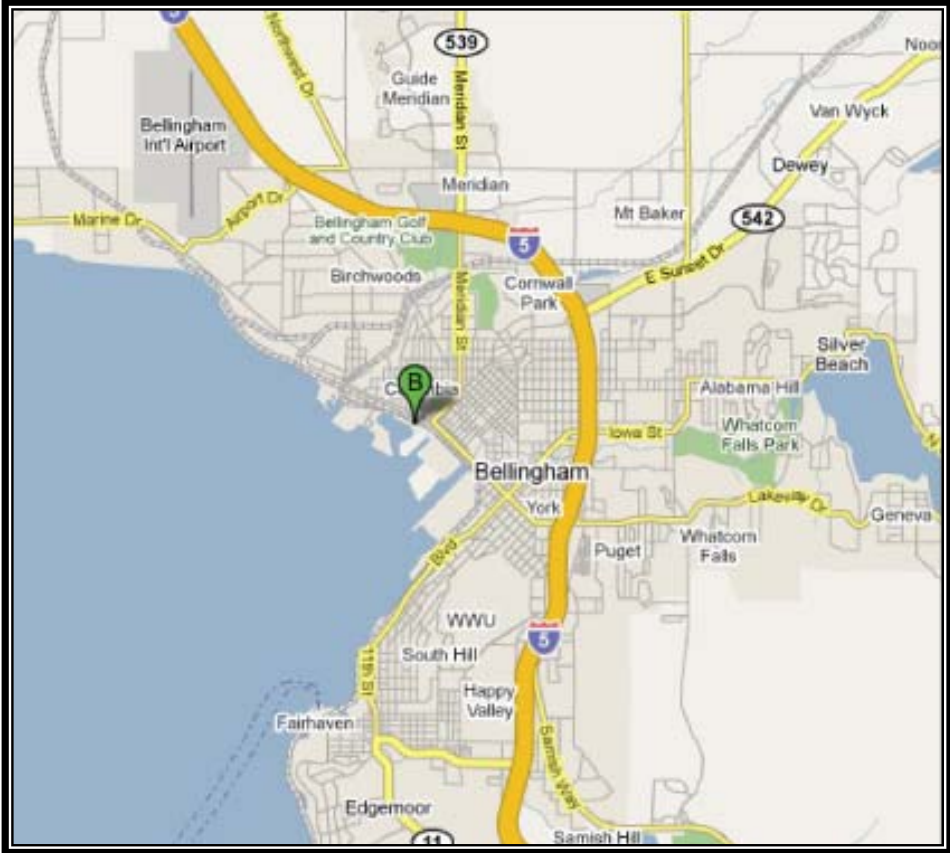
- **Princess Louisa Inlet:** You will need to cross the Strait of Georgia and cruise up Jervis Inlet to reach Chatterbox Falls situated at the end of Princess Louisa Inlet. Beware of the winds that can kick up even in the middle of summer which can make for a rough or even impossible passage in some cases. South of this area, Vancouver has plenty to offer for any cruiser.
- **Desolation Sound:** For most cruisers with limited time on their hands (two weeks or less) and for those who take the time to savor the pleasures of the cruising life, this is as far north as they will go because by the time they get there it will be time to turn around. However, if this is your destination, Prideaux Haven, Campbell River, and Discovery Passage and any island, bay, and cove will enchant you. Just take your time, relax, and enjoy.
- **The Broughtons and Inside Passage:** Great remote and challenging cruising grounds for those with plenty of time to explore.



# CRUISING GROUNDS LOCATION MAP



# BASE LOCATION MAP



## GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Base Address:** 1801 Roeder Avenue, suite 174  
Bellingham, WA 98225 USA  
Base Manager: Herve Burnel
- **Base Location:** Located at Squalicum Harbor in Bellingham, 90 miles from Seattle to the south via Interstate-5 and 50 miles from Vancouver, Canada to the north via Interstate-5. We are just 10 minutes away from the Bellingham International Airport.
- **Yachts:** Our boats are all powerboats and range from 33 to 53 feet. Our fleet of Back Coves, Sabres, and Selenes is superbly maintained and of the highest quality.
- **Embark/Disembark:** The base is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday with departures any of these days. Weekly charter rates are based on noon to noon departures and arrivals.
- **Cruising experience is required:** All skippers need to have a good boating resume with experience in navigation, chart plotting, tide and current experience. If your knowledge is not sufficient we will provide a captain for training purposes for as long as necessary for you to have a safe and enjoyable trip. We can also provide a hired skipper to handle your boat if you choose to do so or provide you with a fully crewed yacht. *As per WA state law if you are a WA resident you are required to have a safe boating card while operating a vessel.*
- **Opening Hours:** 8 am to 5pm every day but Sunday, late arrivals will find their boats ready and open with information necessary for a comfortable evening.
- **Pump Out:** All boats are equipped with a holding tank. It is illegal to pump overboard and a list of the pump out stations will be provided before your departure. While cruising in Canadian waters you will find that it is harder to find pump out services so a bit of planning is necessary.
- **Heaters:** The temperatures in the Pacific Northwest tend to be cooler (especially after sundown) than most cruising areas. As a result the large majority of our vessels are equipped with heaters.
- **Restaurants and Hotels:** The Bellwether is conveniently located here on the harbor. The Hampton Inn and Best Western are also good choices. All three of these offer a preferred rate for our clients.

When it comes to dining, downtown offers a variety of options. We recommend a wood fire cooked pizza at La Fiamma or Boundary Bay Brewery to get a feel of the local culture. Or if you want to stay on the water, Anthony's has the best seafood in town. Another fun alternative is to go to the Fairhaven Historic District and eat in one of the local restaurants or pubs.

Provisioning is easy with your choice of supermarkets and local food co-ops.

## HOLIDAYS: U.S.A. & CANADA

Expect closures and increased traffic on the following weekdays

### U.S.A.

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Martin Luther King Day | First Monday in January     |
| President's Day        | First Monday in February    |
| Memorial Day           | Last Monday in May          |
| Independence Day       | July 4 <sup>th</sup>        |
| Labor Day              | First Monday in September   |
| Thanksgiving           | Fourth Thursday in November |
| Christmas              | December 25 <sup>th</sup>   |
| New Years Day          | January 1 <sup>st</sup>     |

### Canada

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Good Friday     | Friday before Easter               |
| Easter          | Variable                           |
| Victoria Day    | Monday before May 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| Canada Day      | July 1 <sup>st</sup>               |
| Labor Day       | First Monday in September          |
| Thanksgiving    | Second Monday in October           |
| Remembrance Day | November 11 <sup>th</sup>          |
| Christmas       | December 25 <sup>th</sup>          |
| Boxing Day      | December 26 <sup>th</sup>          |
| New Years Day   | January 1 <sup>st</sup>            |

## AREA, CRUISING, AND WEATHER

- **Moorings:** You will find numerous anchorages set up with mooring balls throughout the San Juan Islands and Gulf Islands. There is a fee for them as well as a limit on the size of boat allowed to use these buoys.
  - Marina fees are around \$ 1.50/foot in summer (+/-) and roughly one third less off-season.
- **Marinas:** Some marinas can be crowded especially during holidays so reservations are recommended. Power standards are different between the U.S.A. and Canada; make sure you have the right adapter.
- **Cruising Conditions:** Summer tends to be dry when in the lee of the mountains with temperatures in the low 80's. Land breeze will develop in the bays next to the mainland and strong shifting wind can occur between some of the islands. Morning fog is always a possibility from midsummer onward. Strong currents and tides need to be taken into consideration when navigating in the Pacific Northwest. Fall and spring time can bring some beautiful cruising days but the temperatures will be mostly in the 50's and 60's (just fine with a good heater onboard).
- **Tides:** As mentioned above tides are substantial in the Puget Sound with an average of 14 feet so careful planning is in order while cruising. It is important to study your charts and tide books for safe navigation. Be especially watchful when the tidal stream is running in the opposite direction of the wind.
- **Temperatures/Wind:** Summer temperatures will rarely exceed the upper 80's with the nights cooling off nicely due to our cold waters. Spring and fall will average in the 60's with some fronts passing through bringing winds blowing generally from the southeast. Winter tends to be mild considering our latitude with rare deep freeze and snowfall.
- **Charts & Pilot Books:**
  - Waggoner Cruising Guide* is probably one of the most used publications.
  - Evergreen Pacific Cruising Guide* is also very popular.
  - Ports and Passes* as well as *Captain Jack* are the two most used tidal guides.
  - Charts and chart kits are also available for the Pacific Northwest.Worth mentioning is the fact that U.S. and Canadian charts are different and do not use the same datum and scales.