

Telegraph Cove Whale-Watching Tours Popular Even Before Starting

TELEGRAPH COVE, B.C. – New half-day whale-watching tours in Telegraph Cove on Northern Vancouver Island are already a hit, well before the first boat leaves the dock on May 1.

About 4,000 reservations have been made for the Prince of Whales' three-hour, fully guided tours that depart from Telegraph Cove Resort on the 62-foot Ocean Magic II.

Up to 74 passengers can travel on the semi-covered express cruiser which will explore the Johnstone Strait in search of marine wildlife, including killer whales, humpback whales and an assortment of seabirds and other species of marine wildlife that fill the local waters in the summer.

"We are thrilled to be exploring and educating on the North Island," said Alan McGillivray, owner of Prince of Whales Whale & Marine Wildlife Adventures.

The Ocean Magic II is a custom-designed marine vehicle that combines the practicality of a semi-covered vessel with the maneuverability of a Zodiac. Passengers can take advantage of three different viewing areas on two viewing elevations while listening to three onboard naturalists share stories of the ocean, its varying waterscapes and diversity of marine wildlife.

Complimentary tea, coffee and hot chocolate as well as light snacks for purchase are offered inside the heated cabin. The vessel is equipped with two airplane-style washrooms.

Tours leave at 9 am, 12:15 pm and 3:30 pm. Tickets cost \$130 for adults, \$105 for youth 12-17 and \$95 for children 2-12. Infants under the age of two travel free. There is an additional \$5 per person conservation fee which raises funds to support orca conservation and scientific research on the North Island.

In addition, two rigid-hull, zodiac-style inflatable vessels will be based at Telegraph Cove, each equipped with new, clean-emission motors with reduced sound profiles. They can carry 12-passengers each and will be available for charter groups.

Tours run daily until Oct. 15. For reservations call 1-888-383-4884 or go online to princeofwhales.com/telegraph-cove-tours/half-day-whale-watching/

Prince of Whales is one of the oldest marine tour companies in British Columbia and operates at Granville Island in Vancouver, in Victoria's Inner Harbour and at Telegraph Cove on Northern Vancouver Island. The company is the industry leader when it comes to eco-tourism and environmental conservation, recently committing \$1 million over five years to orca-based science programs and chinook salmon recovery projects in British Columbia.

For more information, contact:

Alan McGillivray, Owner, Prince of Whales, alanmcgillivray@shaw.ca; (250) 889-2009

Ben Duthie, General Manager, Prince of Whales, ben@princeofwhales.com (250) 896-4884

**INSPIRING PASSIONATE
STEWARDS OF THE SEA**