

The Victoria & Vancouver Island Travel and Tourism Guide TRAVEL MAGAZINE

West Coast Thrills - Kayak Sport Fishing

by Steve Lyons

Photos Courtesy of Ron Kirstein

I had always thought of kayaks as those little boats made out of skin and whalebone's that Eskimos used to hunt in. I never imagined that one day I would strap myself into a sleek fiberglass creation and be told that we are going kayak sport fishing.

That unfortunately is what precisely happened. Kayak sport fishing is the ultimate combination of adventure sports and leisure activities that help you to get an adrenaline rush and there's actually something to show for your efforts. Finding the right thing is seldom easy and once you do find it you should stick to it and tell others about it.

Kayaks are very simple light boats that require paddling to propel them along. They have the advantage of being silent and sleek and therefore if you decide to go fishing in one you have the power of silence on your side. You don't have to worry about fish being scared off by them and there are no motors to make noise.

A bunch of my buddies from work wanted to take in a fishing trip with a difference. Someones brother in law had gone on a kayak fishing trip and the way in which he described the trip to my buddy made him all gung ho about it. Every one remembers those fishing trips from their childhood where your dad took you out on the boat and you had great time.

We wanted to recreate that moment especially since the weather was just right and my buddy told us that it would cost far less as compared to regular fishing. When we all landed up at fishermans marine supply shop to buy our gear



Heading out to fish country
Photo by Ron Kirstein



Our Competition for the fish
Photo Courtesy of Ron Kirstein"

we realized that he was right. On an average we spent about six hundred to eight hundred dollars a piece and we managed to save on the cost of the kayaks because we had found a place where we could rent them as that would be foolhardy considering that we were trying it out for the first time.

The gang decided that the fishing around Vancouver Island is the best and since the Vancouver Island's economy is dependent upon fishing we were sure to get a good experience. There are a number of saltwater fishing operators, charters and resorts in most communities along the mainland coast and on the islands.

In case you are interested in freshwater fishing trips may enjoy the freedom of exploring various lakes and rivers found along major routes on their own.

The decision turned out to be great because we were able to catch the state ferry from Washington. And before you know it we were on our way!

Saying that the experience was great would be akin to the greatest understatement that any man has ever made. It was simply fantastic. We managed to get to the Victoria in about three hours and then we went straight to the lodge.

We had decided that since this was our first trip it would be better to let the professionals take over as that would lessen the burden of buying gear from a fisherman's marine supply shop on us and we would be able to get certain things like sleeping bags and other bulky stuff on rent. Plus we would get more fishing time if we didn't have to figure out where to go and where to fish.

We were right in our assumptions and we were not let down either. The lodge provided stuff on rent and it also gave us a guide who knew the area and the waters like the back of his hand and was able to give us tips on the best places to fish and how to get used to the novel sensation of actually wearing your boat!

A variety of fish can be found in the waters around Vancouver Island. My buddy had told me that in addition to a variety of salmon we would also find a number of other species out there. The best part was watching one of the guys struggling with a Coho that he managed to hook with little effort and on the strength of sheer dumb luck managed to reel in it as well!

I was looking for a Chinook salmon but I ended up with a Coho of my own which I managed to reel in with grace.

We were there for about two days and in the end we managed to get some fine specimens that we brought back with us. As I was leaving I asked my guide how he managed to know where exactly the fish were and what to expect. I swear its like the man was psychic or some thing. He looked at me long and hard and just as I was about to get uncomfortable he laughed and said that he used marine radio electronics equipment to know where the fish were.

I learned three things out of this experience. The First was that I should try new stuff. The second was that the fishing on Vancouver island is the best in the world and the third was that the fisherman's marine supply shop didn't tell me about the marine radio electronics stuff so I had better update myself. In case you decide to go Kayak sport fishing go in group first and then you can go on your own. It's easier that way.

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