

Sear Island - Serenity Now!

By Ron Kirstein

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An invitation to Sear Island is like getting invited to Bodo, Alberta! Who has ever heard of the place? As strange as it seems, I have been to within 5 minutes of Sear Island over 10 years ago and didn't even realize it. It turns out that Sear Island is just a stone's throw from Gabriola Island. Let the adventure begin!



Sear Island View of Coastal Mountains North of Vancouver



Spectacular Marine Life on the Shoreline at Sear Island

Walking through the main door, we're instantly overwhelmed by the incredible panorama that unfolds through a glass wall of windows at the front of the house. Two small islands bracket a spectacular view of Mount Baker on the US mainland. Looking across Georgia Strait, we can see North Vancouver in the distance, and the snow-capped Coastal Mountains.

The regular boat traffic out of Nanaimo passes by to the north (including B.C. ferries, coast guard and pleasure craft). Occasionally one of the boats passes right in front of the house. Every so often a cruise ship passes by in Georgia Strait. The scenery just does not quit - it's ever changing and so very interesting.

Our directions take us from Victoria to Nanaimo, then on the ferry to Gabriola Island where we travel to beautiful Silva Bay. With only one or two wrong turns, we park by the Silva Bay Marina dock and pile our bags on the wharf at the bottom of the gang-plank. Mike Harris, caretaker of Sear Island, arrives in a small Boston Whaler (a boat, not a guy from Boston with a harpoon). Mike loads the luggage in and takes me over to Sear Island first. I am amazed the trip is so short. He drops me off with our stuff and goes back for back for the other three in our group. By the time I take the bags to the top of the ramp, they arrive.



Sear Island, just a short boat ride from Silva Bay on Gabriola Island



One of the many beaches on Sear Island - awesome beauty



Our ladies, doing a little R&R

We watch the tides drop to seasonally low levels, exposing a large portion of shoreline. The receding tide exposes a host of marine life including hundreds of purple starfish, anemones, mussels, clams, oysters and a whole lot more. Otters continually feed along the shoreline sharing the waters with merganser ducks. A few gulls make their home on the rocks in front of the house. Eagles soar constantly overhead and nest a few hundred feet from the main house. We count four nesting pairs.

Because I speak 'sea lion', I enjoy a great conversation with a few sea lions on the rocks surrounding the channel marker north of the house. There are few places where you can see so much in such a short time frame. We feel very lucky indeed.

In the morning it is a bit overcast, so we walk the trail to check out the A-Frame cabin and then explore the shoreline just as the tide ebbs. The ever changing shoreline is incredibly interesting.

In the evening, we eat the great meal that we brought along. The well-equipped kitchen makes it easy to prepare our meals. The dishwasher and brand new gas barbeque are a nice surprise. Tables are available both inside and outside for meals. The large outdoor table is sheltered from the sea breezes by a glass partition, also a very nice touch.

In the morning, I lounge on the sundeck for some R&R. With my eyes closed, a symphony conductor orchestrates beautiful music with surround sound. The many species of birds make such beautiful music, occasionally disrupted by the comedic chatter of a pair of crows.

The weekend is such a special experience that I want to share it with as many people as I can. I encourage readers of this article to take a week out of their life and rent this special home. We skip the night-life, which consists of a trip to the pub at Silva Bay, because we don't want to leave paradise. This is a place of great tranquility and

I greet them in a very bad accent with: "Welcome to Fantasy Island!"

Mike loads our bags into a tractor bucket and shows us our means of transportation, a golf cart. I'm the designated driver.

"Keep the pedal to the metal," on the way over, Mike tells me.

With all the hills and twists and turns, it's like a Disneyland ride. We need the downhill speed to help get up the next little hill. It's a fun, but a very short ride. Soon we break out of the forest to our beautiful home for

the next two days.

unbelievable beauty. The scenery is second to none. Indulge yourself.

You can take a video tour of Sear Island by visiting their web site at <http://searilandparadise.50megs.com>. For booking call Ken Kwok at 1-604-720-3750 for booking and details.

Ron Kirstein

More photos below



Wayne checking out a purple starfish



Linda & Ron at beautiful Malaspina Gallery - a nearby attraction



Another view of Malaspina Gallery - a true wonder of beauty



More spectacular beach scenery



A tide pool



Another small tide pool full of interesting marine life



Such an interesting and ever-changing shoreline



Look out the front window to this!