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COASTAL NATURALISTS RETURN TO BC FERRIES FOR THE SUMMER
Discover the world beneath the waves

VICTORIA – BC Ferries in partnership with Parks Canada is pleased to announce the return of the popular Coastal Naturalists program to educate and entertain customers of all ages again this summer. The Coastal Naturalists program runs on board from June 29 through September 5 on select vessels servicing the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay and Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay routes.

Nine enthusiastic Coastal Naturalists will engage with customers during 20-minute presentations on the ships offering a real life coastal experience. The program helps raise awareness about B.C.'s coast and increase appreciation for its wildlife, marine life, geography, culture and history. Approximately 150,000 passengers participate in these presentations each season.

“Now in its 11th season, the Coastal Naturalists program offers travellers the opportunity to explore the world beneath the waves,” said Corrine Storey, BC Ferries’ Vice President of Customer Services. “Passengers onboard BC Ferries can’t help but feel inspired by the beautiful surroundings of the Gulf Islands and the Coastal Naturalists help enrich that experience by highlighting the uniqueness of the area.”

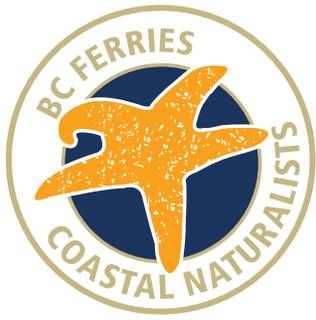
"Parks Canada is pleased to work with BC Ferries to offer this outstanding program. With the chance to spot a pod of splashing orca, discover the secrets of an ancient clam garden, and learn about the culture and history of the people and region, the Coastal Naturalist program offers travellers an incredible opportunity to connect with nature as they travel through Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and surrounds," said Helen Davies, Parks Canada superintendent for Coastal BC. "We also invite travellers to continue on and explore some of Canada's other national parks and historic sites in their journeys in coastal British Columbia with more information available at parkscanada.gc.ca."

Under contract to the Province of British Columbia, BC Ferries is the service provider responsible for the delivery of safe, efficient and dependable ferry service along coastal British Columbia.

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Media Contact:
BC Ferries, Media Relations
Victoria: (250) 978-1267

Customer Contact:
Victoria: (250) 386-3431
Toll-free: 1-888-BCFERRY (1-888-223-3779)



BC Ferries & Parks Canada 2016 Coastal Naturalist Program

This summer, the 2016 Coastal Naturalist Program, *now in its eleventh season*, offers BC Ferries customers the opportunity to discover the world beneath the waves, and more! BC Ferries and Parks Canada work together to present this successful program to inform, educate, and inspire travellers onboard BC Ferries vessels about the wonders of BC's coast. The program offers our customers the opportunity to connect with the coastal region, covering topics about the ocean, BC's unique wildlife and marine life, coastal, nautical and cultural history, and hear stories that connect Canadians and visitors to Parks Canada's incredible places.

The Coastal Naturalist Program runs onboard from Wednesday, June 29th through Monday, September 5th, 2016 on BC Ferries vessels travelling between Vancouver Island and Vancouver.

Nine Coastal Naturalists engage with customers with short roving presentations throughout the vessel and deliver a 20-minute program on select daytime sailings, offering a real life coastal experience.

The Coastal Naturalist Program helps to raise awareness of BC's coast and increase appreciation for its wildlife, marine life, geography, culture and history. Approximately 150,000 customers participate in onboard presentations each season, with seasonal program promotions reaching millions of customers.

The 2016 Coastal Naturalist Program is proudly presented by BC Ferries and Parks Canada.



Fun fact: sea otters use tools – they often have a favourite rock they use to crack open their food!



Coastal Naturalist Program Details

Coastal Naturalists

We started the 2016 year with a comprehensive audition process to find the best naturalists, and are proud to introduce a team of nine enthusiastic presenters for you to meet onboard.

Onboard Program

The program runs from June 29th to September 5th, 2016. The program is delivered seven days a week on select vessels travelling between Vancouver Island and Vancouver. Each vessel has one Coastal Naturalist presenting for four sailings daily.

Coastal Naturalist Programs are offered on all statutory holidays during the summer period.

Vessels

- *Spirit of British Columbia*
- *Spirit of Vancouver Island*
- *Coastal Celebration*
- *Queen of New Westminster*
- *Coastal Renaissance*
- *Queen of Oak Bay*

Schedule

The Coastal Naturalist schedule is found at bcferries.com/onboard-experiences/Coastal_Experiences



“I’m new to British Columbia, and was interested in learning more about BC as I travelled on the ferry. Imagine my delight in realizing there was a knowledgeable naturalist onboard! I learned so much that I didn’t know before. Coastal British Columbia is indeed a place of remarkable diversity, beauty and wonder! It is a treasure to be valued and cared for.”

– BC Ferries Customer



Meet our 2016 Coastal Naturalists!

Britta

Languages: English, French

I am an islander turned Vancouverite, a UBC Biology graduate, and a lover of outdoor recreation. I grew up in Victoria and spent my summers sailing around the Gulf Islands and Desolation Sound and my winters skiing at Mount Washington and Whistler. In 2010 I began studying at the University of British Columbia, which led to five years of totally immersing myself in student life through working in residence, participating in every campus event possible, and going on a Go Global exchange to Copenhagen during my third year. Since graduation last May, I have been working at an after school program for middle schoolers, a bakery, and climbing gym. I hope to become a teacher.

I am about to embark on a two month hiking trip to New Zealand and Australia, which I'm very excited for! I also love summer in British Columbia and am looking forward to being back and spending my days camping, rock climbing, and of course on BC Ferries as a Coastal Naturalist with all of you!



Keila

Languages: English, French

Hello! My name is Keila and I am a current UBC student pursuing a B.Sc in biology with an honours specialization in marine biology. Being a Vancouver native and growing up with the BC Coast in my backyard fostered my passion for discovering and conserving our oceans. I became particularly excited about the research and education initiatives on marine conservation in BC while working for the Vancouver Aquarium's BC Cetacean Sightings Network. Though I am excited about the fascinating research that is constantly being done on the amazing biodiversity, history, and geography of our unique coastline, I am a firm believer in sharing this wealth of knowledge with the public through education and interpretation. I believe the Coastal Naturalist program to be invaluable in this respect, and am honoured and excited to be a part of it for the coming season!

My hobbies include scuba diving, triathlon, hiking (especially in BC), and good coffee.

I very much look forward to meeting the entire team and spending the summer learning more about the wonders of the BC coast while engaging and inspiring BC Ferries guests!



Alex

Languages: English, Spanish

Throughout my childhood, I spent every second summer roaming the coast of Vancouver Island. From Victoria to Tofino and Campbell River, the magic of turning over a rock to peek at a crab or spotting a cresting whale was never lost on me. Since then, I have followed my interest in human-environment interaction through my undergraduate degree in Environmental Management and Anthropology. It wasn't until I spent a summer working for Parks Canada as a Heritage Interpreter that I realized that my strengths could be best used to promote connection between people and their environment as an environmental educator.

Beyond my academic and professional interest in environmental issues, my personal interests follow a similar vein. I love to travel and try to hike a mountain in each country I visit. I am a trail runner, well, more of a trail jogger, and still get excited when I see crabs at the beach.

Annie

Languages: English

I am from a small town west of Sydney, Australia. I studied environmental science at university and finished in 2015. Since finishing I have travelled to the top end of Australia, South-East Asia, England and Canada. I arrived in Canada in September 2015 and first went and worked on an organic farm on PEI before starting work at a ski resort in Ontario where I worked on the front desk. This past winter I have learned how to ski and I have tried snowboarding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and ice-skating.

I have visited Vancouver Island once before, 3 years ago and loved it! I visited Victoria, the Pacific Rim National Park, Tofino and Nanaimo before returning the mainland and spending some time in the Rockies. I really enjoy hiking, photography and birding though I need to learn North American birds a little more. I am really looking forward to learning more about the wildlife and the natural history of the BC coast and being able to share this knowledge. I hope to gain work in national parks as an interpreter in the future.



Andrea

Languages: English, French

I'm so happy to be able to participate in this fantastic program, sharing the wonders of the coast with BC residents and visitors alike. I will graduate this spring from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, with a BScH in biology focusing on ecology and environmental conservation. I'm pretty excited to come home again to the west(best) coast, where you can usually find me planning hiking trips with friends, going into full-on bear mode when I spot a wild blueberry patch, and getting lost finding trailheads on gravel backroads. Although I hail from 100 Mile House, BC (about as far inland as you can get without hitting the Rockies), I have always loved the ocean and coastal BC I have spent many hours aboard BC Ferries; I remember watching the Coastal Naturalist presentations as a kid and thinking what an AWESOME job that would be... so I'm pretty happy to have my childhood dream job now! For the past four summers I've worked as a Wildland Firefighter in Lillooet, BC, which has enabled me to access some of the most remote and beautiful places in our province. This year I was a Co-President of the Queen's Outdoors Club, which runs 2-4 trips every weekend ranging from canoeing, kayaking, hiking, skiing, and backpacking across Ontario and beyond. I love getting outside, wherever I am, to share my love of the natural world with people.



Emily

Languages: English, French

Hello, I'm Emily! I was born in Calgary, but my childhood featured regular road trips to BC to visit family. I have wanted to live in this natural wonderland since I can remember. I moved to Vancouver in 2009 and haven't looked back. I have no previous professional experience with Parks Canada or BC Ferries, but consider myself a frequent customer. I've spent three summers at a fishing lodge in Haida Gwaii, which have given me a deeper knowledge and appreciation of our natural resources and the culture of the Haida people.

Aside from spending time in nature, (especially near or on the ocean) my hobbies are photography, music, reading, and anything to do with beer. I have home brewed, worked at breweries and given beer tours. I love explaining the brewing process, because in general I love finding creative ways of making a subject that fascinates me approachable and interesting to others. I can't wait to apply this framework as a Coastal Naturalist, and more importantly to learn more about this beautiful place and its history.



Anika

Languages: English, Spanish

Hi, I'm Anika. I was born and raised in the lower mainland collecting shells along beaches and climbing trees in the forests. This gave me a passion for the natural world that led me to study ecosystems. Currently, I am about to enter my third year at Quest University Canada in Squamish BC. Here I am studying ecology and physics in the stunning Tantalus Mountain Range. I spend most of my free time either out hiking BC's coastal mountains or with my hands in the dirt, planting and gardening.

This past semester I went on a two-week long sailing and camping trip exploring the historical ecology of coastal BC on either side of Vancouver Island. This experience opened my eyes to the abundance and diversity of people, plants, and animals that have called this coast their home. I am thrilled to continue learning about and sharing my passion for this coast as a Coastal Naturalist aboard BC Ferries this year!



Alex

Languages: English

Hi! My name is Alex. I am originally from Vancouver but for the past three years, I have been living in Montreal and studying at Concordia University. Last spring, I graduated with my BA in communication studies and swiftly moved back to my hometown of Vancouver. During the past six years, I have been fortunate to spend my summer months living and working in the Haida Gwaii at Langara Fishing Lodge. There I worked as a first-aid attendant and as part of the marine safety patrol team. My time at Langara gave me countless hours of being on the water and exposed me to the incredible wonders that the BC coast has to offer.

As for my interests, I love doing anything outside. I enjoy playing ultimate Frisbee, going on hikes and kicking a hackey-sack around. I am also really into listening to podcasts, watching movies, and going to see local stand-up comedy. I am thrilled to be a part of the Coastal Naturalist team and excited to share a summer with all of you!



Emma

Languages: English, French

Hello! My name is Emma and I am thrilled to be returning to the Coastal Naturalist Program for my second season this summer. In the fall I will complete my final semester at the University of Victoria with a BSc in geography with a concentration in Environmental Sustainability and a minor in Mathematics. Last summer I very much enjoyed every day spent sailing across the Salish Sea (did you know a Coastal Naturalist sails over 8,000km in a season?!) and sharing the natural wonders we pass with the passengers. I love to study ecosystems, life, and the processes that create them. After completing my undergraduate degree I hope to work to protect and restore ecosystems and the life that depends on them and to educate people on the wonders of the natural world. I am excited for the opportunity to share this passion with the passengers aboard BC Ferries again this summer!

