

# Kayak Destinations

## West Orcas Island

San Juan Islands, WA

### Paddling Notes

- Paddlers enjoy generally sheltered waters South side of Island
- Use tides and eddies when paddling West side of Orcas I.
- Camp at [Jones Island SP](#), Car Camp at [Moran State Park](#) or [West Beach Resort](#), or stay at a [Inns and B&Bs](#) on Orcas I.
- World class BCU Kayak Training with [Body Boat Blade \(BBB\)](#)
- Cautions:
  - Tidal currents can develop in Wasp Is., particularly at Crane I.
  - Tidal currents & sm. standing waves at N. and S. end of Jones I.
  - Fetch can develop, particularly in afternoon
  - Be wary of boats & ferries in narrow passages between islands.
  - Most tidelands in West Sd. and Deer Hbr. are Private Property.

### Trip Basics

No. of Days

2-3 days

Paddle Distance

15-30 nm

Skill Level (SKGABC NA)

P.C. Level III and BCU Level II paddlers

Recommended Launch Site:

[See Map](#) (below)

- [West Sound Launch](#): Unrestricted overnight parking along waterfront. Launch from Beach at the foot of Crow Valley Road, below the [Kingfish Inn](#) (Great Bistro Food).
- [West Beach Resort](#): Camping, Showers, Cabins, Store, Parking, Launch. Non-Guest: Parking \$10/day, kayak launch \$5+\$5.

### Getting There

Driving Directions

[Google Maps: Vancouver Museum – Anacortes, WA – Orcas I.](#)

Travel Distance - Total

254 km w/o travel on Island 6 h 33 min

- Ferry

29.5 km 1 h 26 min

Ferry Info

[Washington State Ferries Anacortes to Orcas I.](#) Fare: US\$42.35 Car + 2 adults

Paddle to nearest campsite

6.2nm to [Jones Island SP](#) also [See Map](#) (next page)

### Planning

Nautical Charts

- [Download and print NOAA charts](#): PDF files in Full sheet or Booklet format.
- [Waterproof Chart 1:80,000 San Juan Islands](#). Call [BBB](#) on Orcas I. for Hours!

Trip Planning Maps &

Additional Info

[WAKE Mapthing](#) – includes Put Ins, Destinations, Tide & Current Stations (click map symbols). [BBB Resources Page: Orcas I. Info, Weather & Navigation](#)

Marine Trail

[Cascadia Marine Trails](#)

Park & Camping Info.

[Jones Island SP](#) is generally dry with Madrone/Arbutus trees cover. Has 24 primitive campsites; Drinking water and restrooms, May-September.

[Moran State Park](#) for Car-Camping. [Inns and B&Bs](#) throughout the island

Tide & Current Station

NOAA: **Tides:** [East Sound, Orcas Island](#). **Currents:** [Crane Island, south of, Wasp Passage](#); [Spring Passage, south entrance](#); [Point Disney, 1.6 miles east of](#)

Marine Weather

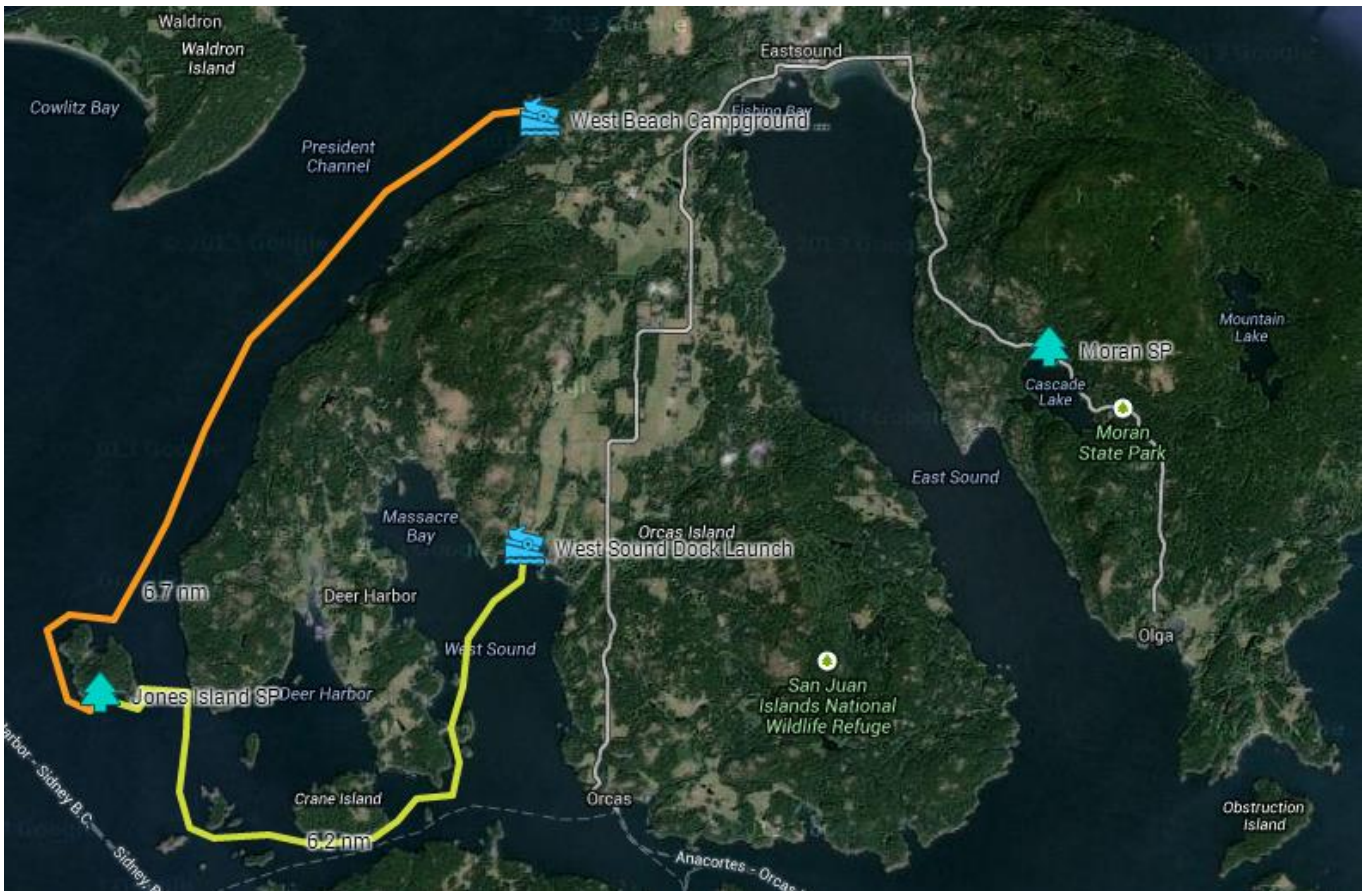
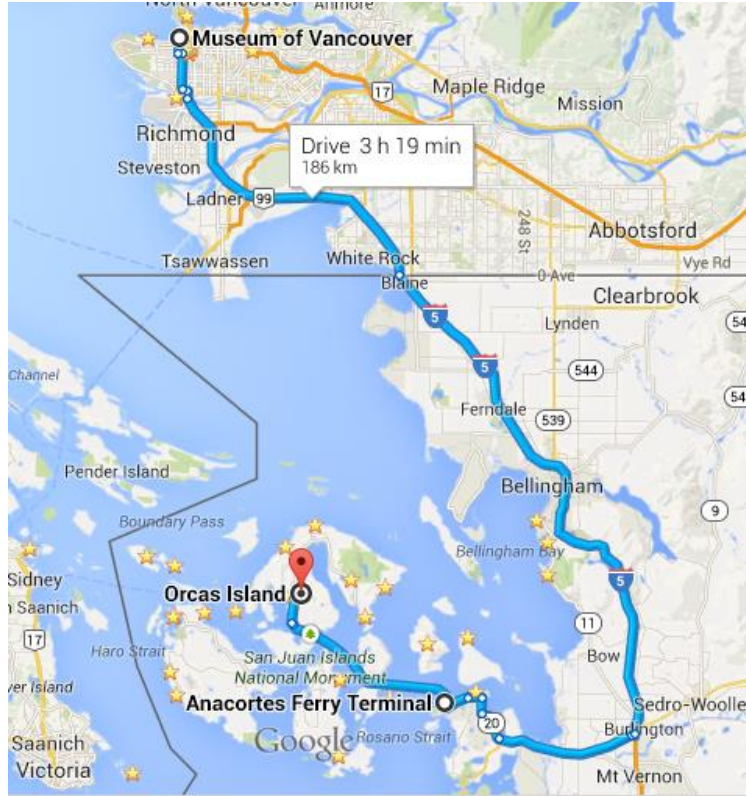
Locals Recommend: [Captn. Jack's Tide & Current Almanac 2014](#)

Water Taxi

VHF [Northern Inland Waters Including The San Juan Is.](#); [Marine Point Forecast](#)  
[Leap Frog Water Taxi](#) Call or Text: 360-220-0538

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