

# Kayak Destinations

## Broughton Group

Queen Charlotte Strait/Johnstone Strait, BC

### Paddling Notes

- West side of Johnstone Strait without crossing to archipelago
- Water Taxi to Echo Bay and return paddle to Port McNeil or Telegraph Cove
- Water taxi to Mound Island from Telegraph Cove
- Extensive Day Paddles from [Paddler's Inn](#), near Echo Bay
- Guided trips in area, mostly Johnstone Strait and Blakney Passage
- Exposed and Sheltered options
- July and August, are best times, not overly crowded in archipelago
- Wilderness camping - tend to be for small groups of 3-4 tents
- Carry at least 4 days of water in archipelago. Reliable water only on Vancouver I. side of Johnstone Strait, such as at Kaikash Creek.
- Killer whales follow migratory salmon runs in late July, and often are easily viewed - observe proper viewing guidelines. Humpback whales also in area.
- First Nations sites of interest, especially at Village Island and Alert Bay
- Good fishing in archipelago
- Fog, wind, currents, tides, cruise ships, rip tides.
- Blakney passage/Johnstone Strait/Cracroft Point area
- Cold Water in Q. Charlotte Strait - wet/dry suits + dress for warmth
- Observe current and tide tables, incl. secondary stations

### Trip Basics

- No. of Days 3-8 days
- Paddle Distance 20-50 nm
- [SKGBC Water Class. Map \(I-IV\)](#)
- Class II – Among inner island groups
  - Class III - Johnstone Strait and Queen Charlotte Strait
- Recommended Launch Site: Telegraph Cove - Launch Fee, kayak rentals, parking, camping, restaurants  
Port McNeil – Water Taxi to Echo Bay area.

### Getting There

- Driving Directions [Google Maps: Vancouver Museum – Nanaimo – Port McNeil / Telegraph Cove](#)
- Travel Distance - Total 429 km 6 h 28 min
- Ferry 57.8 km 2 h 11 min
- Gravel km min
- Ferry Info [Horseshoe Bay to Departure Bay](#)
- Paddle to nearest campsite Telegraph Cove launch - Blinkhorn Peninsula or Kaikash Creek

### Planning

- Nautical Charts **3546** 1:40,000 [Broughton Strait](#) **3547** 1:40,000 [Queen Charlotte Strait](#)
- Marine Trail [BC Marine Trails: Discoveries & Mid Coast](#)
- Trip Planning Maps
- [630 Broughton/Johnstone, BC Coastal Recreation Map Series, Wavelength](#)
  - [03: Broughton Archipelago \(B&W\), Coastal Waters Recreation](#)
- Suggested Guide Books [Wild Coast Vol. 3, The North Island Straits](#) by John Kimantas pp. 457-499
- Park & Camping Info. [Broughton Archipelago Provincial Park](#). See [Marine Trails map](#)
- Tide Stations [Alert Bay](#); [Sunday Harbour](#);
- Marine Weather VHF radio: [Queen Charlotte Strait](#)
- Water Taxi [The Paddler's Inn](#) Voice Mail: 250.230.0088 [info@paddlersinn.ca](mailto:info@paddlersinn.ca)  
[TelegraphCove Water Taxi](#) 250.756.0094/619.2714 [larry@orcseakayaking.com](mailto:larry@orcseakayaking.com)

NOTE: All information must be confirmed by kayakers before departing, and is provided without warrantee