

## **The San Juan Island Kayak Traverse Trip Planner**

### Tourist Resources

The City of Anacortes Chamber of Commerce has a great web site for tourist and visitors, with links to other area web pages of interest.

<http://www.anacortes.org>

The Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce includes the City of Sidney BC Canada. Though the web site is primary for commerce, it also has a very good visitor's web site for local interests.

<http://www.spcoc.org/chambers.html>

### Ferry Information

The Washington State Ferry system serves the Anacortes to Sidney BC run, and has two departures during the summer months. It is best to go on-line and get a current schedule for the season. Although roll-on kayakers and walk-on passengers have little problem finding room in the busy summer months, vehicles are a different story. Be sure to plan ahead.

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/>

Once on Vancouver Island, the BC ferry system has a terminal north of the Washington State ferry terminal with routes to Vancouver BC mainland, and other Island destinations.

<http://www.bcferries.com>

### Chart, Currents, Weather

The NOAA chart 18421 titled "Strait of Juan De Fuca to Strait of Georgia" covers the entire San Juan Island group as well as a portion of the Canadian Gulf Islands. The scale is 1:80,000 and is acceptable for kayak navigation in all but the worst of weather.

The Biological Sciences of the University of South Carolina has a great web page for current prediction for the San Juan's, and for a great part of the world. You may want to add this to your "favorites" group for any future paddle destination.

<http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/sitesel.html>

A good weather radio, preferably one with VHF transmit capability is a must for multi day paddles anywhere in the Pacific Northwest waters.

### Camping Permits

Camping sites in the San Juan Islands is limited, so plan ahead. The Washington Water Trails Association has a series of human powered vessels only camp sites, but they can be busy during the peak summer months. Be sure to arrive early, and expect company.

<http://www.wwta.org>

The "San Juan Sites" web page can be a big help in planning any over night stay in the San Juan's who prefer a B & B.

[www.sanjuansites.com](http://www.sanjuansites.com)

### Customs Requirements

Just because you enter Canada by kayak, do not think that you are exempt from report to customs. At the entrance of the Sidney harbor you will see the customs dock. Be sure to have your passport and take the few minutes to call in your arrival on the dedicated phone for this purpose. You will be issued an arrival number, and may be asked for it upon your return to the US.

### Anacortes Rentals and Guides

Island Outfitters is located on the main road to the Washington Park launch area in Anacortes. In addition to rentals, Island Outfitters offers tours and paddle instruction. Be sure to check out their great web site.

Island Outfitters  
2403 Commercial Avenue  
Anacortes, WA 98221  
Phone: 360-299-2300  
Toll Free: (866) 445-7506  
Fax: 360-299-2135  
Email: [mail@seakayakshop.com](mailto:mail@seakayakshop.com)  
Web: [www.seakayakshop.com](http://www.seakayakshop.com)

### Authors Biography

Dale Cooper is a long time resident of the Pacific Northwest and a new contributor to Sea Kayaker Magazine. When not paddling in the San Juan Islands or the northern reaches of Vancouver Island, Dale is traveling, hiking and trekking in North and South America, Europe, Asia or the Himalayas. His next stop, northern India in the fall of 2006.

Area Map (Courtesy of Mapquest)

