

Bellingham Yacht Club Desolation sound trip 2018

BYC cruised to Desolation Sound leaving the harbor on July 12 2018. Only 2 boats were registered and attended; Doug Campbell and Mary Carver in their Cutwater C24, and John and Elena Appleton in their 30 Ranger tug, both smaller size power boats. John and Elena brought their 4 month old Westie puppy named Finnegan, who was the social spotlight of every place we went! Due to our boat sizes, we were able to cover a lot of distance fairly quickly. The weather was perfect, sunny and quite warm the entire trip. All in all it was a fabulous time, maybe a bit short.

Day 1: Poets cove marina. We both had slips at the Marina and ate at Poet Cove's bistro

Day 2: Nanaimo. We each left Poets by 8am to make sure we could get through the currents at Dodd Narrows enroute to Nanaimo. Wind and cruising conditions that day were challenging, but we made it to Nanaimo safely! We both had slips but at different marinas. Doug and Mary connected with other BYC cruisers just ending their Gulf Island Cruise at the popular Marine Store in town. That evening we took a short water taxi cruise over to the Dinky Dock pub on Protection Island.

Day 3: Pender Harbor. Discussions with other boaters along with 3 smart phone weather apps helped us to know when and whether to cross the Strait of Georgia as planned to Pender Harbor. We made 1 attempt early and turned back! We made a second attempt around noon and made it, however it was a challenging crossing weather wise! We were very thankful to have each other cruising close together. Once in Pender Harbor we both had slips at John Henry Resort Marina. Doug and Mary had a great dinner at the Restaurant!

Day 4: Lund. The early am cruise to Lund was easy. We were there early enough to make a picnic lunch stop at the lovely Savery Island. We both had slips in the harbor at Lund and a great dinner at the Boardwalk restaurant

Day 5: Desolation Park. The early am cruise up to Desolation Sound park was easy. We opted to go to Teakerne Arm Falls for a picnic lunch and a hike to Cassell lake for a swim, which was well worth the trip. We spend about 4 hours there before cruising back to Squirrel Cove where we anchored for the night with a great view of the channel. We had a picnic dinner onboard.

Day 6: Desolation Park. We left late morning for the cruise up to Toba Cove. It was very scenic and calm. We both had slips at the newly remodeled Toba Marina. We hiked to the falls and had a picnic dinner at the marinas luxurious outdoor area. There are no restaurants here.

Day 7: Desolation Park. We cruised farther up Toba Inlet to see waterfalls and wildlife (not much but a few dolphin sightings). Our spot for the remaining part of the day and evening was Prideaux Haven, where we both anchored close by in Melanie Cove. We loved it, except for the mosquitos!

Day 8: We cruised up the Okeover Arm where we planned to eat dinner at the Laughing Oyster Restaurant, which was excellent! John and Elena stayed the night on the Dock after dinner. Doug and Mary opted to stay in Desolation again, and anchored at one of the popular coves in the park. This was our last night together as we each took separate routes back beginning on Day 9. John and Elena went

to Princess Louisa Inlet since they had not been before.

Day 9: Mary and Doug cruised back over to Refuge Cove Marine store where we ate some breakfast and fueled up. From there we cruised to Cortez Island's Gorge Harbor for the afternoon and evening. This is a lovely resort with a restaurant, nice pool and grounds, live entertainment nightly on the dock, and yoga on the dock in the mornings. We had a slip at the marina and ate dinner in the restaurant which was great!

Day 10: At this point, we are really heading south again so it feels like the trip was too short! Our next day was spent cruising up to Egmont, eating breakfast at the Skookumchuk bakery and taking the hike to the Sechelt Rapids. We tried to reach John and Elena on the radio but could not! We missed our cruising partners! We then cruised south to Beach Gardens Hotel, where we got a slip on the dock, but stayed in the hotel. The sunset was amazing! We took a boat cruise out just to further enjoy it. Beach gardens has a great wine shop below the hotel. We also took a shuttle bus in to Powell River and ate at a wonderful Italian restaurant.

Day 11 We cruised over to Texada Island for the afternoon picnic lunch and kayaking, before stopping at Secret Cove Marina for the night. The restaurant at Secret Cove was closed so our dinner was again a picnic! We were a little disappointed in the resort this time.

Day 12 We tried some salmon fishing after heading out in the morning. It was fun, but not our day for catching anything. The evening was spent at the luxurious Quayside Marina in Vancouver where we met up with some friends for dinner. The marina is in Yaletown, which is easy access to everywhere in Vancouver, including Granville island.

This was both of our first trip to Desolation Sound, and I think this itinerary gave us a pretty good taste of the area. We stayed with our original set plan for the most part.