

CDMC

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Fri Jun 03 to Sun Jun 05, 2016

 Leader: **Amber Gargus**

 Co-Leader: **Susan Osso**

On Friday, 10 wonderful wacky women came together at a coffee shop to sign in, radio's handed out to drivers, and a brief travel plan discussed. After a stop at Starbucks in Port Alberni and another one at the information center before Tofino, we made it to the pier where we were picked up by water taxi. The weather wasn't our friend this morning as it rained which followed us all the way to our campsite.

Once we landed on Vargas Island we were met by a very rustic unmaintained trail. The trail was made up of an old corduroy road with small foot bridges, majestic ancient trees, wet branches in your face, crab crawlers, and many tree bridges over slow trickling streams near the end. Then the salal became very thick, the ocean surf very loud, and we birthed ourselves out onto a half crescent sand beach as far as you can see. Wow! Beauty at it's best. From here we found a kitchen area, open air toilet, food cache and a place to set up camp. By the time we had designated the areas the sky broke and the sun came out, hot as ever!

For the next 2 days we explored both sides of the beach, had group activities and alone time. Adjoining beaches were easy to access at low tide and through short inland trails. Each beach provided new vistas and gorgeous areas to explore. Some even braved the cold ocean water for swimming. The sun was out and the wolves were never seen. Sunday morning we said good bye to Ahous Bay and headed back across the Island to get our water taxi. The trail back was hot and humid with little to no breeze. Luckily the trail was dried up with the 2 days of sunshine. As we waited for the water taxi on the beach we had an opportunity to eat lunch, beach comb and have a dip in the water. By 1:30pm we were all back at the pier safe and sound. Here we parted ways and signed off on the activity register.

A few notes on the Tofino excursion:

- 1) The water taxi can be delayed and you are at the mercy of the boat owner. Maybe ask for a specific time of pick up.
- 2) No more free overnight parking in Tofino. The Chambers of Commerce parking lot will be charging a fee commencing June 6, 2016.
- 3) There were no wolves. No sight, sound or anything else.
- 4) Water source is there but with the heat it did slow right down to not much. Be prepared with water if you're going and there hasn't been any rain.

THANK YOU to Susan O. for co-leading this amazing trip. THANK YOU to 9 outstanding women that came out, asked questions, laughed and had a great experience. THANK YOU to the drivers for driving!



Vargas Island landing... Elaine in her poncho....
[Amber Gargus photo]



Finally on the beach
[Amber Gargus photo]



Steam from the sun....time to dry out
[Amber Gargus photo]



Tent City
[Amber Gargus photo]



Small group activity
[Amber Gargus photo]



Friday Night Sunset
[Amber Gargus photo]



Saturday Sunrise
[Amber Gargus photo]



Saturday Exploring
[Amber Gargus photo]



Saturday Exploring
[Amber Gargus photo]



Saturday Exploring
[Amber Gargus photo]



Saturday Exploring
[Amber Gargus photo]



Saturday night group activity
[Amber Gargus photo]



Saturday Night Sunset
[Amber Gargus photo]



Vargas Island 2016 Group Photo
[Amber Gargus photo]



Heading out
[Amber Gargus photo]



Made it back
[Amber Gargus photo]



Nature's soft palette
[Susan Osso photo]



Lazy boots
[Susan Osso photo]

Report contributors: Amber Gargus, Susan Osso,

Participant list (10 of 10): Judy Bouwers, Amber Gargus, Susan Holvenstot, Helen Jackson, Susan Osso, Elaine Smith, Petra Strougal, Arlene Trustham, Mary Weiler, Jennifer Williams,

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