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Trip Report

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Nuchatlitz Provincail Park, Nootka Island (hiking)

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Fri May 31 to Mon Jun 03, 2013

 Leader: **Susan Holvenstot**

Co-Leader:

Paula, Glen and Susan drove to Tahsis, with pit stops at Strathcona Park Lodge for coffee and muffins, and at several beauty spots along the way. Harvey, a First Nations man working at Esperanza, met us at the Tahsis dock and took us out the Nuchatlitz. After settling into our camping places, amid the huge ancient forest giants, and helping Susan clean and re-order her new cabin - its way beautiful, new, and slightly larger than the original - we took our first paddle out toward the open ocean in the dusk. On the way back we saw the beige-grey forms sitting and lying on the grass along the mudflats. Wolves, five of them.

We paddled quite close, passing them, on our way home.

The next morning the tides and the weather were perfect for a trip to the four "outer islands." That means you have to paddle, on the open ocean with swell, about a kilometer between each one. We stopped for hiking on two of them, Eagle Islet and Shipwreck, climbing and scrambling over huge black rock covered with lush moss. We gathered mussels for the next stop back on Nootka Island, and enjoyed them over a beach fire. It being so calm and still, we took a longer route around into Port Langford, before the short portage back into home waters.

Still not tired of the local seafood, we had oysters on an open fire that evening. Susan had some house-work to do - varathaning her new window sills - so begged off from the next days adventure. Glen and Paula ventured forth on foot across the mile long low tide spit connecting out to Chias Island, and circumambulated it, in the wind and sun.

Oh, Glen had seen wolves that morning before breakfast, and again in the afternoon. Paula had listened to 3 or 4 wolves howling in the night.

We all got in a bit more local paddling, this all on sit-on-top plastic kayaks, before another barbecue dinner with the neighbors Dan and Bob invited over for company, as the sun set.

The final Monday morning dawned bright and sunny, for an early morning open motorboat ride back to Tahsis with Dan. We stopped at the local Monday Breakfast at a church in Tahsis - eggs and bacon, and muffins, and fruit and coffee, etc, before heading out. We had time for several stops on the way. The Upana Caves has a well developed trail network leading to at least 5 caves - quite spectacular and spooky. We also stopped for a swim in Buttle Lake, thanks to Glen. A good time was enjoyed by all.



exploring an island
[Paula Field photo]



paintbrush
[Paula Field photo]



looking down at our kayaks
[Paula Field photo]



mussels for lunch
[Paula Field photo]



view from Susan's island
[Paula Field photo]



sunset viewed from a kayak
[Paula Field photo]



rugged beauty
[Paula Field photo]



Glen, log-walking
[Paula Field photo]



a stop on the drive home, near Tahsis
[Paula Field photo]

Report contributors: Paula F, Susan H,

Participant list (3 of 3): Glen C, Paula F, Susan H,

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