

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(updated Nov 2021)

Here you will find the most common questions people may have.

Can't find your question? Your English is not that good? Need more detail?

NO PROBLEM. Contact us at info@rendezvousdiving.com or at 1-250-735-5050

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Q: What time do you pick up/drop off groups (6+) in Port Alberni and where?

A: Our pick-up time is 4:00 pm and our drop-off time is usually around 3:00 pm unless otherwise arranged. We try to be away from Port Alberni as close to 4 o'clock as possible, especially in winter, to limit traveling in darkness.

There is a good description of our pick-up/drop-off point in Port Alberni on our Plan your trip page.

Q: Where can I park and what does it cost?

A: Parking is available across the street from the pick-up/drop-off point in Port Alberni. Parking is free and is generally safe, however we would not recommend you leave any valuables in your vehicle.

Q: What if I miss my BC ferry and will be late?

A: If you think you will be delayed for any reason, please give Kathy a call at the lodge and she will relay the message to Peter in Port Alberni. Depending on the nature and length of the delay, our sailing schedule may be adjusted or alternate plans arranged.

Q: What do I need to know if I am coming/leaving with the Lady Rose Marine ferry?

A: The local ferry departs Port Alberni at 8:00 am sharp so you should arrive and load in no later than 7:30 am. When purchasing tickets, tell them that you are coming to The Rendezvous and we will arrange the pick-up location directly with the boat captain. Most often you will be set down at the dock at Haggard Cove where we will collect you.

We will organize the details of your return trip with the ferry captain as pick-up times can vary from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm depending on day and time of year. See www.ladyrosemarine.com for more information.

**** Please be aware that you are responsible for the cost of the ferry and any freight charges they may levy. ****

FOOD AND DRINKS

Q: Will there be dinner on arrival?

A: No. Normally we request guests bring their own meals on arrival day either to eat on the boat or once you are at the lodge. Port Alberni has all the usual fast food options as well as good grocery stores that supply hot foods at their deli

counters. When organizing dinner plans be aware that calling ahead to local pizza shops is notoriously unreliable and can cause significant delay. Please keep in mind the 4:00 pm departure time. Any use of the lodge's kitchen or BBQ needs to be arranged with Kathy when booking.

Q: Can you accommodate vegetarians, food allergies or special dietary needs?

A: Yes we can, however, as we are remote and Kathy will be providing all your meals she needs at least 10 days notice if you have special dietary needs. Menus are set a week before your arrival and all food is shipped in, so last minute changes can be difficult. If you have any concerns, please call Kathy directly at 1-250-735-5050.

Q: Is there potable (drinkable) water on site or do I need to bring some?

A: Drinking water is available from any tap in the lodge. Our water is supplied by a spring or by desalination, and is micro-filtered. We recommend you bring refillable water bottles if you consume a lot of water throughout the day.

WATER AND POWER

Q: Are there showers available?

A: Yes, there is a shower but depending on time of year our available water can be limited. The spring is fairly constant but provides water slowly, and when it goes dry we desalinate (which is time and energy intensive), so we ask our guests to be careful with water use. We request no more than 1 shower/day and to limit it to no more than 2-3 minutes.

Q: I need a CPAP machine to help me breathe at night. Can I bring it?

A: Yes! We have electricity available 24/7 and electrical outlets in each bedroom so plugging in and using a CPAP machine is no problem.

Q: Do you have electricity 24/7 and if so what wattage?

A: We are off grid so create our own electricity using solar panels and generators. Electricity is brought into the house at 110v and is available all day and all night. We do ask our guests to use it responsibly and discourage the use of high voltage equipment such as hair driers. For European equipment we have a 220v converter available.

CLOTHING AND BEDDING

Q: What can you recommend we wear/bring re: clothing?

A: Adjust your clothing to the season you are coming in but always bring a set of rain and wind resistant outerwear and a head cover. (give yourself layer up options)

Q: What's the best way to pack my gear?

A: As space on the boat is limited, we request that you pack your gear in soft stowable bags, and limit hard plastic totes. Camera equipment can be packed in hard cases.

Q: Do I need to bring my own bedding/towels?

A: All bedding is provided but we ask you to provide your own towels to help ease our laundry burden (see water/power limitations).

LODGING

Q: How many people can you accommodate?

A: Our maximum capacity is 10 people. We have 5 double-occupancy rooms, the dining table comfortably seats 12 (including us) and the boat is designed for 10 divers. We have, on occasion accepted an 11th person but this requires special logistics and must be arranged at the time of booking.

Q: I am travelling alone. Can I have my own room?

A: All reservations are on a double-occupancy basis as trips are normally full. On complete groups we endeavour to match rooms to dive buddies, or at least women sharing with women/men with men. If there is space available, we can try to arrange your own room but the only way to guarantee a solo room is to book 2 spaces.

Q: What do your guest rooms look like?

A: Our guest suite has 5 simple but comfortable double-occupancy rooms. Two of these hold 2 single beds each and the other 3 have double beds with single bunks. There is a shared simple bathroom. A set of internal stairs lead to the main house and another full bathroom/shower. Each room has its own heater and thermostat for individual adjustment.

COMPANY

Q: Can I bring my pets?

A: No, for a variety of reasons, we cannot accommodate pets.

Q: Can my non-diving spouse come too?

A: Yes. It is not uncommon to have non-divers accompanying our diving guests. They are always welcome on the boat and are encouraged to head out for the day on the water. If, however they just wish to hang-out at the lodge, put their feet up and read a book, they are welcome to do that too. There is a special reduced rate for non-divers.

Q: Will we have cell phone reception and/or internet access at the lodge?

A: Because of the Rendezvous' remote location, cell phone reception can be spotty and should not be relied upon. Guests will often be able to send/ receive text messages and hotspot from their phones at the lodge but will have the best reception once they are out on the water for the dive day. We do not have internet access for our guests at this time.

VARIOUS

Q: What are the dive and weather conditions like?

A: Please see the Barkley Sound Diving page on our website for general conditions at various times of year.

Q: What type of non-diving activities are available?

A: For those moments when you are not diving, we have a large, outdoor hot tub and kayaks available for our guests. In between dives and any time you are out on the water there is nature watching, and whenever possible, we stop for photos. When the weather is less than ideal, we have a variety of DVDs and tons of games available.

Q: What is the dive boat like?

A: The Rendezvous I is a 36-foot custom fitted Canoe Cove vessel. She has seating in the heated cabin, a small galley and a head (toilet). The flying bridge is accessible to guests for fine weather nature watching and photographs. The covered back deck is purpose-made for divers with benches running down both sides for easy gearing up. A wide swim grid allows for a stable step-in entry to the water and a specially designed ladder aids in exits.

A: The Grunt Sculpin is a 26-foot vessel used for smaller groups and kayak transport. She has a covered cabin and head on board. The open back deck is ideal for wildlife photography and close-by diving adventures.

DIVING AND GEAR

Q: What camera gear can/should I bring?

A: We highly recommend bringing a land camera as there are always above water photo opportunities of both the scenic and animal varieties.

Barkley Sound is beautiful and colourful, so underwater photo/video equipment is commonly brought along. Because it is so common, we have a separate room for setting up and tearing down your cameras as well as for charging lights/batteries. There is a large fresh water rinsing basin on the dock and a smaller dunk-tank with fresh water is available on the boat.

Q: Do you have rental gear?

A: We have a limited selection of gear available in case of gear failure. For those who bring their own suit, we may be able to provide the other gear (depending on sizes). However, we recommend using your local shop for rentals. If that is not an option, contact us for recommendations of a local dive shop.

Q: Do you provide cylinders/tanks or should I bring mine?

A: We provide 80 cu/ft aluminum cylinders filled to 3000 psi. Most of our valves are convertible to DIN or yolk. If you prefer to bring your own, we are capable of filling to 3500 psi and we have fill adapters for HP DIN. If you bring your own cylinders, you need to bring 2 tanks and they will have to be full when you arrive for use the first dive day.

We do not have a compressor on board the Rendezvous I.

Q: Can you provide Nitrox, Oxygen or Argon?

A: We provide Nitrox at 32% for an extra fee. We need to know that you would like to use it at least 2 weeks in advance of your trip to ensure availability. We can provide Oxygen for an extra fee, but do not have a booster pump so fills will depend on the pressure in the oxygen bank. Again, we need to know that you would like to use it at least 2 weeks in advance of your trip to ensure availability. We do not have Argon available.

Q: Can I bring my rebreather?

A: Yes we can fill with either Nitrox or Oxygen but you must bring a booster pump if needed. See restrictions in above question.

We ask you to bring and take away any soda lime you may need.

Q: How many dives/day will we do?

A: A normal dive day will include 2 dives. We often try to provide a 3rd dive but whether we can will depend on the distance travelled that day, sea conditions and prior arrangements. A 3rd dive is wholly at the discretion of the captain.

If you haven't found the answer to your question or need clarity, please feel free to contact us at info@rendezvousdiving.com or call 1-250-735-5050