

# CRUISING BACK IN TIME

## Following in the Wake of Captain George Vancouver (“CGV”) - VIC 2019

One of the many reasons we decided to sail around Vancouver Island for this year’s trip was to have the chance to follow in Captain George Vancouver’s wake. From following old charts and comparing them to modern day one’s, we will explore around the island come May 2019 just as Captain Vancouver once did.

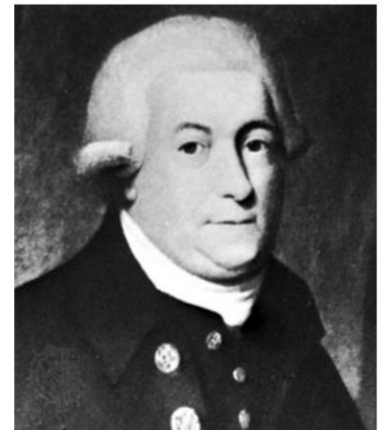
### On VIC 2019

During Legs #2 and #5 of VIC 2019, we will explore and anchor in CGV’s anchorages in the Discovery Islands, now Desolation Sound and area, and in Nootka Sound on VI’s West Coast. We will use CGV’s crude charts and sections from his logbook about both areas, in deciding upon our anchorages.



### About CGV

Captain **George Vancouver** (22 June 1757 – 10 May 1798) was a British officer of the Royal Navy, best known for his 1791–95 expedition, which explored and charted North America's northwestern Pacific Coast regions, including the coasts of contemporary British Columbia, and Alaska, Washington, and Oregon in the United States. The Canadian City of Vancouver, Mount Vancouver on the Canada-US border and New Zealand's sixth highest mountain, are also named after him.



### The 1792 First Exploratory Voyage

Vancouver entered the **Strait of Juan de Fuca**, between Vancouver Island and the Washington state of every way West in small Vancouver entered the **Strait of Juan de Fuca**, between Vancouver Island and the Washington state of every way West in small Vancouver entered the **Strait of Juan de Fuca**, between Vancouver Island and the Washington state of every way West in small Vancouver entered the **Strait of Juan de Fuca**, between Vancouver Island and the Washington state of every way West in small



sail-powered vessels in uncharted waters was generally impractical and dangerous. Vancouver named many features for his officers, friends, and his ship *Discovery*. Vancouver associates,



## The Discovery Islands and Desolation Sound

On his 35th birthday on 22 June 1792, CGV returned to Point Grey, the present-day location of the University of British Columbia. Here he unexpectedly met a Spanish expedition led by Dionisio Alcalá Galiano and Cayetano Valdés y Flores. Vancouver was "mortified" (his word) to learn they already had a crude chart of the Strait of Georgia based on the 1791 exploratory voyage of José María Narváez the year before, under command of Francisco de Eliza. For three weeks they cooperatively explored the Georgia Strait and the Discovery Islands area before sailing separately towards Nootka Sound.



## Sailing to Nootka Sound

After the summer surveying season ended, in August 1792, Vancouver sailed north-west around VI to Nootka, then the region's most important harbour. Here he was to receive any British buildings and lands returned by the Spanish from claims by Francisco de Eliza for the Spanish crown. The Spanish commander, Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra, was very cordial and he and Vancouver exchanged the maps they had made, but no agreement was reached; they decided to await further instructions.



At this time, they decided to name the large island on which Nootka was now proven to be located as *Quadra and Vancouver Island*. Years later, as Spanish influence declined, the name was shortened to simply Vancouver Island.

**Nootka Sound** is a sound facing the Pacific Ocean on the rugged west coast of Vancouver Island, historically known as **King George's Sound**. It

separates Vancouver Island and Nootka Island. It played a historically important role in the maritime fur trade.

### **The 1793-95 Final Voyages**

The next year, 1793, CGV returned to British Columbia and proceeded further north, unknowingly missing the overland explorer Alexander Mackenzie by only 48 days.

In 1794, he first went to Cook Inlet, the northernmost point of his exploration, and from there followed the coast south. Boat parties charted the east coasts of Chichagof and Baranof Islands, circumnavigated Admiralty Island, explored to the head of Lynn Canal, and charted the rest of Kuiu Island and nearly all of Kupreanof Island. He then set sail for Great Britain by way of Cape Horn, returning in September 1795, thus completing a circumnavigation of South America.

### **Acknowledgements:**

With thanks to Wikipedia and to Michael Layland, author of 'The Land of Heart's Delight - Early Maps and Charts of Vancouver Island' and of 'A Perfect Eden - Encounters By Early Explorers of Vancouver Island'

For our complete **VIC 2019 Detailed Voyage Plan**, rates and connection information, or to chat about learning possibilities, contact Peter at [peter@tulasailing.com](mailto:peter@tulasailing.com) by cell-phone at 778-678-8852 or business 250-384-8852 or [contact us](http://www.tulasailing.com) at [www.tulasailing.com](http://www.tulasailing.com)