



Vancouver Island Circumnavigation 'VIC 2019' - Executive Summary

Vancouver Island ('VI') is the largest island off the west coast of North America. In early summer, and in typical weather years, the clockwise-rotating Pacific High establishes in the North Pacific. The roughly 600 nautical mile circumnavigation of VI is usually sailed in a counter-clockwise direction to take advantage of the prevailing northwest winds that blow down the West Coast of VI. We therefore normally cruise up the east side of VI to Port McNeill near the top of VI, with stops in Desolation Sound and the Broughton Archipelago. We then plan to cruise from Port McNeill around the top of VI, down the West Coast to Tofino, Barkley Sound and finally back to our base in North Saanich Marina (NSM) near Sidney BC. The scenery and marine life are always spectacular.

We have not cruised on **SV Tula** around the Island for many years, preferring recently to sail the Central Coast. **VIC 2019** will be our extended coastal cruising trip for this upcoming year. We will take only two students on most of the seven legs, teaching Sail Canada's Basic Cruising Standard ('BCS') and Intermediate Cruising Standard ('ICS') as well as CPS Marine Radio ('ROCM') courses en route, as shown below.

We will depart on **SV Tula** from NSM Sidney, BC in early May 2019 and return to NSM Sidney in mid-June 2019. We prefer VI circumnavigations in early summer as fog can be a problem in July and later. Additionally, boating traffic is minimal on the east coast of VI in the very early summer. Fishing is good down the West Coast of VI.

Excluding re-supply days, we are tentatively planning the following trip around VI:

- Leg #1** NSM Sidney-Comox - 5 days, BCS and ROCM courses (two students)
- Leg #2** Comox-Desolation Sound – 5 days, BCS and ROCM courses (two students)
- Leg #3** Comox-Port McNeill – 5 days, a chance to gain sea time (2 crew)
- Leg #4** Broughton Archipelago – 5 days, BCS and ROCM courses (two students)
- Leg #5** Port McNeill-Tofino-Uclulet – 10 days, ICS course (one student)
- Leg #6** Barclay Sound – 5 days, BCS and ROCM courses (two students)
- Leg #7** Uclulet-NSM Sidney – 5 days, a chance to gain sea time (2 crew).

Adverse weather and other issues can result in schedule changes.

Land transportation connections with **SV Tula** include Swartz Bay ferry terminal, Victoria Airport, Comox Airport, Port McNeill (bus or float-plane), Tofino (bus or float-plane), Uclulet (bus or float-plane) and City of Victoria (bus, plane, ferry or float-plane).

For our complete **VIC 2019 Detailed Voyage Plan**, rates and connections, or to chat about learning possibilities, contact Peter at 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