

Two must-reads for B.C. travel; [Final Edition]

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Full Text (383 words)

The prolific marine tourism duo of Anne Vipond and William Kelly have come up with another winner.

Best Anchorages of the Inside Passage (Ocean Cruise Guides, \$44.95) gives British Columbia sailors the inside scoop on where to drop anchor from the southern Gulf Islands to Queen Charlotte Strait.

Anchorage in between include the northern Gulf Islands, the Sunshine Coast (including the popular and spectacular Princess Louisa Inlet), Desolation Sound, the passes that include Seymour Narrows, Johnstone Strait (of orca fame), Blackfish Sound and the Broughton Archipelago, popular with sea kayakers.

The abundance and high quality of the illustrations confirms that Vipond and Kelly have been shooting images for the book ("in a slow-moving sailboat") for more than 10 years.

Along with some history and descriptive narrative, each chapter includes maps as well as information on charts and nautical publications.

There's also tide, current and depth data and -- the key element -- where to park the boat (if you pardon the landlubber lingo).

As a bonus, there's info on the flora and fauna in the areas described, plus pointers on where to find the best beaches and hiking trails -- even sailors need to get on terra firma once in awhile.

The book is a must for any sailor's library. Don't weigh anchor for the Inside Passage without it.

The Pacific Rim area of Vancouver Island, one of the West Coast's top tourist destinations, is the subject of a new guidebook that's out just in time for the summer season.

The Wild Side Guide to the Pacific Rim by Jacqueline Windh (Harbour Publishing, \$24.95) will make you want to hop a float plane or board a ferry for this prime tourist destination.

Covered in the book are Long Beach (with its sweeping beaches), Tofino (a jumping-off spot for a West Coast wilderness adventure), Ucluelet (with its Wild Pacific Trail), Port Alberni (a former mill town that has reinvented itself as a holiday getaway) and Bamfield (known as the northern trailhead of the famous West Coast Trail).

Windh, a Tofino-based photojournalist, geologist and outdoors enthusiast, knows her backyard -- the west coast of Vancouver Island -- well and the guidebook shows it.