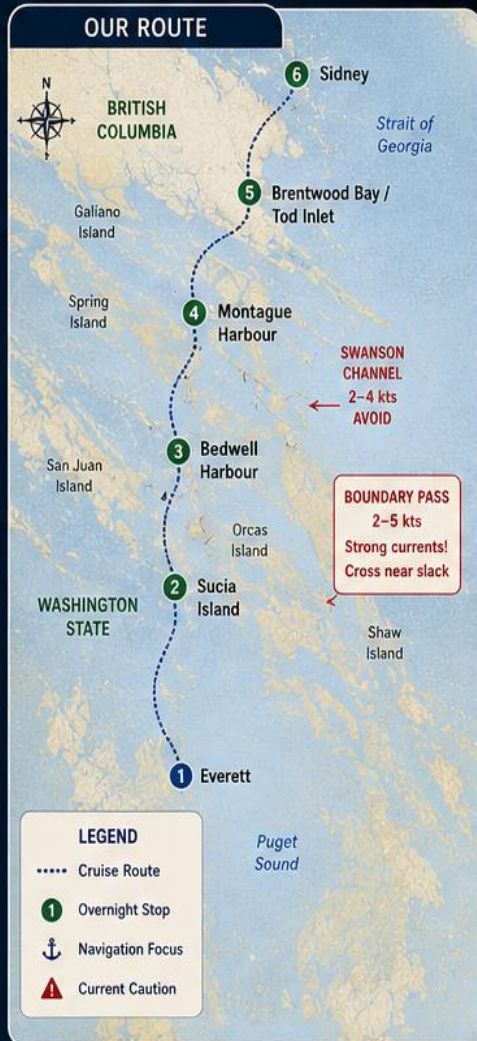


PLEASE HER III GRAND BANKS 42

Salish Sea Cruise

ASTRONOMY & STARGAZING GUIDE

⚓ 12 DAYS • JULY 6 – JULY 17, 2026 ⚓



12 DAY ASTRONOMY ITINERARY		
DAY 1 JULY 6	Everett → Anacortes Depart: 0600-0800	Moon waning. Good sunset from Cap Sante. Look for Arcturus in west, Vega rising east.
DAY 2 JULY 7	Anacortes → Sucia Island Cross Rosario before thermal winds. Window: 0700-1000	Great dark-sky location. Watch for satellites, ISS passes. Summer Triangle visible. Milky Way emerges after dark.
DAY 3 JULY 8	Sucia → Bedwell Harbour Critical: Boundary Pass Arrival: 0800-1100	Bedwell has low light pollution. Moon smaller. Excellent stargazing.
DAY 4 JULY 9	Bedwell → Montague Harbour No critical timing.	Extremely dark southern exposures. Bioluminescence possible. Try a dinghy ride after dark!
DAY 5 JULY 10	Montague → Brentwood Bay Leave: 0800-1000	More light pollution. Nice moonset views. Planets visible after sunset.
DAY 6 JULY 11	Brentwood Bay / Tod Inlet Fireworks Night	Anchor early for Butchart fireworks! Great reflections on calm water.
DAY 7 JULY 12	Tod Inlet → Sidney Easy day.	Moon very thin. Darkness improving. Milky Way becomes a major feature.
DAY 8 JULY 13	Sidney (Lay Day) ★	BEST STARGAZING NIGHT! New Moon next day. Look south after 11 PM: Milky Way core, Scorpius, Antares.
DAY 9 JULY 14	Sidney → Roche Harbor Cross Haro Strait: 0800-1100	NEW MOON DAY! Nearly perfect dark-sky conditions. Walk away from lights. Milky Way stunning.
DAY 10 JULY 15	Roche Harbor (Explore) ★	Thin crescent returns. Watch for Moon, Venus, and possibly Jupiter after sunset.
DAY 11 JULY 16	Roche → Anacortes Cross Rosario Strait: 0700-1000	Waxing crescent low and beautiful. Great sunset/moonset from Cap Sante.
DAY 12 JULY 17	Anacortes → Everett Easy transit. Watch afternoon thermal winds in Possession Sound.	Enjoy final views and safe travels home!

ASTRONOMY HIGHLIGHT

LAST QUARTER JULY 7 NEW MOON JULY 14 WAXING CRESCENT JULY 15-17

★ The middle of Salish Cruis has the darkest skies of the month. Ideal for Milky Way viewing.

BEST STARGAZING STOPS

<p>1 SUCIA ISLAND ★★★★★</p> <p>Fossil Bay & Echo Bay shorelines. Exceptional darkness.</p>	<p>2 MONTAGUE HARBOUR ★★★★★</p> <p>Darkness, calm water & bioluminescence potential.</p>	<p>3 SIDNEY AREA ★★★★★</p> <p>Great for Milky Way photography.</p>	<p>4 ROCHE HARBOR ★★★★★</p> <p>Best sunsets & crescent moon opportunities.</p>
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WILDLIFE + NIGHTTIME BONUS

BIOLUMINESCENCE

July often provides it most likely in:

- Montague Harbour
- Tod Inlet
- Brentwood Bay

Best after:

- Warm sunny day
- Calm water
- Near New Moon

ORCA LISTENING

Bring: Hydrophone if available

Southern Resident and transient orcas frequently move through:

- Haro Strait
- Boundary Pass
- Sidney Channel

You can sometimes hear vocalizations underwater from an anchored boat.

ONE SPECIAL DATE

NIGHT OF JULY 13-14 (SIDNEY AREA)

If skies are clear, go ashore or sit on the bow around 11 PM-1 AM. New Moon gives the darkest skies of the trip, with the Milky Way stretching from the southern horizon through the Summer Triangle overhead. This should be the premier celestial night of the entire cruise.

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 6-7 Waning Gibbous	JULY 7 Last Quarter	JULY 10-12 Very Thin Crescent	JULY 14 NEW MOON	JULY 15-17 Waxing Crescent
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OPTIMAL STARGAZING TIMES

- Best viewing: 11 PM - 2 AM
- Darkest skies: July 12-15
- Get away from marina lights
- Give your eyes 20-30 minutes to adapt

TIPS FOR GREAT NIGHTS

- ☑ Check moon phase
- ☑ Use red light for night vision
- ☑ Bring layers - it cools down
- ☑ Download star map app (Sky Guide, Stellarium)
- ☑ Enjoy and be amazed!

LIGHT POLLUTION SCALE (DARKER IS BETTER)

EXCELLENT	★★★★★
GOOD	★★★★
MODERATE	★★★
BRIGHT SKIES	★★

⚓ FAIR WINDS BY DAY, INFINITE WONDERS BY NIGHT ⚓