

Labor Day 2008: Gliding Along an Inlet Bay

By

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A set of events created the opportunity for my wife, Mari, and I to kayaking recently in Jerves Inlet on the west coast of British Columbia, Canada. I had completed a work assignment with a client in Calgary. After work comes play. We took the Rocky Mountaineer train across the spectacular Canadian Rockies to Vancouver, heading north for adventure. After an incredible breakfast at West Coast Wilderness Lodge, we joined our guide, Kathryn Gilberd, and her friend, Laura, for kayak lessons and a guided tour around the bay. The real fun started when the girls had to help me into the kayak. After some maneuvering, they got me secured in place. The water was calm, the current not too bad, and there was a slight wind. We glided across the bay, up and down the shoreline. A big colony of seals sunning on the rocks watched us with lazy curiosity. With Kathryn and Laura doing a big share of the paddling, Mari and I did assist to some degree. Later in the day as I rested for the umpteenth time, Kathryn quipped from the other boat, "Taking a rest there, Henry?" It is hard to shame a senior citizen even after Mari barked in a harsh tone, "Love, do your share!" I did respond with a weak, piddling response. We saw sea gulls and eagles. Getting out of the kayak was hard than getting in. A very strong, muscular lodge worker with the help of Mari and our friends finally pulled me out of the kayak. The next day was chilly. With a day of experience behind us, this day was easier. Mari and I kayaked together.

West Coast Wilderness Lodge (www.wcwl.com) is a delightful, peaceful place way off the path. There are a few secluded cabins with great views of the ocean and forest. What a great adventure!

