

## **Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park and Bird Sanctuary**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May:** Car Pool departs Filberg at 12:30 (must bring a bag lunch and water). **This trip Time sensitive.** Car Pool map will be available. One hour on the Island ( 5 + guide at a time) and one hour tour around the island. Returns to Filberg at 5:30 (Birthday Dinner at 6:30) **Must fill with 10 people to go. This trip is not Wheel Chair Accessible**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May:** Car pool departs Filberg at 8:00 am, returns at 1:00 pm, otherwise similar to Friday trip

Cost \$85 per person or \$95 per person after March 15<sup>th</sup>. Maximum participants is 10 per day.



The Pacific WildLife Foundation partnered with BC Parks and the Mitlenatch Island Stewardship Team (MIST) to create this captivating and informative short video about Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park. Shot and edited by Mike McKinlay and narrated by MIST volunteer Kate Rubin.

Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park is home to the largest seabird colony in the Strait of Georgia. All sedentary marine life, including abalones, scallops and sea cucumbers, are fully protected within the park's boundaries, which extend 300 metres out from the shore. This nature reserve is an important nesting colony for thousands of Glaucous-winged Gulls, as well as Pelagic Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots, Black Oystercatchers and many other species of birds. Marine life around the island includes river otters and harbour seals throughout the year, and Steller's and California sea lions from late fall through to summer.

Mitlenatch, which means "calm waters all around" in the Coast Salish language, is a small rocky island that features semi-arid conditions caused by the island's location in the "rain shadow" of Vancouver Island. The park receives less than 75 cm (30 inches) of rain each year – about half the Campbell River average.

Accessible by boat only, Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park offers excellent opportunities to observe and photograph wildflowers and birds. Visit in May when the island's meadows of spring wildflowers are in bloom, or in late May to July when the harvest brodia blooms and in the last half of June when the coastal cactus bloom. Birders should approach the observation blind as a group, slowly and quietly, this may help to reduce the birds' anxiety and allow you to observe their behaviour and "family life" more easily.

The island is a very sensitive ecosystem that is extremely prone to damage by visitors who venture off the designated trails. Pets are not permitted on the island. **Collecting of any kind is NOT permitted** at Mitlenatch Island, including all shellfish.

**Park Size:** 155 hectares

Information at BC parks site, [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/mitlenatch\\_is/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/mitlenatch_is/)