

Canada on floats is exhilarating

Re: Flying Adventure: 'West Coast Canada: Where Seaplanes are the Planes'. *FLYER*, March 2007



Last autumn we read an old book about floatplane pioneers in Canada's northwest territories, we got interested and ended up booking a holiday with David Budd's Ocean Air on Vancouver Island. The sum total of our research was finding Ocean Air's website and a few exploratory e-mails to David.

The article in *FLYER* (March 2007, page 48) came later and justified our choice. We went to Canada in April expecting a lot; the reality exceeded our wildest expectations. We had a fantastic time. The flying, training and exploring was exciting and challenging – coastal waters, lakes,

rivers, fjords and mountains. The tourist season had not started and visiting deserted scenic spots added to our sense of adventure. The spring weather was variable but added to the experience – we took shelter once in a bay to allow a squall to pass, thereby demonstrating another advantage of a floatplane!

We did a lot of flying at low level, often well below UK circuit heights, to stay below cloud. David's Cessna 180H is immaculate, well maintained and obviously cherished. After each session the aircraft is removed from the water and thoroughly hosed down with fresh water.

David provided a flexible programme suitable for our different experience levels – thousands of hours of professional flying on one hand, low PPL hours on the other. He organised everything, including our ferry flights, with Salt Spring Air (immaculate DHC Beaver – an adventure in itself), accommodation at very good, out of season rates and recommendations for restaurants and night clubs (there has to be some relaxation!).

Our final verdict: the holiday of a lifetime.

RAY CORSTIN & MAX FLOYD,
VIA EMAIL