



Cascadia Water Trail Campsites

James Island State Park *The San Juan Islands*

This island, shaped like a dog bone, is a great place to observe the San Juans' prolific wildlife. The high rock bluffs provide excellent bird and whale watching. The western cove, facing Decatur Island, has a dock and is more popular than the eastern side.

Natural History.

James Island was named by the Wilkes Expedition in 1841. Who the members of the expedition were hoping to commemorate, however, is a little hazy: there are two possible options for the origin of the island's name. James Decatur accompanied brother Capt. Stephen Decatur into Tripoli to burn the captured ship Philadelphia. James was killed in the battle. Another candidate for the honor is Rueben James, also associated with Stephen Decatur. Rueben James is sometimes credited for saving Stephen Decatur, his commander, during the Tripoli raid.

Trailheads:

Obstruction Pass Ramp	7.2 nms
Hunter Bay Boat Ramp	4.6 nms
Washington Park	3.4 nms

Adjacent Sites:

Spencer Spit SP	4.4 nms
Blind Island SP	5.4 nms
Strawberry Island	4.3 nms

Coordinates: N 48⁰ 30.609' W 122⁰ 46.615'

Charts: NOAA Chart 18429 SeaTrails Chart WA 001 & 002

Beach Approach:

Head for the wooden stairs on the S of the W cove.

For the most current information, visit the website of the Washington Water Trails Association generally

www.wwta.org

Report your adventures at this campsite to the webmaster (PapaOtter@SeaOtters.US)