

Passport

PERSON OF INTEREST

Diane Bernard

Seaweed harvester,
cosmetics pioneer

Nature lover Diane Bernard has lived on British Columbia's Vancouver Island for 40 years. Known locally as the Seaweed Lady, she founded Seaflores, the world's first certified-organic skincare line formulated with raw seaweed, in 2003. Guests at Victoria's **Fairmont Empress** can spend time foraging and learning about the local marine gardens with Bernard, then return to the hotel for a spa treatment incorporating foraged seaweed and Seaflores products.

THE FIRST PLACE I TAKE VISITING FRIENDS:

To our wild southwestern beaches on the Salish Sea.

FAVORITE MONTH ON THE ISLAND:

April. Winter rains are over, it can be surprisingly warm, and the seaweeds are in full growth.

TOURISTS ARE OFTEN SURPRISED BY OUR:

Tough hiking, big mountains, and wild animals.

ASIDE FROM SKIN CARE, SEAWEED MAKES

GREAT: Biofuels, pharmaceuticals, and skipping ropes for children.

A FAVORITE OF THE SEVEN SPECIES SEAFLORES

HARVESTS: Our local "rainbow seaweed" flashes shades of blue, red, pink, and green in sunlight, and it has a lovely silk-fabric texture.

REQUIRED SKILLS FOR SEAWEED HARVESTERS:

Curiosity, great balance on slippery rocks, and a strong back – seaweeds are heavy. And you can't be afraid of bears.

OTHER THAN SEAWEED, THE BEST THINGS TO

COME FROM THE ISLAND'S WATERS: Our iconic orcas, wild salmon, and cute sea otters.

Doubles from \$255, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit. Seaweed foraging and spa treatment from \$262 per person, including transportation.



Diane Bernard at work on Vancouver Island.

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