



**Gulf Islands
National Park Reserve**
parksCanada.gc.ca

Gulf Islands. *Real. Inspiring.* **Visitor Guide**

Bringing you Canada's natural and historic treasures

**New Campground
Reservation Service**



Parks Canada **Parcs Canada**

Canada

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Website information

www.parkscanada.gc.ca/gulf

Emergency and Important Phone Numbers

Emergency call 911

In-Park Emergency or to report an offence 1-877-852-3100

Report a Wildfire 1-800-663-5555 (*5555 on cell phones)

Marine Distress VHF Channel 16

Park Offices

- Sidney 250-654-4000
Toll Free 1-866-944-1744
- Saturna 250-539-2982
- Pender 250-629-6137

Address & Office Locations

Sidney Operations Centre
2220 Harbour Road
Sidney, B.C. V8L 2P6

**Saturna Island, adjacent to
the Recreation Centre**

**North Pender Island at Hope
Bay.**

**RCMP detachment offices
located in Sidney,
on the Penders,
and on Mayne Island.**

Welcome to Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, one of Canada's newest national parks. Established in 2003, it safeguards a portion of British Columbia's beautiful southern Gulf Islands in the Strait of Georgia. A mosaic of open meadows, forested hills, rocky headlands, quiet coves and sandy beaches, the park is a peaceful refuge just a stone's throw from the urban clamour of Vancouver and Victoria.



Want to know more?

The park offers many activities and learning opportunities. While planning your visit, or to spark your curiosity, look for other park brochures. They are available on-line at www.parkscanada.gc.ca/gulf, by contacting 1-866-944-1744 or by visiting our offices in Sidney and on Saturna and Pender Islands.

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK RESERVE



On the cover: A view from Russell Island.

Inside spread: Looking west towards the mouth of Active Pass with Mayne Island in background.

Our new
Parks Canada
Visitor Service
Attendants
will
personally
help to ensure
that your
visit is safe
and memorable.



COVER IMAGE: PARKS CANADA/CHRISTIAN J. STEWART/2009
INSIDE SPREAD: PARKS CANADA/JOSH MCCULLOCH

Recreational Boating & Kayaking

A must-have for boaters and kayakers. This brochure unfolds to a map that highlights the campgrounds, beach accesses, boat and kayak launches, moorage areas, potable water locations, emergency numbers and more.



Hiking & Camping

Available onboard BC Ferries or when you arrive at the park, this guide features a detailed map for hiking and camping opportunities in the park.



Why you will love it

Each time you visit the patchwork of lands and waters protected within Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, you will be struck by the amazing beauty of this special place. Each island has its own unique character to discover. No matter how you get here—by ferry, kayak or boat—there’s an island experience that will enchant you.



Fuel for the soul

Not far from Vancouver or Victoria lies a slow-paced island way of life. Take the time to soak up the less hurried lifestyle of the local communities on Mayne, Saturna and the Pender Islands, and the serenity of surrounding smaller islands.

REJUVENATE YOURSELF

Breathe in the invigorating salt air. Relax to the sound of lapping waves. Dream under the stars.

NOURISH YOUR IMAGINATION

Explore nature’s unexpected art. Fill your inquisitive mind. Uncover the stories of the past.

RELEASE YOUR INNER CHILD

Wander on the ocean floor. Skip to your next adventure. Have fun in nature’s playground.

FREE YOUR SPIRIT

Conquer hilltops. Sail down the wind. Lose yourself in the scenery.

East Point, Saturna Island

Share... Learn... Inspire



Roesland, North Pender Island



Sea lion



Princess Bay, Portland Island

Interpretive programs

Interact, laugh and learn in a fun environment as park interpreters reveal the amazing stories behind the scenery of the Gulf Islands. Special events, scheduled programs and guided walks take place all summer long. For more information visit the park's website or go to information kiosks in the park.

Roving Interpreters

Our park interpreters rove the park trails on the Penders and Saturna Island from June to September, so don't be surprised to run into one who is eager to share something interesting and answer your questions.

Marine Hosts

Volunteer Marine Hosts provide general information to boaters during the summer months. Members of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club are your hosts at Princess Bay, Princess Margaret (Portland Island). The Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club greets marine visitors at Beaumont near Bedwell Harbour, South Pender. Look for the Parks Canada Marine Host floats at these locations. Our volunteers are waiting to share park information, their local knowledge, friendly tips and advice to make your visit safe and enjoyable.

Minimize your footprint

The scenic beauty of the Gulf Islands is embodied in their rocky shorelines, steep headlands and offshore rocks and islets. This special place represents one of the most ecologically at risk natural regions in southern Canada. You can help reduce your personal impact by following these guidelines.

- Camp in designated areas and hike on official trails only. They are carefully planned to make the most of your visit while protecting sensitive plants and habitat.
- "Pack in, pack out". There are no garbage facilities on the islands. Please take your garbage with you when you leave. **BRING DRINKING WATER WITH YOU.**
- Respect our park resources. Do not remove, disturb or damage rocks, seashells, driftwood, flowers, antlers or cultural artefacts.
- Bicycles are not permitted on park trails. Tread damage leads to erosion and drainage issues.
- Respect "Special Preservation Areas". Access is restricted to protect highly sensitive ecosystems.

TOP 10

👍 Camp with your family at Sidney Spit and enjoy stargazing away from city lights.

👍 Hear the unique “pouff” from orca whales passing by at East Point on Saturna Island.

👍 Snap artistic pictures of the contrasting copper and lime green colours of arbutus trees at Narvaez Bay.

👍 Celebrate a special event at Georgina Point.



👍 Take part in fun interpretive activities at the Saturna and Pender markets every Saturday during the summer.

👍 Circumnavigate Princess Margaret (Portland Island) and listen for the whistling “peeps” of Black Oystercatchers.



Reduce human/wildlife conflicts

Your activities while visiting the park can have an impact on your personal safety and the safety and health of wildlife. There are generally no large predators on the southern Gulf Islands, although black bears, cougars and wolves have been known to periodically make their way across.

- Be aware of your surroundings, especially at dusk and dawn, or in densely vegetated areas, for signs of predators.
- Take particular care on shorelines, wetlands and intertidal areas: they are critical habitats for shorebirds and waterfowl.
- Keep a “bare campsite”. Food and gear left out at campsites can attract wildlife.
- Never feed, disturb or approach wildlife. Fed wildlife is dead wildlife.
- Follow marine mammal and seabird viewing guidelines.
- Do not approach or attempt to assist animals that may seem to be in distress, especially seal pups. Interference often harms these animals.
- Report any bear, wolf or cougar sightings by calling 1-877-852-3100

Be considerate of other visitors

Young and old can experience hiking, boating, kayaking, picnicking and camping in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. Here, visitors have a chance to appreciate nature and truly enjoy a relaxing stay.



- Quiet hours are observed between 10 am and 8 am.
- Ensure your behaviour is not disturbing others.
- Alcohol consumption is not permitted in public places.

PARK EXPERIENCES



Sidney Spit

👍 Visit the Pender Island Museum at Roesland to learn about the history of the Penders.



Narvaez Bay

👍 Soak in the last rays of the day while enjoying the sunset from Mt. Warburton Pike, then retreat to one of the local bed & breakfasts.

👍 Kayak to Russell Island, have a snack and hike to a century-old Hawaiian homestead.

👍 While on board a ferry or your own pleasure boat, take the challenge of naming the lighthouses, points, islands and islets that are part of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.



PARKS CANADA/CHRISTIAN J. STEWART/2009



PARKS CANADA/SOPHIE LAURO



PARKS CANADA



PARKS CANADA/CHRISTIAN J. STEWART/2009

First Nations

There are many Coast Salish First Nations who have long and continuous ties to the Gulf Islands. The Coast Salish people have special bond with the environment—a spiritual connection to the earth and the water. Their knowledge of natural systems has been passed down from generation to generation through their oral tradition. Over millennia, and to this day, the forests and seas have provided them with food, materials for everyday life and places for spiritual contemplation. First

Nations' scientific and traditional knowledge being used alongside modern science to help park managers make decisions on how to restore and maintain park ecosystems.

The ocean has always been the First Nations' central source of food—a rich harvest of shellfish, seal, sea lion, whale, six-gilled shark, porpoise, halibut, salmon and other fish. The hunting of deer and small mammals and the harvesting of berries and plants are done in rhythm with the seasons.



FIRST PEOPLE, FIRST VOICES

The Coast Salish First Nations speak three major dialects of the Coast Salish language: Sencot'en, Hul'q'umi'num' and Samish. The park's website offers you an opportunity to learn a few words of one of these languages, Hul'q'umi'num'.

By clicking on the interactive park map, you'll be able to hear place names as well as some common day-to-day words spoken in Hul'q'umi'num'.

Explore the islands through this linguistic lens by visiting the park website at www.parkscanada.gc.ca/gulf



First Nations can pursue traditional activities—including hunting and harvesting of plants and other materials—within the national park reserve.

Parks Canada works with First Nations to ensure that these activities are done in ways that respect the conservation of species and the ecosystem, and do not endanger the safety of other park users. From November through February, watch for warning signboards placed at access points when hunting is in progress at Sidney Spit.

COAST SALISH ANCESTRAL SITES

There are many Coast Salish ancestral sites within Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. These sites are former villages and seasonal use sites, and may include grave sites. They are records of past use and continue to connect the Coast Salish people to the Gulf Islands.

Their Elders tell us that we need to take great care and caution around these places because they may contain burials. They remind us that these places are *xé'xé'*. In the Hul'q'umi'num' language, *xé'xé'* suggests “don't go there”, “don't walk there”, “don't even look in that direction”. With their help, we are finding solutions that keep trails, picnic tables and other facilities off important ancestral sites.

These sites are meaningful to us all for the rich and complex perspective that they add to the history of the park reserve. You can help by leaving them undisturbed: abide by area closures, stay on designated trails, and camp only in designated sites. Use the stairs provided at some beach access points to help reduce erosion. If you witness desecration of any cultural site, please contact us immediately. It is illegal to remove or disturb cultural objects in the park reserve. If you find artifacts, leave them in place, and notify park staff.



Protection of sites

PARKS CANADA/MATTHEW PAYNE

SENĆOŦEN and HUL'Q'UMI'NUM' are the two predominant language groups of the Coast Salish First Nations in the Gulf Islands. Some place names and their translations appear below.

SENĆOŦEN NAMES

	Meaning	Location
ĆTESU	Just arrived	D'Arcy Island
SXEĆOŦEN	Dry mouth	Portland Island
XEXEĆOŦEN	Little dry mouth	Brackman Island
S,DÁYES	Wind drying	North Pender Island
TÁ,WEN	Coho salmon	Georgeson Island
WÁWEN	Place of seal hunting	Prevost Island
WYOMEĆEN	Land of caution	Sidney Island
XELEXÁTEM	Crossways	Isle-de-Lis
TEKTEKSEN	Long nose	Saturna Island
TEMOSEN	Becoming a good fishing tide	Tumbo Island
WSI,I,KEM	Little land of clay	McDonald Campground

HUL'Q'UMI'NUM' NAMES

	Meaning	Location
Tl'uqtuqsun	Pointed or long nose	East Point, Saturna Island
Xwixwyus	Swift, narrow passage	Boat Passage, Saturna Island
Tl'uqayum	Calm waters	Lyall Harbour, Saturna Island
Tl'uli	[uncertain]	North end of Samuel Island
Hwu'eshwum	Place of seals	Prevost Island
Hwtl'uquyxum	Whirlpool place	Annette Inlet, Prevost Island
St'e'yus	Wind drying	Bedwell Harbour, Pender Island
Tl'e'ulthw	Permanent houses	Pender Canal, North Pender
Sq'e'utl'um	Place of otters	Otter Bay, North Pender Island
Tth'umuqwa'	Kelp greenling	Russell Island

Camping and Mooring



NEW THIS YEAR!
 Reserve your campsite at McDonald or Prior Centennial Campground.
www.pccamping.ca
 1-877-737-3783

Sites	Season	Camping Facilities & Fees							Marine Facilities & Fees				Access			
		Number of sites	\$13.70/party*	\$4.90/person	\$49.00/group*	Water	Washroom	Fire Pits	Wheelchair Accessible	Buoys \$9.80/boat	Dock Space \$1.90/metre	Stern Tie Ring	Road	Marine	Foot Passenger Ferry	Trail
Vancouver Island																
McDonald Campground (Sidney) <small>To reserve a campsite, call 1-877-737-3783</small>	Mar 15 – Oct. 30	49	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
The Inner Islands																
Sidney Spit	May 15 – Sept. 30	26	✓			✓	✓			21	✓			✓	✓	
Sidney Spit Group	May 15 – Sept. 30		✓			✓	✓							✓	✓	
Sidney Spit Youth Group	May 15 – Sept. 30				✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	
D'Arcy Island	May 15 – Sept. 30	7	✓			✓	✓							✓		
Isle de Lis (Rum Island)	May 15 – Sept. 30	3	✓			✓	✓							✓		
Portland Island																
Shell Beach	May 15 – Sept. 30	6	✓			✓	✓							✓		
Princess Bay	May 15 – Sept. 30	12	✓			✓	✓				✓			✓		
Arbutus Point	May 15 – Sept. 30	6	✓			✓	✓							✓		
Pender Islands																
Prior Centennial Campground <small>To reserve a campsite, call 1-877-737-3783</small>	May 15 – Oct. 30	17	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Beaumont	May 15 – Sept. 30	11	✓			✓	✓			15				✓		✓
Prevost Island																
James Bay	May 15 – Sept. 30	10	✓			✓	✓							✓		
Outer Islands																
Saturna Island and proximity																
Narvaez Bay	May 15 – Sept. 30	7	✓			✓	✓							✓		✓
Cabbage Island	May 15 – Sept. 30	5	✓			✓	✓			10				✓		

- For group campsite and group picnicking reservations at Sidney Spit, call 1-866-944-1744. Maximum group size is 30. Groups pay the standard per party* fee, as for all frontcountry campsites. Youth groups pay a flat \$49.00 fee.
- Visitors camping at Sidney Spit must be registered at a designated campsite before the last ferry leaves the island for the day. Schedule and fee information for the privately-operated passenger ferry: 250-474-5145 or 250-655-4995; www.alpinemarineadventurecentre.ca
- Water at Sidney Spit is drinkable, but at times has high sodium content and should not be consumed by people with kidney or heart ailments.
- Backcountry campsites are accessible throughout the year. No fees are charged and only reduced services are provided during the off-season.

- During the off-season, camping is not permitted at McDonald and Prior Centennial campgrounds.
- Maximum total overnight stay allowed at any of the camping, mooring and anchorage areas in the national park reserve is 14 days per calendar year.
- Moorage and dock fees are collected after 6 pm. One boat permitted per buoy. Permitted vessels sizes: up to 15m with wind speeds under 30 knots (55 km/hr), up to 12m with wind speeds from 30-37 knots and no mooring allowed with winds over 37 knots (69 km/hr).
- Quiet hours are observed between 10 pm and 8 am.
- Alcohol consumption is not permitted in public places.

* A "party" includes up to eight people with a maximum of four persons 16 years old or older, and one vehicle. Additional vehicle fee is \$6.80

Trails



	Difficulty	Distance	Time	Loop	One Way
Inner Islands					
Russell Island	M	1.0km	30min	X	
Sidney Spit	E	2.0km	45min	X	
Portland Island	M	6.4km	3hrs	X	
Pender Islands					
Mt. Norman	D	1.5km	1hr		X
Beaumont	D	1.5km	40min		X
Roe Lake	M	1.5km	45min		X
Roesland	E	0.5km	15min	X	
Mayne Island					
Bennett Bay	E	1.5km	40min	X	
Saturna and Tumbo Islands					
Winter Cove	E	1.5km	25min	X	
Narvaez Bay	M	1.7km	30min		X
Monarch Head	M-D	2.5km	1.5hr	X	
Lyllal Creek	M	2.0km	40min		X
Tumbo Island	E	3.5km	1.5hr	X	

E = Easy M = Medium D = Difficult

Special Note

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning and sanitary contamination



The algae responsible for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) produce a potent toxin that can

lead to paralysis of muscles and asphyxiation. Sanitary contamination can also cause serious illness.

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada issues warnings and closures for PSP and sanitary contamination. It is illegal—and could be deadly—to harvest shellfish in a closed area. Don't take chances.
- Permanent closures are in effect at Bedwell Harbour (South Pender Island) and James Bay (Prevost Island). Seasonal closures from May 31 to September 30 are in effect at Princess Bay (Portland Island) and at Reef Harbour (between Cabbage Island and Tumbo Island).
- For further information: 1-866-431-3474 or www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Keep pets under control and on a leash

Pets are wonderful companions and they are welcome in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. If you choose to bring your pet, please remember that park regulations are in place to protect wildlife, ecosystems and other visitors.



- Keep your dog on leash at all times. Domestic animals retain their instinct to mark territory with scent and may spread domestic diseases to wild animals. Unleashed pets may damage sensitive plants and/or harass wildlife, causing the animals to be injured or leave their territory.
- Stoop, scoop and dispose of your dog's waste with the rest of your garbage.
- Show respect to other visitors. Keep pets close to you and keep their noise level down.

Be Fire-Free

Summers in the Gulf Islands are very dry and the fire hazard is often extreme. Protecting Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and its neighbours from fire is a must.

- At Prior Centennial and McDonald campgrounds, campfires in provided fire pits are allowed, except when a fire ban is in effect.
- No campfires are permitted elsewhere in the park (not even below the high tide line). This includes hibachis and propane campfires.
- Propane and gas cooking stoves are allowed.

BC Ferries Coastal Naturalist Program

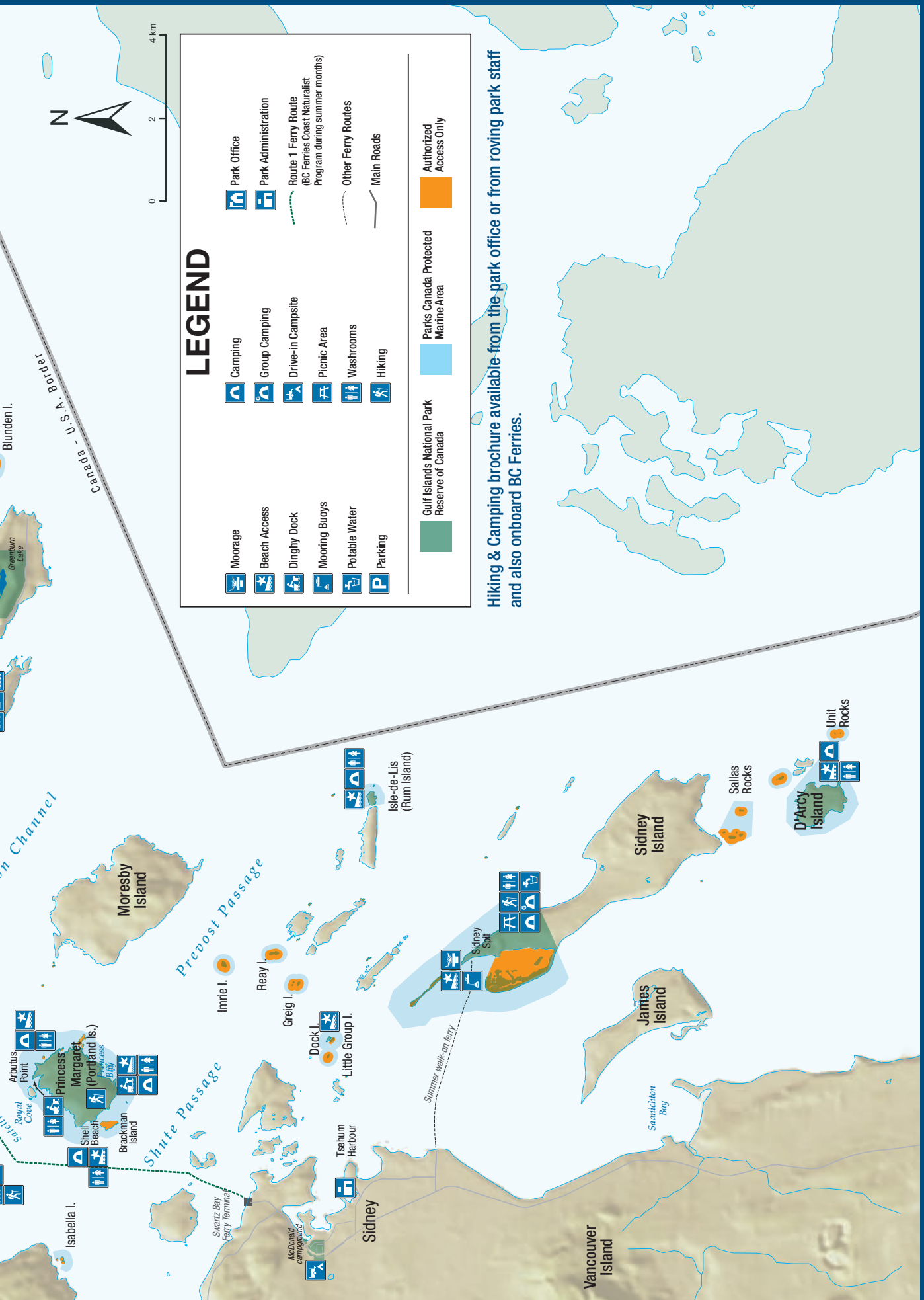
During the summer months, Parks Canada and BC Ferries present the Coastal Naturalist program onboard BC Ferries vessels travelling between Vancouver and Victoria and West Vancouver and Nanaimo. Gather on the outer deck to take part in their 30-minute presentations focusing on BC's wildlife, marine life, culture, history, geography and coastal national parks.

For schedules and more information: www.bcferries.com



PARKS CANADA/SARA BORCK/2009





LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|-------------------|--|---|
| | Moorage | | Camping | | Park Office |
| | Beach Access | | Group Camping | | Park Administration |
| | Dinghy Dock | | Drive-in Campsite | | Route 1 Ferry Route
(BC Ferries Coast Naturalist Program during summer months) |
| | Mooring Buoys | | Picnic Area | | Other Ferry Routes |
| | Potable Water | | Washrooms | | Main Roads |
| | Parking | | Hiking | | Authorized Access Only |
-
- | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada | | Parks Canada Protected Marine Area |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|

Hiking & Camping brochure available from the park office or from roving park staff and also onboard BC Ferries.

Species at Risk

From butterflies to orcas (killer whales), over 500 species of animals and plants have an uncertain future in Canada. Habitat loss, human disturbance and pollution are just some of the contributing factors. Each species depends on intricate ecosystem webs, to which we are all connected. Maintaining these connections is key for environmental health and ecological integrity.



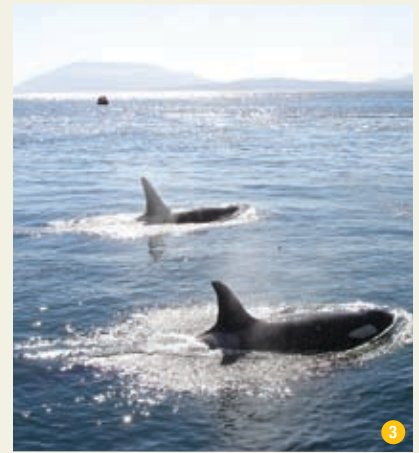
PARKS CANADA/NICOLE MROEKER

1



PARKS CANADA

2



PARKS CANADA

3

You can learn about the species at risk of the Gulf Islands during your visit or on-line at www.cosewic.gc.ca

1 Golden Paintbrush

Golden paintbrush is a showy golden-yellow perennial herb that grows 10 to 50 cm tall. This species only grows in grass-dominated meadows associated with Garry oak ecosystems. Only two known populations of golden paintbrush remain in Canada, hence the species' status as "endangered" under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*. Golden paintbrush is also federally listed as "threatened" in the United States. Parks Canada is working towards the recovery of the species by establishing a new population in the park reserve.

2 Sharp-tailed Snake

The Sharp-tailed snake—a slender snake with smooth scales—is one of the smallest and most elusive snakes in BC. It gets its common name from its tail, which ends abruptly in a tiny, thorn-like spike. It's nice to know that these attractive snakes are harmless to humans. In BC, sharp-tailed snakes are typically found on south-facing, rocky slopes. They spend most of their time under cover, which explains why few people have encountered them. While these snakes have been observed in the southern Gulf Islands for a number of years, it was only in 2007 that one was found in the national park reserve. The Sharp-tailed snake is protected under Canada's *Species at Risk Act* (endangered).

Marine Wildlife Viewing Guidelines

It is important that whales, porpoises, dolphins, seals and sea lions be able to carry on with their daily and seasonal routines without interference from human activity. Federal regulations are in place to prohibit harassment and disturbance of these marine mammals. Their survival depends on it.

Viewing etiquette to protect marine mammals

- **Keep your distance** – never within 100 metres/yards
- **Slow down** – to 7 knots at 100 metres/yards and any time mammals are near
- **Stay out of their path** – it is illegal to “park” in a whale’s line of travel
- **Stay on the offshore side** – avoid positioning your boat between whales and shore
- **Limit your time** – less time equals less disturbance (30 minutes maximum)

Admire from a distance...for your safety and their protection.



PARKS CANADA



3 Orca Whales (also known as killer whales)

The southern Gulf Islands area is a feeding ground for orcas. Resident pods of these whales frequent this area between May and November to feed on salmon and other fish. They are impressive with their black and white colouring, blunt head shape, and dorsal fin. On males the dorsal fin stands as tall as a grown man.

Orcas are protected under Canada's *Species at Risk Act* (endangered), BC's *Wildlife Act*, the *Fisheries Act* of Canada, the United States *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*.

4 Marbled Murrelet

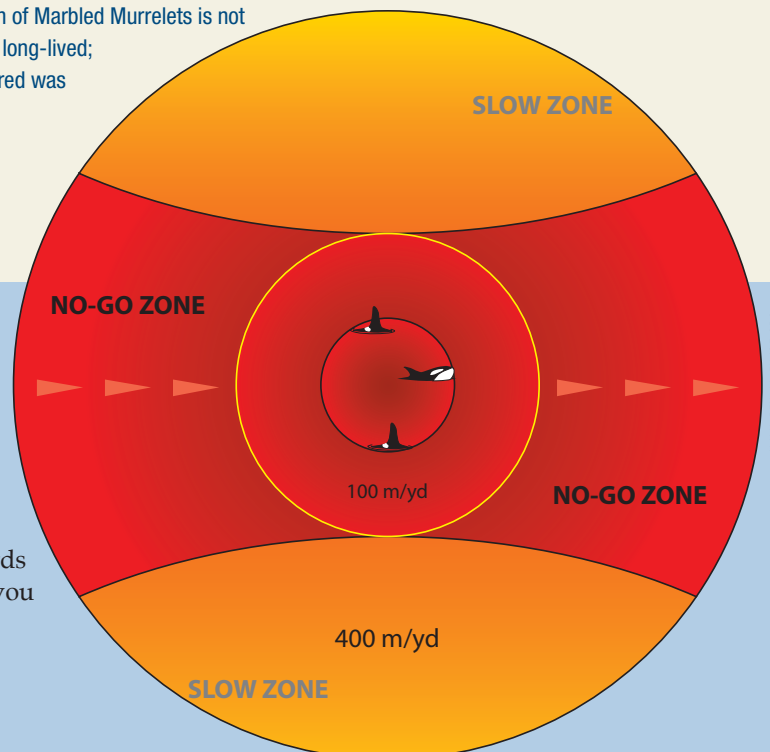
Marbled Murrelets depend on and nest in old growth coastal forests. They are very difficult to find. The first one was spotted in BC in 1990. These small coastal marine birds are not colonial—their nests are scattered throughout available habitat. They tend to feed in water less than thirty metres deep. Murrelets move into sandy shallows to catch sand lance and other small fish. Though the average life span of Marbled Murrelets is not known, they are long-lived; the oldest captured was ten years old.

If dolphins or porpoises “bow ride” your vessel

- Do not suddenly change direction
- Discourage this activity by gradually slowing down

If seals, sea lions, or birds are observed on land

- Keep your distance – never within 100 metres/yards
- You are too close if wildlife is paying attention to you
- Never touch, swim with, feed or harm wildlife



Extreme Take-Over

Many plant and animal species have been introduced to the southern Gulf Islands since the mid-1800s. These species become a problem when they out-compete native plants and animals for habitat, resulting in a disruption of the natural food chain. A lack of natural predators often contributes to rapid take-over. Invasive plants are the second greatest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss.



2 Himalayan blackberry



3 Carpet burweed



1 Black-tailed deer

PARIS CAMERON

1 Fallow deer vs. black-tailed deer on Sidney Island

Introduced to Sidney Island for sport hunting in the early 1900s, fallow deer have a population today of approximately 1000 vs. 100 native black-tailed deer. Both species frequent forest edges but fallow deer prefer open areas and black-tailed deer favour forests. Studies suggest they do not compete due to these differences, but Parks Canada is monitoring the overabundance of fallow deer due to their significant impact on other species.

2 Himalayan blackberry vs. dewberry (trailing blackberry)

Himalayan blackberry was introduced from Eurasia in the late 1800s. Dewberry is the only native blackberry in British Columbia. Both have deciduous leaves, white to pink flowers, produce blackberry

fruits, and favour disturbed sites and dry open forest habitat. Himalayan blackberry predominates with its fast-spreading growth that chokes out other plants. Parks Canada is treating and removing Himalayan blackberry infestations on several sensitive islets.

3 Carpet burweed vs. Macoun's meadowfoam

Carpet burweed, an introduced weed originally from South America, was discovered approximately ten years ago on Salt Spring Island and has since spread to D'Arcy and Portand Islands. This weed threatens a number of plants, including the Macoun's meadowfoam, which is only found on southern Vancouver Island and several Gulf Islands. Annual surveys show carpet burweed is easily transferred from site to site on hiking boots and tents, but is currently under control.

Watch out for the Bullfrog

Although native to some parts of North America, the Bullfrog has been widely introduced to areas it does not normally live in. Bullfrogs are real "bullies": they prey on any animal they can overpower and stuff down their throat! They also reproduce rapidly.



Did you know?



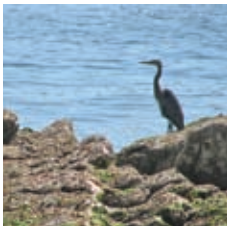
PARKS CANADA/MATTHEW PAINE

Have you ever wondered about eelgrass beds?



Eelgrass is a flowering sea grass rooted in areas of sandy seafloor close to shore. Eelgrass is a critical habitat in which many marine species lay their eggs or hide from predators. It is a nursery area for young salmon and rockfish. Eelgrass also prevents shoreline erosion by slowing the movement of water, and allowing sediments to settle out among its interlocking roots.

Fannini...that sounds funny!



Great Blue Herons (Fannini subspecies) make quite a distinct screech during take-off. These noisy wading birds stand over one metre tall and double back their necks against their shoulders while in flight.

They are often seen wading in shallow water where they prey on fish, crayfish, crabs and frogs. They also forage in grasslands for salamanders, snakes, large insects and small mammals. They eat pretty much anything nature has to offer!

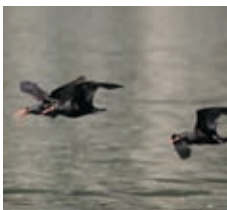
What do Purple Martins and the lunar cycle have in common?



28 days! It only takes Purple Martins 28 days from hatching to fledging.

Like many small birds, they experience a mortality rate of more than 50 percent. This means they need to produce 2 – 2.5 chicks per nest to maintain their current population. This year, research conducted in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve showed a healthy population growth, with 2.6 chicks per nest.

Black Oystercatchers fussy about oysters



You would think that with such a name Black Oystercatchers would favour oysters as their main food source. However, they are rarely seen feeding on oysters! These large noisy birds prefer limpets, mussels and clams as well as urchins, crabs and barnacles. Their bright orange chisel-shaped bill is used to slice the adductor muscle of slightly open mussels and remove the soft parts with its tip.

What baby weighs as much as three human babies?



At birth, a harbour seal pup weighs 8-12 kg (18-26 lbs.) but it's not quite ready to face the frigid ocean waters. A pup needs to "haul out" for a week or so on land and rest while its mother searches for food. She might be gone for a few hours, but don't worry or interfere: it's OK for her to leave her pup unattended.

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Ecosystems are formed by the interaction of all living things with one another and their relation to their surroundings. People are an integral part of natural ecosystems; the key to integrity is to minimize human impact and keep the natural components and processes of ecosystems healthy and intact. The result enhances the quality of our lives.

How do we maintain ecological integrity?

To ensure the sustainability of our park, we must view the natural environment as a whole, and consider the interactions and changing nature of ecosystems as well as their ability to withstand environmental stressors.

Ecosystem management

What we learn from research influences how we manage the park. Hands-on monitoring by park staff, students, university professors and researchers, government departments and non-governmental organizations helps us better protect the ecosystem.

Taking our pulse

Like a doctor performing a check-up, we regularly take the pulse of our ecosystems. Our resource conservation staff conducts several ongoing monitoring programs within the park and its greater ecosystem to determine the health of the park.



Practice tidepool etiquette

All intertidal creatures are unique and fragile and depend upon rocks and seaweed for shelter.

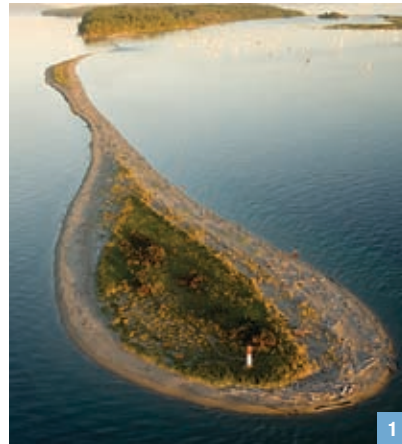
- If you pick up a rock, do so gently and return it to the same place, in its original position.

Sidney Spit, D'Arcy Island & Isle-de-Lis

1 Located at the north end of Sidney Island, **Sidney Spit** is a popular family destination. Its sand bluffs, tidal flats and salt marshes teeming with birds and marine life provide lots to explore. The spit is accessible May to September by a walk-on ferry service from the town of Sidney. For fees and sailing schedules visit: www.alpinemarineadventurecentre.ca

With striking views of the Gulf Islands, numerous coves, cobble beaches and sheltered campsites, **D'Arcy Island** is a haven for kayakers.

2 **Isle-de-Lis (Rum Island)** is another favorite retreat for paddlers. There are only three campsites on Isle-de-Lis, and they are very popular. A gravel beach connecting it to neighbouring Gooch Island is the best place to land a kayak. Gooch Island is privately owned. Please stay on park lands.



PARKS CANADA/JOSH MCCULLOCH

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PARKS CANADA/JOSH MCCULLOCH

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Special Attention

The inner lagoon, hook spit and vegetated centre of the main spit are particularly sensitive ecosystems and have been designated as Special Preservation Areas.

Unless authorized access has been granted by the park Superintendent, you may not enter these areas.



PARKS CANADA/JOSH MCCULLOCH

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BY PERMISSION: BC ARCHIVES

Suffering in Isolation

D'Arcy Island has a unique history. Members of Victoria's Chinese community affected with leprosy were exiled there to live out the remainder of their lives. In the early years, their only contact with the outside world occurred when a supply ship arrived four times a year. From 1891 to 1924, a total of 49 people, including white people, were banished and/or relocated to the island that served as a quarantine station. The inhabitants were fed, clothed and housed, but received no medical attention. An orchard and the disintegrating remains of a few buildings are the legacy of this sad chapter of Canada's history. In 2001, a plaque was dedicated on the island by the City of Victoria.

Princess Margaret (Portland Island), Brackman & Russell Islands



PARKS CANADA/CHRIS CHEADLE

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3 Princess Margaret (Portland Island) was presented as a gift to Princess Margaret in 1958. She returned the island to British Columbia in 1967. The island features cliffs, protected coves and sand beaches. The island has long been used by First Nations, and its shell beaches are the most visible reminder of their presence. The fruit trees, roses and garden plants also found on the island testify to the more recent settlement by Hawaiian (Kanaka) immigrants in the 1880s.



PARKS CANADA

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4 Adjacent to Portland Island, **Brackman Island** has been designated as a Special Preservation Area. **Only authorized access is allowed.** The island is unique because it has remained undeveloped; its original ecosystem remains virtually intact. Thirteen rare plant species have been identified here.

5 At the mouth of Salt Spring Island's Fulford Harbour, **Russell Island** is blessed with many natural features typical of the southern Gulf Islands. Open meadows of native grasses host yearly bursts of camas lilies and a variety of other wildflowers.



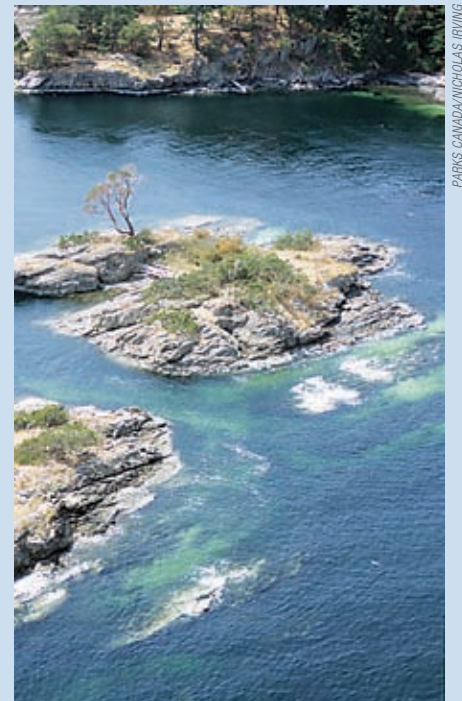
PARKS CANADA/CHRISTIAN J. STEWART/2009

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New interpretive signs reveal the special nature and history of the area.

ISLET ALERT! SMALL PLACES, BIG PROTECTION

Parks Canada has designated all islets and several small islands in the park reserve as Special Preservation Areas. Although small, they are very important ecologically. Human activity can damage their environment irreparably. Only authorized access is allowed. This applies to the Isabella Islets; to Imrie, Reay and Greig Islands, Dock Islet and the Little Group Islands, all located north of Sidney Spit; and to Sallas and Unit Rocks, located south of Sidney Island. Day use access is permitted on Dock Islet (north shoreline only).



PARKS CANADA/NICHOLAS IRVING

Hawaiian (Kanaka) Settlement on Russell Island

During the fur trade, the Hudson's Bay Company hired several hundred Hawaiians as labourers. After their contract expired, some decided not to return to their homeland and many settled on southern Salt Spring, Portland, Coal, Piers and Russell Islands. Russell Island was settled by William Haumea and inherited from him in 1902 by Maria Mahoi. Both were of Hawaiian ancestry. A house, orchard and remnants of what was once a flourishing vegetable garden prove that Maria and her family lived an almost self-sufficient life there. Maria lived on Russell Island until her death in 1936 at the age of 81.



Pender Islands

The Penders—North and South Pender Islands—were once one island connected by a narrow strip of land. A canal between the islands was dredged in 1903 to allow boats passage to the outer Gulf Islands. In 1957, the two islands were reconnected with the construction of a one-lane bridge.



PARKS CANADA/CHRIS GHEADLE

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1 At **Beaumont**, mooring buoys are available. Visitors can beach their kayaks or dinghies to enjoy this popular picnic and camping spot. The peninsula is a sensitive area and has been fenced off to permit natural regeneration of the area. Nearby Skull Islet is a Special Preservation Area with only authorized access allowed.

Trails depart from Canal Road, Ainslie Point Road and Beaumont campground leading to incredible views from **Mount Norman**.



PARKS CANADA/JOSH MCCOLLOCH

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Prior Centennial is the only vehicle-accessible campground operated by Parks Canada on the Penders. This small and rustic campground is set in the shade of a rich forest of cedar, fir, maple and alder.

2 **Loretta's Wood** is home to four provincially rare or endangered plant communities, one vulnerable plant community and the red-legged frog—a COSEWIC-listed Species of Concern. It also contains wetland and terrestrial herbaceous ecosystems, both of which have



PARKS CANADA/JOSH MCCOLLOCH

3

been identified in the joint federal-provincial Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory initiative. Currently there is no public access to this section of the park.

3 The wetlands of **Greenburn Lake** are vital to the recharge of South Pender's scarce water supply. This area contains pockets of the endangered Garry oak ecosystem.

Roesland: A Cottage Resort

Forest gave way to farmland on North Pender's Ella Bay when Robert Roe settled on the property in 1908. In 1917, the Roe family began turning the farm into a cottage resort. Families came back year after year—often to the same cottage—to enjoy the beauty and solitude of the Gulf Islands. The resort closed down in the 1990s, but the site remains a wonderful spot to picnic, enjoy the afternoon sun or to discover the islands' history at the on-site museum run by the Pender Islands Museum Society.



Mayne Island

Mayne Island offers many services, including lodging, restaurants, grocery stores, docks and art galleries. It's also well known for its birdwatching, kayaking, whale watching and cycling opportunities. Park Reserve lands include Bennett Bay, Georgina Point, and adjacent Georgeson Island and the Belle Chain Islets.



MARK SCHACHTER WWW.LUXETVERTITAS .CA

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4 Bennett Bay, located on the Strait of Georgia, is a popular launch point for kayakers. The Campbell Point peninsula features a walking trail through mature forest to superb views of nearby Georgeson Island—a picturesque sandstone ridge clad in old-growth forest.

Farther off, **Anniversary Island** and the **Belle Chain Islets** are highly valued as marine mammal haulouts and nesting sites. The sensitive ecosystems on these islands and islets are Special

Preservation Areas and only authorized access is permitted. Only **Lot 65** (the Belle Chain Islet closest to Samuel Island) is accessible for day use rest stops.

Georgina Point sits at the east entrance to Active Pass. On behalf of Parks Canada, the Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission provides site maintenance and coordinates special functions at this popular day use area. The point provides spectacular views across the Strait of Georgia.

Prevost Island

National park reserve lands are located on both the north and south shores of **Prevost Island**. The majority of the island, however, remains in the hands of the descendants of Digby de Burgh, an Irish nobleman who bought it in the 1920s. The de Burgh family continues to farm and raise sheep on the island.

James Bay and **Selby Cove** are located at the northern tip of the island. The park lands form a narrow point adjacent to a deep cove with a shoreline that varies from steep rock faces on the Trincomali Channel waterfront, to gently rising rock shelves near Peile Point, to a gravel beach in James Bay. Kayakers favour its campsites, and boaters enjoy the good anchorage in Selby Cove. The shoreline of Portlock Point/Richardson Bay on the northeast shore of Prevost Island offers kayakers a location to take a break on longer paddling routes. The Portlock Point automated navigation light can easily be seen by ferry passengers as they exit Active Pass on the way to Victoria.



The Light at Georgina Point

Originally established in 1885, the site was automated and de-staffed in 1996. The light continues to be in active service as a navigational aid used by vessels transiting Active Pass or passing through the Strait of Georgia.



PARKS CANADA/JOSH MCCULLOCH

Saturna Island

Saturna Island is a magical place: quiet and remote but accessible by vehicle and boat—a perfect retreat location. Incredible panoramic views, spectacular rocky shorelines and peaceful bays are all part of the charm.



PARKS CANADA/CHRISTIAN J. STEWART/2009



PARKS CANADA/CHRISTIAN J. STEWART/2009

1 Narvaez Bay is one of the most beautiful and undisturbed bays in the southern Gulf Islands. The dark green of a regenerating Douglas fir forest is punctuated with the contrasting lime green and copper colours of arbutus trees.

2 Winter Cove is backed by forested uplands, open meadows and salt marshes. Local residents and visitors enjoy the picnic area

and easily accessible walking trail. A strong tidal current rushes through Boat Passage and can be viewed close-up from the viewpoint. The cove itself is an excellent, sheltered moorage area and a new dinghy dock provides boaters access to the shore.

The virtually undisturbed mature forest with patches of old growth running north from **Taylor Point**

to a private vineyard is one of the longest uninterrupted stretches of protected shoreline in the southern Gulf Islands. Its cliffs are part of the rare coastal bluffs ecosystem. There are currently no designated trails. Goats and deer have traced paths running along the cliff edge, but these informal trails are dangerous.



A Legacy in Stone – Taylor Point

The remnants of a farm with its old stone house and nearby sandstone quarry are reminders of one of the island’s past commercial enterprises. Sandstone from this quarry was used in the construction of several buildings in Victoria.

George Taylor, a mason by trade, designed and built his family home in 1892 from stone quarried on his property. With his wife Anne and five children, he carved out a living on this isolated point of land. An orchard bore apples, cherries and pears for preserves. There were cows to milk, sheep to shear, and cod, salmon, clams and crab to be gathered from the ocean. The Taylors lived there until their house was destroyed by fire in 1932. Anne then moved to North Pender Island but George remained. He died the following year. Anne, described as a “hard-working Lancashire woman,” lived to the age of 90.



PARKS CANADA/JOSH MCCULLOCH

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3 **Lyall Creek** is a significant protected salmon-bearing watershed in the southern Gulf Islands, a success achieved through the long-time efforts of Saturna Island volunteers.

4 **East Point** has many features to explore. Intriguing patterns on sandstone cliffs, green carpets of kelp dotted with colourful sea stars and an old foghorn building. Built in 1887, the original lightstation here warned sailors away from the turbulent waters of Boiling Reef, just offshore. Orcas and other ocean wildlife are often seen here as nutrient-rich upwellings in this vicinity provide an important source of food.



PARKS CANADA/CHRISTIAN J. STEWART/2019

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PARKS CANADA/JOSH MCCULLOCH

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5 The summit of **Mount Warburton Pike** provides breathtaking panoramic views of the southern Gulf Islands and the neighbouring San Juan Islands in the United States. At 397 metres (1,303 feet), Mount Warburton Pike is the highest point on Saturna Island.

The open, grassy slopes of the ridge are unique in the Gulf Islands, and the slopes and ridge itself are significant habitat for falcons and eagles.

Tumbo & Cabbage Islands

A "tombolo" is a sandbar either extending outward from shore connecting with an island or from island to island. The distinctive shape of Tumbo Island is a perfect example of this landform. First Nations used the island for shelter while hand trolling for fish offshore or on their journeys across the strait. The island remains an important spiritual place. Today, kayakers or boaters like to come ashore to stretch their legs.

The marsh and stands of Garry oak, arbutus and coastal Douglas fir on Cabbage Island are some of the most intact vegetation communities remaining on the Gulf Islands. The island is an important nesting site for shorebirds. While walking along the shore, extra care must be taken to minimize disturbance to nesting birds.



Who Was Warburton Pike?

Warburton Pike was born near Wareham, Dorset, in 1861. Like many young Englishmen of his time, Pike was attracted to outdoor life and distant lands. In 1884, drawn by the wilderness and immensity of British Columbia, he purchased land on Saturna Island, where he thereafter resided periodically. His life was full of wilderness travel adventures and he was renowned for his feats of endurance.



Why stop now?

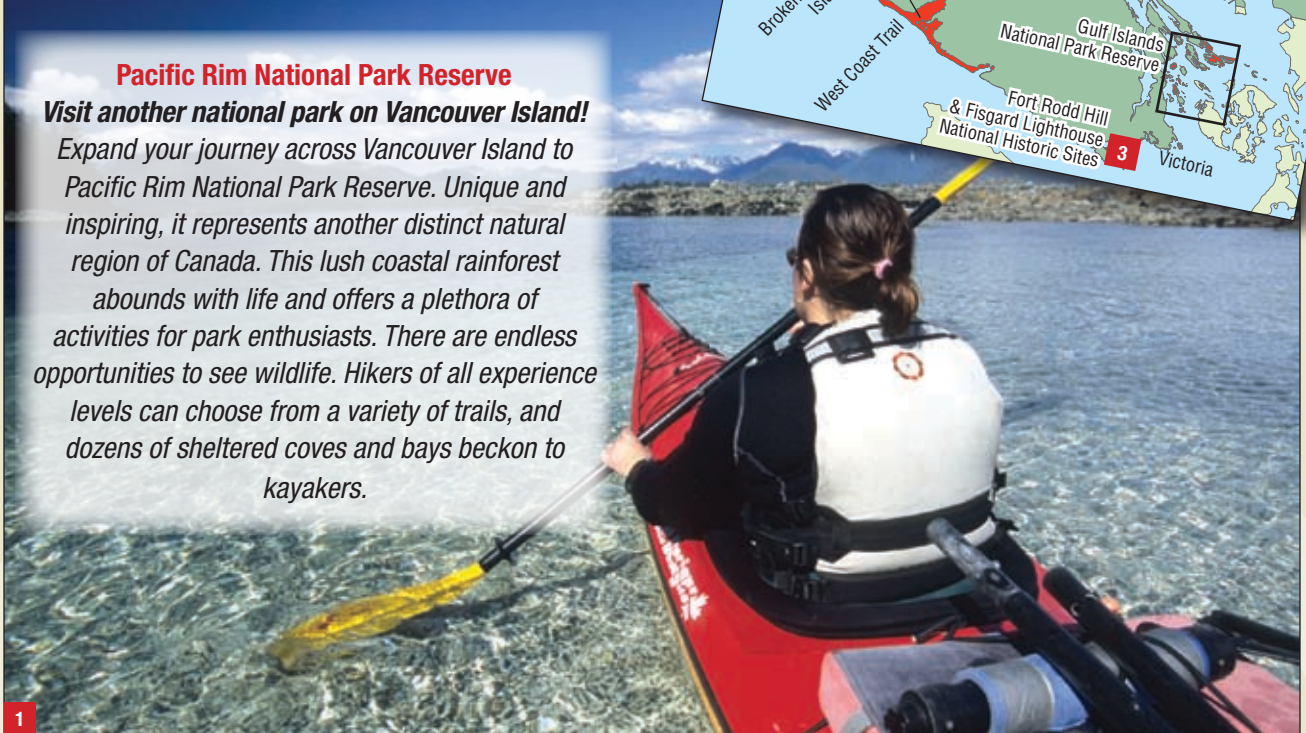
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1



2

Fort Langley National Historic Site

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3

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4

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