

# Welcome to Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

Breathe in the fresh ocean air. Feel the warm, west coast sun on your face. Feast your eyes on the beautiful islands surrounding you.

Climb a mountain. Spot a whale. Learn to sail. Discover geocache treasure. Fall asleep to the sound of the waves. Shop at a farmers' market. Learn about nature with a park interpreter. Experience firsthand the distinct culture and lifestyle of each gulf island!



## Hiking

From easy shoreline trails to invigorating shore-to-sky mountain climbs, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve has walks and hikes for all energy levels. Stroll barefoot along the sandy beaches for hours. Let your feet carry you to mossy waterfalls, salt marshes and spectacular ocean views. Along the way, happen upon history: old logging roads, cottages and homesteads.

See inside for detailed trail maps!

## Discovery

Awaken your family's sense of wonder this summer at one of our park events. Discover the magic of the world around you with help from a park interpreter. Weekly activities and events include family campfires, craft stations and live music. See the Event Calendar on our website for details.

Prefer to go at your own pace? Download our trail guide app for a self-guided tour. Search for geocaches and earn a Parks Canada geocoin. For the perfect kids' adventure pick up a copy of our Xplorers book and complete the challenges to earn a prize!



## Wildlife

Pinch me—this can't be real!

An amazing variety of wildlife awaits you as you discover the Gulf Islands. Orcas, porpoises, sea lions, seals and otters call the waters surrounding the park reserve home; eagles, falcons and turkey vultures fly overhead. Hundreds of species of seabirds, shorebirds and waterfowl live here or stop over on their annual migrations.

For a chance to spot whales, sea lions and seals from land check out East Point, Saturna Island!



## Plan Your Visit

**Getting here:** Set sail aboard BC Ferries to reach Pender, Saturna, Mayne, and Vancouver islands. Hop aboard the seasonal walk-on ferry to reach Sidney Island. Explore the park reserve at your own pace by boat, kayak or water taxi.

**Season of Operation:** May 15 – September 30

**Reservations:** Book your campsite online: [reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca) or by phone **1-877-737-3783**. Some backcountry campgrounds are first-come first-served.

**Programs and Events:** Check our events calendar for details.



## Coast Salish Traditions

The Gulf Islands are part of the homeland of the Coast Salish First Nations. They have lived in this region for thousands of years and their knowledge, culture and oral history have been passed from generation to generation. Since time immemorial, the land and sea have nourished and sustained First Nations communities and their ties to the natural world can be seen in all aspects of their culture.

Discover these connections first-hand by participating in a *Coast Salish Traditions* activity this summer!



## Boating + Kayaking

Float your boat at one of Canada's premier boating destinations. Dig in your paddle as eagles soar overhead. Drop anchor at Russell Island and tour a historic Hawaiian Homestead. You'll be greeted by sheltered waters and friendly volunteer hosts.

Discover spectacular coastlines around every corner. Spot seals, sea lions and porpoises. If you are lucky you may even come home with stories of sighting a pod of orcas.



## 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. Meet a naturalist on the outer deck to enjoy conversations and short presentations about BC's wildlife, marine life, culture, history, geography and coastal national parks.



## Camping

Are you new to camping or a seasoned pro? Gulf Islands National Park Reserve offers outdoor overnight experiences for everyone. Book your favorite campsite, pack the car and take the family for a weekend escape to a sun dappled forest. Looking for an adventure? Go backcountry! Cycle, paddle or hike to a rustic waterfront campsite. Add some stars and you've got the perfect evening!

See reverse side for more detailed information.



## Frontcountry Campgrounds

McDonald, Prior Centennial and Sidney Spit

- Potable water is available (Note: Sidney Spit water has high sodium content and is not recommended for those with heart conditions).
- Reservations are recommended.
- Campfires are only permitted in the rings provided at McDonald and Prior Centennial campgrounds.
- Garbage facilities are only available at drive-in campgrounds. Sidney Spit is pack in, pack out.



## Campgrounds, Dock and Moorage

SITES	# OF SITES	♿	♿	♿	♿	ACCESS		
						Road	Marine	Trail
<b>Vancouver Island</b>								
📍 McDonald <b>R</b>	49	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Sidney Island (Accessible by a foot passenger ferry. For schedule and fees: 250-474-5145 or alpinegroup.ca)</b>								
📍 Sidney Spit <b>R</b>	29	✓	✓				✓	
📍 Mooring Buoys	15						✓	
📍 Dock							✓	
<i>Group camping or picnicking is available at Sidney Spit by reservation only – maximum group size of 30. For more information or reservation, call 1-877-944-1744.</i>								
<b>Pender Islands</b>								
📍 Prior Centennial <b>R</b>	17	✓	✓	✓		✓		
📍 Beaumont <b>R</b>	13	✓					✓	✓
📍 Beaumont Mooring Buoys	14						✓	
📍 Shingle Bay <b>R</b>	10	✓					✓	✓
<b>D'Arcy Island</b>								
📍 D'Arcy Island	7	✓					✓	
<b>Isle-de-Lis (Rum Island)</b>								
📍 Isle-de-Lis	3	✓					✓	
<b>Princess Margaret (Portland Island)</b>								
📍 Shell Beach	6	✓					✓	
📍 Princess Bay	12	✓					✓	
📍 Arbutus Point	6	✓					✓	
<b>Prevost Island</b>								
📍 James Bay	10	✓					✓	
<b>Saturna Island</b>								
📍 Narvaez Bay <b>R</b>	7	✓					✓	✓
<b>Cabbage Island</b>								
📍 Cabbage Island	5	✓					✓	
📍 Mooring Buoys	10						✓	
<b>FEES</b>	Please visit the website for all current park reserve fees: <a href="http://parkscanada.gc.ca/gulfislands">parkscanada.gc.ca/gulfislands</a>					<b>R</b> RESERVABLE	Visit: <a href="http://reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca">reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca</a> Telephone: 1-877-737-3783	

Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

# Visitor Guide



## Campground Information

- Camping permit holders must be 19 years of age or older.
- Pets must be kept on leash at all times and their waste removed.
- Alcohol consumption is only permitted on a registered campsite.
- Some campgrounds are accessible by water only. Consult the Campgrounds, Dock and Moorage table for accessibility details.
- Fire restrictions: campfires, briquette-fueled barbecues and portable campfire apparatuses are prohibited at Sidney Spit, all backcountry campgrounds, and all day use areas (including below the high tide mark).
- Maximum length of stay is 14 days per year.
- Maximum group size per campsite:
  - Frontcountry 6 adults (or 7 people including children);
  - Backcountry 5 people.



## MORE INFORMATION

**WEBSITE** [parkscanada.gc.ca/gulfislands](http://parkscanada.gc.ca/gulfislands)

**TELEPHONE** 250-654-4000

**TOLL FREE** 1-866-944-1744

**EMERGENCY CONTACT** 1-877-852-3100

**EMAIL** [gulf.islands@pc.gc.ca](mailto:gulf.islands@pc.gc.ca)

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!** @GulfIslandsNPR

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!** [facebook.com/GulfIslandsNPR](https://www.facebook.com/GulfIslandsNPR)

Aussi disponible en français.

# Hiking, Camping and Boating Guide

## Prevost Island

**James Bay Campground** is only accessible by water, and is popular with kayakers. There are no tent pads in this open field style camping area. 10 backcountry campsites.

## Russell Island

**Haumea Trail** Easy 1.2 km 30 minute loop. This island is steeped in rich history. Coast Salish clam gardens have been used here for at least 1000 years. A spur off the main loop trail leads to one of the last surviving Hawaiian homesteads in the region. The historic house dates back over a century.

## Princess Margaret (Portland Island)

**Arbutus Point Campground** (6 backcountry sites), **Shell Beach Campground** (6 backcountry sites) and **Princess Bay Campground** (12 backcountry sites — ideal for groups) offer opportunities to camp on all sides of Portland Island.

A shoreline loop allows you to hike around the entire island and enjoy spectacular views. Shorter trails cut across the interior of the island.

**Princess Margaret Perimeter Trail** Moderate 6.5 km 3 hour loop.

**Royal Cove Trail** 1.4 km

**Kanaka Bluffs Trail** 0.8 km

**Pellow Islets Trail** 0.7 km

## McDonald Campground (Sidney)

**McDonald Campground** Park your RV or pitch your tent in a campsite surrounded by tall cedars. Only 25 minutes from Victoria, McDonald Campground makes a perfect basecamp for exploring the Gulf Islands and the Greater Victoria area. 49 sites, with a mix of RV, tent, and walk-in sites. Reservations recommended.

**Cycling** There is easy access to beautiful walk-in campsites and the Lochside Regional cycling trail which connects the campground to Victoria and the Swartz Bay ferry terminal.

## Sidney Spit

Spend a day on car-free Sidney Island. Hop on the passenger ferry at Sidney Pier and soon you'll be kicking off your shoes and exploring kilometres of warm sandy beaches. Looking for a boater's paradise? Tie up to our Sidney Spit dock or mooring buoys for an overnight stay and treat yourself to a spectacular sunset.

**Sidney Spit Campground** 29 tent sites. Reservations recommended.

**Boating Facilities** First-come first-served mooring buoys and dock space. Fees apply daily after 3 p.m.

**SKTÅMEN (sk-thay-men) Trail** Easy 2.1 km loop from main dock to campground returning along eastern coast.

**Lagoon Trail** Easy 1.8 km spur off SKTÅMEN Trail to lagoon (3.6 km total).

## Isle-de-Lis (Rum Island)

**Isle-de-Lis Campground** This small island features coastal bluffs, a Douglas fir and arbutus forest, and vegetation that reflects the warm Mediterranean-like climate of the southern Gulf Islands. 3 backcountry campsites.

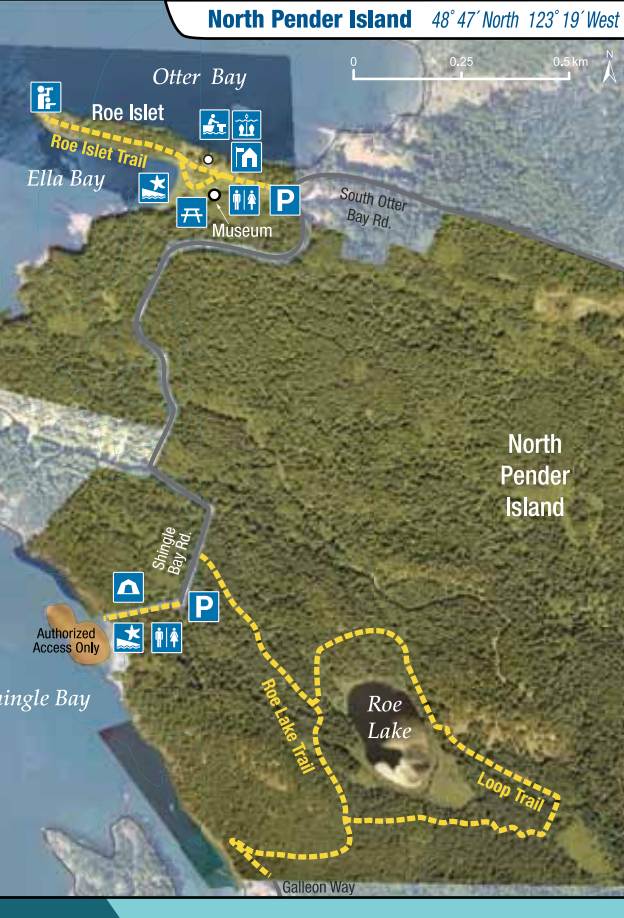
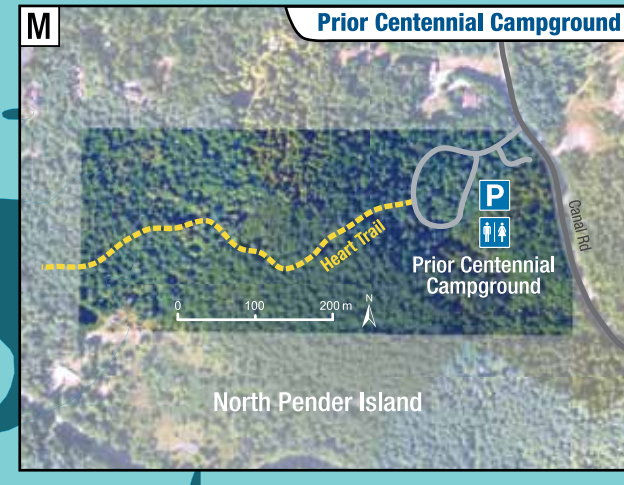
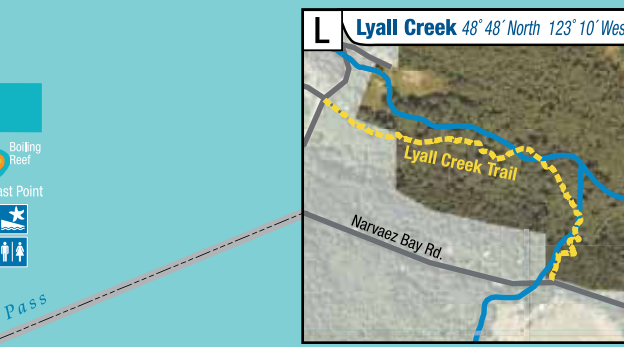
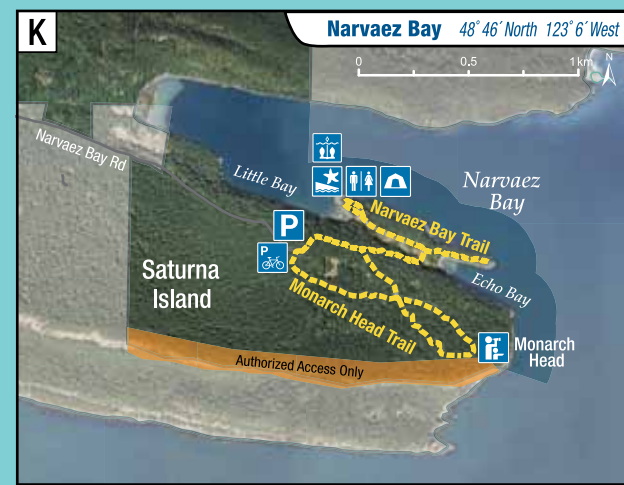
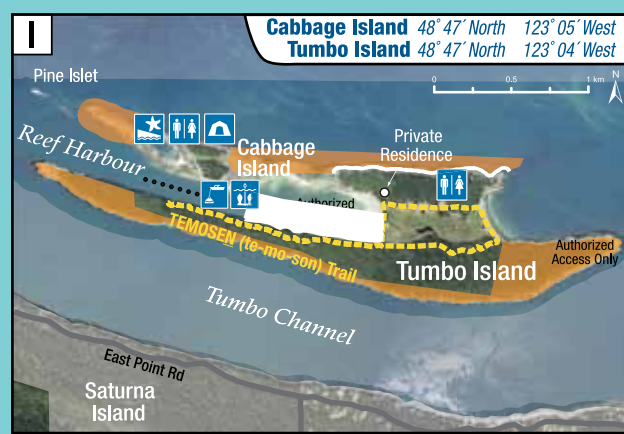
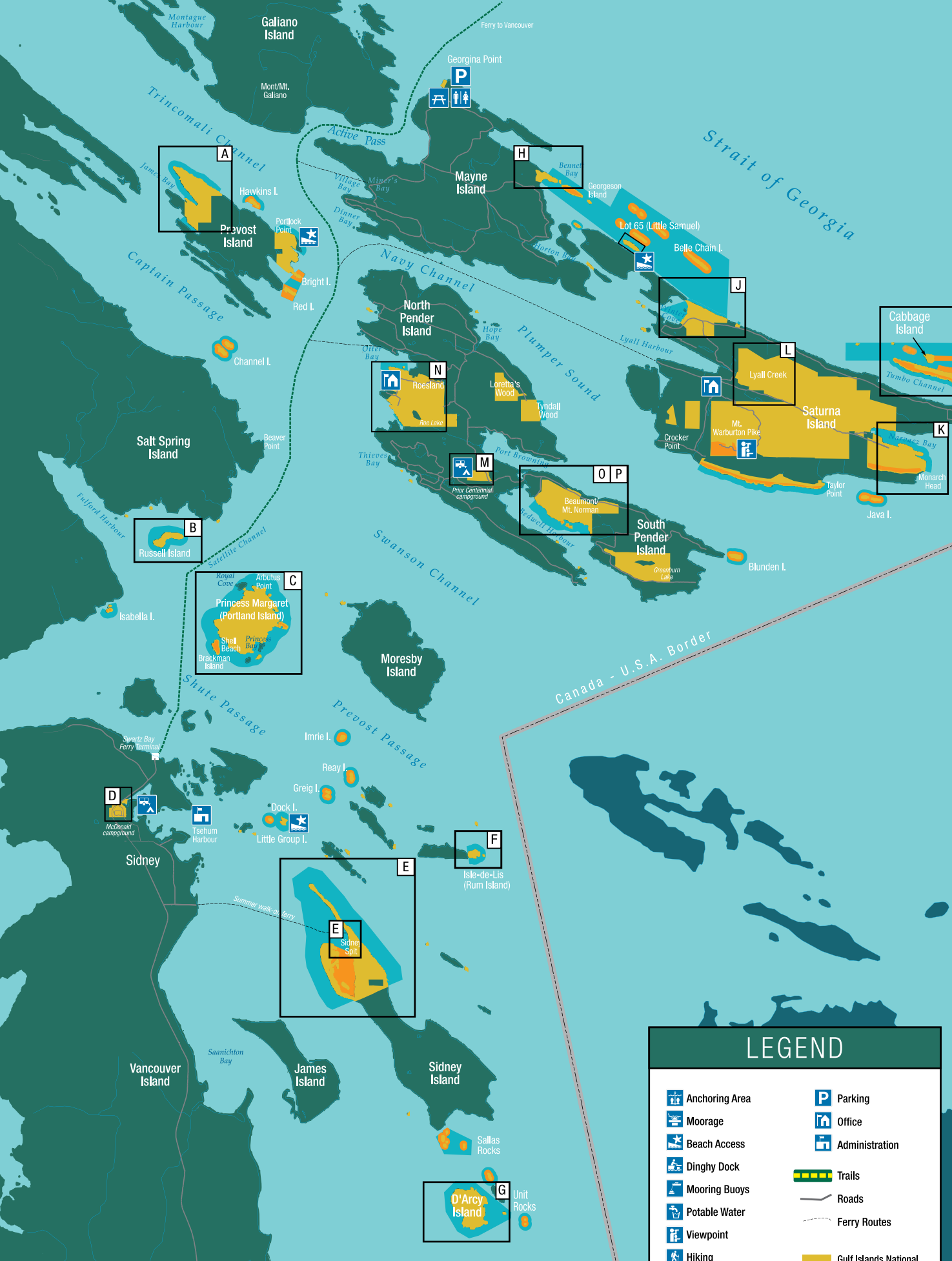
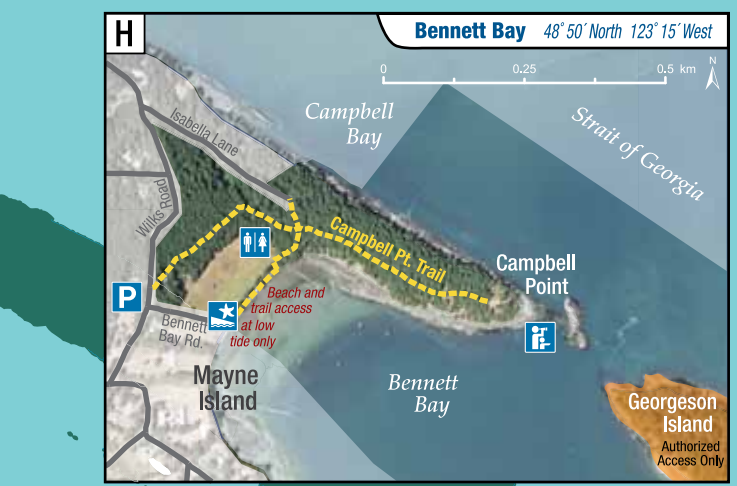
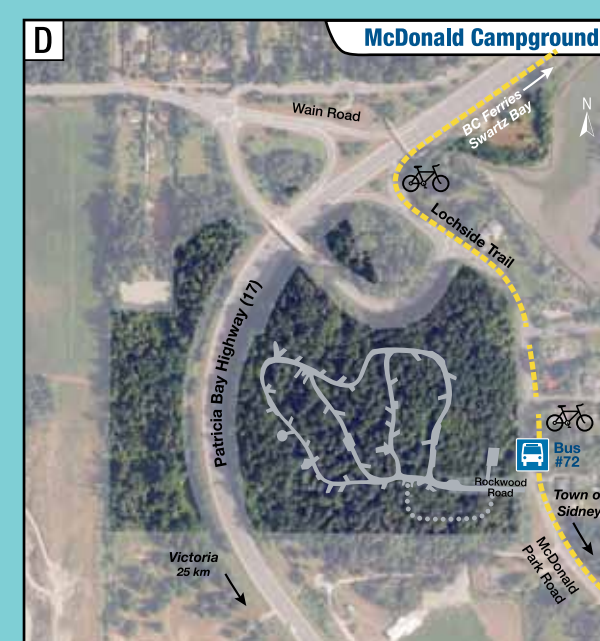
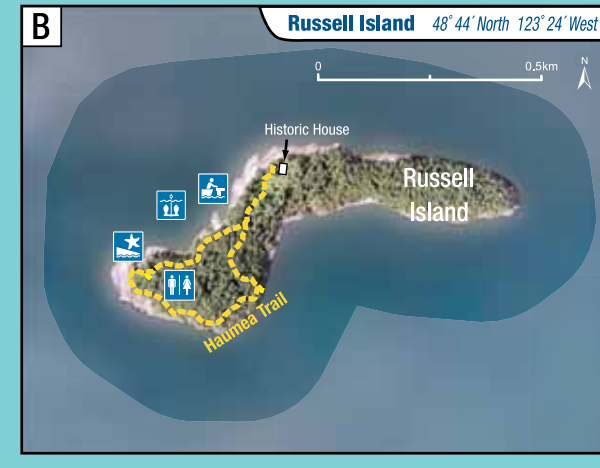
## D'Arcy Island

**D'Arcy Island Campground** With numerous coves, cobble beaches and a forest of arbutus and Douglas fir, D'Arcy Island's beauty belies its past history as a leper colony for Chinese immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s. 7 backcountry campsites.

## Mayne Island

Brush up on your birding skills at Georgina Point — an Important Bird Area overlooking Active Pass. Use the high powered viewscope to get a closer look at harlequin ducks and black oystercatchers.

**Campbell Point Trail** Easy 750 m each way (1.5 km total) through old-growth forest. Enjoy views across to Georgeson Island. Hire a local kayak guide to launch you from Bennett Bay, introducing you to the diversity of wildlife on your journey along the Belle Chain Islets.



LEGEND	
	Anchoring Area
	Moorage
	Beach Access
	Dinghy Dock
	Mooring Buoys
	Potable Water
	Viewpoint
	Hiking
	Camping
	Group Camping
	Drive-in Campsite
	Picnic Area
	Picnic Shelter
	Washrooms
	Bike Rack
	Parking
	Office
	Administration
	Trails
	Roads
	Ferry Routes
	Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada
	Parks Canada Protected Marine Areas
	Authorized Access Only

## I Cabbage Island

**Cabbage Island Campground** This small oasis lies on the outermost reaches of the Gulf Islands archipelago. It is a very popular destination for paddlers and boaters alike, featuring a beautiful sandy beach for easy access. Rich and dense eelgrass meadows thrive in this area, and river otters and raccoons can often be spotted playing in the intertidal. 5 backcountry campsites.

**Boating Facilities** First-come first-served mooring buoys. Fees apply daily after 3 p.m.

## Tumbo Island

**TEMOSEN (te-mo-son) Trail** Easy 5 km 90 minute loop. Tumbo Island has recovered well from the fur farming, timber harvesting and coal mining activities that highlighted its rich and varied past. Today, the island is largely forested with mature Douglas fir and Garry oak. A large marsh area divides the long and short arms of the island and attracts numerous bird species, such as the red winged blackbird.

## Saturna Island

Don't miss the legendary whale-watching at East Point — from shore! While you're there learn about the endangered orcas during one of our park events. You can also soak up island lore at the community museum in the fog alarm building.

**J Xwiwxwus (kwik-wi-us) Trail at Winter Cove** Easy 1.2 km loop. Trailhead at Winter Cove day use area. This loop trail takes you through skunk cabbage wetland, spruce-salal upland, open meadows and salt marsh. Enjoy spectacular views across the Strait of Georgia.

**K Narvaez Bay Campground** 7 walk-in or paddle-in backcountry sites. Reservations recommended.

**Narvaez Bay Trail** Moderate 1.3 km from parking lot to Narvaez Bay Campground.

**Monarch Head Trail** Moderate 2.5 km loop. Trailhead on right past parking gate on Narvaez Bay Road. The trail rapidly rises 100 m in elevation to an incredible view of Boundary Pass and the San Juan Islands.

**L Lyall Creek Trail** Advanced 1 km each way (2 km total). Trailheads at Narvaez Bay Road or east end of Valley Road. The trail descends steeply from Narvaez Bay Road, passes a mossy waterfall then levels off alongside the creek.

## Pender Island

Will it be a kayak tour, a challenging hike to the summit of Mount Norman, a treasure hunt on the geocache trail, or a rousing game of disc golf? You decide! After you've burned off some energy, pitch your tent in one of our three campgrounds and discover the delight of sleeping in a Douglas Fir forest. Get away from it all at a hike-in backcountry campsite and enjoy the sunset by the water's edge at Shingle Bay or Beaumont Campgrounds.

**M Prior Centennial Campground** 17 frontcountry RV or car camping sites. Reservations recommended.

**Heart Trail** Easy 500 m each way (1 km total) trail connects Prior Centennial Campground to regional hiking trails.

**N Shingle Bay Campground** 10 walk-in or paddle-in backcountry sites. Reservations recommended.

**Shingle Bay Campground Access** 300 m steep descent from parking lot to campground.

**Roe Islet Trail** Easy 500 m from parking area to viewpoint. The islet is only accessible at low tide.

**Roe Lake Trail** Moderate 1.2 km each way (2.4 km total). Trailhead at Shingle Bay Road. Hike to Roe Lake.

**Loop Trail** Moderate 1.7 km loop at Roe Lake. Trailheads at Shingle Bay Road or Magic Lake Estates. Circumnavigate Roe Lake and enjoy the tranquility.

**O Mount Norman Trail** Advanced 2.4 km each way (4.8 km total) from either Ainslie Point Road or Canal Road trailheads. This invigorating trail climbs 244 m to the viewpoint on top of Mount Norman.

**Beaumont Trail** Advanced 2 km trail from Ainslie Point Road to Beaumont Campground. This trail includes steep switchbacks.

**P Beaumont Campground** 13 hike-in or paddle-in backcountry sites. Reservations recommended.

**Boating Facilities** First-come first-served mooring buoys. Fees apply daily after 3 p.m.