

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; ancient clam gardens being actively tended, heritage orchards, former cottages, and Hawaiian 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 cultural presentations. 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 using your GPS enabled device. For the perfect kids' adventure, pick up a copy of our Xplorers booklet 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!



PHOTO: Daniel Downie, Rocky Point Bird Observatory



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.



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!



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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 or by phone **1-877-737-3783**. Some backcountry campgrounds are first-come first-served.

Programs and Events: Check our events calendar for details.



Frontcountry Campgrounds

McDonald, Prior Centennial and Sidney Spit

- Potable water is only available at McDonald and Prior Centennial campgrounds (no water currently available at Sidney Spit).
- 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.

BC Ferries Coastal Naturalist Program

BC Ferries, Parks Canada, and Ocean Wise present the Coastal Naturalist Program on board select BC Ferries sailings and in select terminals throughout the summer.

Learn fun facts and enjoy conversations and short presentations about BC's coastal wildlife, marine life, culture, history, geography and Parks Canada's incredible places.



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.



D'Arcy Island

Campgrounds, Dock and Moorage

SITES	# OF SITES	♂	♀	🗑️	🔥	♿	ACCESS			
							Road	Marine	Trail	
Vancouver Island										
📍 McDonald R	49	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Sidney Island (Accessible by a foot passenger ferry. For schedule and fees: 250-474-5145 or alpinegroup.ca)										
📍 Sidney Spit R	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>										
Pender Islands										
📍 Prior Centennial R	17	✓	✓	✓		✓				
📍 Beaumont R	10	✓					✓		✓	
📍 Beaumont Mooring Buoys	14						✓			
📍 Shingle Bay R	10	✓					✓		✓	
D'Arcy Island										
📍 D'Arcy Island	7	✓					✓			
Isle-de-Lis (Rum Island)										
📍 Isle-de-Lis	3	✓					✓			
Princess Margaret (Portland Island)										
📍 Shell Beach	6	✓					✓			
📍 Princess Bay	12	✓					✓			
📍 Arbutus Point	6	✓					✓			
Prevost Island										
📍 James Bay	10	✓					✓			
Saturna Island										
📍 Narvaez Bay R	7	✓					✓		✓	
Cabbage Island										
📍 Cabbage Island	5	✓					✓			
📍 Mooring Buoys	10						✓			
FEES	Please visit the website for all current park reserve fees: parkscanada.gc.ca/gulfislands						R RESERVABLE	Visit: reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca Telephone: 1-877-737-3783		



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.
- Cannabis consumption is prohibited in all frontcountry campground common areas (washrooms, kitchen shelters, campsite trails, and roads).
- 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.



Backcountry Campgrounds

D'Arcy, Isle-de-Lis (Rum), Princess Margaret (Portland), Pender, Prevost, Saturna and Cabbage Islands

- No water: pack in water in the backcountry.
- Reservations are recommended at the following backcountry campgrounds:
 - Shingle Bay Campground, North Pender Island
 - Beaumont Campground, South Pender Island
 - Narvaez Bay Campground, Saturna Island
- All other backcountry campgrounds are first-come first-served. Consult kiosk upon arrival for registration procedures.
- Garbage facilities are not available. Pack in, pack out only.



MORE INFORMATION

WEBSITE: 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

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! @GulfIslandsNPR

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! facebook.com/GulfIslandsNPR

Aussi disponible en français.

Hiking, Camping and Boating Guide

A 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.

B 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 Mahoi house dates back over a century.

C 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 three hour loop.

Royal Cove Trail 1.4 km

Kanaka Bluffs Trail 0.8 km

Pellow Islets Trail 0.7 km

D 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.

E 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. No water available. Pack in water.

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 the main dock to the campground and then returning along the eastern coast.

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

F 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.

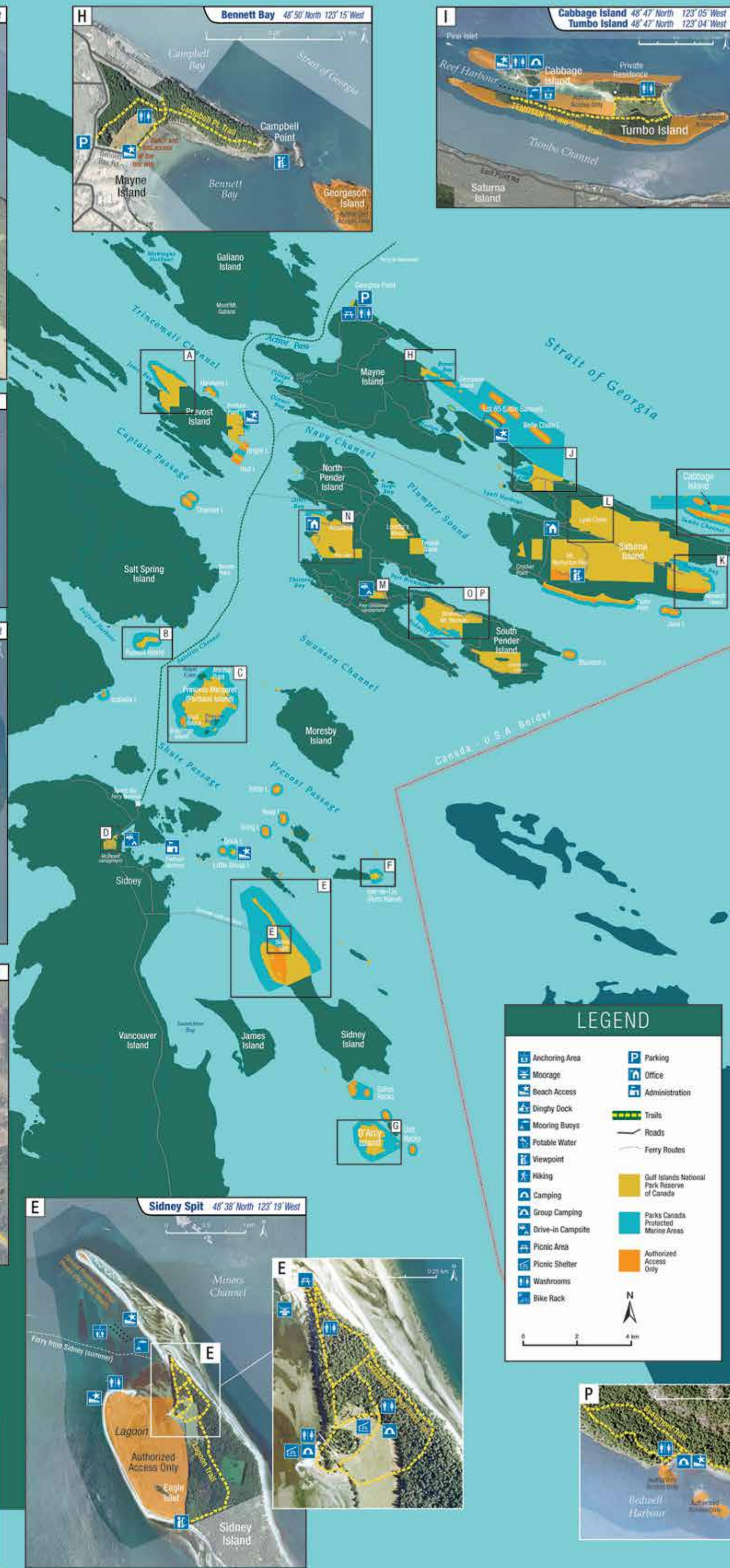
G D'Arcy Island

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.

H 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. Campbell Point features remnant old-growth forest. A wide and relatively flat trail brings you to superb views from the point across to Georgeson Island.



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.

I Tumbo Island

TEMOSÉN (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 are part of its rich and varied past. Today, the island is largely forested with mature Douglas fir and Garry oak trees. 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 Xwiwxwuyus (kwik-wi-us) Trail at Winter Cove Easy 1.2 km loop. This trail starts at the Winter Cove day use area and heads through the forest to a viewpoint overlooking Boat Pass. Looping back along the Winter Cove shoreline, the trail passes through wetlands including a salt water marshland. 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 the parking lot to Narvaez Bay Campground.

Monarch Head Trail Moderate 2.5 km loop. The trailhead is on the right, past the 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 trail along Lyall Creek. The trailheads are located at Narvaez Bay Road or at the east end of Valley Road. The trail descends steeply from Narvaez Bay Road, passes a mossy waterfall and 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 trail connects Prior Centennial Campground to the local Pender Island Disc Golf Course and other community 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 the Roesland parking area to the viewpoint. The islet is only accessible at low tide.

Roe Lake Trail Moderate 1.2 km trail from the Shingle Bay Road trailhead to Roe Lake.

Roe Lake Loop Trail Moderate 1.7 km loop starting at Roe Lake. Circumnavigate Roe Lake and enjoy the tranquility. You can exit the trail at Shingle Bay Road or Magic Lake Estates trailheads.

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 10 hike-in or paddle-in backcountry sites. Reservations recommended.

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