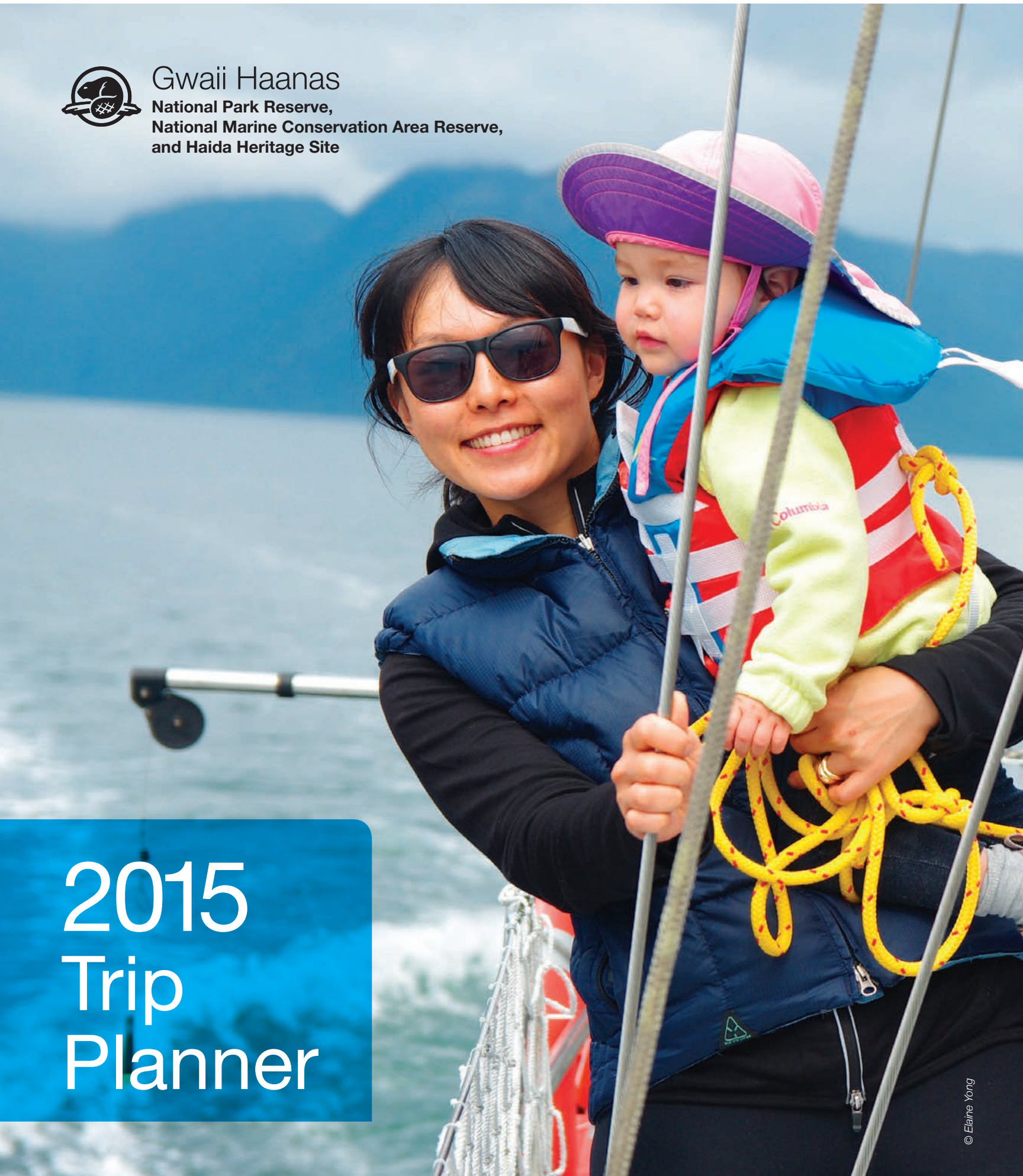




Gwaii Haanas
National Park Reserve,
National Marine Conservation Area Reserve,
and Haida Heritage Site

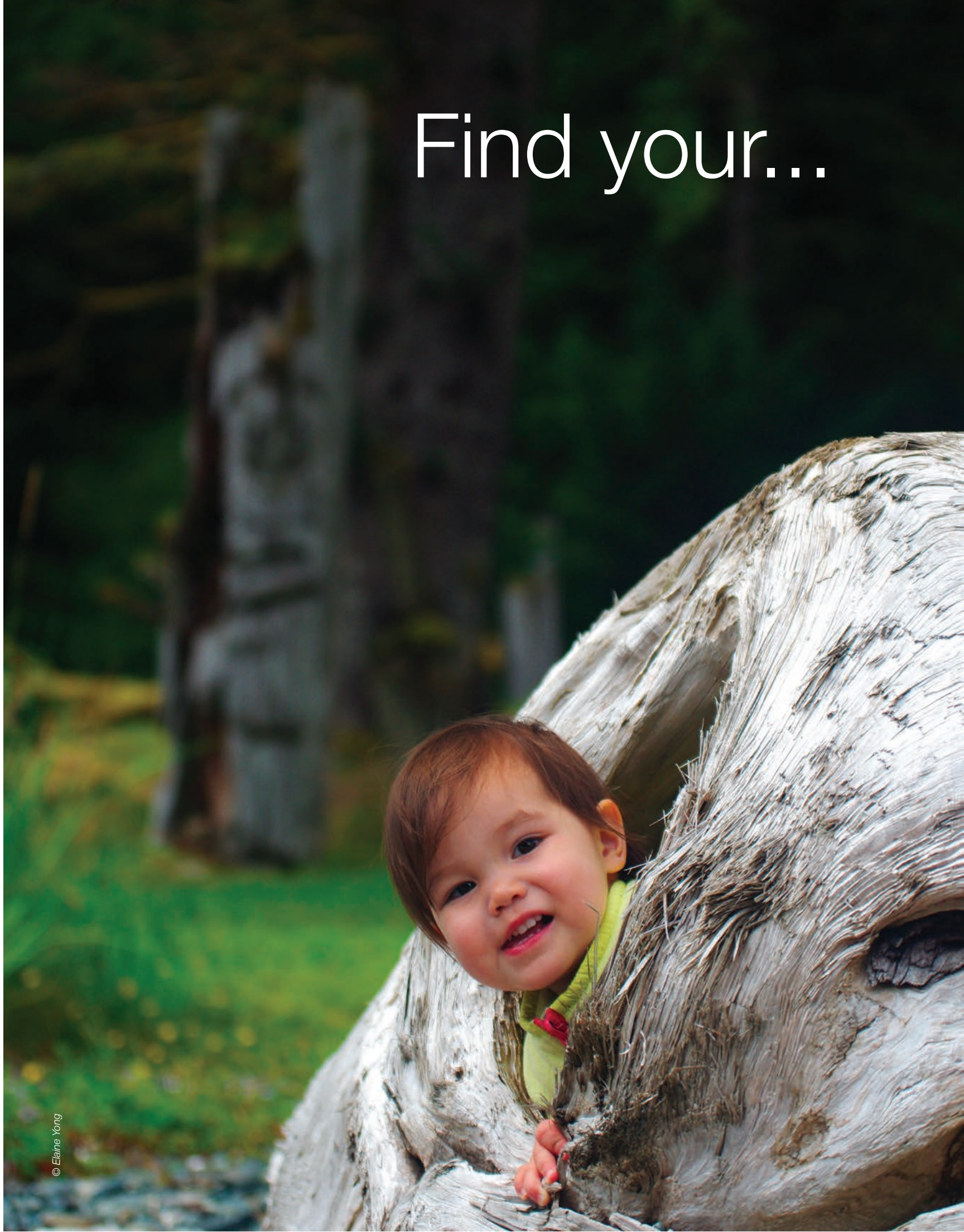


2015 Trip Planner

© Elaine Yong



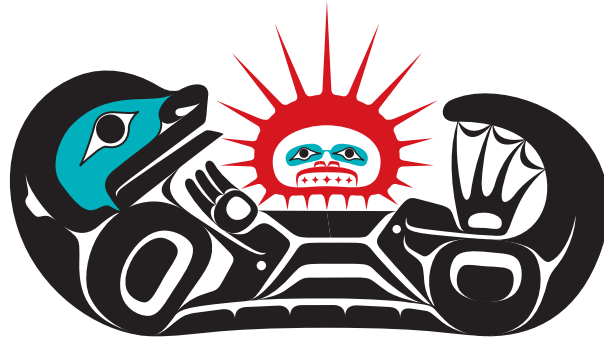
Find your...



inspiration



The Gwaii Haanas Crest



The crest of the Archipelago Management Board (AMB) is a unique design by local Haida artist, Giitsxaa. The sea otter and the sea urchin were chosen because of their significance in the ecological and cultural history of Gwaii Haanas.

Kelp forests are among the most productive ecosystems in the waters of Gwaii Haanas. Historically, populations of sea urchins, which feed heavily on kelp, were kept in check by sea otters. This ensured an abundance of kelp and provided habitat for many species, from sea stars to fish and marine mammals.

With the extirpation (local extinction) of sea otters during the maritime fur trade era, the natural balance was disrupted. The sea urchin population increased dramatically. Underwater deserts exist where there were once rich forests of kelp. The loss of the sea otter is a powerful reminder of the vulnerability of individual species and entire ecosystems.

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© Parks Canada, Neil Osborne

Gwaii Haanas Administration

Phone: 1-877-559-8818 or 250-559-8818
Fax: 250-559-8366
Emergency: 780-852-3100
Email: gwaii.haanas@pc.gc.ca

Mail: Box 37, Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0
Office: Haida Heritage Centre,
60 Second Beach Road, Skidegate, BC
Web: www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GwaiiHaanas

*Lush Pacific
temperate rainforest*



About Gwaii Haanas

The Land

Gwaii Haanas is peppered with islands and islets, bays and inlets, tidal pools and beaches—perfect for relaxing exploration.

Pacific temperate rainforest sweeps from sea level up the slopes of the San Christoval Mountains that form the backbone of Gwaii Haanas. At lower elevations, rain and moderate temperatures help to nurture dense, mossy forests of immense western red cedar, western hemlock, and Sitka spruce trees.

Haida Gwaii is Unique!

Flora and fauna in this area are not what many visitors expect. Some plant and animal species have adapted to life on these islands, which are some of the most isolated in Canada. The Haida Gwaii black bear (*Ursus americanus carlottae*), for example, has thrived on a rich diet of salmon and hard-shelled intertidal creatures for so long it has developed larger jaws and teeth to deal with these crunchy feasts.

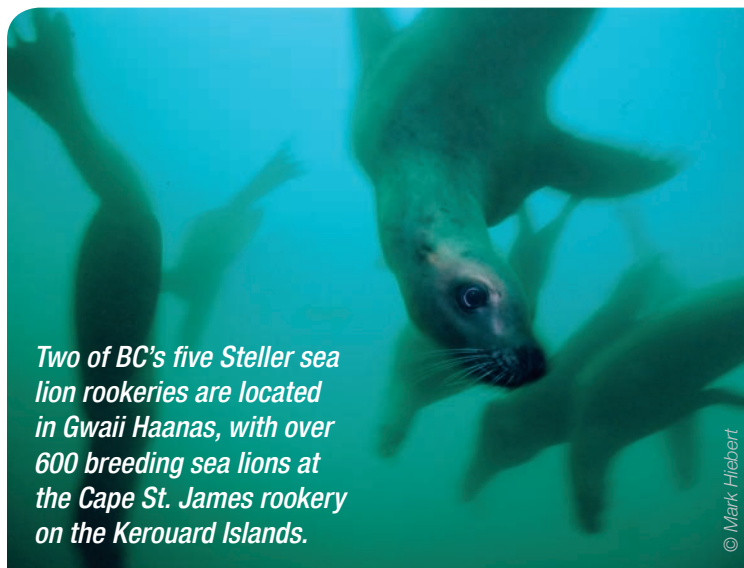
To preserve ecological integrity biologists at Gwaii Haanas battle species that have been introduced relatively recently, such as the Sitka black-tailed deer and Norway and black rats. Deer browsing destroys forest understory vegetation and rats have decimated entire colonies of seabirds by preying on eggs, chicks, and adult birds.

Other species common in north coastal British Columbia, like cougar, wolf, and grizzly bear, are absent from Haida Gwaii entirely.



Sitka spruce
at Windy Bay

© Parks Canada, Neil Osborne



Two of BC's five Steller sea lion rookeries are located in Gwaii Haanas, with over 600 breeding sea lions at the Cape St. James rookery on the Kerouard Islands.

© Mark Hiebert

The Sea

The sea around Gwaii Haanas teems with life. These waters are home to salmon, herring, halibut, rockfish, crab, seastar, sea urchin, octopus, and numerous other species.

Twenty species of whales and dolphins have been recorded in these waters. Grey and humpback whales pass through Haida Gwaii on the way to summer feeding grounds further north. See pods of humpbacks breaching and using bubble nets and flicking their tail flukes to gorge on the bounty of the Gwaii Haanas marine area.

Orca and minke whales are also seen regularly in Gwaii Haanas. Sei, fin, and other whale species are occasionally sighted.

Dolphins, porpoises, harbour seals, and Steller sea lions also make these waters home.

The People

Archaeological evidence of human habitation on these islands extends over 12,500 years. Generations have been nourished by the rich abundance of Haida Gwaii.

Fish from the ocean, berries from the forest, and birds from the sea and sky were all part of a traditional diet. These readily accessible foods allowed time for the Haida to develop into a complex society with myths and oral histories, legal structures, and artistic expression. Haida art forms that reflect the intertwining of the people with the land, sea, and spirit world continue to command international recognition.

Haida Gwaii Watchmen

Explore historic Haida village sites with century-old carved poles and longhouse remains. The Haida Gwaii Watchmen welcome visitors and act as guardians from spring until autumn at:

- K'uuna Lnagaay (Skedans)
- T'aanuu Lnagaay (Tanu)
- Hlk'yah Gawga (Windy Bay)
- Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay (Hotspring Island)
- Sgang Gwaay (Ninstints, Anthony Island)



Mortuary poles at Sgang Gwaay (also known as Ninstints), a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Anthony Island at the southwest edge of Gwaii Haanas, stretch over 20 feet into the sky. That's about the same height as a two story house! Carved with crests – like Eagle, Raven, Bear, Orca, and Thunderbird – the poles are maps of Haida lives and lineages.



The forest at T'aanuu Lnagaay slowly reclaims massive longhouse beams and posts.

Longhouse construction seen at T'aanuu Lnagaay (Tanu), K'uuna Lnagaay (Skedans), Hlk'yah Gawga (Windy Bay), Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay (Hotspring Island), and Sgang Gwaay has been recognized as an architectural design unique to the Haida.

With amazingly large posts and beams defining enormous tiered house pits dug into the earth, longhouses offer a window into Haida traditional life.

In the past, Haida watchmen were posted at strategic positions around a village to raise the alarm in advance of an approaching enemy. To symbolise this important role, watchmen also crowned poles as carved figures protecting the village.

Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole at Windy Bay

Jaalen Edenshaw and his assistants began the process of carving the 42-foot monumental cedar Legacy Pole in mid-2012.

The figures in his design illustrate the interconnections between the land, sea and people.

On August 15, 2013, visitors, volunteers, Haida, and Parks Canada staff raised the Legacy Pole at Windy Bay—the first monumental pole raised in Gwaii Haanas in 130 years!

The pole honours the 20th anniversary of cooperative management between the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation.



A Wild Place

Facilities in and around Gwaii Haanas are minimal. Access is limited to boats and seaplanes.

There are no roads, stores, or fueling facilities. There are a few mooring buoys, two water hoses, and limited navigational aids.

Make daily travel plans flexible to accommodate weather delays. Bring enough fuel and food to last for a few extra days. Carry clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

This area has significant tidal variation, strong currents, rapidly changing weather, and strong winds that develop with little or no warning.

Take the time to learn about the waters you plan to navigate. (Charts and Tables, p.19)

Independent or Guided

Some visitors spend a few weeks travelling through Gwaii Haanas with family and friends, while others spend only a few days. Many independent visitors use their own boats, but kayaks are available for rent locally.

If you are unsure of the area or your skill level, try a guided trip. Licensed tour operators offer many types and lengths of organized trips.

Boat Launch

The closest boat launch to Gwaii Haanas is Moresby Camp in Cumshewa Inlet on Moresby Island.

Moresby Camp is a provincial recreational site, accessible by rough logging road. Check with the visitor centres for detailed instructions on times and procedures for travelling on active logging roads. Always drive with your headlights on.

The Route into Gwaii Haanas

Generally, small craft travel the inside waters of Carmichael Passage and Dana Passage from Moresby Camp to Gwaii Haanas; this route avoids the exposed waters between Cumshewa Head and Talunkwan Island.

Louise Narrows has strong currents and shallow waters. Mariners must time their travel with the tides. Kayakers should plan to go with the tide. Boaters must be aware of their draft, transit at high waters, and follow the markers. There is little room for error. Call on channel 16 and channel 6 before entering the Narrows to ensure there is no opposing traffic. If in doubt, avoid Louise Narrows.

Porter Head, on the Tangil Peninsula, is exposed to big seas, wind, and currents – exercise caution.

It takes about two days, weather permitting, to travel by kayak from Moresby Camp to the northern border of Gwaii Haanas at the Tangil Peninsula. A popular alternative is transportation by a licensed tour operator.

Camping

Gwaii Haanas has no designated campsites. However, there are many good camping spots for small groups of one to three tents. You will require maps or charts to plan your daily itinerary and overnight stops. Allow enough time to check that each planned campsite is available and suitable for your group and the weather conditions upon arrival.

The orientation provides detailed information on areas closed to camping or access.

You will need waterproof bags and ropes for hanging food out of bears' reach.

Bring a reliable cookstove. Always keep fires on the beach and well below the last high tide mark. Clean your campsite and fire so that no visible trace is left – please help maintain the wilderness experience for others.



© Parks Canada, Neil Osborne

Gwaii Haanas is composed of more than 1800 islands and islets, where 207 islands are larger than a hectare.

Closures

We're serious about protection.

Several highly sensitive areas, like caves, are closed permanently for ecological or cultural reasons. Other areas, like seabird nesting colonies, may be closed seasonally to avoid disturbing breeding activities.

Temporary closures may be necessary for reasons such as bear activity.

To protect inshore rockfish, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has designated two Rockfish Conservation Areas within Gwaii Haanas.

As part of Gwaii Haanas Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR), six key marine locations in Gwaii Haanas have been selected for full protection because of their ecological or cultural significance. Canada's NMCAs prohibit oil and gas development, but other uses, such as commercial and recreational fishing, are permitted in certain zones. An interim marine area management and zoning plan is in place, while we develop a plan that integrates land and sea management and protection.

A map of closures or areas with restricted access is available at www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas.

More information will be provided during the orientation.

Pets

Pets are not allowed at the Haida Gwaii Watchmen village sites. Elsewhere in Gwaii Haanas, pets must be kept on a leash at all times when ashore.

Saltwater Fishing

Fishing is only permitted in tidal waters.

A license is required for saltwater fishing. These licenses are available online from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Drinking Water

During the summer, streams may become dry. Always carry a reserve of water between campsites, and bring your own water when visiting Watchmen sites.

For the convenience of larger vessels, water hoses are available at the following locations:

- Buoy on west side of Louscoone Inlet
- Dock west of Shuttle Island

These hoses supply untreated stream water, which should be purified before use.



Kelp forests and eelgrass meadows provide safe and food-rich habitat for many fish like young copper rockfish, staghorn sculpin, and crescent gunnel.

© Mark Hibbert

Gwaii Haanas Programs

Memories are Made of...

Travel in Gwaii Haanas is an amazing sensory experience—a source of memories that will stay with you forever.

Gwaii Haanas interpreters offer programs on the human and natural history of this incredible place that can help make your memories even more powerful. Presentations rich in images and stories. Guided walks exploring the secret life of forest and seashore.

Programs are offered at locations around the Haida Heritage Centre and the Village of Queen Charlotte. Come to our programs before or after exploring Gwaii Haanas, or let us provide inspiration for your next trip!

When you visit the Haida Heritage Centre, check out the Gwaii Haanas exhibit in the natural history area. Join us for activities, demonstrations, mini-presentations, or just a friendly chat and a chance to tell us about your experiences. Stories—yours and ours—are an experience worth sharing!

Check out www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas or call the Gwaii Haanas office to learn more about our interpretative programs!



Large groups are welcome to book custom or private programs. Call our office for more information at 250-559-8818.

© Parks Canada - Jason Shatto

People are saying

“The two young guides were superb – keen, proud of their heritage, informative, friendly manner...”

“I really appreciated the samples collected for us to try at the end of the presentation.”

“We’ve learned so much – Gwaii Haanas interpreter walks/talks are the best!”

Managing Mountaintop to Seafloor

The World's First

The Gwaii Haanas marine area was officially designated a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site in 2010.

Gwaii Haanas is the first protected area in the world that is managed from the peaks of the mountains to the depths of the sea as one integrated space – nearly 5000 km² of land and ocean.

Visitor use and recreational and commercial fishing continue within parts of the marine area. These parts, or zones, of sustainable use, along with zones of protection, will be defined in a new management plan covering both the land and sea (due to be completed in 2015)—Canada's first terrestrial and marine integrated management plan!

Public and stakeholder consultation on the plan will begin this year. If you are interested in participating, please call or email the Gwaii Haanas office.



Visiting Gwaii Haanas

Gwaii Haanas visitors are required to participate in an orientation once per year. Registering for a trip permit occurs at the orientation session.

Orientation and registration are required throughout the year, regardless of season.

Individuals visiting Gwaii Haanas independently between May 1 and Sept 30 must also make a reservation and pay an all-inclusive trip permit fee.

Visitor Numbers Limited

Gwaii Haanas balances recreation with the protection of the natural and cultural features that attract people. With this in mind, the number of visitors entering Gwaii Haanas each day is limited. Available space is distributed between guided and independent travellers.

Group size is limited to twelve people within sight and sound of each other to preserve your visitor experience and to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural features of Gwaii Haanas.

Step 1: Reserve

Make a reservation by calling Gwaii Haanas toll free at 1-877-559-8818.

Our reservation service is available Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, starting April 1, 2015. Be prepared to provide your vessel registration number, if applicable, and your planned entry and exit dates.

Keep in mind that July to mid-August is the busiest period, so if you plan to visit during this time verify the availability of your Gwaii Haanas dates before finalizing your travel plans.

Winter Season Fees

No fees are charged between October 1 and April 30, but visitors travelling during this period must register with Gwaii Haanas and attend an orientation session.

Cancellations or Refunds

Please call Gwaii Haanas at 1-877-559-8818 to cancel or request a refund.

Travelling with a Guide

If planning to travel with a guide, reserve directly with the tour operator. They will collect the Gwaii Haanas fee. See Licensed Tour Operators list, p. 22.

Season Passes

The daily fee is charged for visits of six days or less. If you are visiting more than six days you will be given a season pass.

A season pass covers Gwaii Haanas fees for an unlimited number of trips in a calendar year.

Returning Visitors

Visitors who already have a 2015 season pass must still call Gwaii Haanas to reserve dates for any subsequent trips and register for a trip permit.

Why Fees?

Entry and service fees are charged at most of Canada's National Parks and Historic Sites, where revenues support visitor services and facilities. This means that every time you visit a park or site you are investing in its future—and in a legacy for future generations.

Gwaii Haanas fees support the Haida Gwaii Watchmen, freshwater hoses, boardwalks, and the visitor safety, orientation, interpretation and ecological monitoring programs.

2015 Gwaii Haanas Fees <i>May 1 to Sept 30</i>		Daily Fee	Season Pass
	Adult	\$19.60	\$117.70
	Senior (65 years or over)	\$16.60	\$98.10
	Youth (6-16 years old)	\$9.80	\$58.80
	Family/Group (up to seven people, maximum two people 18 years or over)	\$49.00	\$294.40
	Child (5 years or under)	Free	Free
(Tax included) <i>Check www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas for current information.</i>			

2015 Orientation Schedule

June 1 - August 28	Monday – Friday	9:00 am
July 1 - August 15	Monday – Saturday	9:00 am
August 31 - May 31	Monday – Friday (48 hours notice)	by appointment

Orientations are held at the Haida Heritage Centre.

It is not necessary to reserve space in scheduled orientations. However, large groups (10 or more people) should call our office ahead to book a private session. Toll free 1-877-559-8818.

Step 2: Attend Orientation

All Gwaii Haanas visitors must attend an orientation. Please allow 1.5 hours for the session.

The orientation is a legal requirement for all visitors. It provides current safety information and traveller protocols, and it introduces visitors to the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

In anticipation of changes resulting from the integration of Gwaii Haanas land and marine areas management, the orientation is now an annual requirement.

Orientation sessions are held at the Haida Heritage Centre in Skidegate. After your orientation, ask Centre staff about their tours—an opportunity to delve deeper into Haida culture, past and present.

Boaters who are concerned about attending an orientation in person should call the Gwaii Haanas office early in the planning process.

Orientations in French

Orientations can be delivered in French. Please call 1-877-559-8818 at least 48 hours in advance to arrange a session.

Private Bookings

Gwaii Haanas staff are available to deliver orientations outside the regular schedule, in Sandspit or other locations, and for large groups or groups who have special requirements.

Sessions delivered outside normal working hours cost \$78.50. Payment is made at time of booking.

Guided Visitors

If you travel with a licensed tour operator, your guide will collect the permit fee and deliver the orientation during the trip.

If you use a licensed operator to drop you and your kayak in Gwaii Haanas, you are considered an independent visitor. You must attend an orientation session prior to beginning your trip. Moresby Explorers provide orientations to independent visitors they transport.

Orientation Location

Gwaii Haanas orientations are presented in the Haida Heritage Centre in Skidegate.

Follow the Gwaii Haanas orientation signs from the parking lot to the entrance of the Centre.

If you are coming from the Sandspit or the Queen Charlotte harbours and do not have a vehicle, you will need to arrange transportation. Check www.qcinfo.ca for taxi and rental car options.

The Haida Heritage Centre is 6km from central Queen Charlotte.

The Alliford Bay ferry terminal is 10km from Sandspit. Take this ferry to Skidegate Landing, a 20-minute trip. From there, the Haida Heritage Centre is about 1km to the right (east).

Step 3: Register

Register with Gwaii Haanas staff during the orientation to receive your trip permit tag.

Display the tag while travelling in Gwaii Haanas or visiting any Haida Gwaii Watchmen site—unless you are travelling on a guided tour with a licensed tour operator. Trip permits are required throughout the year.

The registration process provides Gwaii Haanas with information required in

emergency situations and for visitor use monitoring. This information includes your boat name and type, colour of your camping equipment, and emergency contact information.

Returning visitors

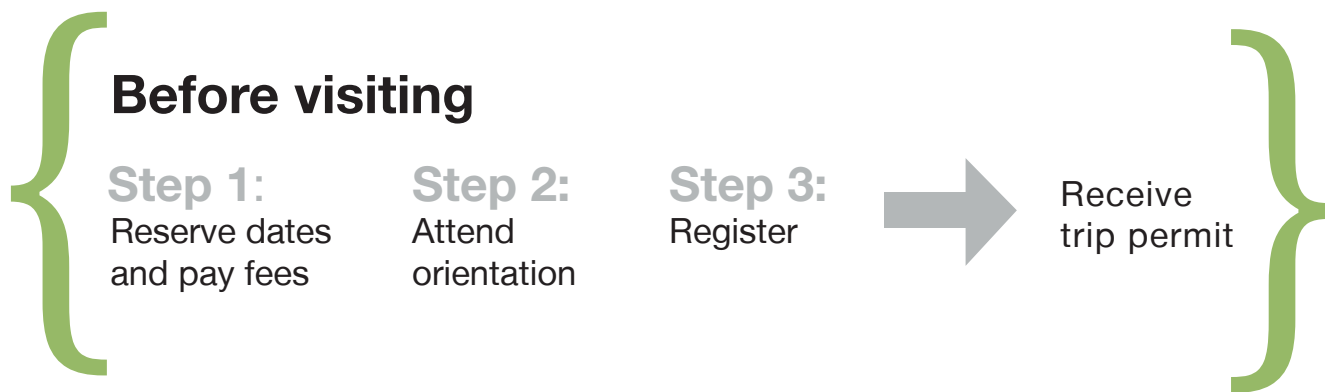
If you are a season pass holder and have already fulfilled your annual orientation requirement, you may register by phone, by email, or in person at the Gwaii Haanas office in Skidegate.

Attention Media

All media personnel require a **media permit**. Please apply early in your project planning.

Our team will help to ensure you gather the best possible footage and information while in Gwaii Haanas.

Please contact the Gwaii Haanas office at 250-559-8818 or 1-877-559-8818 for more information.



© Parks Canada, Neil Osborne

Adapted for the crab buffet

Queen Charlotte black bear (Ursus americanus carlottae), a sub-species unique to these islands, have larger jaws and teeth than those found on the mainland—perfect for crunchy feasts!

Haida Words and Places

Haida Word or Phrase	Approximate Pronunciation	Meaning
<u>G</u> andll K'in Gwaay.yaay	GAHN-dul kuh-in GWI YI	hot water island
<u>G</u> aw <u>G</u> a	GOW-gah (like house)	bay
Gwaay, Gwaii, Gwaay.yaay	GWI (like high or eye)	island
Gwaii Haanas	GWI HAH-nus	islands of beauty
Haaw'a	HOW-ah	thank you
Haida	HI-duh	people
Haida Gwaii	HI-duh GWI	islands of the people
Hlk'yah <u>G</u> aw <u>G</u> a	(*LOOK-yah GOW-gah	peregrine falcon bay
<u>K</u> ay Llnagaay	KI UL-nuh-guy	sea lion town
<u>K</u> 'uuna Llnagaay	kuh-OO-nuh UL-nuh-guy	at the edge village
Llnagaay	UL-nuh-guy	village or town
T'aanuu Llnagaay	tuh-AAH-noo UL-nuh-guy	eel grass town

* hold tongue behind teeth and touching the roof of your mouth, then blow air out of mouth through both cheeks



did you know?

Haida Gwaii means “Islands of the People” in the Haida language.

Formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands, this archipelago:

- is populated by 4370 people (2011 Census)
- contains over 450 islands
- lies on the western edge of the continental shelf
- is located 120 km west of Prince Rupert, 770 km north of Vancouver
- measures 300 km in length, 100 km wide across the north end, tapering to a point at the Kerouard Islands at the south end

Travelling to Haida Gwaii

Visitor Information

The *Guide to Haida Gwaii*, published locally, is available online at www.guidetohaidagwaii.com.

Community visitor centres are located in the Village of Queen Charlotte, the Sandspit Airport, and the Village of Masset. Call, email, or visit a visitor centre for trip planning information and advice.

For more information: **Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre**

Website: www.qcinfo.ca

Email: info@qcinfo.ca

Phone: 250-559-8316

Travel to Haida Gwaii

Air Canada

Flights to Sandspit from Vancouver.

1-888-247-2262

www.aircanada.com

Air Tindi

Flights to Masset from Terrace.

1-888-545-6794

reservations.airtindi.com

Inland Air Charters Ltd.

Flights to Masset, Queen Charlotte, and Sandspit from Prince Rupert.

1-888-624-2577

www.inlandair.bc.ca

Pacific Coastal Airways

Flights to Masset from Vancouver.

1-800-663-2872

www.pacificcoastal.com

BC Ferries

Year-round service from Prince Rupert to Skidegate Landing on a seven-hour crossing. An Inside Passage ferry runs between Port Hardy (Vancouver Island) and Prince Rupert. Reservations are required for the northern route.

1-888-BCFERRY (223-3779)

www.bcferries.com

Via Rail

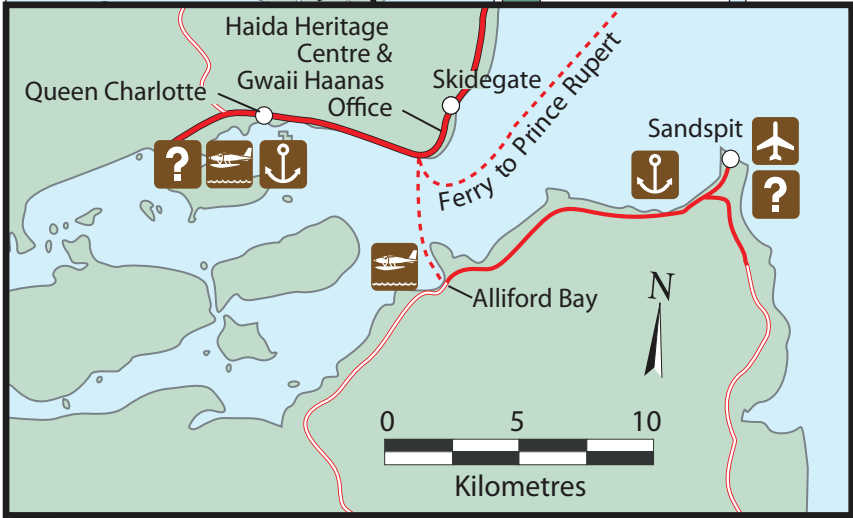
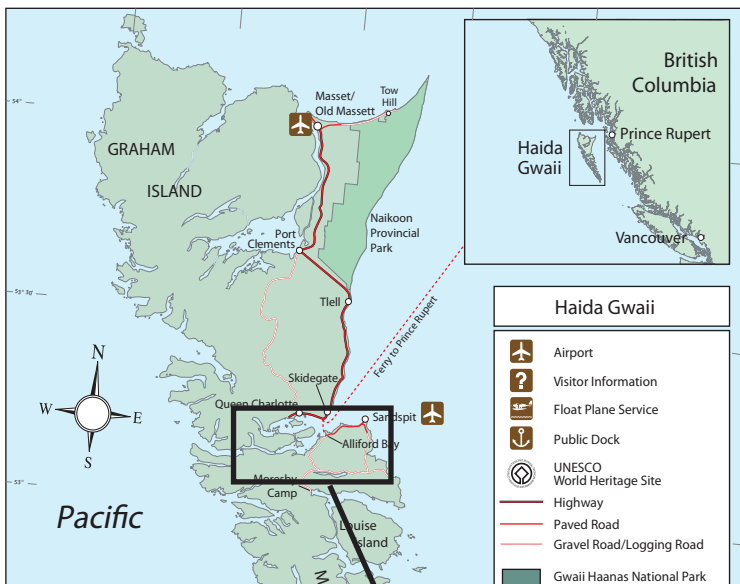
Train service to Prince Rupert from Jasper. Travel to Jasper from Vancouver or Edmonton by train.

www.viarail.ca

Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Llnagaay



The Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Llnagaay is worth a visit! Features include six exterior monumental poles, a gift shop, traditionally carved and painted canoes, special performances, a café, and the Haida Gwaii Museum filled with exhibits and artifacts. Check www.haidaheritagecentre.com for more information.



Getting around Haida Gwaii

The communities of Queen Charlotte, Skidegate, Tlell, Port Clements, Masset, and Old Masset are located on the northern island, called Graham Island. Sandspit and the Sandspit airport are located on Moresby Island. A ferry connects the two islands.

Eagle Transit offers an airport shuttle from the airport to Queen Charlotte. Call 250-559-4461 to reserve a pick-up.

Car rentals are available at the Sandspit Airport and in Queen Charlotte and Masset.

For a complete list of car rental, taxi, and airport shuttle companies visit: www.qcinfo.ca.

Small Craft Harbours

Facilities for recreational and commercial vessels are available in Queen Charlotte, Sandspit, and Masset. Facilities include pay phones, electrical hookups and fresh water. Sandspit Harbour has a holding tank, pumpout station and showers.

Queen Charlotte Harbour

Small Craft Harbours Branch
Phone: 250-559-4650

Sandspit Harbour

Box 477, Sandspit, BC V0T 1T0
Phone/Fax: 250-637-5700
www.sandspitharbour.com

Masset Harbour Authority

Masset, BC V0T 1M0
Phone: 250-626-5487

	Leave Alliford Bay (Moresby Island)	Leave Skidegate Landing (Graham Island)	
Ferry Service	7:20 am	7:45 am	
	8:10 am	8:35 am	
	9:05 am	9:45 am	
	10:30 am	10:55 am <i>DC Thu only</i>	
	11:20 am <i>DC Thu only</i>	12:00 pm	
	12:25 pm	12:50 pm	
	2:25 pm <i>Th only</i>	2:50 pm <i>DC Thu only</i>	
	*3:15 pm	3:40 pm	
	4:05 pm	4:30 pm	
	5:35 pm	6:10 pm	
	<i>*daily except Thursdays, when Dangerous Cargo sailing only</i>		
	<i>There are Dangerous Cargo (DC) sailings on Thursdays. Passage on these sailings must be booked in advance. No other passengers can board DC sailings.</i>		
	<i>Check www.bcferries.com to confirm travel times.</i>		

Charts and Tide Tables

Marine Charts

Charts at the largest scale are indispensable in this area. The charts below cover the most frequently travelled part of Gwaii Haanas (east coast and south end). For a complete list of charts for Haida Gwaii and the rest of the BC Coast and where to buy them, check the Canadian Hydrographic Services website: www.charts.gc.ca.

AREA	NUMBER	SCALE
Houston Stewart Channel	3855	1:20,000
Selwyn Inlet-Lawn Point	3894	1:73,026
Atli Inlet-Selwyn Inlet	3807	1:37,500
Juan Perez Sound	3808	1:37,500
Carpenter Bay-Burnaby Island	3809	1:37,500
Houston Stewart Channel/Cape St. James	3825	1:40,000
Cape St. James/Cumshewa and Tasu	3853	1:150,000

Chart 3853 provides a useful view of the entire Gwaii Haanas area and its upper reaches but the scale is not suitable for navigation.

Some charts are available only in limited formats (digital or print only).

Tide Tables

Tide tables are essential for exploring Gwaii Haanas.

The Hydrographic Service publishes booklets annually that provide daily tides (time and height) for specific locations and instructions on the tide table use.

For Haida Gwaii: *Canadian Tide & Current Tables Volume 7 (2015), "Queen Charlotte Sound to Dixon Entrance"*.

Find tide tables at the following Haida Gwaii locations:
Village of Queen Charlotte: Meegan's store
Skidegate: Gwaii Co-op store
Masset: North Coast Supply
Sandspit: Visitor Centre

Check the tides online: www.tides.gc.ca

Before travelling in Gwaii Haanas, please ensure you understand and have experience in interpreting marine charts and tide tables and using them to identify marine hazards.

Boaters of all kinds should know how to take compass bearings and using triangulation to establish position. Do not rely solely on Global Positioning System (GPS).

All boaters must follow the collision regulations of the *Canada Shipping Act*.

Marine Hazards

Check our website for more details on potential marine hazards in Gwaii Haanas at www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas.

Safety and Weather

Self-sufficiency in a Remote Location

Gwaii Haanas is a remote location. It is critical that visitors who plan to travel on their own in Gwaii Haanas have the skills and are adequately prepared to be self-sufficient in emergency situations, including equipment failure. Emergency responses are weather-dependent, and thus in foul weather it may be many hours before emergency response personnel reach visitors in distress. Below is a list of the main hazards that visitors are expected to understand and prepare for before coming to Gwaii Haanas.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is the extreme loss of body heat. Body core temperature lowers, which can result in unconsciousness and death. Hypothermia is caused by cold, but it is aggravated by wet, wind, and exhaustion. Kayakers are particularly susceptible. To prevent hypothermia, wear a warm hat in cool, damp, or windy weather; dress in layers; take frequent rest stops; and eat frequent, nutritional snacks and drinks. Pay attention to your body.

Shellfish Poisoning

Gwaii Haanas is closed to shellfish harvesting because of the risk of shellfish poisoning. Information on the signs and symptoms of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) and Amnesiac Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) is located in the Gwaii Haanas Visitor Guide, provided with orientation.

For more information contact:
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Phone 250-559-4413
<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/contamination/index-eng.htm>

Allergic Reactions

Any visitors who have known allergies are strongly encouraged to carry the appropriate supplies to help them manage an allergic reaction until they can obtain advanced medical care. It is recommended that all visitors include allergy medications in their first aid kits in case someone has an unexpected allergic reaction, something that can occur when people are travelling in an unfamiliar environment. Insect repellent is also recommended to minimize the discomfort associated with insect bites as well as reduce the risk of allergic reactions for those who are particularly sensitive to insect bites.

Water Contamination

All water in Gwaii Haanas is untreated and thus visitors must be prepared to take steps to adequately treat their drinking water to eliminate the potential water-borne illnesses and parasitic infections. Health Canada provides advice on water treatment options: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/outdoor-plein_air-eng.php

Wildlife Encounters

Black bears are found throughout Gwaii Haanas. They are opportunistic feeders will take advantage of any food source left accessible to them by visitors. Because of the risks associated with bears that have become habituated to human food, Gwaii Haanas expects that all visitors will store their food (and toiletries, which can be equally attractive to bears) in a way where there is NO chance that a bear can gain access. Introduced species, including rats, squirrels, and raccoons, will also take advantage of any available food source, hence an additional need for adequate food storage. Food lockers or hanging devices are not provided in Gwaii Haanas, and thus visitors must come prepared to be able to store their food using a hanging technique

or by using wildlife-proof storage containers.

Boating Safety

All vessels, including sea kayaks, must meet the minimum safety standards contained in the Canadian Small Vessel Regulations. Current regulations are located in the *Safe Boating Guide* and the *Sea Kayaking Safety Guide* available from the Canadian Coast Guard.

Canadian Coast Guard
Phone: 604-666-0146
Search “boating safety” at: www.tc.gc.ca

Kayaking Safety

Check the Gwaii Haanas website for a checklist of recommended and required items for kayaking in Gwaii Haanas: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/bc/gwaiihaanas/activ/activ3/activ3b.aspx>

Medical Insurance

Gwaii Haanas field staff are trained to act as first responders in public safety and first aid emergencies.

Gwaii Haanas may request that British Columbia Ambulance provide patient care and evacuate the person to medical facilities. This protocol is consistent with those of other search and rescue agencies, including the Canadian Coast Guard. If BC Ambulance is asked to respond, they will charge the evacuated visitor directly for services performed. Costs differ for BC residents, non-residents, and for work-related injuries. Visitors should ensure they have medical insurance that includes coverage for air evacuations from remote areas.

For more information about BC Ambulance: <http://www.bcas.ca/EN/main/about/fees.html>

Sail Plan

Leave your sail plan with a trusted family member or friend. Close your sail plan by checking in with your family or friend when you return, or you may be held financially responsible for unnecessary search and rescue costs incurred on your behalf.

The Canadian Coast Guard will accept a sail plan, if required. Call 250-627-3081.

VHF Radio

All boats travelling in the area should be equipped with a VHF radio. Each kayak group should have at least one VHF radio with two fully-charged batteries.

To operate a VHF radio, you must be certified by Industry Canada with a minimum of the Restricted Operator Certificate (Maritime) – ROC(M). You can take a course or review the *Study Guide for the Restricted Radio Operator's Certificate* (RIC-23), then write a test (fee and passport photo required). Contact the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron for a Registered Examiner in your area: www.cps-ecp.ca.

Mooring Buoys, Docks, and Anchoring

There are mooring buoys in several locations within the protected area, as well as a dock near Shuttle Island. Visitors are advised to use these facilities at their own risk. Larger vessels should anchor. Docks and buoys at the Operations Stations are limited to staff use except in the case of an emergency.

All vessels are requested to move off a buoy/anchor location after a maximum of three nights in any bay, cove, or inlet, weather permitting.

Boaters are responsible for determining safe anchorage. Recommended reading: *Sailing Directions: Hecate Strait, Dixon Entrance, Portland Inlet and Adjacent Waters and Queen Charlotte Islands*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2002. Distribution information is available at www.charts.gc.ca.

Marine Weather

A small craft warning is always in effect for the waters in this area. Boaters and kayakers must listen for cues in the Canadian Coast Guard marine weather forecasts and rely on their observations of local conditions to remain safe.

Weather

The climate of the Islands is typical of British Columbia's outer west coast – cool and wet virtually any time of the year. The east side of Haida Gwaii is considerably drier than the west, which receives between 500 and 800 centimetres of rain a year.

Winds in the summer can blow strongly for lengthy periods. These winds funnel over the Islands and down inlets of the east coast creating gusty conditions that can be hazardous, especially for kayaks.

Storms associated with frontal systems occur frequently in winter and are not uncommon in the summer months. Include “weather days” in your travel plans.

VHF Marine Radio

You will need a VHF marine radio to:

- Call for emergency assistance from Coast Guard (Channel 16)
- Listen to marine weather forecasts (Channel 21)
- Request access to Haida Gwaii Watchmen village sites (Channel 6)

Sandspit Climate

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Daily Maximum (°C)	5.6	6.3	7.6	9.4	12	14.6	17	17.9	16	12.1	8.3	6.3
Daily Minimum (°C)	0.7	1.1	1.8	3.3	6	8.9	11.5	12.1	10.2	6.4	2.9	1.3
Precipitation (mm)	168.7	139	113.3	102	63.2	56.2	46.7	57.5	83.7	185.5	198.2	184.5



Licensed Tour Operators

Licensed operators offer a variety of expeditions, tours and transportation options. Excursions range from flight seeing and day trips by motor boat to longer sea kayak and sailing expeditions.

Only operators who are licensed by Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site may operate within Gwaii Haanas.

The following is a list of all tour operators that have an allocation to operate in Gwaii Haanas. These businesses might not be intending to operate in Gwaii Haanas this year. Contact tour operators directly to verify if they will be working in Gwaii Haanas in 2015.

What does licensing mean?

The Gwaii Haanas business licensing process ensures that minimum safety standards are met for all businesses that operate in Gwaii Haanas. Gwaii Haanas does not evaluate guides on the extent of their knowledge of local natural and cultural features, and service standards vary from business to business. You are encouraged to discuss your service expectations with your prospective transportation or tour operator prior to confirming your trip plans.

If you have any questions as to whether a business is authorized to conduct trips in Gwaii Haanas, please contact Visitor Services Team Leader Anna Maria Husband at 250-559-6322 or annamaria.husband@pc.gc.ca.

Note: The service descriptions below are provided by the operators.

Archipelago Ventures Ltd.

Nourish the body, mind and spirit with a wilderness adventure aboard the *MV Island Bay*, fully equipped for touring and mothership kayaking. Our captains and guides have worked in this area collectively for over forty years and bring a local perspective to enhance your experience of this magical place.

Mail: 2-3871 River Road West, Delta, BC V4K 3N2

Phone: 250-652-4913

Toll Free: 1-888-559-8317

Email: info@TourHaidaGwaii.com

Website: www.TourHaidaGwaii.com

Atlas Ocean Tours

Experience the trip of a lifetime with local resident and long-time Gwaii Haanas tour captain James Nickerson. Specializing in classy, comfortable and fun trips, we offer small-group tours and are fully equipped as a kayak mothership. Enjoy exceptional wildlife and Haida cultural sites aboard *Atlas*, our 42' Defever-designed motor yacht.

James Nickerson and Catherine Rigg

Mail: PO Box 34, Tlell, BC V0T 1Y0

Phone: 778-928-8514

Website: www.atlasoceanatours.com

Bluewater Adventures

Award-winning, educational wildlife and cultural sailing tours. Join expert educators and guides - marine biologists, anthropologists, ornithologists, and Haida leaders - travelling with the group. The beautiful 70' sailing vessel, *Island Roamer*, provides 8 private cabins (double occupancy), crew of 4, single and double kayaks, zodiacs for frequent shore excursions.

Mail: #3-252 East First Street, North Vancouver, BC V7L1B3
Phone: 604-980-3800
Toll Free: 1-888-877-1770
Fax: 604-980-1800
Email: explore@bluewateradventures.ca
Website: www.bluewateradventures.ca

Butterfly Tours – Kayak Haida Gwaii

Expertly guided kayak expeditions, mothership tours and wilderness guesthouse vacations. Journey to the ancient Haida village of SĠang Gwaay (Ninstints). We provide single kayaks, our group size is six guests. Owner & guide, Gord Pincock, has kayaked throughout Gwaii Haanas since 1981; his experience and safety record are unsurpassed.

Gord Pincock
Mail: 303-5855 Cowrie Street, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A3
Phone: 604-740-7018
Email: kayak@islandsofbeauty.com
Website: www.islandsofbeauty.com

Duen Sailing Adventures

Explore 'The Natural Coast' aboard a certified, solid heritage sailing vessel. Guided by expert naturalist and crew since 1986. Experience a rich and proud Haida culture. Encounter whales and abundant wildlife. Guided: Haida sites, shore and intertidal explorations, natural hot springs, kayaking. Small group travel – Accommodations: 8 in 4 private double cabins.

Michael and Manon Hobbis
Mail: Box 398, Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1R3
Phone: 250-896-8227
Toll free: 1-888-922-8822
Email: explore@thenaturalcoast.com
Website: www.thenaturalcoast.com

Gnoses Sailing Adventures

Sail the Gwaii Haanas archipelago. Visit Haida villages, see the sights, wander shorelines, and explore low tides. Offering hiking, kayaking and customized tours. As sailors and teachers in outdoor education, we enjoy families with kids. "Gnoses" is not luxurious, she is our home. Our emphasis is enthusiasm for the outdoors.

Ralph Nelson
Mail: Box 371, Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0
Email: svgnoses@gmail.com
Website: www.gnoses.com

Green Coast Kayaking Ltd.

Leaders in inclusionary and educational kayak tours. Paddlers take part in meal preparation and daily route planning. Local owner and guide, Jo Hager, has led tours in Gwaii Haanas since 2000. Six single and two double kayaks. Paddle 4 – 6 hours most days. 8 day trips from CDN \$1655.00 – \$1710.00.

Jo Hager
Mail: Box 670, Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0
Phone: 250-637-1991
Email: paddle@gckayaking.com
Website: www.gckayaking.com

Gwaii Haanas Guest House and Kayaks

Rustic, comfortable accommodation and meals in Gwaii Haanas. Accessibility: boat, floatplane. Rigid hull inflatable speedboat excursions focusing on cultural and natural heritage to ancient totem poles at Ninstints (SĠang Gwaay Llnagaay), bird colonies, sea lion rookeries, remote beaches, giant trees, Hot springs. Beachcombing, hiking. Local guide/owner. Sea kayak rental. English! French! Thai! Lao!

Patrick & Walladda Lemaire
Mail: Box 578, Rose Harbour, Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0
Phone: 250-559-8689 Answering machine
Email: mailbox2015@gwaiihaanas.com
Website: www.gwaiihaanas.com



The great blue heron subspecies found on Haida Gwaii is considered special for its lack of colour, extra-long legs, and loner tendencies.



Haida Gwaii Charters

Haida Gwaii Charters (2010) Ltd is pleased to offer 4 and 7 day fully serviced sailing tours into Gwaii Haanas. Our tours accent the strong cultural connection of this amazing place with the natural beauty and diverse ecosystems still thriving here to be seen.

Bill Woodworth, Certified Tour Operator

Mail: Box 1365, Skidegate, BC V0T 1S1

Phone: 250-360-6184

Email: captain@sailpiraeus.com

Highlander Marine Services Ltd.

Specialized marine support services aboard the high speed aluminum landing craft *Haida Gwaii Highlander*. 30' x 10' Transport Canada certified high speed landing craft capable of carrying 2 tons of cargo and 10 passengers, towing, freight movement, film support, research support, special interest groups, construction support, small vehicle movement and more.

Mail: Box 1535, Skidegate, BC V0T 1S1

Phone: 250-637-1111

Email: hms@haidagwaii.net

Inland Air Charters Ltd.

Inland Air offers memorable and exciting tours into the heart of Gwaii Haanas. Fly in a DHC-2 Beaver, accommodating 1-6 persons to the ancient village sites of Skedans (K'uuna Lnagaay), Nan Sdins (S'Gang Gwaay Lnagaay), and Hotspring Island (Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay). Our twenty-five years of experience and knowledgeable pilots will ensure you have a spectacular trip.

Mail: Box 592, Prince Rupert, BC V8J 3R5

Phone: 250-559-4222

Toll Free: 1-888-624-2577

Fax: 250-627-1356

Email: info@inlandair.bc.ca

Website: www.inlandair.bc.ca

Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures

Join Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures on fully inclusive 8 to 15 day sea kayak expeditions of Gwaii Haanas. Each trip is led by two highly experienced naturalist/guides with a maximum of 8 guests kayaking both single and double kayaks. 2014 will be Kingfisher's 16th year leading exceptional sea kayaking expeditions to many British Columbia destinations.

Mail Box 1318, Port McNeill, BC, V0N 2R0

Phone: 250-956-4617

Toll Free: 1-866-546-4347

United Kingdom: 020 3239 7378

E-mail: info@kingfisher-adventures.com

Website: www.kingfisher.ca

Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic

Board *National Geographic Sea Bird or Sea Lion* and join a team of naturalists, photographers and National Geographic Experts for a two-week expedition from Seattle, Washington to Sitka, Alaska, including three days in Haida Gwaii and Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site.

Mail: 96 Morton Street 9th Floor, NY, NY 10014

Phone: (212) 261-9000

Toll Free: 1-800-397-3348

Email: explore@expeditions.com

Website: www.expeditions.com

Maple Leaf Adventures

One of *National Geographic's* "Best Adventure Travel Companies", Maple Leaf operates boutique expedition tours. Since 1988, we have welcomed guests for a comprehensive exploration of Haida Gwaii and Gwaii Haanas. Local guides, expert naturalists, classic ships, *ensuite* staterooms, small group, much shore time, chef, kayaks, zodiacs, fishings, hydrophone, sailing.

Kevin Smith

Mail: PO Box 8845, Stn Central, Victoria, BC V8W 3Z1

Phone: 250-386-7245

Toll Free: 1-888-599-5323

Email: info@MapleLeafAdventures.com

Website: www.MapleLeafAdventures.com

Moresby Explorers

Touring the waters around Gwaii Haanas since 1988 has earned us a growing reputation for providing fun, educational and safe wilderness adventures at affordable prices. Locally owned and operated. We offer zodiac boat tours one to four days long, floating lodge accommodations, kayak rentals and transportation, general outfitting, and an outdoor gear store.

Mail: Box 127, Sandspit, BC V0T 1T0
Phone: 250-637-2215
Toll Free: 1-800-806-7633
Email: info@moresbyexplorers.com
Website: www.moresbyexplorers.com

Mount Moresby Adventure Camp

Joanne Hager
Mail: Box 670, Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0
Phone: 250-637-1991
Email: johager76@hotmail.com
Website: www.adventurecamp.ca

Ocean Adventures Charter Co. Ltd.

We offer cultural and natural history tours into Gwaii Haanas onboard our 54' motor yacht. With her experienced crew, you will enjoy unparalleled service, comfort, privacy, and gourmet cuisine! We believe our small group size of up to six guests will help ensure you experience the trip of a lifetime!

Eric and Trish Boyum
Mail: 404-1144 Strathaven Drive, North Vancouver, BC V7H 2Z6
Phone: 604-812-9453
Fax: 604-988-5990
Email: info@oceanadventures.bc.ca
Website: www.oceanadventures.bc.ca

Ocean Light II Adventures

As the longest running operator and only fully guided mothership tour in Gwaii Haanas, we offer exciting adventure and natural history trips into the heart of the archipelago. Our beautiful 71' ketch, *Ocean Light II*, comfortably accommodates nine. We invite special interest groups, photographers, kayakers, families, and individuals seeking adventure.

Jenn Broom
Mail: 363-1917 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 1M7
Phone: 604-328-5339
Email: adventure@oceanlight2.bc.ca
Website: www.oceanlight2.bc.ca



SGang Gwaay UNESCO World Heritage Site is an awe-inspiring cultural experience. It is also home to over 40,000 breeding pairs of 10 different seabird species.

Ocean Sound Kayaking Company

Owner/Operated since 1995! Ocean Sound Kayaking offers fully catered 8 and 10 day sea kayak expeditions with superb meals to small groups. Using a mixed fleet of single and double kayaks provides our guests the comfort, safety and independence they deserve. No experience necessary.

Mail: 1034 Cougar Creek Drive, Canmore, AB T1W 1A7
Email: info@oceansoundkayaking.com
Website: www.oceansoundkayaking.com

Outer Shores Expeditions

Experience stunning ecosystems and ancient cultures while living aboard our classic 70-ft schooner. Our crew of mariners, biologists and archaeologists has decades of experience in Gwaii Haanas. Enjoy exceptional meals and accommodations for up to 8 guests, kayaking, shore excursions, sailing, Haida villages, wildlife viewing, while contributing to coastal conservation.

Mail: 360 B Harbour Road, Victoria, BC V9A 3S1
Phone: 250-220-2311
Toll free: 1-855-714-7233
Email: info@outershores.ca
Website: www.outershores.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/OuterShores

Rose Harbour Guest House

Operating since 1987 in southern Gwaii Haanas. Birdwatcher's Paradise. Spectacular views. Boat tours. SGang Gwaay totems. Old growth forest. Whaling station. Nature observation. Customized experiences to your heart's desire, or package tours. Be guided by the year-round resident.

Goetz Hanisch

Mail: Box 437, Queen Charlotte, BC
V0T 1S0

Phone: 604-757-3455

Email: mail@roseharbour.com

Website: www.roseharbour.com

Tofino Expeditions Ltd.

Our sea kayaking trips visit what we, after over 20 years of guiding here, consider the very best attractions of the Islands. We offer full service guided trips in southern Gwaii Haanas that highlight the significant natural and cultural features of the area. We have a reputation for great camp food and minimum impact camping.

Mail: 18 Crawford Bay, Port Moody,
BC V3H 3N3

Phone: 503-364-0400

Toll Free: 1-800-677-0877

Fax: 503-364-5326

Email: info@tofino.com

Website: www.tofino.com

Wayne Nicol

For the ultimate in personalized exploration, step aboard our customized MacGregor 26m motor/sailor. These craft have incredible safety features and are ideal for exploring secluded waterways. One group per boat (local guide included). Be as involved or as relaxed as you like. U-decide trip durations. Custom itineraries.

Wayne Nicol

Mail: Box 244, Port Clements, BC
V0T 1R0

Phone: 250-557-2434

Email: mwnicol@qcislands.net



© Parks Canada, Christine Patsino

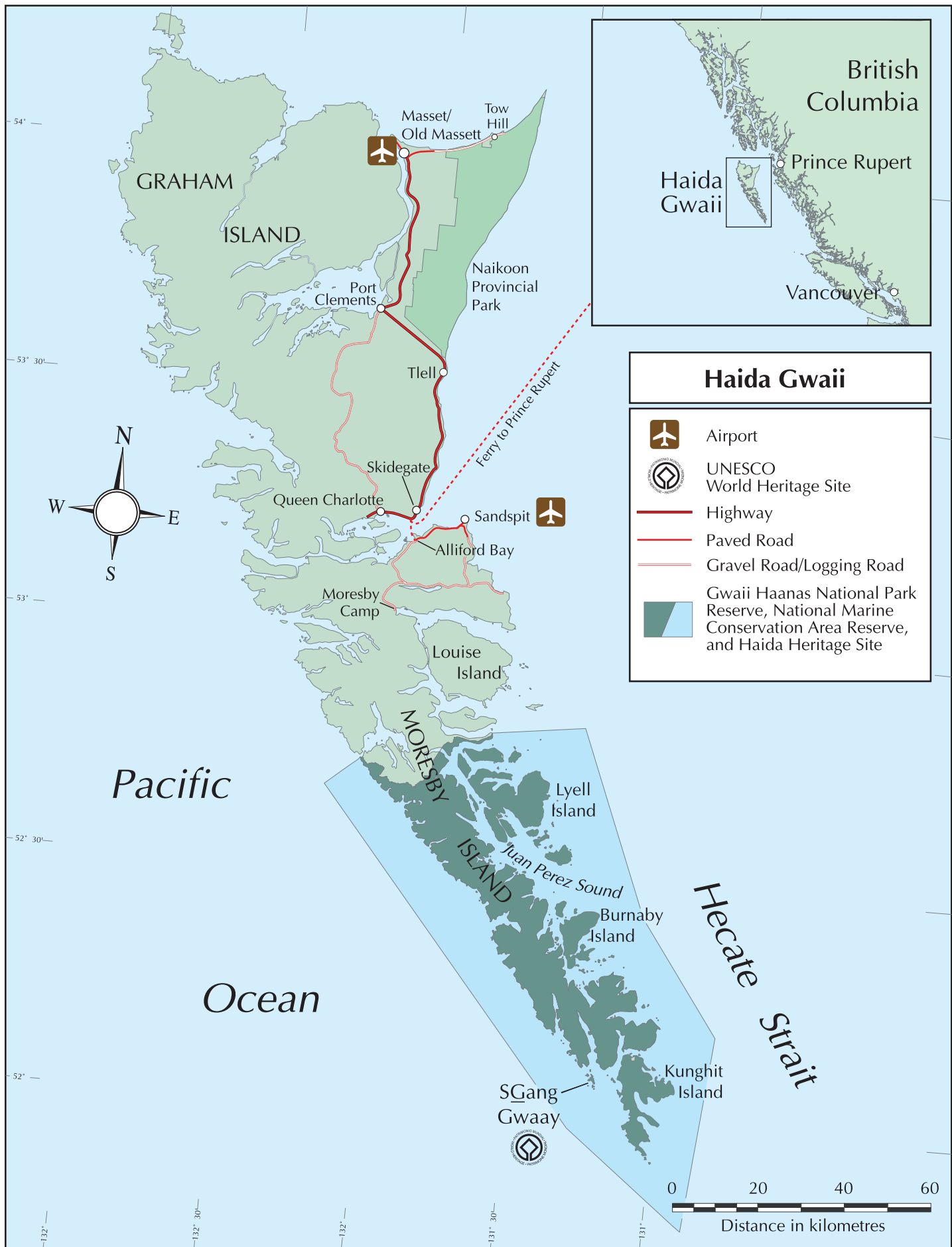
Services

Check our website (www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas) for links to tour operators.

Tour Operator	Air Charters	Kayak Tours	Kayak Mothership	Kayak Rentals	Transportation Services	Power Boat Tours	Sailboat Tours	Diving Platform	Dive Tours	Overnight Hiking Tours
Archipelago Ventures Ltd.			•		•	•				
Atlas Ocean Tours			•			•				
Bluewater Adventures			•				•			
Butterfly Tours - Sea Kayak Haida Gwaii		•	•							
Duen Sailing Adventures			•				•			
Gnoses Sailing Adventures					•		•			
Green Coast Kayaking Ltd.		•								
Gwaii Haanas Guest House and Kayaks		•	•	•	•	•				
Haida Gwaii Charters (2010) Ltd.							•			
Highlander Marine Services Ltd.					•					
Inland Air Charters	•				•					
Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures		•								
Lindblad Expeditions						•				
Maple Leaf Adventures			•				•			
Moresby Explorers		•		•	•	•				
Mount Moresby Adventure Camp		•								
Ocean Adventures Charter Co. Ltd.			•			•				
Ocean Light II Adventures			•				•			
Ocean Sound Kayaking Company		•								
Outer Shores Expeditions			•				•			
Rose Harbour Guest House		•	•			•				•
Tofino Expeditions Ltd.		•								
Wayne Nicol							•			

Reference Books

For a sampling of publications available about Gwaii Haanas, Haida Gwaii and Haida culture check our website at www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas





Did you know?

Humpback whale numbers in Gwaii Haanas seem to be increasing.

Humpback whales are known for their spectacular acrobatic displays. Breaching, bubble net (seen below) and flick feeding are just some of their amazing moves you might be lucky to witness in Gwaii Haanas.

After spending the winter in Mexico or Hawaii mating and giving birth, humpbacks arrive in Gwaii Haanas beginning in April to feed on herring and krill.

Humpbacks can be identified by the markings on their flukes. These markings are like human fingerprints—they are unique to each individual.

Researchers continue to count and observe humpbacks in order to estimate their numbers and distribution along the coast of British Columbia.



© Stef Oloen

Science at Gwaii Haanas

Night Birds Returning

Parks Canada is committed to protection. In 2009 it launched an initiative, called Action on the Ground, to address pressing ecological concerns in national parks across Canada.

For the past six years, a team of biologists and other experts from around the world has worked to eradicate rats from several Gwaii Haanas islands. The effort will correct an imbalance and allow seabirds and other native species to re-establish their populations.

We've called the project Night Birds Returning in recognition of the ancient murrelet, or *SGin Xaana* (Night Bird in the Haida language), one of the seabird populations we hope to see thrive in its restored habitat. Traditionally, this seabird species was eaten and used for ceremonial purposes.

Rats (Norway and black) were first introduced to Haida Gwaii in the late 1700s, with the advent of maritime shipping. These invasive species have devastated populations of nesting seabirds, forest songbirds and native small mammals. They feed on eggs, chicks and birds—these predators are not picky eaters.

The first phase included Bischof and Arichika Islands, where Gwaii Haanas staff carried out a ground-based eradication in 2011.

The second phase included Murchison and Faraday Islands in an aerial eradication in 2013. These islands, along with nearby Ramsay Island, are located in the Juan Perez Sound Important Bird Area.



This area is recognized internationally for its globally significant seabird populations (ancient murrelets, Cassin's auklets) and regionally significant populations of Leach's storm-petrels, fork-tailed storm-petrels and black oystercatchers.

An intensive monitoring program is now in place to measure impacts on a range of species over the longterm. Monitoring will continue for a minimum two-year period before the islands can be declared rat free.

Closures to Murchison and Faraday islands will continue to be in force in 2015.

Keep your vessel rat free—traps are available at the orientation.

Did you know?



Bats infected with White-Nose Syndrome

White-Nose Syndrome

A Serious Threat to Bat Populations!

White-Nose Syndrome is a serious fungal infection in bats. It was first identified in bats in a cave in New York State in 2006. It has now been found in bats in 14 American states and 4 Canadian provinces. The mortality rate for infected bat populations is very high: 80-100%. The disease has killed over five million bats in North America so far.

Very little is known about the disease at this time, but it is speculated that White-Nose Syndrome is spread by human transport of fungal spores. The remote location of this archipelago may provide a refuge for bat species threatened by the disease due to its isolation.

You can play a vital role in ensuring that you do not inadvertently transfer the fungal spores to Haida Gwaii.

Please thoroughly clean all your gear prior to arrival on Haida Gwaii, especially if you are involved in any caving or mining activities outside of Haida Gwaii. Instructions for decontamination are available at the following website: www.whitenosesyndrome.org/topics/decontamination

If your gear might be contaminated, and you have questions or concerns about planning your trip to Haida Gwaii, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone 1-877-559-8818 or by email gwaiihaanas@pc.gc.ca.

Please also be aware that all caves in Gwaii Haanas are closed to public access.

Where did the hotsprings go?

On October 27, 2012 Haida Gwaii was shaken when a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit off the west coast of Gwaii Haanas. Within days, we learned that the hotsprings of Gandll K'in Gwaay. yaay (Hotspring Island) had stopped flowing into the pools.

Scientists from Natural Resources Canada arrived soon after to install and upgrade seismic and GPS monitoring equipment to learn more about the cause and impact of the quake.

The Haida Gwaii area is considered the most seismically active in Canada. The largest earthquake ever recorded in Canada—a magnitude 8.1—occurred here in 1949. Now we've had the second largest as well!

While there is no water in the hot pools, there is hotspring activity below the surface of the island, and the water levels appear to be rising.

Some seepage is occurring in the intertidal area close to one of the pools. A rustic pool has been assembled to try to capture the hotspring water when the tide recedes.

The Haida Gwaii Watchmen will be welcoming visitors to the island as usual this summer.



© Elaine Yong

did you know?



© Parks Canada, Clint Johnson, Kendrick

Spotting orcas (killer whales) is a highlight for many Gwaii Haanas visitors, but did you know that the species is threatened?

Gwaii Haanas staff, licensed tour operators, and visitors support worldwide conservation efforts by taking photographs and recording observations of orcas seen in Gwaii Haanas.

These images are used to identify individual whales, learn about their social structure and track their movements up and down the coast.

Send your detailed sightings and photos to the BC Cetacean Sightings Network at sightings@vanaqua.org.

For more information, check www.wildwhales.org.

Gwaii Haanas...





Find your inspiration.