



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

GWAII HAANAS

TRIP PLANNER 2016

© Reina Fennell

Canada



HAIDA NATION

GWAII HAANAS GO

TRIP PLANNER 2016 BEYOND

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site is a wild place without roads or stores or cellphone coverage.

Gwaii Haanas is a place where people can explore a way of life in which the land and sea are intertwined with humans and the supernatural. It is a place with over 12,000 years of human history.

The Government of Canada (represented by Parks Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada) and the Council of the Haida Nation manage Gwaii Haanas cooperatively through the Archipelago Management Board (AMB).

Together, the AMB and Gwaii Haanas staff work to ensure Gwaii Haanas remains an awe-inspiring place. We use both traditional knowledge and scientific research to maintain the integrity of the ecosystems and the cultural heritage of the Haida.

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GWAII HAANAS ADMINISTRATION

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250-559-8366

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780-852-3100

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gwaii.haanas@pc.gc.ca

Mail:
Box 37, Queen Charlotte, BC
V0T 1S0

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Haida Heritage Centre,
60 Second Beach Road,
Skidegate, BC

Web:
www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/GwaiiHaanas

The serenity, the friendliness of the people, the wildlife and beauty of the islands made it a trip to remember.

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 Cristoval 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.

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.

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.

Haida Gwaii is Unique

As an archipelago isolated from the mainland, Haida Gwaii has many unique plants and animals. 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.

Some animals that were introduced relatively recently, such as the Sitka black-tailed deer, Norway and black rats can have serious impacts on our native ecosystems. Deer browsing destroys forest understory vegetation and hinders growth and survival of culturally significant species such as cedar. Rats have decimated entire colonies of seabirds by preying on eggs, chicks, and adult birds.

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

Gwaii Haanas Resource Conservation programs monitor the impacts of invasive species and have started to remove invasive species from selected islands to restore ecosystem health and to protect culturally significant species for Haida traditional use.



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 Llnagaay (Skedans)
- T'aanuu Llnagaay (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.

Longhouse construction seen at T'aanuu Llnagaay (Tanu), K'uuna Llnagaay (Skedans), 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, longhouse remains 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.

The most memorable part of our trip, was visiting the watchmen sites and getting the privilege of learning about Haida culture, present and past, through these sites and knowledgeable watchmen.



© James Thompson

A Wild Place

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

There are no roads, stores, or fuelling 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.29)

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 (pg. 19) 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.

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.

It is important to note that camping at any one location is limited to a maximum of three nights unless weather prevents safe travel. (Location is defined as an area with a radius of one nautical mile).



© James Thompson

The visitor 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.

Closures

Several highly sensitive areas, including all 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 National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR), six key marine locations in Gwaii Haanas have been selected for



© Elaine Yong

full protection because of their ecological or cultural significance. 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 http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/scond/Cond_E.asp?oID=16620&oPark=100214

Maps and further information will be provided during the visitor 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, and then only outside closed areas.

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



© Elaine Yong

Drinking water

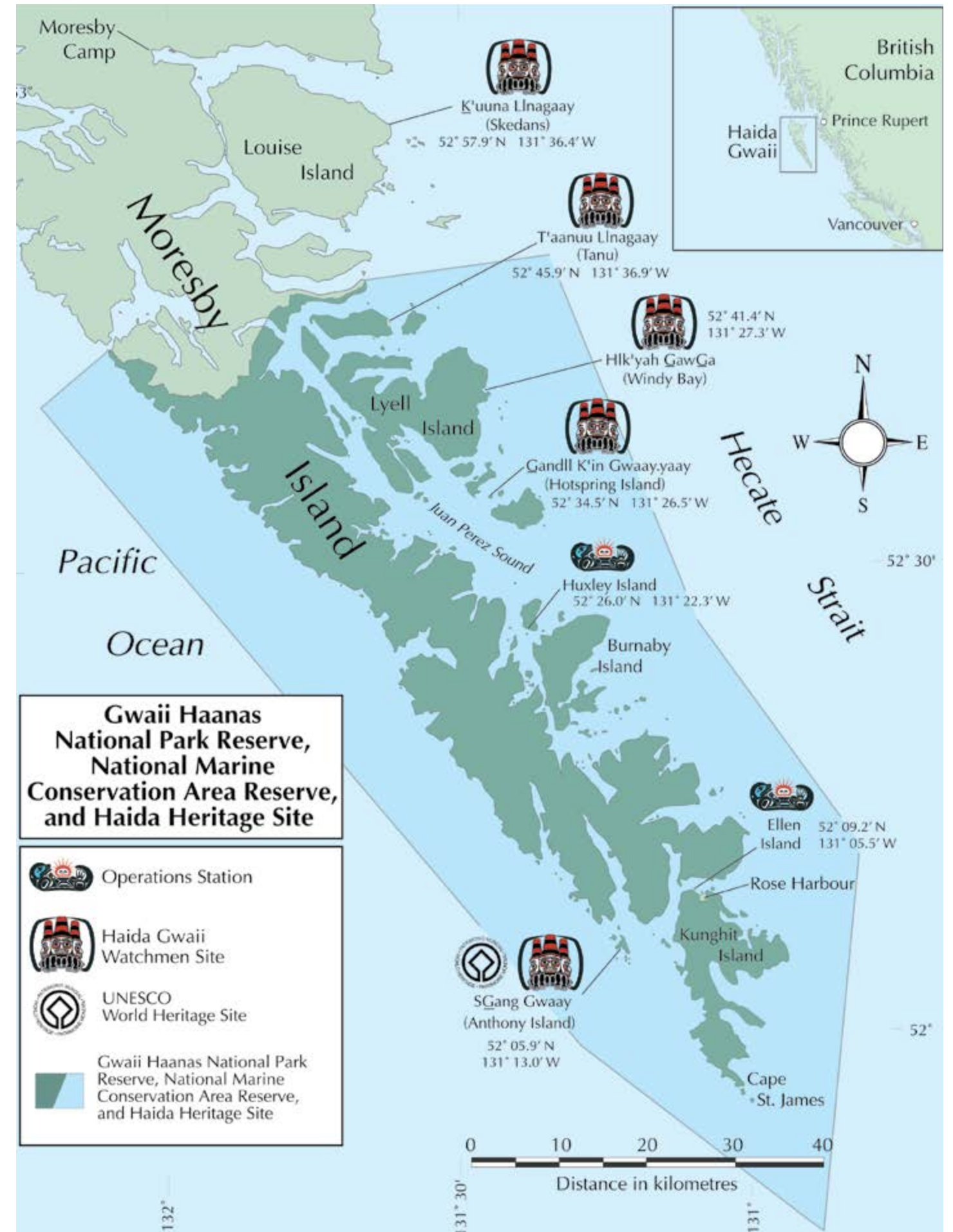
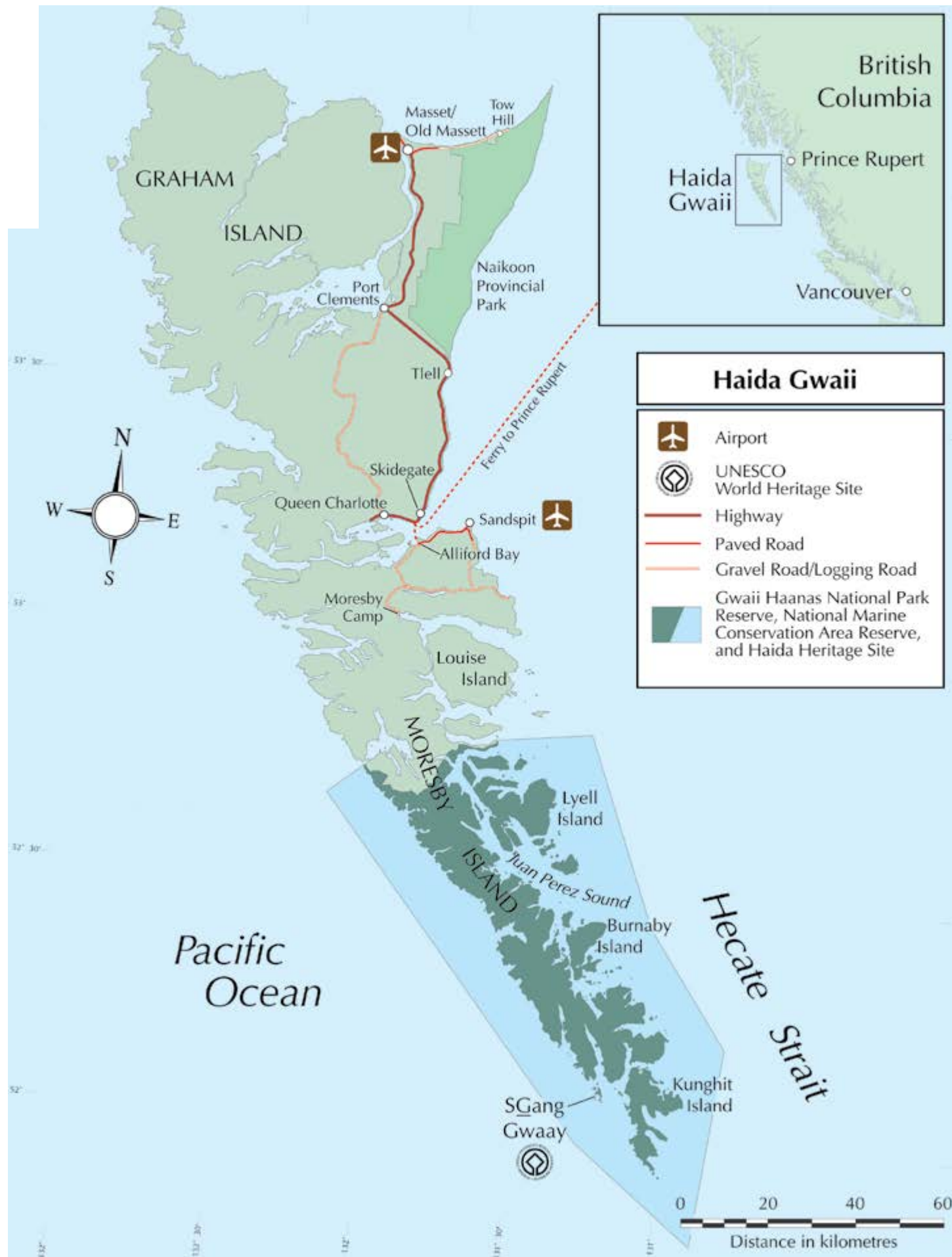
During the summer, streams may become dry. Always carry a reserve of water between campsites, and bring your own water when visiting Watchmen sites.

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.

This was truly a life changing experience. Thank you for allowing us to visit.



VISITING GWAII HAANAS

before visiting

STEP 1:

Reserve dates and pay fees

STEP 2:

Attend orientation

STEP 3:

Register

Are you travelling independently or on a guided trip?

If you would like to take a guided trip, please book your trip directly with your tour operator. See page 19 for a listing of licensed tour operators.

If you are travelling independently (in your own boat or rented kayaks) you will need to make a reservation, attend an orientation and register your trip.

Every day offered great gifts of enjoyment, knowledge — an insight into another world we will never forget

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 throughout the year. Be prepared to provide your planned entry and exit dates, the names of everyone in your group, and your vessel registration number, if applicable. You must pay your all-inclusive trip permit fee when you make your reservation.

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 travelers.

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.

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 2: Attend Orientation

All Gwaii Haanas visitors must receive an orientation.

The orientation is a 1 hour session to review current safety information and traveler protocols. It is also an opportunity for you to ask questions about your upcoming trip and ensure you have the information that you need. It is a legal requirement to attend the orientation annually.

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

Spring 2016 orientations in Vancouver, BC and Victoria, BC:

We plan to offer the Gwaii Haanas orientation in the Vancouver and Victoria regions in early spring 2016 (March or April).

Call 1-877-559-8818 early in 2016 to find out the dates and locations!



© Elaine Yong

Orientation Location

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

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

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

For orientations in the shoulder seasons (August – May) call our office 1-877-559-8818 to book an orientation. Gwaii Haanas staff can 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 and are dependent on staff availability. 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 make a reservation and attend an orientation session prior to beginning your trip. Some transport services providers can provide orientations to independent visitors they transport; check with Gwaii Haanas for details.

Step 3: Register

Independent visitors will complete a registration form during the pre-trip orientation and will obtain their trip permit tags at that time.

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.

If you attend the orientation early in the season before finalizing your trip plans and making your reservation, you will need to register your trip and request your trip permits when you make your reservation.

2016 orientation schedule

June 1- June 30
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM

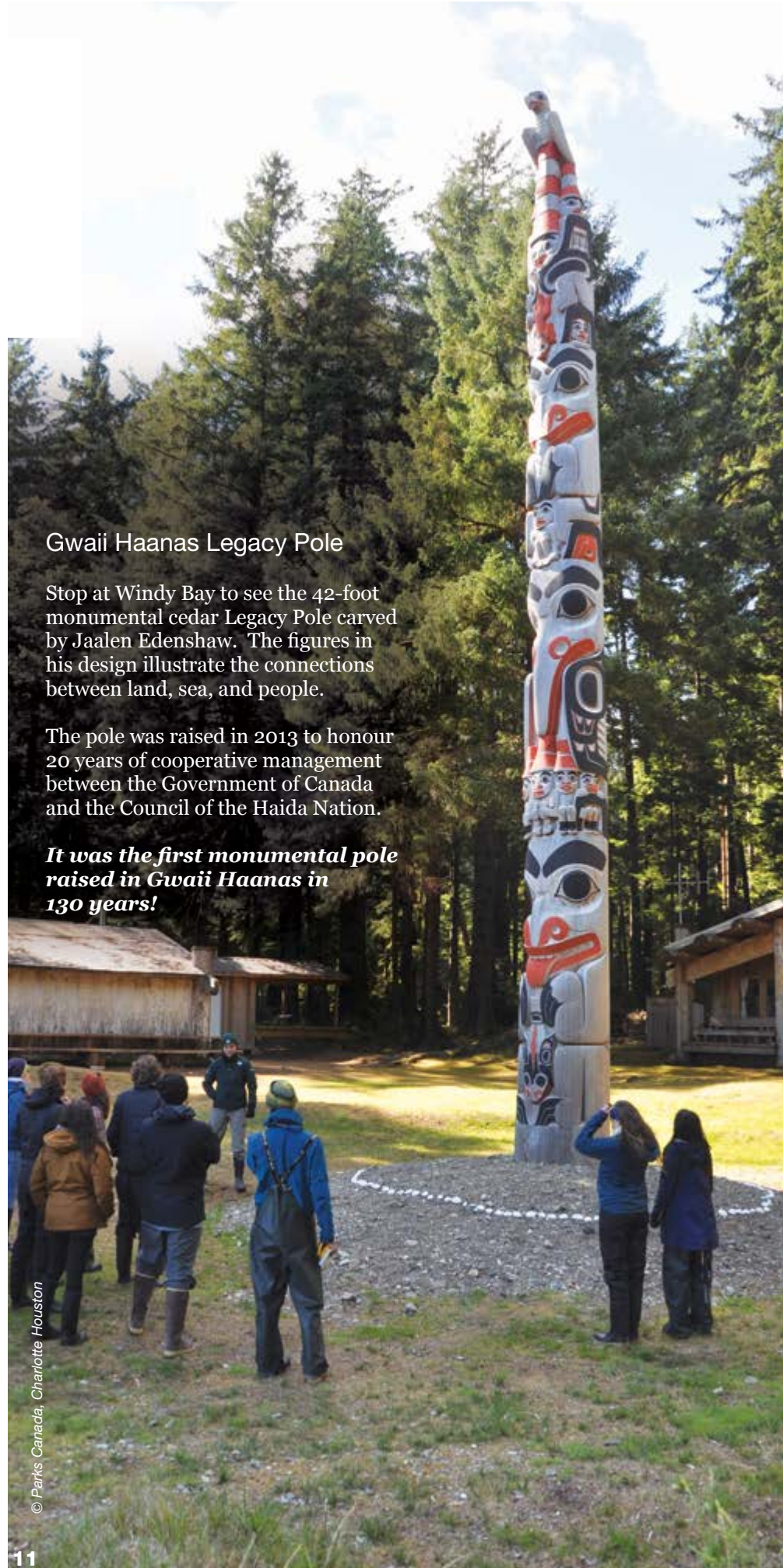
July 1 - August 13
Monday - Saturday 9:00 AM

August 15 - August 26
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM

August 29- May 31
Monday – Friday by appointment (48 hours notice)

Orientations are held at the Haida Heritage Centre.

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



Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole

Stop at Windy Bay to see the 42-foot monumental cedar Legacy Pole carved by Jaalen Edenshaw. The figures in his design illustrate the connections between land, sea, and people.

The pole was raised in 2013 to honour 20 years of cooperative management between the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation.

It was the first monumental pole raised in Gwaii Haanas in 130 years!

© Parks Canada, Charlotte Houston



© Parks Canada, Debby Gardiner

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.

Season pass holders who wish to book a subsequent trip must still call Gwaii Haanas or visit our Skidegate office to reserve dates for any subsequent trips and to register for a trip permit.

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. Call 1-877-559-8818

Cancellations or Refunds

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

2016 Gwaii Haanas Visitor Use 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 Program, freshwater hoses, boardwalks, and the visitor safety, orientation, interpretation and ecological monitoring programs.

2016 Gwaii Haanas fees

May 1 to Sept 30

	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) Check www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas for current information.

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, Jody Blissett

GWAII HAANAS INTERPRETERS

Listen to stories and songs about the Haida's deep connection to the land and the sea and how these connections continue to thrive in Gwaii Haanas today.

Explore the strange and beautiful animals and plants that live in the world between the tides!

Hike the Spirit Lake Trail to discover how the Haida harvested plants and trees to obtain chewing gum, sun block, baby diapers and more!

Discover the many ways, from basic necessities to monumental masterpieces, that cedar has been generous and essential to the Haida past and present.

Interpretive walks, talks and activities are offered daily at the Haida Heritage Center in Skidegate during the peak season.

Our summer program schedule can be found at <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/bc/gwaiihaanas/edu/edu1.aspx> and posted in the Haida Heritage Center.

Private bookings:

Does your group have a tight schedule or a particular interest? Consider booking a private or custom program. Call 1-877-559-8818 for more information.

Ask YOUR questions about whales, seabirds, culture, plants, history and more!



© Parks Canada, Jason Shafo



© Parks Canada, Nisii Guujaaw

WHAT'S NEW AT HOTSPRING ISLAND

what our visitors are saying:

...the presentation was fabulous; the singing, the stories and the enthusiasm. Thank You.

This was a wonderful walk with two marvelous guides! I would like to have had a whole day to spend walking and talking all about the things we saw!

Hot water is once again flowing into the pools! Yes, it is true - the much loved hot pools of Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay are filling with water! Your 2016 visit to Hotspring Island may involve a dip in the hot pools after all.

The hot pools drained after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake shook Haida Gwaii in October, 2012. Between 2012 and November 2015 there was thermal activity below the surface of the island and some hot water seeping at low elevations but minimal water flowing into the hot pools. In this dynamic environment, it is difficult to predict the future of the hot springs but we are hopeful it means the pools will once again be open to use and enjoy!

The Haida Gwaii Watchmen at Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay/Hotspring Island will be showcasing their weaving and carving skills this summer! Stop by for a visit and spend some time learning about traditional Haida art forms.

what our visitors are saying:

The works of art were gorgeous an incredible demonstration!

Amazing artistry. Inspiring! Thanks for sharing.



© Thibault Verchereere

TRAVELLING TO HAIDA GWAII

I have a great interest in ocean life so really enjoyed this part. Would love to return — if not in this life, then the next. Thank you for providing me with this remarkable experience.

Air Canada

Flights between Sandspit (YZP) and Vancouver International (YVR) airports.
1-888-247-2262
www.aircanada.com

BC Ferries

Sails between Prince Rupert and Skidegate Landing – day crossings are 6 hours and night crossings are 8 hours. Another route sails between Port Hardy, Vancouver Island and Prince Rupert which is referred to as the Inside Passage. Reservations are required for the northern routes.

1-888-BCFERRY (223-3779)
customerservice@bcferries.com
www.bcferries.com

Inland Air Charters Ltd.

Flights from Prince Rupert to; Masset, Queen Charlotte; and Sandspit.
1-888-624-2577
info@inlandair.bc.ca
www.inlandair.bc.ca

Pacific Coastal Airways

Flights between Masset (ZMT) and Vancouver International South Terminal (YVR) airports.

1-800-663-2872
reserve@pacificcoastal.com
www.pacificcoastal.com

Visitor Information

Trip planning help can be found at www.gohaidagwaii.ca/ which has several useful tools to build your visit, including the Guide to Haida Gwaii, which is published annually. Community visitor centres are located in: the Sandspit Airport; Queen Charlotte; Port Clements; and Masset.

Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Lnagaay

The internationally recognized and award winning Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Lnagaay, Skidegate, celebrates the living culture of the Haida through sharing stories, language, art and so much more. Located at Kay Lnagaay or Sea-lion Town, an ancient site, the centre was designed to resemble the ocean front Haida village that once stood in its place. The stunning centre houses the Haida Gwaii Museum, Bill Reid Teaching Centre, a giftshop, and bistro. Let the six carved Haida frontal poles draw you in for a visit that promises to be evocative.

Gwaii Haanas at the Haida Heritage Center

The Gwaii Haanas orientation and many Gwaii Haanas interpretive talks, walks and activities take place at the Haida Heritage Center! Visit us at the Haida Heritage Center at the beginning or end of your trip. Share your experiences with us and let us share our stories with you!



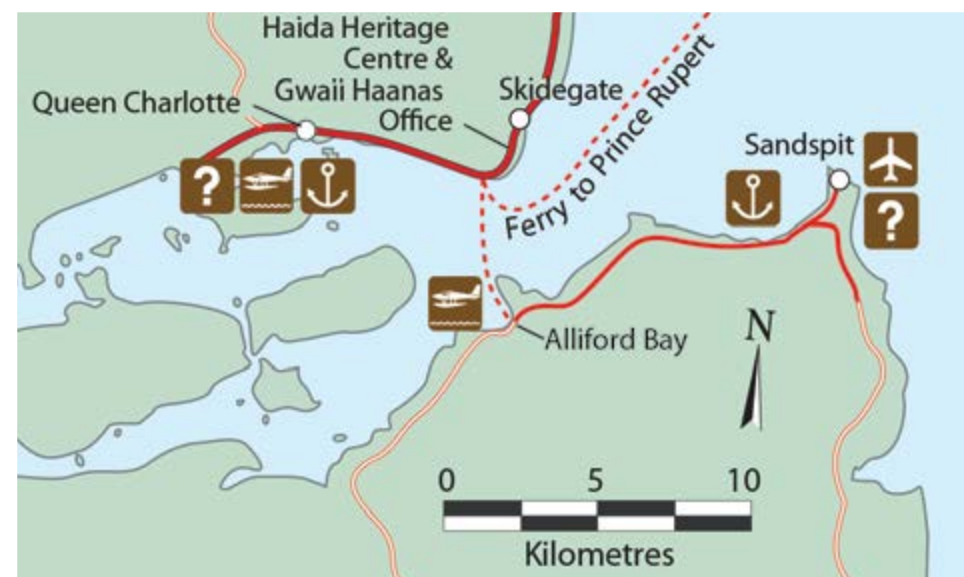
© Ryan Duffy



© Parks Canada, Debby Gardiner

Haida Gwaii means "Islands of the People" in the Haida language and...

- is populated by about 5000 people
- contains over 450 islands
- is located 120 km west of Prince Rupert (6-8 hr ferry ride)
- and 770 km north of Vancouver (2 hr flight)



The wilderness experience mixed with ancient Haida sites, all in relative solitude... just awesome!

Getting around Haida Gwaii

The communities of Old Massett, Massett, Tow Hill, Port Clements, Tlell, Skidegate, and Queen Charlotte are located on Graham Island. Sandspit, Alliford Bay, and Moresby Camp are located on Moresby Island – the central part of Haida Gwaii - with Gwaii Haanas at the bottom of the archipelago chain. A 20-minute ferry ride aboard the *Kwuna* connects Moresby Island to Graham Island.

Eagle Transit runs a shuttle service for the airports in Sandspit and Massett to Queen Charlotte. For information about fares, to reserve a seat, or to arrange a pick-up visit eagletransit.net or call toll free 1-877-747-4461.

Car rentals are available in Skidgate, Sandspit, Queen Charlotte, and Massett.

List of car rentals agencies, taxis, and other transport companies can be found: www.gohaidagwaii.ca.

Small Craft Harbours

Facilities for recreational and commercial vessels are available in Queen Charlotte, Sandspit, and Massett. 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
250-559-4650
<http://www.haa.bc.ca/harbour/queen-charlotte-city>

Sandspit Harbour
Box 477, Sandspit, BC VoT 1To
250-637-5700
www.sandspitharbour.com

Masset Harbour Authority
250-626-5487
<http://www.haa.bc.ca/harbour/masset>

ferry service

Graham Island – Moresby Island connector (20 minutes)

Leave Alliford Bay (Moresby Island)	Leave Skidegate Landing (Graham Island)
7:20 am	7:45 am
8:10 am	8:35 am
9:05 am	9:45 am
10:30 am	10:55 am* (DC)
11:20 am*(DC)	12:00 pm
12:25 pm	12:50 pm
2:25 pm* (DC)	2:50 pm* (DC)
3:15 am**	3:40 pm
4:05 pm	4:30 pm
5:35 pm	6:10pm

*Dangerous Cargo sailings – Thursday only – no other passengers permitted.

**Daily except Thursdays - which are dangerous cargo sailings only.

Check www.bcferrries.com to confirm travel times.



© James Thompson

LICENSED TOUR OPERATORS

Our guides did an amazing job of providing wilderness experience (going to less frequented areas) and First Nations culture; heritage experience in a sensitive way.

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 2016.

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 that follow 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
info@TourHaidaGwaii.com
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 VoT 1Yo
Phone: 778-928-8514
www.atlasoceanatours.com

SERVICES	Air Charters	Kayak Tours	Kayak Mothership	Kayak Rentals	Transportation Services	Power Boat Tours	Sailboat 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.							●	
Haida Style Expeditions					●	●		
Highlander Marine Services Ltd.					●			
Inland Air Charters	●				●			
Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures		●						
Lindblad Expeditions/National Geographic						●		
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.		●						

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
 explore@bluewateradventures.ca
 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 SGang Gwaay (Ninstints). We provide single kayaks, our group size is six guests. Owner

and 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 VoN 3A3
 Phone: 604-740-7018
 kayak@islandsofbeauty.com
 www.IslandsofBeauty.com



© Parks Canada, Charlotte Houston

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 hotspots, 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
 explore@thenaturalcoast.com
 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 VoT 1S0
 svgnoses@gmail.com
 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 VoT 1S0
 Phone: 250-637-1991
 paddle@gckayaking.com
 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 (SGang Gwaay Llnagaay), bird colonies, sea lion rookeries, remote beaches, giant trees,



© Elaine Yong

hotspots. Beachcombing, hiking. Local guide/owner. Sea kayak rental. English! French! Thai! Lao! Patrick & Walladda Lemaire
 Mail: Box 578, Rose Harbour, Queen Charlotte, BC VoT 1S0
 Phone: 250-559-8689
 Answering machine mailbox2016@gwaiihaanas.com
 www.gwaiihaanas.com

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 VoT 1S1
 Phone: 250-360-6184
 captain@sailpiraeus.com



© Parks Canada, Neil Osborne



© Parks Canada, Neil Osborne

Haida Style Expeditions

Haida Style Expeditions, a Haida owned and operated company offering a one-of-a-kind cultural adventure experience. In sharing our culture and history we provide you with an education like no other. Offering day tours in Gwaii Haanas, cruise onboard our 27ft Titan Rigid Hull Inflatable in style.

Phone: 250-637-1151
www.haidastyle.com
info@haidastyle.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 VoT 1S1
Phone: 250-637-1111
hms@haidagwaii.ca

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 (SGang 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
info@inlandair.bc.ca
www.inlandair.bc.ca

Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures

Join Kingfisher on a fully inclusive 6 - 15 day sea kayaking expedition of Gwaii Haanas. Each trip is led by two highly experienced naturalist/guides with a maximum of eight guests kayaking both single and double kayaks. 2016 is Kingfisher's 18th year leading exceptional sea kayaking expeditions to many BC destinations.

Mail Box 1318, Port McNeill, BC, VoN 2R0
Phone: 250-956-4617

Toll Free: 1-866-546-4347
info@kingfisher.ca
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
explore@expeditions.com
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. Features: local guides, expert naturalists, classic ships, ensuite

staterooms, lots of shore time, gourmet chef, kayaks, zodiacs, fishing, hydrophone, sailing.

Kevin Smith
Mail: PO Box 8845, Stn Central, Victoria, BC V8W 3Z1
Phone: 250-386-7245
Toll Free: 1-888-599-5323
info@MapleLeafAdventures.com
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 VoT 1T0
Phone: 250-637-2215
Toll Free: 1-800-806-7633
info@moresbyexplorers.com
www.moresbyexplorers.com

Mount Moresby Adventure Camp

Joanne Hager
Mail: Box 670, Queen Charlotte, BC VoT 1S0
Phone: 250-637-1991
johager76@hotmail.com
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

info@oceanadventures.bc.ca
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
adventure@oceanlight2.bc.ca
www.oceanlight2.bc.ca

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
info@oceansoundkayaking.com
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
info@outershores.ca
www.outershores.ca
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 VoT 1S0
Phone: 604-343-1870
mail@roseharbour.com
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: 541-389-6091
Toll Free: 1-800-677-0877
Fax: 541-382-1933
info@tofino.com
www.tofino.com

Enjoyed whole experience. Great to see Haida villages — also whales, sea lions, seals & birds. Guide was excellent — very careful to stress that we should respect old villages and the land itself.

DID YOU KNOW...

Humpback whales are known for their spectacular acrobatic displays. Breaching, bubble net 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, humpbacks arrive in Gwaii Haanas beginning in April to feed on the abundant herring and krill found in Gwaii Haanas waters. The peak season for Humpback spotting is April through August.

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

You can help researchers monitor these majestic animals. Keep track of the whales you see and report your observations through the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network (<http://wildwhales.org/sightings/>) or using WhaleReport App).

IN THE COMPANY OF GIANTS



BATS, CAVES & WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

White-Nose Syndrome is a serious fungal infection in bats that was recently introduced to North America. It has been found in bats across the eastern United States and Canada. 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 and has added several bat species to the list of endangered species.

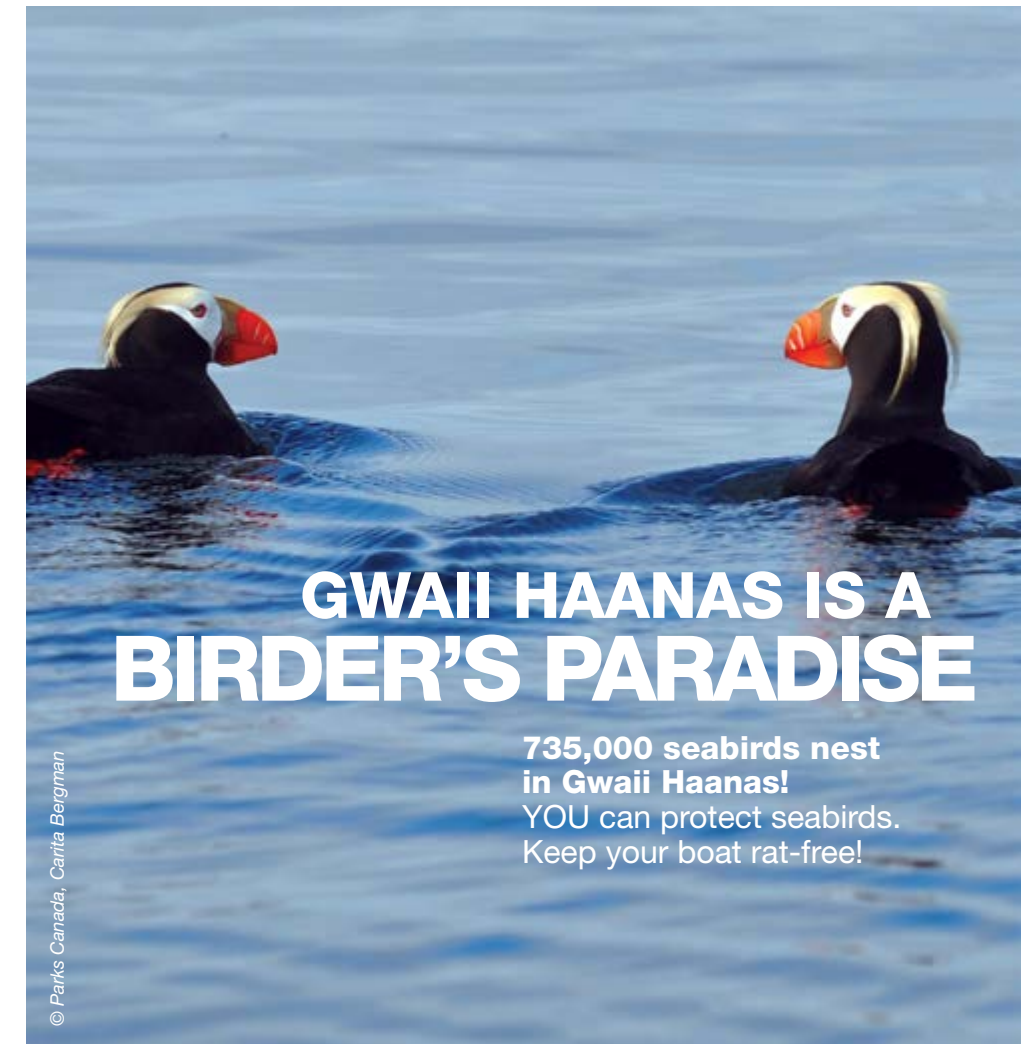
White-Nose syndrome is spread by human transport of fungal spores. The remote location of Haida Gwaii provides a refuge for bat species threatened by the disease.

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

www.whitenosesyndrome.org/topics/decontamination

For questions or concerns, please call us at 1-877-559-8818 or gwaiihaanas@pc.gc.ca

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



GWAII HAANAS IS A BIRDER'S PARADISE

735,000 seabirds nest in Gwaii Haanas!
YOU can protect seabirds.
Keep your boat rat-free!

© Parks Canada, Carita Bergman

Haida Words

Haida Word or Phrase	Approximate Pronunciation	Meaning
Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay	GAHN-dul kuh-in GWI YI	hot water island
GawGa	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 GawGa	(*)LOOK-yah GOW-gah	peregrine falcon bay
Kay Lnagaay	KI UL-nuh-guy	sea lion town
K'uuna Lnagaay	kuh-OO-nuh UL-nuh-guy	at the edge village
Lnagaay	UL-nuh-guy	village or town
T'aanuu Lnagaay	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

SAFETY AND WEATHER

© Stef Oleen

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 at your orientation.

For more information contact:
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Phone: 250-559-4413
<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/contaminationbiotix/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 and 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 above titles 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 fees: <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

There are no cellphone or internet services in Gwaii Haanas. 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 kayakers.

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)

CHARTS AND TIDE TABLES

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 a Global Positioning System (GPS).

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

For more details on potential marine hazards in Gwaii Haanas go to www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas.

Marine Charts

Charts at the largest scale are indispensable in this area. The charts 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).

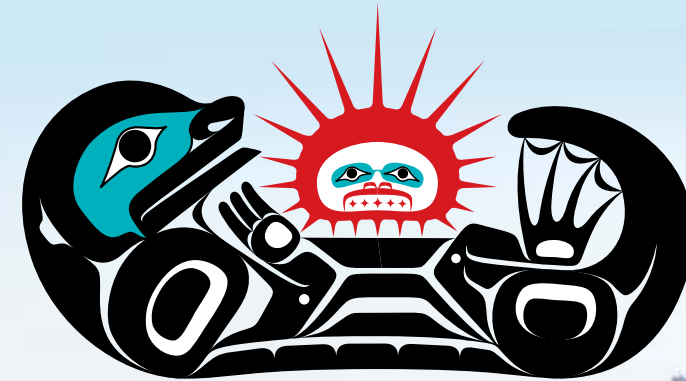
Tide Tables

Tide tables are essential for exploring Gwaii Haanas.

The Canadian 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 (2016)*, "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



THE GWAII HAANAS CREST

© Parks Canada, Clint Johnson

The crest of the Archipelago Management Board (AMB) is a unique design by local Haida artist, Giiitsxaa. 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.



GWAII HAANAS

GO BEYOND