



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

© Parks Canada, Jason Shafto

GWAII 2018 TRIP PLANNER HAANAS

25 YEARS

GOOD PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER

Canada



HAIDA NATION

WHAT IS GWAII HAANAS?

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site is a wild place. With no road access, stores, cell phone coverage and little signage, it is a true wilderness experience. The breathtaking beauty of the place is awe-inspiring.

Gwaii Haanas is unique, being one of the only areas in the world that is protected and managed from sea floor to mountain peak. Gwaii Haanas is also unique because it is managed as a true and equal partnership between the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation through the Archipelago Management Board (AMB).

Visitors come from all over to explore this jewel at the edge of the world, with its sheltered sandy bays, turquoise inlets, Haida villages, and old growth forests. Gwaii Haanas' unique combination of coastal temperate ecosystems and Haida culture make this a place like no other on earth.

Gwaii Haanas visitor experiences can include paddling kayaks or catching the wind and sailing through the waters alongside killer whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins and Steller sea lions, and seeing pods of humpbacks breaching and flicking their tail flukes as they gorge on the bounty of the Gwaii Haanas marine area. Visitors can float through Burnaby Narrows, teeming with intertidal life, and see a vast array of different species at lower tides.

Archaeological evidence of human habitation on these islands extends over 12,500 years. Throughout the millennia, Haida people have developed a complex society and culture. They have created art, ceremony, medicine, and have been able to meet their needs through their intimate connection to the land and sea. Haida art forms reflecting the intertwining of the people with the land, sea, and spirit world continue to garner international recognition.



85

1985

Haida people travelled to Athlii Gwaay (Lyell Island) and took a stand against unsustainable logging practices.



93

1993

After negotiations and planning the *Gwaii Haanas Agreement* was signed and National Park Reserve designation was added to the Gwaii Haanas Haida Heritage Site designation.



10

2010

Gwaii Haanas became the first National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and aligned Canada's marine protection with the Haida Heritage Site designation.



13

2013

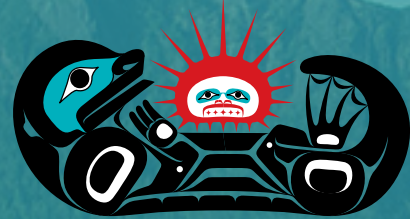
Celebrating 20 successful years of cooperation, Gwaii Haanas raised the Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole in Windy Bay.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the *Gwaii Haanas Agreement*, often called a document before its time, the *Gwaii Haanas Agreement* sets out the way Canada and the Haida Nation work cooperatively to protect the land, sea, and cultural history of this place. It is a promise to build and recognize the many relationships that exist in Gwaii Haanas.

Gwaii Haanas would not be what it is if it wasn't for all the relationships developed over the last 25 years. The good people working together to protect Gwaii Haanas are what make this a place of living legacy for today's youth and generations to come.

This trip planner allows you to catch a glimpse of what it's like to travel to Gwaii Haanas. Gwaii Haanas has gained international acclaim for the monumental Haida poles, old growth rainforests and vibrant anemone filled waters within its bounds. As the Archipelago Management Board, we're happy to welcome you to Gwaii Haanas in 2018! We hope you leave as in love with these shining islands as have so many visitors before you.

WELCOME TO THE ISLANDS OF BEAUTY.



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 fed 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.

HOW TO VISIT

Plan

Are you travelling independently or on a guided trip?

If you would like to take a guided trip, book your trip directly with your Tour Operator. See page 16 for a list of licensed tour operators.

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

Gwaii Haanas balances recreation with 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 our busiest period, so if you plan to visit during this time, verify the availability of your Gwaii Haanas dates before finalizing your travel plans.

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, credit card details and your vessel registration number, if applicable.

Attend Orientation

All Gwaii Haanas visitors, who are not travelling with a licensed tour operator, must attend an orientation.

This 90 minute session provides an opportunity to connect with Gwaii Haanas staff, ask questions about your upcoming trip and to learn about the amazing Haida culture and incredible wildlife found here. The orientation will go over closures, traveler protocols and what to do in case of an emergency. We look forward to meeting you!

Visitors who cannot attend a scheduled orientation in person should call the Gwaii Haanas office early in the planning process.

Spring 2018 orientations in Vancouver and Sidney:

- Tuesday March 6th, 2018, 7pm, Library Square, 350 West Georgia St. Vancouver
- Thursday March 8th, 2018, 7pm, Centre for the Salish Sea, 9811 Seaport Pl, Sidney

2018 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
Child (17 and under)	Free	Free

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

2018 ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

June 1- June 29
Monday-Friday 9am

July 2- August 11
Monday-Saturday 9am

August 13 – 31
Monday – Friday 9am

September 4 -May 31
Monday – Friday
by appointment (48 hours' notice)

Orientations are held at the Haida Heritage Centre, in Skidegate. 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.

ABOUT GWAII HAANAS

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, pg. 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 or rent kayaks 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 and Haida recreational site, accessible by rough logging road. Check with the Sandspit or Queen Charlotte 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.

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).

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. Pack biodegradable soaps and shampoos, and wash dishes or bath at the mouths of creeks rather than upstream where others may collect their drinking water.

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. These areas are closed to hook and line fishing.

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. No removal of anything, living or non-living, is allowed from the foreshore, water column, or seabed in

these areas. Maps and further information will be provided during the orientation.

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

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.

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 (www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Drinking Water

During the summer, streams may become dry. Always carry a reserve of water, 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.



VISITING GWAII HAANAS

Orientation Location

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

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

The Haida Heritage Centre is 6 km from Queen Charlotte Village. If you are coming from the Sandspit or Queen Charlotte harbours and do not have a vehicle, you will need to arrange transportation. Taxi and rental car options are listed on the QC Visitor Information website, www.qcinfo.ca. 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).

Trip Permit Tags

Independent visitors will obtain their trip permit tags at the orientation. Display the tag while travelling in Gwaii Haanas or visiting any Haida Gwaii Watchmen site.

If you attend an orientation before finalizing your trip and making your reservation, you will need to request your trip permit tags when you make your reservation.

Orientations in French

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

Private Bookings

If you would like an orientation outside the scheduled sessions, in other locations, or for large groups, or groups who have special requirements, please contact our office as far in advance as possible. We will do our best to accommodate these requests.

Sessions delivered outside normal working hours cost \$78.50 and are dependent on staff availability. Payment is made at time of booking.

Independent Visitors

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 service providers can deliver orientations to independent visitors they transport; check with Gwaii Haanas for details.

Cancellations or Refunds

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

Attention Media

All media personnel require a media permit. Media are considered journalists, photographers, videographers, and bloggers travelling on assignment or on spec. Please apply early in your project planning. Our team can help you gather the best possible photos, footage, and information during your Gwaii Haanas story research. Please contact the Gwaii Haanas office at 250-559-8818 or 1-877-559-8818 and ask to speak to the media permit coordinator for more information.



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HAIDA GWAII WATCHMEN



© Canada CA, Stephen Underhay

Long ago, Haida watchmen were posted at strategic positions around a village to raise the alarm in advance of an approaching enemy. The current Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program began in 1981 as a volunteer initiative designed to protect Haida villages and other important cultural sites in Gwaii Haanas. Today, Watchmen welcome visitors and act as guardians protecting the villages from spring until autumn at:

K'uuna Llnagaay Skedans

T'aanu Llnagaay Tanu

Hlk'yah GawGa Windy Bay

Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay Hotspring Island

SGang Gwaay Ninstints, Anthony Island



Listen, as Haida Watchmen share oral histories and stories, which have been passed down through generations.

Haida poles at SGang Gwaay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and K'uuna Llnagaay (Skedans Village) stretch into the sky telling ancient stories. Haida poles are maps of Haida lives and lineages and form a connection with the supernatural, displaying crests associated with certain families and people.

With amazingly large posts and beams defining enormous tiered house pits dug into the earth, longhouses offer a window into Haida traditional life. Haida longhouse construction has been recognized as an architectural design unique to the Haida.



© Parks Canada, Scott Munn

GUIDED WALKS

Beach Exploration

As the tide falls, join a Gwaii Haanas Interpreter and meet some of the strange and beautiful animals and seaweeds that are found in the world between the tides. Rubber boots or other water-proof footwear are highly recommended.

Location: Beach in front of the Haida Heritage Centre.

Schedule: May- September on each low-tide cycle, see Gwaii Haanas website for more details.

Spirit Lake Hike

Come and explore the sights, sounds, and smells of a coastal temperate rainforest. Learn about Haida traditional use, connections, and sustainability through ancient legends and oral histories. Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing for hiking.

Location: Spirit Lake Trail Head across the highway from the George Brown Recreation Centre in Skidegate.

Schedule: Tuesdays at 10:00am & Fridays at 1:30pm from June 15th – August 31st, 2018



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© Parks Canada, Michael Ambach



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GWAI HAANAS CONNECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Join a Gwaii Haanas Interpreter at the Haida Heritage Centre in Skidegate and learn about the history, stories, and science behind Gwaii Haanas.

Listen: Gwaii Haanas Connections offer a look at Gwaii Haanas and Haida Gwaii on a deeper level. Hear stories of our connections with the land and sea, as well as our broadening scientific understanding of some of the other inhabitants of Haida Gwaii.

Discover: From cedar weaving to a microscopic look at the shoreline, Gwaii Haanas offers activity stations for hands-on learning.

Our summer program schedule can be found on the Gwaii Haanas webpage and posted in the Haida Heritage Center and Queen Charlotte Visitor Information Centre.

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.

BIOSECURITY

KEEP MARINE INVADERS OUT

Be aware that your boat may be transporting nasty wee hitchhikers! Marine invasive species such as sea squirts (tunicates) with names like sea vomit, golden star tunicate and violet tunicate, can settle on the hull of your boat in one location, then be transported to another location where they can reproduce and spread where they are not wanted.

Invasive species can harm local ecosystems by displacing native species or making life more difficult. Some invaders like the green crab can also have negative impacts on native habitats such as eelgrass meadows.

Please do not inadvertently bring marine invaders into Gwaii Haanas! Field surveys show that we have few marine invaders compared to places like Vancouver and Victoria and you can help us keep it that way. Before coming to Gwaii Haanas, get to know what these invasive marine species look like, check your boat hull and equipment to ensure you don't have any unwanted hitchhikers, and take precautions to remove any that you do have. Species identification guides and instructions on how to prevent the spread of invasive species can be found at: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/environmental-environnement/ais-eae/identify-eng.html>



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WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

White-Nose Syndrome is a serious fungal infection in bats that was recently introduced to North America. It has been spreading westwards in North America since its introduction, and in 2016 was detected for the first time on the Pacific coast in Washington. 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 caused several bat species to be added 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@canada.gc.ca

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

PROTECTING SEABIRDS

Gwaii Haanas' biodiversity is under threat from a range of biological, climate and human impacts. One of the most significant threats to Gwaii Haanas is that of introduced species. Rats, first introduced to Haida Gwaii with the advent of maritime shipping in the late 1700s, are known to occur on at least 18 islands throughout the archipelago. Rats have devastating effects on populations of nesting seabirds, forest songbirds and native small mammals.

Keep Your Vessel Rat-Free

To keep visitors' vessels rat-free, Gwaii Haanas offers boaters travelling to the area free Rat Aware program kits. For more information visitors can contact us by telephone: 250-559-8818 or email: gwaii.haanas@pc.gc.ca

How you can help

- Keep your vessel rat free. Rats are great stowaways. By maintaining a rat-free vessel, you will help prevent the introduction of rats to more islands.
- Learn more and spread the word to others. Keep food, waste and gear in rat-proof, sealed storage areas.
- Inspect your boat regularly for rat sign, droppings, and nests as well as chewed food, wood, or wires.
- Know which anchorages have rats nearby.
- Clean up any debris that could shelter rats.
- Never throw a live rat overboard. They are good swimmers and may reach land.
- Use rat guards on ship-to-shore lines to prevent rats from boarding at ports.
- Install traps on your boat.
- Seal all entry points on your boat. Rats can crawl through holes as small as ½ inch

The brochure "Protecting Seabirds from Introduced Rats on Haida Gwaii" is included in the Rat Aware program kits and is also provided at visitor orientations.





TRAVELLING TO HAIDA GWAII

Visitor Information

Trip planning help can be found at www.gohaidagwaii.ca/ which has several useful tools to help you plan your visit, including Tadswii' Kaats'ii hla - Haida Gwaii Trip Planner, which is published annually. Community visitor centres are located in: the Sandspit Airport 250-637-5362; Queen Charlotte 250-559-8316; Port Clements 250-557-4576; and Masset 250-626-3982.

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

Small Craft Harbours

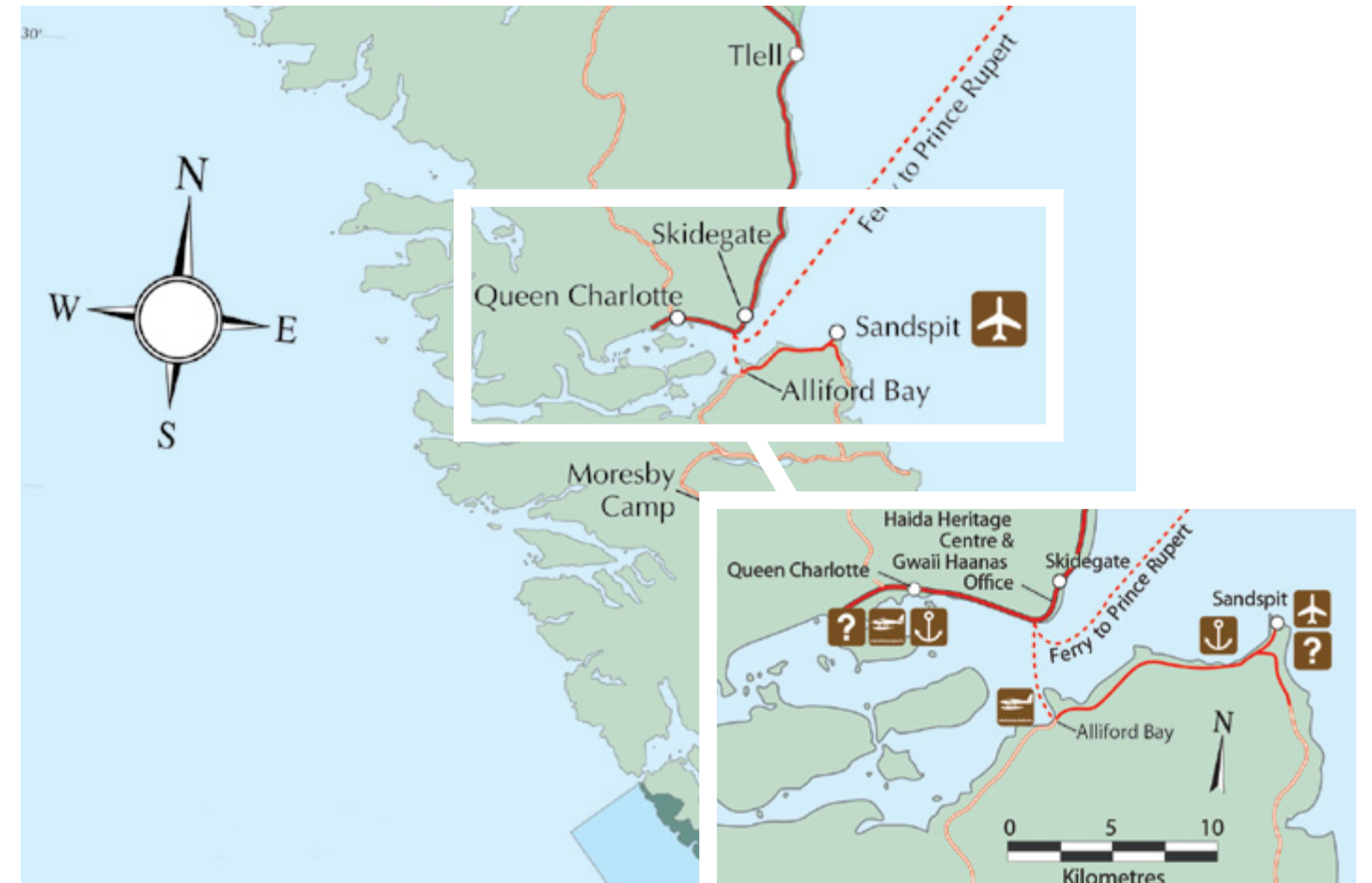
Facilities for recreational and commercial vessels are available in Queen Charlotte, Sandspit, and Masset. Facilities include pay phones, electrical hookups and fresh water. Sandspit Harbour has a holding tank, pumpout station and showers.

Queen Charlotte Harbour

Small Craft Harbours Branch 250-559-4650 <http://www.haa.bc.ca/harbour/queen-charlotte-city>

Sandspit Harbour

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



Masset Harbour Authority

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

Getting around Haida Gwaii

The communities of Old Massett, Masset, 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 Masset 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 Skidegate, Sandspit, Queen Charlotte, and Masset. List of car rentals agencies, taxis, and other transport companies can be found: www.gohaidagwaii.ca.



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 the Archipelago Management Board may operate within Gwaii Haanas.

The following is a list of all tour operators that have an allocation to operate in Gwaii Haanas. Contact tour operators directly to verify if they will be working in Gwaii Haanas in 2018.

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.



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SERVICES

	Air Charters	Kayak Tours	Kayak Mothership	Kayak Rentals	Transportation Services	Power Boat Tours	Sailboat Tours	Overnight Hiking Tours
Archipelago Ventures Ltd. info@TourHaidaGwaii.com www.TourHaidaGwaii.com			●		●	●		
Atlas Ocean Tours 778-928-8514 www.atlasoceantours.com			●			●		
Bluewater Adventures explore@bluewateradventures.ca www.bluewateradventures.ca			●				●	
Butterfly Tours - Sea Kayak Haida Gwaii kayak@islandsofbeauty.com www.IslandsofBeauty.com		●						
Gnoses Sailing Adventures svgnoses@gmail.com www.gnoses.com					●		●	
Green Coast Kayaking Ltd. info@gckayaking.com www.gckayaking.com		●						
Gwaii Haanas Guest House and Kayaks mailbox2018@gwaiihaanas.com www.gwaiihaanas.com		●	●	●	●	●		
Haida Gwaii Charters (2010) Ltd. 250-360-6184 captain@sailpiraeus.com							●	
Haida Syle Expeditions info@haidastyle.com www.haidastyle.com					●	●		
Highlander Marine Services Ltd. 250-637-1111 hms@haidagwaii.ca					●			
Inland Air Charters info@inlandair.bc.ca www.inlandair.bc.ca	●				●			
Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures info@kingfisher.ca www.kingfisher.ca		●						
Lindblad Expeditions explore@expeditions.com www.expeditions.com						●		
Maple Leaf Adventures info@MapleLeafAdventures.com www.MapleLeafAdventures.com			●			●	●	
Moresby Explorers info@moresbyexplorers.com www.moresbyexplorers.com		●		●	●	●		
Mount Moresby Adventure Camp mmacexecutivedirector@gmail.com mountmoresbyadventurecamp.ca		●						
Ocean Adventures Charter Co. Ltd. info@oceanadventures.bc.ca www.oceansadventures.bc.ca			●			●		
Ocean Light II Adventures adventure@oceanlight2.bc.ca www.oceanlight2.bc.ca			●				●	
Ocean Sound Kayaking Company info@oceansoundkayaking.com www.oceansoundkayaking.com		●						
Outer Shores Expeditions info@outershores.ca www.outershores.ca			●				●	
Rose Harbour Guest House mail@roseharbour.com www.roseharbour.com		●	●			●		●
Tofino Expeditions Ltd. info@tofino.com www.tofino.com		●						

SAFETY AND WEATHER

Self-sufficiency in a Remote Location

Gwaii Haanas is remote. 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. 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 need to understand and prepare for before coming to Gwaii Haanas.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is the extreme loss of body heat and 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.

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. Be prepared to adequately treat your drinking water to eliminate 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



© Leslie Leong

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. Food lockers or hanging devices are not provided in Gwaii Haanas. Visitors must come prepared to store their food using a hanging technique or by using wildlife-proof storage containers.

Bear bangers are not permitted in Gwaii Haanas unless a special permit is obtained ahead of time for their use.

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.

Medical Insurance

Gwaii Haanas field staff are trained to act as first responders in visitor 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

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 Haida Gwaii 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 centimeters 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 use 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 table to the right covers 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. We have extreme tides here - up to 24 ft tidal variation. The big tides have significant implications for safety and navigation. You'll find uncharted rocks and reefs in the near shore waters that can be prominent at low tides or hidden under the surface at higher tides. The high tides also pull driftwood off the beaches, presenting more hazards to navigation.

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 (2018), "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

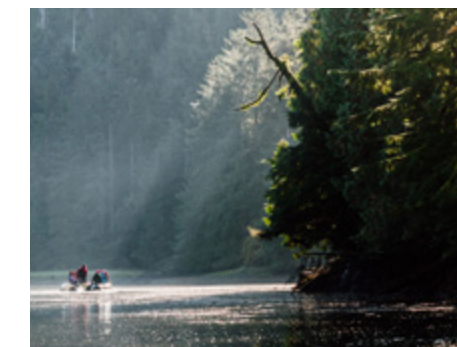
LAND-SEA-PEOPLE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Direction for Gwaii Haanas is currently laid out in two separate management plans for the marine and terrestrial areas. As both plans need to be renewed, the Archipelago Management Board (AMB) is developing a single, integrated management plan that recognizes the interconnectedness of land, sea, and people in Gwaii Haanas. The new plan will outline key priorities and specific targets that will guide AMB decision-making for the next decade.

To develop this "Land-Sea-People" management plan, the AMB is supported by a technical planning team, with representatives from the Council of the Haida Nation, Parks Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Since 2014, the planning team has been working to ensure that the plan content incorporates AMB priorities and perspectives. Haida language is used throughout the draft plan and Haida oral traditions, ethics and values form the basis for management decision-making in the area.

The AMB is now working to draft the zoning plan for the land and sea that will lay out which activities, such as commercial and recreational fishing and tourism, are allowed and where. Once the full draft Land-Sea-People plan is complete, the AMB will seek input from the public.

Your opinion is important to us!
 Please email amb@pc.gc.ca for more information on the consultation process.





#25YEARSSTRONG



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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF... GOOD PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER

Gwaii Haanas is very excited to be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Signing of the *Gwaii Haanas Agreement* and the establishment of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site. Gwaii Haanas' journey is one which has been strengthened by the many extraordinary people who have invested their energy into ensuring its ongoing protection.

We have had many great accomplishments over the past 25 years, and these could not have happened without the commitment of all involved. To name everyone who worked to make Gwaii Haanas what it is today would be impossible. We are thrilled to recognize the combined effort of all those involved. Gwaii Haanas is an idea, an idea born out of the need to protect the abundance of the place. We are thankful to work towards that every day. Gwaii Haanas is something we are very proud of; it is a place we love.

This is why we would like to say Haawa/Thank you:

Haawa to those that stood on the line...

In 1985, a group led by the Haida Nation travelled to Gwaii Haanas and took a stand against unsustainable logging on Athlii Gwaay (Lyell Island). The dedicated individuals who stood on the line and were involved as the support system showed strength and respect even in the face of being arrested and charged. It is because of their sacrifice that Gwaii Haanas was protected.

Haawa to the Haida Gwaii Watchmen...

Since the Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program was established in 1981, Haida community members have been acting as the guardians of some of Haida Gwaii's most culturally significant sites. Watchmen live at, protect and share history about Gwaii Haanas. Meeting the Haida Gwaii Watchmen is always a highlight for Gwaii Haanas visitors.

Haawa to all our knowledge holders that we call upon...

Whether it be Haida Historians, Ethnobotanists, Anthropologists, Archaeologists, Ecologists, Biologists or any other researcher that continues to work towards a better understanding of Gwaii Haanas, we want to say thank you. We cherish your knowledge and offer it to our visitors through the Watchmen and our interpretive programs.

Haawa to the Archipelago Management Board...

As a true and equal partnership, the AMB is an incredible team that has worked tirelessly to move Gwaii Haanas forward. It is through your dedication to working together that we have achieved so much.

Haawa to our Gwaii Haanas Team Members...

From our interpreters, scientists, administrators, cultural resource advisors, and field staff, Gwaii Haanas has succeeded because of the strengths and commitment of our incredible team.

Haawa to all those good people who we may have missed, your contributions are no less important and live on in Gwaii Haanas.

#LIVINGLEGACY



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GWAII HAANAS ADMINISTRATION

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**GOOD
PEOPLE
WORKING
TOGETHER**