



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

Réserve de parc national, réserve
d'aire marine nationale de conservation,
et site du patrimoine haïda
Gwaii Haanas

Gwaii Haanas
'Laanaay 'waadluxan Tilga Kaaganda,
Tang.gwan 'Laanaay 'waadluxan
Kaaganda, ad Xaaydas Giinaa.ah 'Laana

BEFORE YOU GO GUIDE

GWAII HAANAS



Canada

 Haida Nation



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GWAII HAANAS BEFORE YOU GO GUIDE
WELCOME

A trip to Gwaii Haanas offers an intimate experience with land and sea and is one of the best places in the world to experience indigenous culture. Gwaii Haanas represents the trip of a lifetime for many. We want to ensure that all visitors to Gwaii Haanas have a safe and memorable visit.

People who choose a **self-guided adventure need strong skills in remote marine travel and the ability to be self-sufficient**. This area has significant tidal variation, strong currents, rapidly changing weather, and strong winds that develop with little or no warning.

If you do not have the skills or experience to safely visit on a self-guided adventure, please visit with one of our licensed tour operators.

pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas-operators

A wide variety of trips with knowledgeable guides are available.



IS A SELF GUIDED TRIP
RIGHT FOR YOU?

1. Do you have good navigational skills? Can you take bearings and use triangulation to establish your position without using a GPS?

2. Are you experienced in reading marine charts and tide tables?

3. Do you have first aid and wilderness survival training?

4. Paddlers – Do you know basic strokes and maneuvering skills, including bracing, surf landing and launching, and self-rescue techniques?

5. Do you have all the necessary safety equipment?

6. Are you aware of the effects of cold water immersion and cold shock?

7. If your own experience or training is limited, will you be travelling with others who have adequate experience or training?

If you answer **YES** to all these questions, then a self-guided trip may be a good fit for you!

Use this guide to help you plan and prepare for your self-guided adventure into Gwaii Haanas.

If you answer **NO** to any of these questions, we recommend that you travel with a licensed tour operator pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas-operators. Book your guided trip directly with your tour operator.

YAHGUUDANG

VISITING WITH RESPECT

Gwaii Haanas provides one of the best places in the world to experience Indigenous culture, with opportunities to explore ancient Haida village sites and interact with the descendants of their former inhabitants. The Haida Nation welcomes you, but ask that you travel with Yahguudang, and 'Laa guu ga kanhlIns, honouring their heritage and deep connection to the land, sea, and sky.

Haida law is rooted in the principles of Yahguudang- respect and 'Laa guu ga kanhlIns -responsibility. And we ask that all who travel through Gwaii Haanas respect each other and this place.



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Yahguudang—Respect
linang - Herring

- Treat everywhere as a cultural site. Most sites that visitors find suitable as campsites are the same areas the Haida have used for generations.
- Remember the ancient Haida village sites are living and dynamic parts of Haida culture, they are not “abandoned”.
- Leave any artefacts or cultural remains where they lie. They tell their story in relation to the surroundings.
- Respect all closures. They are in place to protect natural and cultural treasures of Gwaii Haanas.
- Slow down and adjust your pace to the lifestyle of the islands. Allow yourself extra time to get to know this unique place.
- Ask before you photograph people, their homes, or cultural sites.
- Respect other visitors, the Haida Gwaii Watchmen, tour guides and Gwaii Haanas staff.
- Remember to pack out what you packed in.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

ACCESSING GWAII HAANAS

To have a safe and memorable trip in Gwaii Haanas, you will need strong skills, thoughtful planning AND a flexible attitude. There is no one route to follow. What might be a great campsite or anchorage on one day may be exposed to unfavorable weather or tides the next.

As you plan, keep in mind:

- The weather and sea state will determine your route and how fast you travel on any given day.
- Have alternative anchorages or campsites in mind in case you can't reach your original destination.
- Take the time to learn about the waters you plan to navigate.
- Avoid travel on the west coast unless you are very experienced in coastal navigation.
- Look at our **Visitor Use map** while you plan and again while travelling. It is YOUR

responsibility to stay out of closed areas. Closure signs are not posted at permanently closed locations. We'll advise you of any temporary closures at your pre-trip orientation.

- Group size is limited to no more than 12 people ashore.
- Be prepared for changing weather conditions and for **natural hazards** in Gwaii Haanas. pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas-marinehazards
- Leave a trip plan with a trusted family member or friend and remember to close it when you return. The Canadian Coast Guard will accept a sail plan if required. 250-637-3081.

Gwaii Haanas is remote, even from the communities on Haida Gwaii. Access is only by boat or float plane.

Kayaks and small vessels:

- The nearest boat launch to Gwaii Haanas is Moresby Camp in Cumshewa Inlet.
- Check with the local Visitor Centres for current instructions on driving the logging road from

Alliford Bay to Moresby Camp— approximately a 1 hour drive.

- It takes about two days, weather permitting, to kayak from Moresby Camp to the northern boundary of Gwaii Haanas at the Tangil peninsula.
- The inside waters of Carmichael passage and Dana passage, are less exposed and offer a more protected route.
- A popular option is to use a shuttle service to bring you and your kayaks into Gwaii Haanas. See our licensed tour operators. pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas-operators

Larger vessels:

- Facilities for recreational and commercial vessels are available in Haida Gwaii communities. boatersbluepages.com/Marinas
- Fuel and supplies can be purchased in these communities before traveling into Gwaii Haanas.

• When moored at marinas, take precautions to ensure that rats DO NOT board your boat. (pg.17)

• Exercise caution in Louise Narrows. Plan to take the outside passage around Louise Island or ensure you have clearance given the tide conditions and your draft.

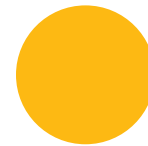
• Large vessels may choose to sail to Gwaii Haanas directly without stopping in any communities on Haida Gwaii first. Make sure that you have completed your reservation, orientation, and registration before sailing to Gwaii Haanas, and ensure that you have all your supplies.

• Stock up before you depart! There are **NO fueling facilities and NO stores** in Gwaii Haanas.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

SELF-SUFFICIENT BOATING

- Ensure that your vessel is in “ship-shape”, and for power and sail vessels, is fully-fueled and watered and has adequate grey and black water holding capacity.
- Ensure that all those on the trip are prepared for remote travel in challenging waters.
- Know your vessel limitations, your group’s limitations, and exercise caution.
- Allow enough time during daylight hours to assess each anchorage or mooring buoy for availability and its suitability for your vessel and the current weather conditions.
- Mooring buoys are available at some locations, first come first served*
- Mooring buoy usage is not mandatory, you are welcome to anchor throughout Gwaii Haanas.
- Limit your stay at any one anchorage or mooring buoy to a maximum of 3 nights.**
- Mooring buoys at Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites are only available for day use.
- Groups are required to stay out of sight and/or sound of other groups.
- Bring enough fuel and supplies for your entire trip. Caching fuel or supplies is not permitted.
- Unfiltered fresh water can be collected from streams or from one of two water hoses.***



*Mooring Buoy coordinates:

Murchison Island 52°35.65'N, 131°28.00'W

Ramsay Island 52°34.55'N, 131°24.00'W

Section Cove 52°25.10'N, 131°21.5'W

Rose Harbour 52°08.90'N, 131°05.10'W

***unless weather or illness prevents travel to another site.*

*** Fresh water hose coordinates:

Shuttle Island
52°40.00'N, 131°43.80'W

Louscoone Inlet
52°11.64'N, 131°15.37'W

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Ensure you have medical insurance that covers air ambulance evacuation from remote areas.

Gwaii Haanas field staff are trained to act as first responders in public safety and first aid emergencies but may request that British Columbia Ambulance provide care and evacuation to medical facilities. If asked to respond, BC ambulance will charge the evacuated visitor directly. Costs differ for BC residents and non-residents.

bcehs.ca/about/billing/fees

PLANNING YOUR TRIP



NO TRACE CAMPING

In Gwaii Haanas:

- There are no formal campsites.
- Use maps and charts to plan your itinerary and overnight stops or campsites.
- Avoid camping within sight or sound of another group.*
- Camp at any one location for a maximum of 3 nights only.*
- Allow enough time during daylight hours to assess each campsite for hazards, availability (i.e. no other visitors already at the site), and suitability for your group.
- Bring rope and waterproof bags to hang all your wildlife attractants (including food, garbage, and toiletries) while camping.
- Practice your food hang system before travelling into Gwaii Haanas
pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas-bears
- Bring a reliable camp stove and enough fuel for your entire trip. Fires are only permitted below the ordinary high water mark. Big tides may make this area inaccessible for fires.
- Be prepared to collect water from streams and purify before use.

- Be prepared to pack out all garbage.
- Bring enough food for a couple extra days in case your trip is extended due to weather delays.

*Note: *unless weather or illness prevents travel to another campsite.*

*** camping at Hlk'yah Gawga (Windy Bay) is limited to 1 night unless weather prevents departure.*

CAMPING IN GWAI HAANAS

CAMP AWAY from the mouths of streams, especially during salmon spawning season (beginning mid-August) to avoid bear encounters.

USE BIODEGRADABLE SOAP when bathing. Select a location near the mouth of the stream and downstream from any place where people gather water for drinking.

Have **NO MORE THAN 12 PEOPLE** on shore at any one time.

STAY OUT OF SIGHT and sound of other groups.

WASH your dishes in the ocean with biodegradable soap and use sand as a natural scrubber.

Whenever possible, **CAMP ON THE BEACH** or on rock above the current high tide line.

Keep **CAMPFIRES** small and below the high tide line. Burn driftwood for fuel and never leave the campfire unattended. Before you leave, scatter any rocks used for a hearth.

Hang all food, garbage, grease, and toiletries, including toothpaste and feminine hygiene products, well away from sleeping areas, and at least 5 metres/ yards up a tree and 1.5 metres/yards away from the tree trunk. **NEVER LEAVE FOOD OR TOILETRIES OUT** when the camp is unattended. Do not cache food or garbage in kayaks.

1.5
metres
away

PACK OUT ALL GARBAGE. Do not burn foil or plastics. Burn food scraps completely or bag them securely for packing out. Return fish entrails to the sea well offshore. Improperly handled food waste can create a dangerous situation for the next camper.

5
metres up

USE A PORTABLE STOVE whenever possible.

DISMANTLE BEACH "FURNITURE" and put logs and rocks back in random positions before you leave.

Treat each campsite as an archaeological site. **DO NOT DIG** through middens or disturb any historical features.

VISITING HAIDA GWAII WATCHMEN SITES

Sgang Gwaay (Anthony Island) **UNESCO World Heritage Site:** **52°05.90'N, 131°13.0'W**

Sgang Gwaay is on the exposed southwest coast of Gwaii Haanas. The ancient village, Sgang Gwaay Llnagaay, is located in a sheltered bay on the east side of the island. Here, human occupation is evident and visible in the forms of midden sites, upright and fallen poles, house pits, and standing posts and beams of long-houses. It represents one of the best examples in the world of a traditional Northwest Coast First Nations village. In 1981, Sgang Gwaay was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as a National Historic Site.

A major storm in December, 2018 resulted in extensive blowdown on Sgang Gwaay. Danger trees are only managed along the boardwalk and in the village, so for your own safety, stay on the established trail.



Sgang Gwaay is a globally significant seabird nesting area and most species nest in burrows underground. By staying on the trail, you reduce the possibility of trampling a burrow and contribute to seabird nesting success.

THE WATCHMEN SITES

Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay (Hot Spring Island): **52°34.50'N, 131°26.50'W**

Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay provides food in abundance and waters that comfort, heal, and nourish body and soul. Visitors to this unique island can still enjoy the relaxing and healing benefits of the springs. The thermal system that gives the island its name warms the thin soils and keeps the forests at bay.

Hik'yah Gawga (Windy Bay): **52°41.41'N, 131°27.30'W**

Hik'yah Gawga was one of the sites where Haida protested the logging on Lyell Island, and construction of Looking Around and Blinking House was part of the protest effort. The Haida Nation took a stand on the logging road at Sedgwick Bay in 1985. This action ultimately led to the establishment of Gwaii Haanas as a cooperatively managed protected area.

In August 2013, visitors, volunteers, Haida citizens, and Parks Canada staff raised the Legacy Pole at Windy Bay—the first monumental pole raised in Gwaii Haanas in 130 years! The pole honours the 20th anniversary of cooperative management between the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation.

T'aanuu Llnagaay (Tanu): **52°45.90'N, 131°36.90'W**

T'aanuu Llnagaay translates to Eelgrass Town, which refers to the eelgrass beds found nearby. At one time, there were 25 to 40 longhouses in the village, which is located on the eastern side of Tanu Island. Today, little is left standing at T'aanuu Llnagaay, but the spirit of the place remains strong.

K'uuna Llnagaay (Skedans): **52°57.90'N, 131°36.40'W**

K'uuna Llnagaay is located on the northeast corner of Louise Island. At its peak, the village had 26 to 30 longhouses. In the late 1800s, more than 50 pieces of monumental sculpture were recorded at K'uuna Llnagaay. Today, a few carved memorial and mortuary poles remain standing and the depressions of several long-houses give a sense of scale.

VISITING HAIDA GWAII WATCHMEN SITES

HOW TO VISIT WATCHMEN SITES

The Watchmen's ability to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the sites depends on the cooperation of visitors. You can help by observing the following:

- Radio ahead on Marine VHF Channel 6 and ask permission to come ashore.
- Only 12 people at a time are allowed within sight or sound of other groups.
- Access to the sites is on a first come, first served basis.
- Stay on the trails - cultural remains such as poles and longhouses are in fragile condition and can be easily damaged.
- All visits should end by 6 pm. The Watchmen are on call seven days a week and need time to themselves.
- Camping is not allowed at any of the Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites except at Hlk'yah Gawga (Windy Bay).
- Mooring is permitted only during daylight hours.
- Cannabis and alcohol are not permitted at Watchmen sites.
- With the exception of service animals, pets are not permitted at Watchmen sites.



Traditional harvesting by Haida in both marine and terrestrial areas continue in Gwaii Haanas as part of living Haida history. Traditional harvesting is one example of the Gwaii Haanas guiding principle of Giving and Receiving in action.



© Tyson Brown

Isda ad dii gii isda—Giving and Receiving
Ts'uu - Cedar Tree

CHARTS AND TIDE TABLES

NAVIGATION ESSENTIALS

Before you visit Gwaii Haanas, ensure that you have accurate nautical charts and tide tables for areas you plan to visit. Carry charts and tide tables with you and ensure you know how to read and understand them.

Charts:

Charts at the largest scale are indispensable in this area. The charts below cover the most frequently travelled parts of Gwaii Haanas (east coast and south end). For a complete list of charts for Haida Gwaii and where to buy them, check charts.gc.ca

The Sailing Directions booklets are indispensable companions to nautical charts. Published Sailing Directions provide information that cannot be shown on a chart to assist with planning and navigation. charts.gc.ca/publications/sailingdirections-instructions-nautiques-eng.html



Tide Tables

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

Find tide tables here: tides.gc.ca

Or print:

https://www.charts.gc.ca/documents/publications/tables/TCWL_2021_Volume7.pdf



TIDES

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.

Extreme Tides

Tides in Gwaii Haanas can vary up to 7.5 m or 24 ft. The big tides have significant implications for safety and navigation.

- Look out for uncharted rocks in the near shore waters that can be prominent at low tide but completely hidden under the water's surface at higher tides.
- Look out for "dead heads"; logs floating just under the surface of the water. Big tides can pull driftwood off the beaches.

**GAM NANG GII
TL'A CHIIXWAYW
GID GANG**
-THE TIDE WAITS FOR NO ONE

- Step carefully getting out of boats. Intertidal areas, especially seaweed-covered rocky shorelines, can be very slippery.
- Keep an eye on the waterline; water levels can change quickly.
- **Be prepared to live by the rhythm of the tides!**

CHARTS AND TIDE TABLES NAVIGATION ESSENTIALS

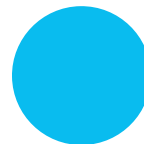
TIDES

Tidal Currents

- Tides rushing through narrow inlets and channels increase in speed and some areas can have significant tidal currents.
- Some tidal currents are marked on the marine charts. A feathered arrow marks a rising tide and a featherless arrow marks an ebb tide.
- Houston Stewart Channel can have currents of up to five knots. This channel can be an area of ‘confused water’ as there are influences from both the open Pacific and the Hecate Strait. Tides tend not to rise and fall gently here!
- Louise Narrows and Burnaby Narrows also experience significant tidal currents. Kayakers should plan to paddle through with the tide.
- Kayakers should avoid strong currents and areas where the chart depicts rapids or whirlpools. If these areas cannot be avoided, try to pass through at slack tide. **Published Sailing Directions**, local knowledge, and your own experience will be your best guides to help estimate the time of slack tide.

- Be aware that hazardous steep standing waves can occur when wind and tide are running in opposite directions. It is important to show Yahguudang (respect) for the power of the ocean and for the weather.
- If you have doubts about your ability to handle tidal currents, we recommend that you choose a guided tour with a licensed operator.

Explore the intertidal at low tide! Float over these sensitive habitats. Burnaby Narrows, Murchison Narrows and many shorelines offer amazing low tide discoveries.



Burnaby Narrows

- Burnaby Narrows is a narrow, rocky, shallow channel that is difficult to navigate.
- Larger boats should take the outside passage around Burnaby Island.
- Channel markers here are not official Coast Guard markers and are considered “use at own risk”.
- Kayakers who have more maneuverability should yield to boaters in the narrows.



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**Gina k'aadang.nga gii uu tll
k'anguudang—
Seeking Wise Counsel
Kaagan Jaad - Mouse Woman**

NAVIGATION ESSENTIALS



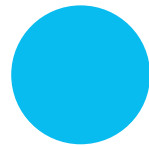
VHF MARINE RADIO - A MUST HAVE

WEATHER

All boats travelling in Gwaii Haanas should be equipped with a VHF radio.

You need a VHF radio to:

1. Call for emergency assistance from the Coast Guard (**Channel 16**).
 2. Request access to Haida Gwaii Watchmen village sites (Channel 6).
 3. Listen to weather forecasts.
- Each kayak group should have at least one VHF radio with two fully charged batteries.
 - To operate a VHF radio, you must have, at minimum, a Restricted Operator Certificate (Maritime). For certification courses and exams see: cps-ecp.ca



- **There is no cell service in Gwaii Haanas.** Consider carrying a satellite phone, a satellite communications device such as an InReach ® or SPOT ™ and/or Emergency Positions Indicating Beacons (EPIRBs) and/or Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) as additional communication devices.

Marine radios should all come preprogrammed with the Coast Guard **Channel 16** and local Channel 6. A non-marine VHF radio may not be preprogrammed with these frequencies.

- **The Coast Guard Channel 16 is 156.8000 MHz**
This is for both transmit and receive functions.
- **The Coast Guard 83A channel is 157.1750 MHz**
This channel is a channel the Coast Guard will ask you to switch to after you have made contact in a mayday call using Channel 16.

- **Channel 6 is 156.300MHz**
Channel 6 is used for local traffic. In Gwaii Haanas, you will use Channel 6 to radio the Watchmen.

Weather Station 1: 162.55 MHz,

Weather Station 2: 162.4 MHz,

Weather Station 3: 162.475 MHz,

Weather Station Rose Inlet: 161.65 MHz

Review to request emergency assistance in Gwaii Haanas.

pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas-emergency

Be prepared for any type of emergency. There is no guarantee of a quick rescue.

Weather

- Even on beautiful days remember that the weather can change quickly in Gwaii Haanas.
- Be aware of both the marine weather forecast and your own observations of the conditions.
- A small craft warning is always in effect for the north coast and is not issued on the weather forecast.
- Be prepared for cold and wet conditions any time of year. Hypothermia is a real threat. The west coast is wetter than the east coast.
- Summer fog is common on the west coast and in Houston Stewart Channel. Always take a compass bearing of your destination. Avoid paddling and boating in the fog.

GAAYSIIGANG

-A PERSON WHO SIZES UP THE WAVES SO THE BOAT CAN GET OUT

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKES OR TSUNAMIS

Earthquakes and tsunamis are unlikely but **serious hazards** during your visit to Gwaii Haanas. Haida Gwaii is the most earthquake-prone area in Canada. It is important to know what to do in case of an earthquake or tsunami, even if there is only a remote chance of experiencing one during your trip.

Before you go, know what to do:

When on land:

- If you feel the ground shaking:
 1. Move to open ground
 2. Drop and cover your head
 3. Wait for the shaking to stop
 4. Grab your survival bag
 5. Move to high ground (20 m above the high tide line)
- If you ever notice that the water is receding rapidly or if you hear a noise 'like a freight train approaching', move to high ground immediately.

When on water:

- Monitor **Channel 16** at all times. You are unlikely to notice an earthquake on the water. Your only warning may be the official Coast Guard tsunami warning on **Channel 16**.
- If you hear a tsunami warning for the Gwaii Haanas area, make land immediately, secure your vessel if possible, and get to high ground (20 m above the high tide line).

When waiting on high ground:

- Monitor **Channel 16** to hear if a tsunami warning has been issued.
- If a tsunami warning has been issued, stay on high ground until the warning has been rescinded.
- Use caution when you return to the water's edge.
- Be aware that in the case of a major earthquake or tsunami, you may be on your own for up to a week before evacuation is possible.
- If you have lost your vessel in the tsunami, stay put and listen for boat engines, float planes and helicopters. Manage your radio battery life and consider turning it on only when you hear an engine.

Remember:

- The likelihood, size and timing of a tsunami following an earthquake will depend on where the earthquake originates.
- The amount of advance warning you will have before a tsunami arrives could range from minutes to hours.
- The recommended safe water depth for vessels to ride out a tsunami safely is 400 metres (1,200 feet or 200 fathoms). In Gwaii Haanas you will only find this depth off the west coast. This course of action may be an option for large vessels in appropriate weather and tide conditions. It is not recommended for kayakers or small vessels.
- Think about access to high ground when choosing campsites. A good idea might be to make a habit of finding a food hanging tree on high ground.

Be prepared:

Pack a tsunami emergency kit that is ready to grab and go.

Your kit should include:

- Basic first aid kit
- Water and non-perishable food (three to seven-day supply)



- Flashlight
- Battery powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Medical supplies and medications
- Blankets/bedding (sleeping bag)
- Personal hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand wipes, toilet paper, sanitizer)
- Signaling device
- Tarp or tent
- Matches/fire starter
- Jacket/rain gear

TRAVELING RESPONSIBLY IN BEAR COUNTRY



Black bears (Taan in Haida) are important to Gwaii Haanas; they link the land and the sea. The Haida have always respected Taan. In Gwaii Haanas, bears are most often seen foraging in the intertidal zone. There are no Grizzly bears in Gwaii Haanas.

Bears that learn to associate humans with food lose their natural fear of people and become more aggressive when seeking human food. This can lead to potentially-deadly encounters. If a bear in Gwaii Haanas becomes habituated to people, the area will be closed—we will remove the people, not the bears.

As you plan your trip, prepare to act responsibly in bear country — for your safety, the safety of others, and the safety of the bears.

Stay safe in bear country:

- Do not approach or feed bears.
- Keep all day packs and food with you on shore excursions.
- Keep a clean campsite.
- [Hang all food, garbage, and toiletries.](#)
- Do not cache food at any locations or overnight in kayaks.
- Avoid camping near the mouths of salmon streams (mid-Aug – Nov).

What to do if you see a bear:

- Maintain a distance of 100 m or more.
- Monitor the bear's behaviour. Increase your distance from the bear if the bear changes his/her behaviour in your presence.
- Avoid sudden sounds or quick movements.

What to do if you encounter a bear:

- Stay calm.
- Make a wide detour or leave the area.
- Do not run. Back away slowly, and talk in a low calm voice.
- Do not drop objects, clothing or food to distract the bear.
- **Give bears more space if you notice aggressive behaviours, including:**
 - swinging its head from side to side;
 - making vocalizations such as huffs, snorts, whoops, or moans;
 - displaying teeth or claws;
 - jaw popping;
 - swatting at the ground;
 - staring with eye contact;
 - panting; or
 - laying his/her ears back.
- If the bear is coming towards your campsite, bang pots together or use an air horn to make a loud sound. If the bear does not leave the area and you are able to do so, pack up your gear and move out of the area.

If you cannot leave due to weather or darkness, contact Parks Canada Dispatch immediately or contact one of the Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites or the Canadian Coast Guard and ask them to relay a message to PC Dispatch on your behalf. Be prepared to provide a detailed description of your location, with GPS coordinates if possible.

Contact Parks Canada Dispatch
780-852-3100
Canadian Coast Guard on CH 16



© Tyson Brown

Gina 'waadluxan gud ad kwaagid
—Interconnectedness
Taan ad Chiina - Black Bear and Fish

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Watching whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions in their natural habitat is an amazing experience and a highlight for many visitors to Gwaii Haanas. However, spring and summer – our peak visitor seasons, are also critical times for many species to feed and rear young. Please give wildlife the space they need to feed, rest, and raise their young.

When watching whales and other marine mammals:

- Reduce your speed.
- Do not approach any marine mammal.
- Stay clear of the marine mammal's path.
- Stay at least 100 m from away from all marine mammals, except for killer whales, where minimum distance is 200 m.
- Stay on offshore side of marine mammals
- Near sea lion rookeries or haul-outs, closely monitor their behaviour for signs of disturbance and be prepared to stop or back away even before you are at the legally-required 100-metre distance.

• **Gwaii Haanas is a NO DRONE ZONE;** Bring binoculars and cameras with telephoto lenses instead.



- Ensure your boat is rodent free. Rats prey on seabird eggs and chicks.
- Avoid anchoring near seabird colonies since boat lights and rigging can be deadly to approaching seabirds.
- Do not approach nests, go ashore on seabird colonies, or disturb seabirds.

© Tyson Brown



Giid tljuus—Balance
Gaalguuhlkyan - Abalone

PROTECTING SENSITIVE SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS

You can help us protect seabirds, native forest plants, and underwater eelgrass meadows. Introduced invasive species including rats, raccoons, deer, and European green crabs are among the biggest threats to Gwaii Haanas plants, animals and ecosystems.

We all share responsibility for stopping the spread of invasive species to Gwaii Haanas!

Your responsibilities BEFORE coming to Gwaii Haanas and DURING your visit:

1. Inspect your boat and gear for signs of rats and invasive marine species often.
2. Clean your boat, gear and belongings
3. Rat-proof your vessel
4. Report marine invasive sightings



Gwaii Haanas is home to several globally significant populations of seabirds including ancient murrelets, rhinoceros auklets, tufted puffins and horned puffins. Introduced rats are aggressive predators of seabirds, land and shore birds, eggs and native small animals. Please help us keep rats from reaching islands that are seabird nesting colonies.



How to clean your boat, gear and equipment to prevent the spread of invasive marine species like tunicates or green crabs:

- Clean small vessels over a tarp on land once a season or every time you take it out of the water.
- Clean large vessels out of the water using a tidal grid if possible or in the water in areas known to be already infested.
- Clean gear with fresh water right after taking it out of the ocean or store in a sealed container to wash later.
- Remove anything suspicious from the hull, motor, gear and other places that sit in the water.
- Collect and dispose of anything cleaned off your boat on land not back into the ocean.
- Repaint your hull regularly, ideally once a year or whenever you haul out for maintenance or repair.
- Dry for 7 days to kill soft bodied animals and up to 21 days to kill hard-shelled animals.

INVASIVE SPECIES



- Decontaminate infested equipment using very hot water, diluted bleach or by freezing until solid.

Been caving?

Please decontaminate any gear before coming to Haida Gwaii and note that **all caves are closed** in Gwaii Haanas.

Learn more about bats and how to protect them here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wild-life/wildlife-health/wildlife-diseases/white-nose-syndrome>

RULES AND REGULATIONS



FISHING AND HARVESTING

- If you plan to fish in Gwaii Haanas, you will need to purchase and carry a valid tidal waters [fishing license](#).
- Fish only in light blue “multiple use zones” of the marine waters.
- Follow the fishing guidelines for the area

In Gwaii Haanas, there is NO:

- Freshwater fishing.
- Harvest of bivalve shellfish (clams, scallops, cockles) due to the risk of shellfish poisoning.
- Harvest or possession of abalone. Northern Abalone are endangered and it is illegal to harvest them.
- Harvesting on land (plants, berries, flowers etc.)



Safety alert: Fishing-related puncture wounds from rockfish or urchin spines, which can easily become infected, are one of the most common injuries in Gwaii Haanas. **Make sure to have first aid training and skills!**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

While on land in Gwaii Haanas, the following activities are prohibited, except for traditional Haida use:

- Possessing, disturbing, or removing flora, fauna, and natural objects.
- Hunting or trapping.
- Freshwater fishing.
- Possessing a firearm.
- Entering caves.
- Depositing garbage or other refuse.
- Damaging, removing or destroying cultural artifacts.
- Flying drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV).
- Burning open fires and collecting firewood above the ordinary high water mark.
- Use of “bear bangers”.
- Helicopter and fixed wing aircraft landings, except for management or emergency purposes.



© Tyson Brown

'Laa guu ga **kanhInns**—Responsibility
Sgin Xaana - Ancient Murrelet

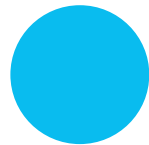
ARE YOU READY

TO BOOK YOUR SELF-GUIDED ADVENTURE?

RESERVATIONS ORIENTATIONS AND PERMITS

Do you have:

- Your planned entry and exit dates?
 - *You do not need to book campsites or anchorages.*
 - *Remember to build a few weather days into your travel plans.*
- The names and age categories (Senior 65+, Adult-18-64, Youth - 17 and under) of all members of your group?
- Your vessel registration number and country of registry?



To make a reservation for your group, call the Gwaii Haanas office: **1-877-559-8818** (8:30-16:30 Pacific Time Monday to Friday)

After you have booked:

- Reread this **Before You Go Guide**.
- Make all necessary preparations.
- Complete the **Before you Go Checklist** (page 20).

- Participate in a visitor orientation, details will be provided when you make your reservation.
- Receive your trip permit before heading into Gwaii Haanas.
- Contact our office as soon as possible if weather or mechanical issues change your entry date.

All visitors to Gwaii Haanas are required to have a valid permit at all times while visiting.

Entry and service fees pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/bc/gwaiihaanas/visit/tarifs-fees are charged at most national parks and national historic sites, where revenues are kept to 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.

BEFORE YOU GO



USE THIS HANDY CHECKLIST

Before you go Checklist:

- I am experienced in coastal navigation.
- I have strong boating skills.
- I have built extra weather days into my travel plans.
- I have reserved my Gwaii Haanas trip.
- I have attended a Gwaii Haanas orientation and received my trip permit.

- I have relevant marine charts and tide tables.
- I have a VHF radio.
- I have a backup communications device (EPIRB, PLB, sat phone, InReach, SPOT).
- I have studied or am familiar with the waters and areas in which I plan to travel.

- I know what to do in case of earthquake or tsunami and have packed a tsunami emergency bag.
- I have rat-proofed my vessel.
- I have cleaned my boat and gear to remove marine invasive species.
- I have a fishing license and fishing guidelines for the area. *optional*

- I have reviewed the closure map and I understand my responsibilities for respecting closures and zoning regulations in Gwaii Haanas.
- I have medical insurance to cover air ambulance costs.
- I have sufficient fuel and supplies for my trip.
- I have left a trip plan with a trusted friend or family member.

SEE YOU SOON

WE LOOK FORWARD

TO WELCOMING YOU TO **GWAII HAANAS**

Phone: 1-877-559-8818 or 250-559-8818

Emergency: 780-852-3100

Email: pc.gwaiihaanas.pc@canada.ca

Web: pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas

facebook.com/gwaiihaanas

Appendix

Kayak Packing List / 22

Nautical Miles Chart / 23

Visitor Map / 24

Photo credits:

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and Rogier Gruys.*

KAYAK PACKING CHECKLIST

USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND LISTS TO GUIDE YOU IN YOUR KAYAK TRIP PACKING

1. Do you know how to deal with emergencies?

Communications.

VHF radio, Satellite communications device (e.g., InReach® or SPOT™ Device or Satellite phone) and know how to use it. Extra batteries for each. Distress flares: Twin Star, Parachute or handheld carried by one member of group. Each member of group min. 3 pocket flares.

Boat Gear:

Personal Flotation Device (PFD), self rescue aids, paddle and spare paddle, Min. 15 m buoyant float rope, sound signalling device, strobe light, flotation bags or bulkheads, spray skirt, bailer, sponge, hatch covers and lids.

Repair Kit.

Include duct tape, stainless steel cable, nuts and bolts for rudder, scissors, silicon sealant, Rip-stop nylon repair kit, multihead screwdriver and adjustable wrench, fiberglass resin and cloth, sandpaper, stove repair kit.

First Aid kit.

Include disinfectant, multiple bandages (strips, steri-strip, butterfly, triangular, tensor), multiple dressings (sterile, burn, drainage, pressure), pain reliever, antihistamine, motion sickness remedy, antacids, personal medications, electrolyte replacement, tweezers, needle, razor blade, scissors, reflective “space” blanket.

Grab and Go bag/survival bag/Tsunami emergency bag

Headlamps, flashlights and candle. With fresh batteries plus an extra set of batteries.

Copy of Trip Plan and contact info.

Gwaii Haanas Visitor Guide.

2. Do you understand and know how to deal with hazards?

Skills. Be aware of your group’s skills; do not attempt anything beyond your skills.

Hazards. Know and understand the hazards on your trip.

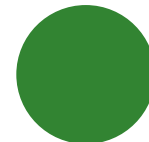
Navigation Essentials. Marine charts and waterproof case, tide tables, watch, compass, binoculars, waterproof notebook and pencil, GPS, navigation lights.

Camp gear for variable weather and remote camping. Tent, tarp, sleeping bag, stuff sacks, camp stove, camping fuel and funnel, rope for hanging food (15 m min), camp saw, fresh water containers, water filtration device, biodegradable soap, knife, waterproof matches and fire starter, bag with borax/bleach for toilet paper if there is a fire ban.

High energy food. Plan for extra days and cool, wet, weather.

Accessible Personal Gear: Day pack, water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, sunglasses with buoyant band, towel, energy bars, toilet paper, toiletries/medications.

Transport Canada minimum safety equipment list for small vessels:



tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/mandatory-safety-equipment

3. Can you be comfortable?

Clothing. Plan to dress in layers. Consider fabrics that keep you warm while wicking moisture away from your body that dry relatively quickly. Include at minimum: warm hat and sun hat, rain gear, paddling gloves or pogies, camp mitts (waterproof outer layer warm liners), camp shoes and paddling shoes, quick dry shirts and pants or shorts, warm sweater/jacket.

NAUTICAL MILES DISTANCES **BOAT TRAVEL**

	Sandspit	Moresby Camp	K'uuna Llnagaay Skedans	T'aanuu Llnagaay Tanu	Hlk'yah Gawga Windy Bay	Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay Hot Springs	Shuttle Island	Huxley Camp	K'iid Xyangs K'iidaay Burnaby Narrows	Jedway Bay	Benjamin Point	Ellen Island	Seang Gwaay Anthony Island	Crescent Inlet
Sandspit	X	36	24	35	41	48	45	57	61	66	74	95	101	39
Moresby Camp	36	X	17	26	32	40	34	49	53	59	65	71	77	33
K'uuna Llnagaay Skedans	24	17	X	11	17	24	21	33	37	42	50	56	62	21
T'aanuu Llnagaay Tanu	35	26	11	X	9	16	9	25	29	34	42	48	54	11
Hlk'yah Gawga Windy Bay	41	32	17	9	X	7	17	16	20	25	29	34	42	48
Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay Hot Springs	48	40	24	16	7	X	14	9	13	18	31	37	43	22
Shuttle Island	45	34	21	9	17	14	X	19	23	28	41	47	53	8
Huxley Camp	57	49	33	25	16	9	19	X	4	9	22	28	34	26
K'iid Xyangs K'iidaay Burnaby Narrows	61	53	37	29	20	13	23	4	X	5	19	24	30	30
Jedway Bay	66	59	42	34	25	18	9	9	5	X	13	19	25	37
Benjamin Point	74	65	50	42	33	31	41	22	19	13	X	6	12	51
Ellen Island	95	71	56	48	39	37	47	28	24	19	6	X	6	56
Seang Gwaay Anthony Island	101	77	62	54	45	43	53	34	30	25	12	6	X	62
Crescent Inlet	39	35	21	11	26	22	8	26	30	37	51	56	62	X

APPENDIX



- Gwaii Haanas Boundary
- Marine Zoning**
 - No Access
 - No Harvest
 - Multiple Use
- Terrestrial Zoning**
 - No Access
 - No Camping
 - Open Access (camping allowed)
- Logistics Sites**
 - Watchmen Site
 - Operation Station
 - UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - Helipad
 - Mooring Buoy
 - Water Hose
- Weather Stations**
 - Weather Reporting Station
 - Weather Transmitter
 - Cumshewa Island: WX3 162.475 MHz
 - Barry Inlet: WX2 162.4 MHz
 - Rose Inlet: WX21B 161.650 MHz
 - South Moresby
 - South Moresby (46208): 52°34.217'N, 131°48.911'W
 - South Hecate Strait (46185): 52°25.211'N, 129°47.408'W
 - West Moresby (46208): 52°31.202'N, 132°41.399'W



ABBREVIATIONS
 G^W = Gwaay - I. = Island
 L = Llnagaay - Town



Basemap: NavES-EG Alpen (1:400,000). Coordinates: WGS 84.

This map is not intended for navigation.