

## ENJOY AND EXPLORE



Scattered throughout Barkley Sound, these islands are a stunning archipelago of protected bays, shell beaches, densely forested islands, windswept islets, and intermittently exposed and submerged rocks and reefs that create a maze of channels and waterways. As part of Parks Canada's system of protected spaces, the Broken Group Islands represent both the near-shore waters and the coastal lowland forests of Canada's Pacific coast.

These islands host thousands of visitors annually. Your respectful behaviour not only leads to a safe and rewarding experience, but also contributes to healthy waterways and islands for future generations to enjoy and explore.

## CAMPING

Camping is only permitted within designated camping areas, which are found on: Hand, Turret, Gibraltar, Willis, Dodd, Clarke and Gilbert Islands (see map on inside).



- Maximum stay is 14 nights. No more than 4 nights at any one camping area.
  - Maximum group size is 10.
  - Neither private nor guided groups may reserve campsites.
  - Camping fees are in effect May to September.
- Low Impact**
- Pack out all garbage, feminine hygiene products, and food scraps. Toilets are for bodily waste only.
  - Use a camp stove rather than a fire. If you need a fire keep it small, below the high tide line, using only driftwood and burn it to ash. Do not leave a fire unattended.
  - Use biodegradable soap after privy use.
  - Use ropes, never nails, when using trees to support tarps, and structures before leaving.
  - Remove all ropes, and disassemble primitive furniture.
  - Locate cooking areas away from tents.
  - Quiet hours: 11PM to 7AM. No generators or stereos.

## LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

### BOATER'S BRIEFING

All vessels are required to carry safety equipment in accordance with Transport Canada Vessel Regulations.

#### Safety at Anchor

- Predominantly sandy bottom. Brisk westerly winds prevail.
- Use your anchor light at night.

#### Safety While Travelling

- 5,000 kayakers paddle here each summer. Kayakers are not visible on radar. Be alert!
- Reduce speed when in narrow passages, near paddlers or if vessels are anchored.

#### Low Impact at Anchor

- Keep bilges clean; don't pump oily water overboard.
- Use bilge sorbents in place of detergents.
- Store grey-water and human waste; no dumping or pumping.
- Use environmentally safe cleaners like baking soda, vinegar, olive oil or hydrogen peroxide.
- Carefully manage fuel; even small spills are toxic to marine life.
- Avoid use of generators, compressors and sound systems.

#### Low Impact Travelling

- No dumping only pumping. Don't litter.
- Reduce your vessel speed and wake in respect for wildlife, shorelines and other users.

A few things you should know...

- The islands contain many sites of spiritual and cultural significance for the Toquaht, Tseshaht and Hupachesaht First Nations. Disturbing, destroying or removing natural and cultural artifacts such as shells, plants and bones is strictly prohibited.
  - Entering sea or land caves and the collection of natural and cultural heritage objects requires prior written permission from Parks Canada.
  - To visit the Tseshaht First Nation reserves on Nettle and Effingham Islands, you are required to have a valid letter of permission from the nation.
- \*\*\*\*\*
- Domestic animals are not permitted ashore in the Broken Group Islands; exercise pets outside the park boundary.
  - Bring all drinking water with you. Surface water is subject to coliform contamination.

### Wildlife Encounters on Land

- Discourage deer, raccoons, wolves and crows from approaching; loss of wariness can be dangerous for all.
- Securely store wildlife attractants when not in use: food, toothpaste, soap, toiletries, dish rags, cooking equipment, and garbage.
- Keep children close; you may want to pick up small children during an encounter.
- Face the animal, retreat slowly; give them an avenue of escape.
- Do not run or play dead.
- If the animal does not leave, or if it approaches, try to scare it away by appearing big and aggressive: shout, wave a stick or throw rocks.
- In the unlikely event of an attack, fight back; target eyes and nose.



Report any dangerous wildlife encounters.

### Wildlife Encounters on the Water

- Good quality habitat is limited; disturbances will halt feeding, resting, courting, travelling and tending young.
  - Use binoculars.
  - Limit your viewing time.
- Give Them Space**
- Black bears, wolves and cougars are in the Broken Group Islands as well as crows, deer, rodents, raccoons, seals, sea lions, whales and more. Viewing wildlife is exciting, but remember you have responsibilities:
  - Approach at a slow constant speed, from the back or side of the animals' direction of travel.
  - Parks Canada's marine mammal viewing guidelines require boaters to **keep a minimum of 100 metres from marine mammals.**
  - If you find yourself inadvertently close, continue your course slowly, or stop and wait for the animals to move away.
  - Back away at the first sign of disturbance:
  - ~ birds will flap wings, swim away, dive or take flight;
  - ~ seals and sea lions will raise their heads, dive, vocalize and either flee or challenge you.
- Feeding, enticing, approaching or harassing wildlife is illegal.**

### IN AN EMERGENCY CONTACT:

- Call 911
- PARKS CANADA DISPATCH – call 1-877-852-3100
- COAST GUARD – Marine VHF Radio – Channel 16
- RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE – call 1-800-567-5111 cell \*311

Contact Parks Canada for more information or to share comments, concerns or suggestions:

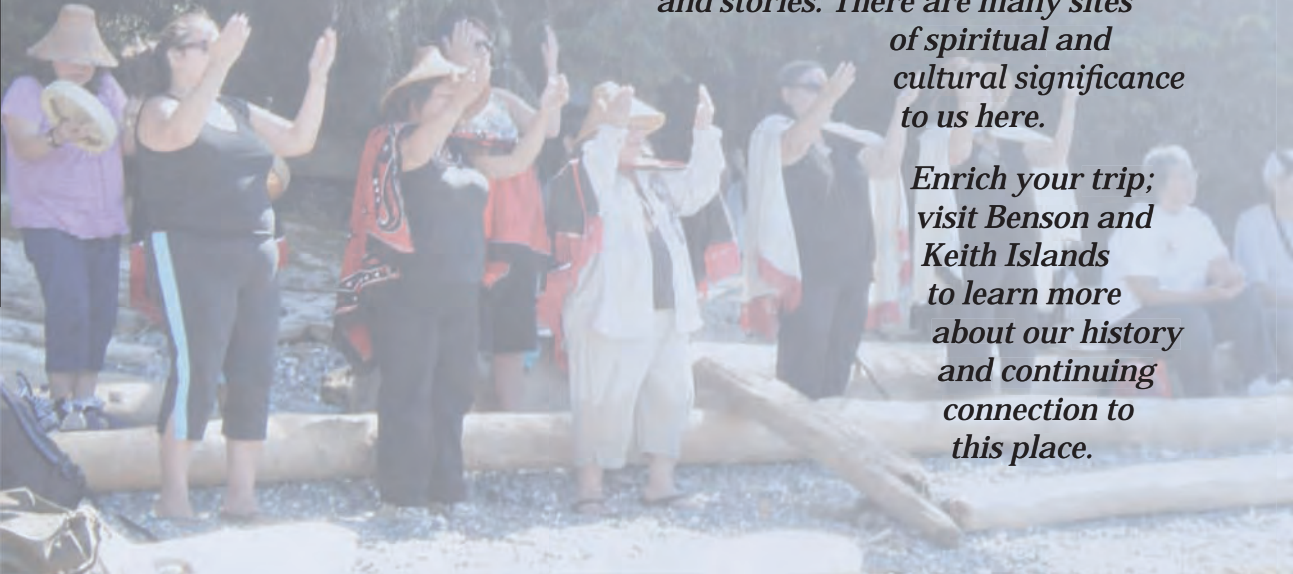
250-726-3500  
or  
pacrim.info@pc.gc.ca

# TSESHAHT FIRST NATION



*We, the Tseshaht First Nation, whose traditional territory centres around the Broken Group Islands, welcome you to respectfully explore our territory.*

*At the core of Tseshaht is our chronicle of creation, our spiritual origin. We were created at Ts'ishaa, an ancient village site on Benson Island. Nas, our creator, gave our first ancestors (Tseshaht man and woman) the highest spiritual responsibility and stewardship of this area. Today, we still work with pride as a community to preserve our traditional values and teachings of land, water, and stories. There are many sites of spiritual and cultural significance to us here.*



*Enrich your trip; visit Benson and Keith Islands to learn more about our history and continuing connection to this place.*

## The Broken Group Islands are always beautiful but not always tranquil...

### Prepare

- Assess your group's skills, in relation to the environmental hazards; weigh the risk wisely.
- Listen to the marine weather and sea state forecasts on the marine VHF radio weather channel.
- Study tide tables and charts; plan a sheltered travel route.
- Wear safety gear and dress for warmth and changeable weather.
- Even on a day trip, pack for an emergency overnight stay. Carry water and a phone/VHF radio, flares and a flashlight.
- Islands are deceptively difficult to hike around due to cliffs, surge channels, impassable undergrowth, and rising tides.

### Ocean Conditions

- The average water temperature is 8 degrees Celsius! Submersion can quickly result in hypothermia.
- Reefs, shallows and floating logs abound; always read the chart and the water.
- Ocean swell can make travel and landings difficult. The exposed southern shores of Benson, Bately, Wouwer and Howell Islands, and open waters of Imperial Eagle and Loudoun Channels can be challenging in big swell.

### Weather

- Warm summer days often produce thick fog, reducing visibility to metres; watch the horizon & note your chart position frequently.
- If lost, beach on a safe shore and wait for the fog to clear.
- Keep the group together in open water; paddlers do not appear on radar.
- Southeast winds bring storms with heavy rainfall even in summer.
- Strong northwest winds often peak in the afternoon in good weather.
- Plan channel crossings (e.g. Coaster, Sechart, Peacock, Imperial Eagle and Loudoun) for early morning, before the winds pick up.



**When in doubt, don't go out!**



**Legend**

- Park Boundary
- Rock Fish Conservation Area
- Indian Reserve
- Designated Camping Area



**A few things you should know...**

- Fishing and harvesting requires a Tidal Water's Sport Fishing Licence. A voluntary 'No Angling, No Harvesting Policy' is in effect. A large portion of the Broken Group Islands is a Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA); fishing is not permitted in the RCA.
- Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) makes shellfish toxic to humans; eating PSP contaminated shellfish may result in illness or death. Consult notices or call the PSP Hotline: 604-666-2828 for Area 23 sub 8 warnings and closures.