Walking tour of QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Legend
1. Spirit Square
2. Charlotte Wharf
3. Queen Charlotte Hospital
4. Sleeping Beauty Trail

Suggested Walking Tour Route

Please use care and safety driving on active logging roads - be cautious, use 4x4, turn on your lights and always pull over to let logging trucks pass.
The Village of Queen Charlotte is the Island’s newest municipality incorporating in November 2005. Queen Charlotte has many governmental departments including the Ministry of Forests and Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The community is beautifully situated between the narrow Skidegate Inlet and the peaks of the Queen Charlotte Mountain range to the northwest. In late summer, the alpine meadows around the community are dotted with one of the many unique species of plants found on the Islands, the “Newcombe’s Daisy.” Gray Whale watching is outstanding in the area from the shore, during April and early May. Queen Charlotte has all needed amenities for the traveler including a wide variety of accommodation, restaurants and a beautiful and informative information centre.

1 Spirit Square
Officially opened on September 10, 2011, Spirit Square is meant to be a gathering place for the community, where concerts, events and festivities will take place. Located on the east side of Beatle Point, this beautiful structure will be a focal point of the upcoming Sea Walk.

2 Charlotte Wharf
Regarding the QC Small Craft Harbour, the number is 559-4650 (rarely answer!), provides moorage, water, power, fuel, garbage

3 Queen Charlotte Hospital
The first hospital, an 11 bed facility, was built in 1908 of lumber donated by the North American Timber Holding Company, on land which had been cleared by men from Skidegate Mission. The hospital was operated by the community, and a succession of doctors and nurses served the people. Many times the doctor and his wife carried on almost alone; sometimes one nurse worked all by herself. In 1946 the community found itself in difficulty concerning finances, and it was at that time United Church of Canada was asked to assume the responsibility of the administration. In 1948, the hospital was declared inadequate, and in 1952 it was condemned as being unsafe for a hospital. The present hospital, a 21 bed facility, was opened on November 15, 1955 - making it one of the oldest hospital building still in use in BC! The provincial government has promised the community a replacement hospital structure for more than 20 years, and one day this will happen.

One of the oldest and most popular island events is “Hospital Day” held in June - a fund-raising drive for the hospital which enables it to buy life saving equipment and fund health programs in the community.

4 Sleeping Beauty Trail
Sleeping Beauty Trail winds its way up Mt. Genevieve (729 m) - most locals call Mt. Genevieve “Sleeping Beauty” due to the mountain’s profile. This trail is for experienced, fit hikers and it offers lots of challenges and gorgeous views. The trail system is located west of Queen Charlotte City approximately 11 km from the end of the paved Oceanview Drive (which becomes the gravel Honna River Service road). There are a few signs for the trail head along the way. At the trail head, there is a map outlining all the connector trails within the region. As with many wilderness trails on Haida Gwaii, there is little maintenance and clearing, so hikers must be properly outfitted and prepared for emergencies. The main vertical trail crosses bridges, tree roots, climbs stump steps, ladders, ropes and slogs through mud much of the way. All this vertical work will reward you with amazing summit views. Please keep in mind the trail can be wet and fog is known to hang around the area, especially in the morning. The trail up to the summit takes 1.5 to 2 hours approximately - the descent takes around 45 minutes. The steep decline is dangerous and can be very slippery! Please use caution - there are points when descending backwards down the steep trail is a safer option. There are plenty of stumps on the route to sit and rest on during the hike, so take your time. Please note the portions of the trail cross avalanche terrain; please check with the QC Visitor Information Centre for up to date conditions.

Sources:
queencharlotte.ca,
gohaidgwaii.ca,
Kathleen Dalzell,
hospitaIday.ca