Walking tour of Masset

Legend:
1. Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary
2. The Nature Centre at Delkatla
3. Seaplane Spit
4. Masset Bridge
5. St. Paul’s Church/Parish Hall
6. Government Dock
7. Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum

Suggested Walking Tour Route:
- To Old Masset (1 km)
- To Tow Hill Community Hidden Island Resort
- Masset Airport
- Masset Cemetery
- Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital and Health Centre
- Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary
- The Nature Centre at Delkatla
- Seaplane Spit
- Masset Bridge
- St. Paul’s Church/Parish Hall
- Government Dock
- Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum

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Northern Haida Gwaii

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Northern British Columbia
**Dekatla Wildlife Sanctuary**

Dekatla Wildlife Sanctuary was deeded to the Village of Masset to be used as a wildlife sanctuary back in the early 70's and is owned and maintained by the municipality. It has three readily accessible viewing towers, a loop walk which goes along Tow Hill Road, down Cemetery Road and back to town - across the Stepping Stones Trail (Dike Road). Sandhill Cranes are seen there in summer and many migrant birds spend the winter there. Off Cemetery Road follow the Simpson Trail, which leads to the Simpson Tower. At the end of the road lies Masset Cemetery, one of the most peaceful cemeteries in the world, with moss-covered trees and a new Lych-gate entrance. Watch the birds of Dekatla from inside the building on a rainy day or purchase cards, t-shirts and books there during your trip to Masset.

**The Nature Centre at Dekatla**

The Nature Centre at Dekatla is owned and operated by volunteers of Dekatla Sanctuary Society, a non-profit Society and Registered Charity. It opened in September 2002. A wheelchair accessible viewing tower is right beside the building and the Centre showcases the natural history of the islands with many bird and plant displays. It hosts a number of art shows and has the islands' only diorama. Watch the birds of Dekatla from inside the building on a rainy day or purchase cards, t-shirts and books there during your trip to Masset.

**Seaplane Spit**

Constructed when Masset Harbour was first dredged in the 1960's. Currently, seaplanes from Prince Rupert land there. On the east side is the parking lot for the Masset Marina, built in 2005, and the west side has a narrow path given to the town for a park and a small picnic site by the Provincial government.

**Masset Bridge**

The causeway was originally built in 1964 when the Department of National Defence expanded its living quarters within the Village. As a result, tidal flooding to the Dekatla Sanctuary was blocked. After 30 years, active supporters of the Sanctuary raised $1 million to build a small, 100 ft. bridge. The new bridge was completed in February 1994 and, after a 30 year impoundment, tidal waters returned into Dekatla again.

**St. Paul Church/Parish Hall**

St. Paul’s Anglican Church held its first Service in 1909 and the church was built in 1912, is one of the oldest buildings on island. It was built by volunteers and regular services are still held there. St. Paul’s Parish Hall, next door, or “the Green Church” was built by the military on October 15, 1978 and used as an inter-denominational church until it was de-consecrated on November 17, 1996. The building, built on Church land, was given to St. Paul’s for use as a Parish Hall. It now contains St. Paul’s Thrift Ship which is open on Thursdays from 3-6 PM and Saturdays from 10-1 PM. Pick up some wonderful bargains, meet the local people and enjoy a cup of coffee at the “Thrift” while in Masset.

**Government Dock**

The Government Dock, once used by the “Northland Prince”- which plied the route between Prince Rupert and Haida Gwaii - delivering groceries, hardware and other necessities to the islands before BC Ferries began the run to Skidegate. The Dock burned down in the early 1980’s but was rebuilt almost immediately and is now used as a tie-up for large boats and as a fuel distribution station for diesel and home heating fuel. A good place to watch Masset Inlet, swift tides and abundant sea life, including seals and birds.

**Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum**

Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum is housed a historical building that overlooks Masset Inlet. Built in 1914 and operated as the Masset Red Cross Hospital, it is now owned by Village of Masset and operated by the Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum Society as non-profit Society and Registered Charity. The Museum opened to the public in 2001. The focus of the museum is on Masset’s maritime and settlement history, featuring exhibits of Masset and Old Massett’s fishing fleets and shipbuilders, as well as the numerous clam and crab canneries. The museum captures the history of the thriving north-end communities in a time of abundance and hardship. The museum displays include photographs and documentation from the turn of the century featuring medical pioneers, Union Steamships as the mode of transportation, pioneer life and military history. The Museum also hosts art shows, sells artwork and cards.