

# Haida Gwaii

## Tourism Advisory Committee

**Story Idea:** Hiking the East Beach in Naikoon Park on Graham Island

**Summary:** The rugged landscape of Haida Gwaii means that hiking trails are mostly short and steep. However, there are some options for multi-day hiking and the hike up along the east coast of Graham Island is a great route for those seeking a longer adventure.

### Facts:

- The “trail” is mostly a beach walk, so there is no firmly defined trail, but the route is easy to follow. It takes about 5 days to do the entire route at an average pace.
- The route is in Naikoon Provincial Park which is a wilderness area and is a demanding hike. It is rare to see other people on this hike except near the ends.  
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/naikoon/hiking.html>
- The first section of the hike on the Tlell end is the trail to the shipwreck of the *Pesuta*, a log-barge that ran aground in 1928.
- The East Beach area is severely affected by erosion. The sandy cliffs at Cape Ball are constantly losing ground to the high tides.
- On some parts of East Beach, patches of black sand stand out from the rest of the yellow-gray beach. These black sands are known among locals to contain trace amounts of gold but no-one has yet found an effective way of extracting it.
- Sometimes hikers see small, shaggy feral cattle locally called “hippy cows” which are descendents of cows let loose by early settlers. These are becoming rarer in recent years. There is also a herd of free range beef cattle near Masset.
- At the north end of the trail, you can cut through the woods on the Cape Fife trail or continue all the way around Rose Spit- an ecological reserve. Cape Fife trail (10km one way) is an old settler's road and if you look carefully, you can see remains of a few old cabins.



### Suggested Itinerary:

Hike the East Beach trail from Tlell to Tow Hill (22km from Masset). For a shorter hike, go from Tlell to the *Pesuta* shipwreck or try the Cape Fife trail.

### More Information:

The Visitor Centre in Queen Charlotte [www.qcinfo.ca/](http://www.qcinfo.ca/) can help you find maps and descriptions of the trail. Also, a trail map can be found at [www.gohaidagwaii.ca/what-to-do/hiking-beachcombing/](http://www.gohaidagwaii.ca/what-to-do/hiking-beachcombing/)

Contact the local BC Parks office at (250)557-4390