Story Idea: Kayaking

Summary: Haida Gwaii is an exceptional destination for sea kayaking. Experienced kayakers often plan multi-day expeditions into Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site but even a beginner can find day trips in protected waters.

Facts:
- Many local people own kayaks and enjoy getting out on the water. The protected waters of Masset Inlet (near Port Clements and Masset) and Skidegate Inlet (near Queen Charlotte, Skidegate and Sandspit) are popular destinations for day trips. Good kayaking areas are easily accessible from all the communities on the islands.
- The west coast of the islands is extremely rugged and only suited to very experienced kayakers, while the east coast is somewhat more protected. Strong winds are possible at any time of year.
- About 25 companies offer guided kayak tours in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve which is the main destination for visiting paddlers. Only a handful of companies offer day trips and rentals on the rest of the islands.
- You can bring your own kayak to the islands even without a vehicle by walking it on to BC Ferries.
- You can rent high quality kayaks on the islands and buy basic camping gear and supplies.
- Some of the major kayak expeditions that local paddlers have participated in include trips down the rugged west coast of Moresby Island and even trips across the wild Hecate Strait.
- Oregon State kayaker Eli Andersen circumnavigated Graham Island on his homemade kayak in July 2010.

Suggested Itinerary:
Interview local kayakers about expeditions they have participated in. For example, talk to Joanne Hager about her 2009 trip across Hecate Strait to Prince Rupert, which took two full days of paddling.

If you want the full kayaking experience consider a multi-day expedition in Gwaii Haanas with a guided tour. For a quicker taste of kayaking, join a day trip from Queen Charlotte or Masset. If you have your own kayak, explore a variety of remote but road-accessible locations, such as Rennel Sound on the west coast, or Masset Inlet near Port Clements.