Story Idea: Naikoon Provincial Park

Summary: Naikoon Provincial Park encompasses a large area on the north east side of Graham Island. This beautiful park showcases the long sand beaches of North Beach and East Beach and is a great area to hike, camp and beachcomb.

Facts:
- Naikoon gets its name from the Haida name for Rose Spit (“Naikun”) which is the long sandy spit at the northeast corner of Graham Island.
- The park covers 69,166 hectares and includes almost 100 km of beach. North Beach stretches from Tow Hill (outside of Masset) to Rose Spit. East Beach stretches from Rose Spit to the Tlell River at the southern end of the park.
- Most of the park is low-lying and swampy. The highest point of elevation in Naikoon is Argonaut Hill at 150 m above sea level.
- The park includes two campgrounds: Agate Beach near Tow Hill at the north end, and Misty Meadows at the south end. www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/naikoon/.
- Most of Naikoon is a wilderness area with very little in the way of facilities for visitors once you get beyond the established campgrounds.
- There are several hiking trails in the area. The short but steep walk up Tow Hill leads to viewing platforms that give an excellent panorama of the park. A much longer hike (a full day or overnight) cuts across the northern tip of the park from the Tow Hill parking area to Cape Fife on the East Beach. This trail was once a road used by the first non-Haida homesteaders of the area just after the First World War. At the south end of the park, a trail/beachwalk leads to the wreck of the Pesuta, a log barge that ran aground in 1928.
- Another way to experience Naikoon is to visit Mayer Lake or Pure Lake, both accessible from the highway between Tlell and Masset. These scenic lakes are a great spot to kayak or canoe for a day.
- It is common to see ATVs, trucks and cars being driven along North Beach. The use of motorized vehicles is permitted in Naikoon Park, but only on the shoreline. Vehicles often get stuck in the sand, and are occasionally swallowed by the rising tide before they can be pulled out. TLC Automotive Services in Masset keeps a photo log of swamped vehicles which they are happy to show to visitors (250)626-3756.
- North and East Beaches are both great for beachcombing. You can find semi-precious agates, fist-sized moonsnail shells, and endless kelp and driftwood.

Suggested Itinerary:
Naikoon Park can be accessed either from Tlell or Masset. Spend a night at one of the park's peaceful campgrounds, or for a more adventurous experience, hike out to Cape Fife and spend the night at the rustic cabin in the dunes at the end of the trail.

More Information:
Any media inquiries for Naikoon (or other protected areas) should be directed to the Council of the Haida Nation (www.haidanation.ca) and the BC Parks office at (250)557-4390.