Story Idea: Cycling

Summary: Most of the roads on Haida Gwaii are flat and traffic-free, which makes for great cycling. There are also endless opportunities for mountain biking on the islands' many gravel logging roads.

Facts:
- There are around 150 km of paved road on the islands. Highway 16 from the Village of Queen Charlotte to the Haida village of Old Massett is mostly flat, two lane, and has very little traffic.
- Tow Hill Road from Masset to Tow Hill (15km) is paved and gavel and runs through Naikoon Provincial Park with very beautiful forest and ocean views.
- There is a local cycling club called Derailleurs in the Mist. The club hosts the annual Race at the Edge every August. This 100 km road cycle race is open to all levels, and attracts novices as well as serious competitive cyclists.
- A great way to see the islands is to cycle the entire highway from Old Massett to Queen Charlotte, checking out the attractions along the way. Some visitors bring bikes on BC Ferries from Prince Rupert ($5-subject to change). Bikes can also be boxed and brought on the plane and rented on island. See the goHaidaGwaii site for listings.
- If you have a bike that can handle gravel roads, the opportunities are endless. There is an extensive network of logging roads on both Graham and Moresby Island. Many of these roads are no longer used for active logging, and some have ditches across them that prevent vehicle traffic. There is a gravel road that parallels the highway from Port Clements to Queen Charlotte.
- Some of the off roads lead into old abandoned pioneering sites, old railway and logging sites.
- Many of the logging roads on Moresby Island and the southern part of Graham Island climb into the mountains and lead to some great views. Central and northern Graham Island is flatter.

Suggested Itinerary:
Contact some serious cyclists to talk about their training and the challenges and benefits of cycling on Haida Gwaii. Check the blog of Derailleurs in the Mist, www.ditmcyclingclub.blogspot.com/

More Information:
Visit the Derailleurs in the Mist blog for some helpful hints, articles about cycling the islands and upcoming race schedules. Contact member Jeremie Hyatt at jhyatt@qcislands.net

Visit the DMO website www.gohaidagwaii.ca/what-to-do/biking/