TADSWII’
THIS IS Haida Gwaii
KAATS’II HLA

WINTER 2017/2018
PEOPLE | CULTURE | PLACES
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The name of this publication, *This is Haida Gwaii*, is bracketed by two phrases – *tadswii‘*, which is in the HGaagilda Xaayda Kil *Haida southern dialect*, and *kaats’ii hla*, in the Gaaw Xaad Kil *Haida northern dialect*. Both phrases are a response to a knock on the door – come on in! The phrases acknowledge a guest’s presence, and welcome them into the house, and that’s what this publication is – an acknowledgment and welcome to you into our home.
SII.NGA
WINTER EDITION
SANGGAD

Fly fishing in the Yaagun Kaahlil Stl’ang Yakoun River estuary.

Photo: Talon Gillis

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The people of Haida Gwaii have welcomed and shared these Islands with visitors who come here with yahguudang respect for millenia. Yahguudang is a Haida teaching that influences all life and interactions, and guides us as we strive to achieve til yah daa balance in our lives and with the place we inhabit.

The name of this publication, This is Haida Gwaii, is bracketed by two phrases – tadswii', which is in the HlGaagilda Xaayda Kil Haida southern dialect, and, kaats'ii hla, in the Gaaw Xaad Kil Haida northern dialect. Both phrases are a response to a knock on the door – come on in! The phrases acknowledge a guest's presence, and welcome them into the house, and that's what this publication is – an acknowledgment and welcome to you into our home.

These Islands are home to the Haida Nation and many other people – those born and raised here, those arriving for a holiday and staying a lifetime, and those who come with intention. This diversity has produced a rich culture with a history that includes an innovative Islands' system of governance and a track record of working together for the betterment of those who call this place home.

When coming into our house, you are showing yahguudang when you abide by the laws of the land. One law is to take only what you can use – and, as a guest we ask that you show yahguudang as you experience our unique way of life. By upholding yahguudang, you are honouring this place, the people of Haida Gwaii, and yourself.

Welcome to our home! Tadswii'! Kaats'ii Hla! Come in, sit down and be humble. I hope you enjoy your stay.

A NOTE ON HAIDA LANGUAGE

The old people say there were as many dialects of the Haida language as there were clans – at one time numbering well over thirty. Today, three surviving dialects are recognized: K'iis Xaad Kil southeastern Alaska dialect, Gaaw Xaad Kil Haida northern dialect and HlGaagilda Xaayda Kil Haida southern dialect. In this magazine, the geographic location of the story dictates which dialect will be used. For the stories situated in northern regions we use Gaaw Xaad Kil, for those in the southern climes, HlGaagilda Xaayda Kil.
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Xaayda Gwaay ‘ahl tl’a Gan unsidelgang isgyaan yahgudang-gang giigang

To Inspire Understanding and Respect for All That Haida Gwaii Is

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Is an incorporated non-profit society that operates for the benefit of the community of Sandspit. The Society is run by a volunteer board of resident/natives who wish to sustain the economic and social well-being of our community by sustaining local businesses and social projects.

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Haida Gwaay, dang dii kuyaadang! I love all of Haida Gwaii so much. I love it like it is a person - I’ve always felt this way.

HYDER WILLIAMS
GA AW Masset

Hyder loves going out in the fresh air every day. His favourite activity is walking on the beach with his Chinnie and five puppies.

CHRIS ASHURST
TAAW K’YUU
Tow Hill Road Area

I cherish my Haida Gwaii home with its endless opportunities to forage for food and fun, my Haida neighbours’ vibrant culture, and living in a place where if we want something we build it - be it a deck or an organization to accomplish a goal.

ALLANAH JACOBSEN
GAAW Masset

Being in the trees and walking along the mossy paths makes me feel at home; as if I am part of the forest. I can feel my roots intertwining with those who stood before me.

MANZANITA SNOW
G AMADIIS
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You can be crazy and you fit right in. We are so free to be who we want to be here on island.
TADSWII' • KAATS'II HLA  THIS IS HAIDA GWAII
In the Blink of an Eye

Hundreds of witnesses raised a gyaaGang monumental pole in honour of the ancestors who occupied Hl'yaalan 'Lngee Hiileen village, a thousands-of-years-old Haida village this June 21, 2017. The gyaaGang now stands beside Hl'yaalang Gandlee, the river that runs beside Taaw Tow Hill.

At a carving house behind Tluu Xaadaa Naay Canoe People House in Gaaaw, eight apprentices and three journeymen helped artist Kilthguulans Christian White to transform a 62-foot ts'uu Red cedar into a monumental pole. Together they transformed the 600-year-old ts'uu from a raw log harvested from the centre of Haida Gwaii into the monument that now stands 52 feet above ground. The gyaaGang was carved in the round, an undertaking that took the team six months to complete.

The pole’s predecessor stood at Hl’yaalan ‘Lngee for a century until 1920, when it was cut down and moved to Kxeen Prince Rupert. It was returned to Haida Gwaii in 1970 and stayed in a carving house belonging to gyaa k’id IlGaayGa expert carver and kilslaay hereditary leader lidansuu Jim Hart. While it is not an exact replica, this new pole is a contemporary interpretation of its predecessor.

The crew of carvers arrived at the pole-raising in style, paddling a tluu canoe to Hl’yaalan ‘Lngee as a bear danced on the bow. They were welcomed ashore by singers and drummers led by SaanuGa Gianna Williard-Flanery. Language champion and master-of-ceremonies Jaskwaan guided an audience of hundreds through the ceremony that followed.

It takes a community to raise a pole, and many contributors were recognized throughout the day. Kilthguulans started by presenting kilslaay and veteran-logger Dayaang Donald Bell with a stone adz blade from Māori Aotearoa New Zealand, in thanks for coming to Tluu Xaadaa Naay to make the first cut six months before. Apprentices and journeymen also made speeches thanking the community for providing so much support. Elders from the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program then prayed in Xaayda Kil before women cleansed the pole with cedar boughs and eagle down. The carvers then danced around the pole, tools in hand, in accordance with Haida law. At last, the gyaaGang was ready for the hundreds of people who would pull together to lift it into the sky, pulling it up on five lines.

With the gyaaGang towering above the longhouses of Hl’yaalan ‘Lngee, Kilthguulans was careful to point to...
the women for whom all gyaaGang are necessarily dedicated. As a matrilineal society, all property, crests and rights are passed on through women. It is therefore impossible to raise a gyaaGang that does not recognize women as the foundation of society.

"The Haida women uphold our culture so I want to honour them," Kilthguulans explained. "The raven is up top, because this is a Raven village."

Kilthguulans then presented another Māori stone adz to Allan Bo Collison, to recognize all the help he gave in the making of the gyaaGang.

Kayxal families of the Raven moiety governed Hl'yaalan 'Lngee, but the original pole belonged to Kuustak families of the Eagle moiety. Therefore, as with many gyaaGang, the design incorporates crest-figures from both moieties.

The figures on the gyaaGang include a kilsdlaay holding a t'aaGuu copper shield in the arms of his wife, a female xuuajii Grizzly bear. In the xuuajii's ears are two kulGaay.yugwang butterflies, the attendants of Nang Kilsdlaas One Whose Voice is Obeyed, or Raven. These bottom-most figures refer to a terrific hunter who specialized in catching xuuajii. One day he ran into a male bear, who swatted at him and cast him down into the den. The female xuuajii within, covered the hunter up and protected him. When her husband looked in and saw this, he left her and wandered off. The xuuajii and the man fell in love, and begat supernatural children who could take off their skins and look just like people. But the hunter missed his human family and asked his wife to return. His wife consented, but warned him that she would know if he fell in love with someone else. The hunter left and when he arrived home he found he had been gone for ten years. His human wife had died and his human children had married, but they accepted him back because he was a skilled
THIS LAST SIX MONTHS WAS NOT ABOUT THE END PRODUCT. THIS WAS ABOUT BEING WITH EACH OTHER AS CARVERS, AND LOOKING AT A COMMON VISION. SIX MONTHS AGO, THIS TREE WAS STILL STANDING IN THE FOREST IN SOUTH CENTRAL GRAHAM ISLAND, HAIDA GWAI'I.

GYAA K’ID LLGAAYGA, KILTHGUULANS CHRISTIAN WHITE

hunter. From that time on he only hunted sea mammals, and never killed xuuaajii again. When he killed a xuud seal, he brought it to his xuuaajii wife and fed his supernatural children. Then he fell in love with an eligible young woman in his village. His xuuaajii wife put a feather into water in a clamshell, and the water moved in a way that showed her husband had fallen in love with someone else. Then the hunter’s supernatural children, having grown to full size, swarmed around him and took his life. She sent her sons far away into the valleys where they could not be found.

Above these figures are ts’ing beaver, xuuaajii GidGaling bear cubs, sgyamsun Naikoon KiGawaay and Kun ‘Laanas crests blue mountain hawk and sparrow hawk, hlk’yan k’uust’an frog, xuuaajii transforming with k’uuxan pine martin in its mouth, and two more hlk’yan k’uust’an.

Above this is a man wearing guud k’al eagle skin. This refers to a kilsdlaay’s nephew, whose uncle grew afraid that his nephew would replace him as leader. So, the uncle nailed a box shut over top of his nephew, took him out in a canoe, and set him adrift. When the
nephew at last washed ashore two women came along and opened the box. When the kilislaay’s heir looked up, he saw two eagles looking down at him. When he blinked his eyes he saw they were two beautiful women. They took him back to their village where all the people would don eagle skins.

**IT IS SAID THAT IF A GYAAGANG FEATURES A TS’ING BEAVER WITH NOTHING TO EAT, IT WILL CHOMP THE GYAAGANG DOWN AT NIGHT.**

Thus, they transformed into eagles and went to hunt their food. The kilislaay’s heir fell in love with one of the women from that village and married her. With time they gave him his own eagle skin. So he began to hunt from the sky. The people only warned him not to try to catch a giant clam that lived in a specific place. As he grew in skill, so he grew in confidence, and soon he was bringing all kinds of food to the village. At last he grew too confident. As the giant clam started to pull him under the water another eagle grabbed onto his shoulders and began to pull him skyward. One by one all the villagers came to rescue one another, until they formed a chain stretching high into the sky. Still, the clam pulled them all down into the water and eventually only one old woman remained in the village. She went and fetched her ratty old eagle skin, put it on, and her strength preserved them all as she lifted everyone back out of the water and pulled the clam up out of the earth.
Above this figure is Nang Kilsdlas One Whose Voice is Obeyed, or Raven with kung moon, in reference to the famous episode in which light was brought into the world. Finally one nang iihll.ngas kyahjuu IlGaayGa watch man and two nang jaada kyahjuu IlGaayGa watch-women perch on the very top of the gyaaGang, watching over the various worlds.

A number of the crest figures contain eyes with faces within them. "When a young child came to see me the other day they asked me, 'What are those little faces in the eyes?'" Kilthguulans explained in a speech. "And I told them, 'that's your reflection.' That's the reflection of the children. When you look into someone's eyes you can see your own reflection, so when they look into the eyes of these supernatural beings, the children will see their own reflection there."

Journeymen carvers working on the gyaaGang include T’aakeit G’aayaa Co-rey Bulpitt, and Ga’uu Derek White. Apprentices include Shayana Brown, Hak’wanan Jay Bellis, Jeneka Bell, Stacey White, Shane Bell, Captain Stewart Burton, Tiffany Boyko, Shae Iana Lewis, Paul Byron and Roger Smith.

THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT HELP US CONTINUE TO BE WHO WE ARE AND KEEP OUR CULTURE ALIVE FOR THE FUTURE.

APPRENTICE, HAK’WANAN JAY BELLIS

The Haida Gwaii community supported the carvers throughout the process, donating their food and time, and the project was funded through a network of partnerships between Old Massett Village Council, North West Community College, TriCorp, BC Arts Council, Canada Arts Council, Skills Link, Services Canada, First Nations Health Authority, the Vancouver Foundation, Heritage Canada, and individual donors.

High standing women attend to the pole before it is raised by the community.
The Pesuta Trail is one of the most popular and accessible hikes on the islands. Located in Tll.aal Tlell, the trail is named after the Pesuta, a log barge that struck bottom while being towed across Hecate Strait during a winter storm in December, 1928. No lives were lost and the tugboat was saved, but the barge was left behind in the shallow waters near the mouth of the Tll.aal Gandlaay Tlell River. The Pesuta was eventually driven ashore by the weather, where it was soon embedded in drifting sand. At the time, the shipwreck was an imposing sight, three stories high and more than 250 feet long. According to local lore salvagers used the logs aboard the barge to build several nearby cabins.

Today, all that is left is a triangular section of weathered wood, but visitors can still see its features from a few kilometres down the beach, and it marks the end of the trail.

Like many hikes, this one is more about the journey than the destination. The trail takes hikers through three different landscapes on the way to the shipwreck: forest, riverbank, and coastal sand dunes. The trail is approximately six kilometres long from start to finish – a total of twelve kilometres there and back. A fast walker can complete the trail in two hours, but many hikers pack a lunch and enjoy a picnic at the beach, making it a half-day or day-long expedition.

Hiking boots are recommended, as this trail can have sections that are extremely muddy, even in summer. Dress warmly: the air can be cooler, wetter and windier by the ocean. Along with essentials like water and food, you may want to pack bear spray for taan Haida Gwaii black bear. Taan are not seen here very often, but they do live in the area. It’s also a good idea to check the tides, as the river bank can be difficult to walk along when the tide is over 21 feet (6.4 metres).

The hike starts at a picnic area at the first right turn off of Highway 16 north of the bridge crossing Tll.aal Gandlaay Tlell River bridge. There is a small parking area and information board with a map. The first section of the trail winds through a moss-carpeted forest, well above the river. Be sure to take the left-hand trail near the beginning; the right-hand trail is used by fishermen to get to the river bank. There’s a bit of a climb here but this is the only steep section of the trail. You are almost certain to see Red squirrels in the forest, and may also encounter Sitka blacktailed deer. After about 20 to 30 minutes, you will reach the Skasxaals Geikie Creek bridge.

A short walk after the bridge crossing will bring you out of the forest and onto the river bank. On the other side of the river you will be able to see Haida House, some older buildings and an orchard. As you near the ocean, you will see sand dunes along the bank and hear waves crashing on the shore. The terrain around the mouth of Tll.aal Gandlaay is constantly changing as sand builds up and is then swept away by the river, tides and storms. Between the high tide line and the forest is a unique coastal sand dune ecosystem. A few hardy plants are able to grow in this harsh environment, stabilizing the dunes for a time. But eventually strong winds disrupt their roots, so the dunes are constantly transforming and migrating. Together the winds and currents push the sand northward to Naay Kun Rose Spit.

The Pesuta is located just north of the river mouth, and is easy to spot. The area around the shipwreck and further north is popular for beachcombing. Many unusual agates have been found here, as well as glass balls.

On your way back, be sure to take the right-hand turn at Skasxaals Geikie Creek, where you first came out onto the river bank. A small sign here marks the trail. Some hikers are tempted to travel back along the river bank, but this route becomes extremely muddy as it approaches the highway.!
HIKING THE PESUTA TRAIL
SHORT TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS
UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS

Photo: Owen Perry
It's a bright fall morning in Tll.aal Tlell, and I'm on the beach with April Dutheil, manager of Crystal Cabin store and author of *Agate Collecting with Dutes*, the new book about searching for agates on Haida Gwaii. Coffee mugs in hand, we're hoping to find a few agates, but we keep our eyes out for other unusual rocks too.

We've only been walking for a few minutes when April spots one, half-buried under another stone. It's about the size of an orange segment, and glows with a pale amber colour. She holds her find up to the sun, and we can see that it has a pattern of slightly darker bands. The two main characteristics of an agate, she explains, are translucence – some light will shine through – and lines or bands running through it. Viewed in the right light, agates have an extraordinary gleam prized by beachcombers, and many residents and visitors spend hours out on the beach looking for them.

Geologists call these rocks ‘banded chalcedony’. They were formed millions of years ago through volcanic action on the western side of XaaydaGa GwaayyaayinaGwaay Graham Island. Glaciers, currents and tides have pushed and tumbled them into smaller and smaller chunks now scattered throughout the Islands. Today some of the favourite spots to search for them include Tilgaay Gaauu North Beach, Tildas the east coast of Graham Island, and the beaches around K’waas the supernatural being who is a spit beyond the point at Sandspit village.
April picks up another rock, smooth and cream-coloured, about the size of a large egg. This one, she says, is a sugar agate. Beginners often mistake these for the real thing, but they lack bands and aren’t translucent. The bands in a true agate formed as it slowly cooled from extremely high temperatures. Sugar agates never reached the same high temperatures, April explains—kind of like a cake that isn’t completely baked. But sugar agates can certainly be eye-catching, and April encourages people to enjoy exploring the beach to pick up whatever rocks appeal to them.

"From my point of view, it’s more about fun and getting involved in the search," she says. "It’s all in the eye of the beholder."

It’s amazing how fast an hour goes by when we’re out on the beach. We head back to Crystal Cabin with two agates, one sugar agate, and several other treasures: a speckled black and white rock that April calls a ‘dalmation’, a heart-shaped rock, a piece of red jasper, and a black rock with a hole through the middle. These are known locally as ‘Henry Moores’, after the British sculptor, and they are harder to find than agates. Some people believe that if you peer through the hole, you can see into another dimension.

Back at Crystal Cabin, Dutes Dutheil is waiting to see what we’ve found. Dutes is April’s father, and the founder of Crystal Cabin. He’s been passionately interested in rocks his entire life, and has been collecting agates ever since he moved to Haida Gwaii in 1970, and he adds the stones to his vast collection.

Agate Collecting With Dutes features lots of pictures from this collection, but there wasn’t room in the book to include all the incredible rocks he has assembled over the years. From a large tote, he pulls out a slice of iris agate, with bands so close together they refract light into rainbows. Next is a plume agate—a large rock he has cut in half to reveal a delicate pattern that looks like a frosted fern. Another rock is raw and muddy-looking with a shiny ribbon of pinkish-red, almost like salmon flesh. Dutes chuckles as he recalls finding it near Queen Charlotte. "We should call it coho agate," he says.

Although agates can be found all over the world, Haida Gwaii is unique in how accessible they are, Dutes says. "Where else can you go out on the beach in five minutes and find an agate? I don’t think there’s anywhere in Canada where you can find so many."

Visitors often ask whether it’s okay to take agates off the beach. April says with the relatively small number of visitors we have at the moment, it’s unlikely that any beaches would get picked clean. New agates are constantly washed up by waves and storms. One of the most popular gathering spots is Agate Beach at the base of Taaw Hill. Although people have been going there for years, there are still plenty of agates around. That said, Dutes and April do encourage people to take only the rocks they truly treasure. "We tell people, it’s about the experience," April says. "If one particular rock really calls to you, take that one home."

In HlGaagilda Xaayda Kil agates are named hlGaa k’aats’ii, which in turn translates to ‘hard rock’. Kuuniisii Haida ancestors used hlGaa k’aats’ii to create micro-blade edges for tools.
When you've reached the edge of your world, ours begins

Haida Gwaii is a treasure. No one lives here or visits here without being struck by the wild beauty, spirit-rising Haida culture, and friendly locals. Come here with curiosity and respect – you will always be welcomed back to the edge of the world.

We hope this guide will make planning your trip easy. One way to think of Haida Gwaii, is as a village of 4,500, hardy, unique characters who live in seven ‘neighbourhoods’ spread up and down the Islands. The ocean and the forest are our larder, the ferries are our connection to the mainland, and the ferry lineup is one of our gathering points where we socialize and politic – with coffee cup in hand.

For a trip to remember, book your accommodation, excursions and travel well in advance. We recommend six months to a year lead time to ensure you enjoy a smooth trip. Accommodation varies from rustic ‘off the grid’ beach cabins to modern and natural lodges and retreats, and extraordinary camping in old growth or on the beach. All accommodation is small scale and intimate. Each time you book you are talking with an owner who cares passionately about the quality of your experience.

There are no chain stores, fast food franchises or large hotels on the ‘Islands of the people’. Here we live slowly, at a pace that is rich with unique experiences. The winter season is the social season, full of concerts, artisan fairs, coffee houses and events throughout the Islands. We re-connect, regroup, and plan for high season tourism in the summer, but love to see visitors all year long.
Whether you're planning travel to Haida Gwaii from Vancouver, Toronto, Seattle, Beijing, London or your own special corner of the world, this information will help prepare your journey to Haida Gwaii.

ARRIVING BY AIR

Air service is available daily from Vancouver and Prince Rupert. For schedules and fares please check with the following carriers.

- Air Canada flies daily from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) to Sandspit International Airport (YZP).
- Pacific Coastal Airlines flies between Vancouver's South Terminal (YVR) and the Masset Municipal Airport (ZMT).
- Inland Air has daily scheduled flights between Prince Rupert and the Village of Masset.

ARRIVING BY WATER

BC Ferries provides regular scheduled sailings to the Islands from Prince Rupert, year-round. Connector service is available in Prince Rupert for the Inside Passage route to or from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island, or north with Alaska's marine ferry system. Arrive at terminals two hours in advance. Check for current conditions and changes in schedule at www.bcferries.com.

The Islands have long been known for their excellent recreational boating opportunities. Many of the communities have marinas, boat ramps and services catering to recreational boaters. Check the recreational boating directory at www.gohaidagwaii.ca for more information.

AUTO RENTALS

K’il Llnagaay Sandspit - Budget Car Rentals 250.637.5688
Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte - Budget Car & Truck Rentals 250.559.4641, Island Auto Rentals 250.559.4118, Haida Gwaii Vehicle & RV Rentals 250.637.1202
HlGaagilda Skidegate - Gwaii Taxi & Tours 250.559.2380, 250.637.1162
Gaaw Masset - National Car & Truck Rentals 250.626.3833, Rustic Car Rentals 250.626.3756

For more information, blog stories and trip details: gohaidagwaii.ca
BIKE RENTALS

Gaaw Masset - Masset Bikes 250.626.8939,
North Beach Surf Shop 250.626.7873,
Bike RePsych bikerepsych@gmail.com

K’il Llnagaay Sandspit -
the Sandspit Visitor Centre 250.637.5362

Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte -
Echo Bay Lodge 250.637.1758,
Bike RePsych bikerepsych@gmail.com,
Green Coast Kayaking 250.637.1093

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are there public transit buses on island?

Unfortunately, there is no public transportation on island. Most communities will have a taxi service. There are several companies on island that will provide taxi services and tours.

Are all roads on Haida Gwaii passable for a camper? A small vehicle? Are there unpaved roads?

There are only about 140kms of paved highways on the islands and many areas to camp and hike in between the communities on the main highway. There is an extensive network of unpaved roads too, some suitable for a campervan on short distances, and some not advisable. You will want to enquire locally for information on the state of the roads and logging activity.

How safe is it to bike around the islands?

Cycling is a great way to experience a destination, as it slows you down, keeps you active, gets you places you may not get to by conventional motor vehicle, and puts you in direct contact with the elements and with people. Haida Gwaii is no exception to the rule: It is certainly the best way to get around.

Haida Gwaii has a very limited network of paved roads, which means that if you choose to stick to the pavement, you won’t necessarily be cycling all that much, and you also will have a hard time getting lost. There is a much more extensive network of unpaved roads, logging roads, backroads etc, that can take you much farther into the wilderness, though it is not for everybody.

Is it necessary to book tours in advance or is it easy to book them when we arrive (e.g. excursions to Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, Haida Heritage Site, Naikoon Provincial Park, etc)?

All tours, especially to Gwaii Haanas, should definitely be booked in advance. The Haida Heritage Centre & Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum does not take bookings and has regular hours of operation. Naikoon Provincial Park does not take bookings either (campgrounds are on first come first served basis). You can hike in Naikoon Provincial Park and other areas at your leisure with no reservations required.

I would like to go to Gwaii Haanas, how can one get there?

There is no road access to Gwaii Haanas. It is only accessible by floatplane or boat. For a list of licensed tour operators, including floatplane service, visit the Gwaii Haanas website at www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/gwaiihaanas
Things to do On-Islands

Choose one or more idea from each block and build your own itinerary, one day at a time! See www.gohaidagwaii.ca for more details and contact information.

K’IL LLNAGAAY SANDSPIT AREA

- Bike and kayak rentals, maps available at Sandspit Visitor Centre
- Bird-watching at the 'spit'
- Choice of restaurants and shop to explore
- Shoreline walk along K’il KaaGan Shingle Bay
- Picnic at the whale-watching gazebo at Kun Gwaay Onward Point
- Spend the day at Diinal GawGa Gray Bay
- Hike the Dover Creek Trail

DAAJING GIIDS QUEEN CHARLOTTE AREA

- Bike and kayak rentals, maps available at Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre
- A waterfront stroll on the sea walk and docks
- Guided or self-guided kayak tour of Daajing Giids GawGa Bearskin Bay or Tllgaduu GawGa Kagan Bay
- Explore the Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte and Tllgaduu GawGa Kagan Bay
- Enjoy a coffee overlooking the harbour
- Guided sightseeing or fishing charter to the Duu Guusd the West Coast of Haida Gwaii
- Guided single day boat tour exploring Xaana Kaahlii GawGaay Skidegate Inlet
- Hike Kuu Jad TlldaGaaw Sleeping Beauty Mountain
- Enjoy a variety of shops downtown
- Choice of restaurants for lunch and dinner

For more information, blog stories and trip details: gohaidagwaii.ca
HLGAAGILDA SKIDEGATE AREA

• Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Llnagaay and Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum
• Choice of grocery store, restaurants and food trucks for lunch and dinner
• Check your fuel at Taaw Naay Gas station
• Walk the front road and look for whales and seals
• Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum and Xaayda ‘Waadxanaay Longhouse Gift Shop
• Visit Haida artists at their studios (call before to confirm times and availability)
• GuuhlGa Siwaay K’yuu Spirit Lake Trail

TLL.AAL TLELL AREA

• Check out the artisan shops along Richardson and Beitush roads
• Visit local farms to see what’s growing
• Have a coffee and walk the never-ending Tlldas East Beach
• Stop at the Misty Meadows Campground for beach access
• Walk on the Anvil Trail and explore the upper reaches of the Tll.aal Gandlaay Tll River
• Hike to the Pesuta Shipwreck
• Explore Nee Kun area Naikoon Park

GAMADIIS PORT CLEMENTS AREA

• Take a guided kayak tour of Gaaw Kaahlii Masset Inlet, Juus Kaahlii Juskatla Inlet and river tours
• Join a guided land tour and explore logging roads to get to Yaagun Gandlaay Yakoung River or Chaahluu Kaahlii Rennell Sound
• Explore the new walking paths throughout Gamadiis the Village of Port Clements
• Check out the pioneer artifacts and get up to date information at the Port Clements Museum
• Stroll through the historic St Mark’s Gift & Gallery for art, food and produce by local artists
• Walk along the great Sunset Park trail and go up to the bird-viewing tower at Yaagun Kaahlii Stl’ang Yakoun Estuary

GAAW OLD MASSETT AND MASSET AREA

• Grab a bike or a water sport rental to get around
• Walk or drive through Gaaw monumental pole tour
• Explore local history at the Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum
• Walk along to bird-view platforms at the Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary
• Choice of grocery store, restaurants and cafes to grab lunch or dinner
• Take a guided cultural tours on land or on the water
• Hire a fishing charters for a world-class fishing experience
• Walk the endless beaches and enjoy a pacific sunset

TAAW K’YUU TOW HILL ROAD AREA

• Stop by small local cafes for snacks and coffee
• Visit a gallery for artwork and more by local artists
• Hike up to the viewing platforms on Taaw Tow Hill
• Check out the impressive spray at Kwahtsiisda the Blow Hole
• Walk the 17 km (one way) beach to Nee Kun Rose Spit
• Search for agates on Hl’yaalan Galguusd Agate Beach
• Hike out to Tlldas East Beach via the Cape Fife Trail
• Explore the bogs and landscape of Nee Kun area Naikoon Park

For more information, blog stories and trip details: gohaidagwaii.ca
HAIDA GWAI I FILM FESTIVAL March, Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte - The Haida Gwaii Film Festival, founded in 2009, brings Canadian and international films to Haida Gwaii. The festival also provides workshops on various aspects of the film industry.

ALL ISLANDS ART SHOW March, Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum - The All Islands' Art Show is an annual event held to showcase the artists of Haida Gwaii. A Youth All Islands' Art Show is also held on a bi-annual basis.

SENIORS' WINTER GAMES April, all island event - the 'Winter Games' is a popular event for all islanders (50+) and is organized each year by one of the communities. Islanders under 50 are welcomed and encouraged to cheer on the participants.

TROUT DERBY May, Moresby Island - This fun family event at Gawu Kuns Siivaay Mosquito Lake is hosted on the Sunday of the long-weekend, by the Sandspit Rod and Gun Club. This is a popular weekend of camping and fishing for all ages. Contact Jim Henry for more information at 250.637.2212.

LOGGERS SPORTS DAY July, K’Il Llnagaay Sandspit - Loggers Sports Day has been a tradition in Sandspit for over 50 years. The day begins with a parade, followed by competitions in axe throwing, sawing, setting chokers, burling and a greased pole climb.

TLELL FALL FAIR August, Tll.aal Tlell - Sunday of the Long Weekend. The exhibit building's walls and tables are laden with island produce and products. Islanders proudly display their beautiful farm animals. For event details call Linda Louis at 250.559.8975.

THE EDGE OF THE WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL August, Tll.aal Tlell - Since 1975 this event has grown, attracting visitors from all over the world. See www.edgefestival.ca for more information.

AGATE MAN TRIATHLON August, Gaaw Masset - The race consists of a 500m swim in Pure Lake, a 20km bike ride to the Masset Fire Hall, and a 6km run around the Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary. Participants are welcome to register alone or in teams. To register call 250 626-5652 or e-mail qcirec@gmail.com.

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Do it yourself, by season

FALL & WINTER
- Surfing - Check out Hl’yaalan Galguusd Agate Beach and Hlyaalang Gandlaay Hiilen River for good breaks
- Storm watching - listen to the pounding waves in an off-the-grid ocean-side cabin along Taaw K’yuu Tow Hill Road or watch the surf at Kwahtsiisda the Blow Hole trail end
- Steelhead fishing at Yaagun Gandlaay Yakoun River
- Beachcombing for glass fishing floats and agates along the beaches
- Holiday craft fairs in all communities
- Winter concerts - check Haida Gwaii Arts Councils and at the Queen Charlotte Visitor centres for dates

SPRING & SUMMER
- Beachcombing - looks for washups after the winter storms
- Go along the Pesuta Shipwreck hike
- Visit the Haida Heritage Centre
- Roadside whale-watching (May is whale-watching month)
- Crabbing – bring a salt water license, and take only what you can use for a lunch or dinner.
- Clamming – bring a salt water license, and take only what you can use for a lunch or dinner.
- Look in to zodiac or plane tours of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site

MUST SEE AND DO, ANYTIME OF YEAR
- Hike the GuuhiGa Siiwaay K’yuu Spirit Lake Trail in HiGaagilda Skidegate
- Visit the Tll.aal Tlell Artisan shops and stop at Misty Meadows Campground
- Walk along the magnificent old growth trees along The Golden Spruce Trail outside of Gamadiis Port Clements
- Take a tour of the Gaaw Old Massett monumental poles
- Go to Tllgaay Gaauu North Beach! Walk the accessible Blow Hole Trail and climb to the top of the Tow Hill Lookouts
- Stroll along the Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte Sea Walk
- Bird watching at the ‘spit’ in K’il Llnagaay Sandspit and the Delkatla Nature Sanctuary in Gaaw Masset
- Visit Diinal GawGa Gray Bay, south of K’il Llnagaay Sandspit. Please see the advice for driving on active logging roads on page 38.
- Drive to Chaahluu Kaahli Rennell Sound to experience the west coast waves. Please see the advice for driving on active logging roads on page 38.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES
- Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Llnagaay and Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum
- Gwaii Haanas tours with Haida owned and operated tour guides
- Tour out to T’saahl, one of many village sites along Daawxuusda the West Coast of Haida Gwaii
- Land Tours with Haida owned and operated tour guides
- Haida Canoe at Gamadiis Port Clements
- Gaaw Old Massett monumental poles tour
- Haida artists studio visit, self-guided tour - please contact the artists in advance to arrange

For more information, blog stories and trip details: gohaidagwaii.ca
This map is not to scale and not intended for navigational purposes.
Located at the mouth of Gaaw Kaahlii Masset Inlet on the southern edge of Siigaay Dixon Entrance. Gaaw remains a centre of Haida artistry, as it has for generations. The current generation of carvers maintain a network of home-based studios and large studios for creating classical monumental Haida works. Most of the studios are well signed and artists welcome visitors. Many Haida work hard during seasonal harvesting periods and studio hours can fluctuate, so check in with artists ahead of you would prefer to make an appointment.

At Attractions include the Islands' largest collection of contemporary monumental poles. Seventeen are located throughout the village, including the first pole to have been raised since 1871 – carved by Guud Sans Glans Robert Davidson and raised in 1969.

You can access more up to date information about Gaaw by visiting www.oldmassettvillagecouncil.com.

Gaaw Masset is your "Gateway to Naikoon Provincial Park", and the surrounding waters are known throughout the world for their productive salmon and halibut fishing grounds. Masset has all amenities for the traveler including a variety of attractions, accommodation and restaurants.

The Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary is a 228 ha wetland set aside for migrating and resident birds. Observation towers mark several trails that run through the refuge. Over 140 species have been recorded here, including Trumpeter swans, Peregrine falcons, Sandhill cranes and Bald eagles.

The Dixon Entrance Golf Course, located five km east of Gaaw, offers scenic vistas along the north coast overlooking Dixon Entrance and the southern islands of the Alaskan panhandle. Non-members are encouraged to play a few rounds – literally – as the course circles around Canadian Forces Base Masset (1943-1997) which was a “listening post” part of the early warning system for North America during the Cold War.

You can access up to date information about the Village of Masset at www.massetbc.com.
Taaw K’yuu Tow Hill Road Area

Surfing during the winter is popular, and the annual surfing event, the Expression Session in early November, is a great way to spend the day. You can access up to date information about this community on the gohaidagwaii.ca website.

Gamadiis Port Clements

Gamadiis Port Clements is located close to where Yaaguun Gandlee Yakoun River drains into a beautiful estuary. The village is your way into exploring Haida Gwaii’s rugged interior and Duu Guusd the west coast of Haida Gwaii.

The Port Clements Museum is operated by the Port Clements Historical Society. A remarkable array of massive equipment spanning the eras of logging makes the site unmistakable. The museum houses intriguing antiques and artifacts from the last century.

Hike the Golden Spruce Trail. Located five km south of town, Kiid K’iyaas the Golden Spruce grew on the west bank of Yaaguun Gandlee Yakoun River. Genetic variation turned the Sitka Spruce’s needles gold in colour - a seedling with this coloration is located at St. Mark’s Church.

Gamadiis Port Clements celebrates Canada Day (July 1) with a flurry of activity in the municipal park, capped off by a mud bog challenge. You can access up to date information about the Village of Port Clements at www.portclements.ca
Tll.aal Tllell is a small community spread out along Tlldas the east coast of Graham Island, located 43 kilometers north of the ferry terminal at GuuhlGa Lnagaay Skidegate Landing. Visitors can easily access beautiful beaches and sand dunes along the Tll.aal Gandlaay Tllell River, which is well known for excellent fishing. A trail leads from the Tll.aal Tllell day-use area, just north of the bridge, to the shipwrecked remains of the Pesuta, a log barge which ran aground in 1928. There are artisans, galleries, a cafe, a fine choice of accommodations, a general store and cattle ranch in the area. Tll.aal Tllell is home to the annual Tllell Fall Fair and the Edge of the World Music Festival – which are both held in August. You can access more information about the Tllell community at www.gohaidagwaii.ca.

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Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum contains extensive, world-class collections of Haida historical and cultural treasures, restored monumental poles, and a natural history gallery of local birds, mammals and fossils. Curators always maintain seasonal exhibits. Haida master-artists and their apprentices are often found working in various mediums, carving monumental poles outside the centre or weaving naaxiin, Raven’s Tail, and cedar clothes within. A restaurant and offices are located within the centre, including the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site office. You can access up to date information about Hl Gaagilda at www.skidegate.ca.
**DAAJING GIIDS**
Queen Charlotte

Daajing Giids *Queen Charlotte* is situated between the ocean and the idyllic mountains of the west coast. Visitors can stroll the seawalk – an oceanside walk with beautiful views of the inlet and the harbour.

The Village of Queen Charlotte was founded when the North American Timber Holding Company began to build a sawmill there in early 1908. QC has all the amenities travelers need including a variety of accommodations, restaurants and an information centre.

You can access up to date information about Daajing Giids at www.queencharlotte.ca.

**K’IL LLNAGAAY**
Sandspit

K’il Llnagaay *Sandspit* is a beautiful seaside community on the north end of Moresby Island. The village is a popular fishing area, especially during the late Coho runs in September and October. It also offers wonderful camping, birding, hiking, and kayaking.

Visitors can connect to the village via the ferry at GuuhlGa Llnagaay *Skidegate Landing*. See the BC Ferries schedules for more information. Every day flights from Vancouver land at the Sandspit Airport (YZP). Within the airport is a visitor centre.

A network of logging roads run through the hills behind K’il Llnagaay and lead to popular campgrounds at Diinal GawGa Gray Bay and Gawu Kuns Siiswaay Mosquito Lake. South of these, visitors will come to Gawu Kuns Llnagaay *Moresby Camp*, the home of Jiila Kuns, a supernatural mother of Kuustak, the Haida eagle matrilineages. Today the site provides tour operators with a boat-launch for visitors venturing into Gwaii Haanas. K’il Llnagaay hosts the annual Logger Sports Day in July and the Wild Harvest Festival in September. You can access more information about K’il Llnagaay at www.gohaidagwaii.ca.
TRAVELING ON LOGGING ROADS

Turn your lights on! Day or night, the more visible you are, the better your chances of avoiding trouble. Use your lights at all times. Forest roads are not built to the same standards as public highways. For example, they often have sharp, blind corners and narrow sections. All drivers must be prepared to react to unexpected conditions and to be able to stop safely. For your own sake, stay alert and always be ready to take evasive action. Remember, dust means traffic.

Logging trucks use all or most of the road width because of their size. Please give logging trucks and other industrial traffic the right-of-way. Due to their size, they just can't manoeuvre the way personal vehicles can.

Loaded logging trucks definitely have the "right-of-weight"! When you see a logging truck or any other heavy equipment coming, get to a turnout and let the oncoming vehicle pass by. You may find turnouts on either side of the road -- whichever side it's on, get to it and wait until it is safe to proceed.

Before you go, let someone know where you're heading and when you expect to return. If you do get lost or stranded, stay with your vehicle. It will provide shelter until help arrives, and generally, rescuers can find it more quickly than they can an individual in the woods. Forest road users must be prepared for emergencies; there are no hospitals, restaurants, telephone booths or gas stations. Be sure to take the following:

- emergency food and water
- navigational/communication aids (maps, compass, charts, and fully charged GPS, cellular or satellite phone, VHS or handheld radio, battery charges)
- extra fuel/fire extinguisher/axe
- first aid kit/warm clothing/sleeping bags
- a tool kit/shovel/tire emergency repair kit

A WORD ABOUT MOBILE DEVICE ACCESS ON Haida Gwaii

Mobile phone coverage on Haida Gwaii is good in some locations and "iffy" in others. You can pick up a reliable signal in the area around Xaana Kaahlili GawGaay Skidegate Inlet – Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte, HiGaagilda Skidegate, K'il Llnagaay Sandspit – and up coast to about Gandll SkahlGaal St. Mary’s Spring. After that your bars drop rapidly. Further north there are a couple of spots where texts can be picked up but the next most reliable spot is at the end of Wiggins Road in Tlaa.ll Tlell. Going north, your phone will chirp again just south of Gaw Masset. Service in the area around Gaw Kaahlili Masset Inlet is reliable, but as you head out to Taaw K’yuu Tow Hill Area service thins out. Check out the centre-fold map for locations, and remember, the back country is a "signal-free" area – enjoy!

EMERGENCY SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masset/North End</td>
<td>250-626-5511 Fire, 250-626-3991 RCMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Clements/Tlell</td>
<td>250-557-4355 Fire, 205-626-3991 RCMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skidegate/Queen Charlotte</td>
<td>250-559-8300 Fire, 250-559-4421 RCMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandspit</td>
<td>250-637-2222 Fire, 250-559-4421 RCMP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ambulance: 800-461-9911

For more information, blog stories and trip details: gohaidagwaii.ca
Haida Gwaii cannot yet be designated as wheelchair-friendly but communities are working toward that goal. There are a number of attractions and activities that are accessible to people with limited mobility.

- Tllgaay Gaauu North Beach offers easy access to the beach with parking immediately beside the beach. The beach might prove challenging as the ground is often soft depending on wind and tides. The area has many places to sit and enjoy the surf in close proximity to one’s parked vehicle. At the Hiellen Campground:

- Kwahtsiisda the Blow Hole at Tllgaay Gaauu North Beach and a tour of the monumental poles in Gaaw Old Massett is an enjoyable and easily navigable north-island tour. The monumental poles in Gaaw can be viewed from the roadside and the Kwahtsiisda is a 20-minute walk (each way) via a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk from a parking lot. At the trail head:

- The Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary and Interpretive Centre are also wheelchair-accessible to some degree. The interpretive centre and bird watching tower next to it are easily accessible via the walk and drive along Cemetery Road.

- An easy pathway runs along the waterfront at Sunset Park in Gamadiis Port Clements. The trail along the estuary was designed to be wheelchair accessible but it can be challenging at times if the chair tires are narrow. The two kilometre path leads to a bird watching tower that is wheelchair accessible up to the first level.

- Gamadiis Port Clements has also improved the Golden Spruce Trail to make it wheelchair-accessible. The trail takes about 20-minutes to walk each way. This is an inspiring old growth rainforest trail. At the trail head:

- The ocean-side drive from Tll.aal Tlell to Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte features gorgeous views of the open ocean from the roadside. At Halibut Bight rest stop:

- Haida Heritage Centre and Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum at Kay Llnagaay were designed to be wheelchair accessible. Although the inside of the centre is accessible, the outside area where the monumental pole tours are conducted has proven difficult to some due to the gravel covering. Tours at the Centre include the monumental pole, Gyaa K’id Naay carving house, Haida canoe and weaving tours.

- The Queen Charlotte Seawalk is located in central Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte. It provides a stunning view of Xaa-na Kaahlili GawGaay Skidegate Inlet and Queen Charlotte Harbour at the Visitor Information Centre, Community Centre & Library:
A wealth of knowledge

SANDSPIT VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
250-637-5362 • lovehaidagwaii.com/the-sandspit-visitor-centre

Sandspit Visitor Centre is located inside the Sandspit Airport and provides information about what to see and do in the area, including the world-renowned Gwaii Haanas Haida Heritage Site, National Park Reserve, and Nation Marine Conservation Area. The Sandspit Visitor Centre staff members are locals with intimate, firsthand knowledge of the area, its culture, peoples and heritage, plus local events, like the Moresby Market, Loggers Sports Day and the Sandspit Wild Harvest Festival. In addition to information about the region, visitors are invited to spend time in the gift shop and take home a souvenir to commemorate their visit to the region. The Sandspit Visitor Centre is part of the official Tourism BC Visitor Centre Network and is operated by a not-for-profit community society.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
250-559-8316 • queencharlottevisitorcentre.com

The Queen Charlotte Visitor Information Centre is located in heart of Queen Charlotte and is a part of the official Tourism BC Visitor Information Centre Networks. They are open all year long; during the winter they are open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and in the summer, seven days a week.

The Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre and its services are an integral part of the Islands tourism community of Haida Gwaii. Wondering where to stay or how to connect with local tour and charter companies? Do you need a map or directions to hiking trails and beautiful beaches? The staff are here to help. Head outside to the interpretive garden and picnic area to relax and take in the fresh air.

PORT CLEMENTS MUSEUM & INFORMATION CENTRE
250-557-4576 • lovehaidagwaii.com/port-clements-museum

Visitors to Haida Gwaii must add a stop at the Port Clements Museum to their travel itinerary. The museum is run by the Port Clements Historical Society, made up entirely of local volunteers who have a passion for preserving and sharing Port Clements’ unique history. The museum features both outdoor and indoor displays, including its famous collection of machinery that helped to shape the town and power the industries that put Port Clements on the map. In fact, visitors can take in more than 2,000 artifacts that have played a significant role in shaping the past of Gamadis Port Clements. Guests are invited to take an interpretive tour or browse the displays on their own. The Port Clements Museum is open daily June to September - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. During the rest of the year it is open Saturdays and Sundays - 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

MASSET INFORMATION CENTRE
250-626-3982 • massetbc.com

The Village of Masset operates the Northern Haida Gwaii Visitor Information Centre. Located at Mile 0 of the Yellowhead Highway at the entrance to town the Visitor Information Centre is open daily from 9am-5pm from mid-June through mid-September. Besides providing visitors with any information they may need during their stay on Haida Gwaii, the Northern Haida Gwaii Visitor Information Centre also sells Village of Masset merchandise such as baseball caps, t-shirts, and mugs, as well as various locally made products/jewellery. Other services provided are free WiFi access, public washroom, and telephone access for anyone in need to make a call.
Kwaatsiisda the Blow Hole at Tilgaay Gaa uu North Beach.

Photo Guy Kimola
Those big rolling waves caught the eye of Chris Ashurst when he flew into Gaaw Masset for the first time in 2001. An experienced surfer who learned the sport on Vancouver Island, Ashurst was on his way to Haida Gwaii for a new job. He immediately thought the lengthy beach would be ideal for surfing, but couldn’t find anyone who had tried it. So he brought his surfboard up and started walking the shoreline near Taaw Tow Hill, carefully eyeing up the height and speed of the waves and tossing pieces of driftwood into the water to see where the currents would take them. Finally he put on his wetsuit and tried out the waves near Taaw Tow Hill, where he found the conditions were as good as he had hoped. Soon he was surfing every chance he got and he found others to join him.

Today, many Islanders own wetsuits and surfboards, and taking to the waves at Tilgaay Gaauu is a popular activity throughout the fall and winter. On a good day, there can be as many as 20 people at one of the surfing spots along the beach. Ashurst says the sport really took off here when the North Beach Surf Shop opened about 10 years ago. Suddenly, people from all over Haida Gwaii were coming up for the weekend, renting gear from the Surf Shop and a cabin on the beach and trying the sport for themselves.

Surf Shop owner, Mike McQuade, a competitive swimmer who has been surfing since he was 18, says North Beach’s unique geography makes it ideal for surfing for a couple of reasons. First of all, the beach is immense – it’s one of the longest on the coast – with good surfing spots to be found everywhere along the 40-kilometre stretch from Gaaw Masset to Nee Kun Rose Spit. That, combined with the general remoteness of Haida Gwaii, means the beach is never crowded.

“There are times when there are a lot of people around a break, but you can...
move a hundred yards and have a break all to yourself," McQuade says. "There's so much beach."

The lack of crowds also makes for a friendly environment, he explains. People of all ages surf together and pretty much everyone is welcoming and happy to help newcomers.

Ashurst agrees. "We're seeing more and more visitors coming up, but the crowd is super mellow here," he says. "People are quite considerate. There's no local-ism. It's a very friendly vibe."

Tiggaay Gaauu North Beach is also uniformly sandy and shallow, with a gradual slope to deeper water. You can wade for some distance before you get into water over your head. There is little offshore current to worry about, making it an ideal place for beginners. At the same time, our winter conditions also bring the big swells that more advanced surfers seek.

Surfers use words like 'clean', 'friendly' and 'mellow' to describe the waves here. There are two different types of waves, McQuade explains. There's wind swell, created by strong local winds. These waves have a short period – cresting seven to ten seconds apart – and McQuade describes them as 'mushy'. Although these waves are surfable, they are not as good as the other type, the ground swell. These are big, smooth, slow waves, with a 12 to 16-second period, generated by powerful storms out in the middle of Tang Gwan the North Pacific. Because the storms that cause them are far away, local weather conditions can be calm, even sunny, as these big waves roll in.

Predicting when the best surfing waves will occur is a bit of an art, but the internet has made everything much easier, McQuade says. However, there are many different factors. Wind strength, wind direction, and tides all play a part. McQuade consults up to 15 websites every hour during prime surfing season, giving him an idea of conditions up to
Walking along driftwood at Hl'yaalan Galguusd Agate beach.

Photo: Destination BC/Andrew Strain
McQuade and Ashurst say there are potential surfing spots along all of Tllgaay Gaauu North Beach, and they encourage visitors and new surfers to explore. The mouth of the Hl’yaalan Kaahlili Hiellen River, near Taaw Tow Hill, is a favourite spot. On the right tide conditions, surfers can float out into the ocean on the river current so they don’t have to spend energy paddling. This is the location of the annual Expression Session surf festival, organized by local enthusiasts, which takes place in the first weekend of November. Other popular spots are Hl’yaalan Galguusd Agate Beach, S‘Gidili Gandlee Red Creek, and Tugwaal the Keyhole. All are accessible off Tow Hill Road, and some have shelters and outhouses.

Although the ocean here is relatively safe, it still has the potential to be dangerous. Ashurst cautions that waves can get extremely large, and there have

"THERE'S GOING TO BE LOTS OF BIG WAVES COMING IN ALL WINTER LONG. IF YOU'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE, YOU'VE GOT TO TRY IT."

MIKE MCQUADE
been a couple of rescues near Tow Hill, when people got pulled out a little too far for comfort by the Hl’yalang Gandlaay Hiellen River current.

For those looking to learn how to surf North Beach Surf Shop offers two-hour introductory lessons that include gear, cover basic safety, and describe local wind and wave conditions. After the lesson, McQuade says, people are well-equipped to go out on their own. Individual and group lessons are available, and he says he’s had lots of families come in to learn together. With a basic level of fitness, he says, about 50 percent of people will be able to stand up on the surfboard by the end of the lesson.

“This is one of the ‘funnest’ sports you can do,” says McQuade. “And there’s going to be lots of big waves coming in all winter long. If you’ve never done it before, you’ve got to try it.” 🌊
Among these kuuniisii lived a young man who failed to show yahguudang universal respect, bringing disaster on his community in the form of a winter storm in midsummer. A young boy and his tsinaay grandfather survived the storm and started out from their village. As they left the tsinaay told his grandson, "Don't look back! If you look back you will go into the next world. People will admire you, but they won't be able to talk with you. When you get too old and fall down, you'll grow up again. You'll be standing there until the end of the world. Don't look back."

But his grandson did look back, and his feet grew into the soil on the western bank of Yaaguun Gandlaay Yakoun River. His tsinaay tried to recover his precious child, but over time the boy urged him to continue on his journey alone. His tsinaay departed saying, "Everything will be alright, my son. Even the last generation will look at you and remember your story."

For three centuries Kiid Kʻiiyaas stood on the river bank. When the ancestors of settler lineages arrived on the Islands, they came to know him as the Golden Spruce. After smallpox decimated Haida populations, the colonial government entangled Haida Title in a convoluted legal complex and logging began in earnest. Over the decades, Kiid Kʻiiyaas occupied an ever-shrinking section of old-growth forest.

Kiid Kʻiiyaas was brought down on the night of January 20, 1997. Gama-diis Port Clements resident Dale Lore described what he saw the following morning, "There it was, in all its golden splendor, just about touching the water. I couldn't believe it. My eyes could see it but I couldn't process it." Haida left Kiid Kʻiiyaas to rest and return to the earth where he fell.

Despite his absence, visitors still walk to see the site where a young Haida boy transformed into Kiid Kʻiiyaas. In
Kiid K'iiyaas as it was prior to 1997.

Photo: Haida Gwaii Museum Archive
Walking along the Golden Spruce pathway.

Photo: Guy Kimola
Gamadiis almost every tourist who comes into the only grocery store, Bayview Market, asks where the trail is. At the Port Clements Museum, volunteer Brigid Cumming said many visitors have read John Vaillant’s best-selling book, *The Golden Spruce*, which won a Governor General’s award when first published in 2005. Others start reading the book while they are here. “It’s strange,” she said, “but the tree is bringing more visitors to town at this point than it did when it was standing.”

Today the efforts of the Haida Nation and its allies have made the K’iid K’iiyaas site the centrepiece of a Protected Area. The area includes 24.56 km² of forest with a marine component and foreshore area of 2.32km². The surrounding forest is archaeologically rich, supporting hundreds of monumental trees and rare species.

In the winter of 2006, the Haida community and elders granted permission to Leo Gagnon to cut a piece from the tree to be used in the Six String Nation guitar project. Writer and broadcaster Jowi Taylor brought together this unique guitar from 64 pieces of Canadian history, including Pierre Trudeau’s canoe paddle and Paul Henderson’s...
The wood from Kiid K’iiyaas became the guitar’s face. The Six String Nation team returned to Haida Gwaii two years later with the completed instrument and made it available for community members to play at the Edge of the World Music Festival. Taylor’s book, Six String Nation, tells the story of how the guitar was built and all the pieces of history that went into it, including Kiid K’iiyaas.

In summer 2017, a Haida team featured Yaaguun Gandlaay in the upcoming full-length feature-film Edge of the Knife. The story is based on Haida supernatural events, and was filmed entirely in Haida language.
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haidaheritagecentre.com - Highway 16, Skidegate
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HLGAAGILDA
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**DON HANCOCK**
TLL.AAL
Tlell

I got a wetsuit a few years ago and now I love swimming in the ocean or the river all year long. Some winters, it gets cold enough that the ponds and lakes freeze, and we can play hockey.

**AMBER FAKTOR**
K’IL LLNAGAAAY
Sandspit

I love that I constantly feel awestruck and humbled by the rugged landscapes, enormous trees, tumultuous waves and the wild storms. I love that the seclusion inspires a more self-sufficient, creative and deliberate way of life.

**KATHY PICK**
DAAJING GIIDS
Queen Charlotte

This place gets you in the heart. There is a richness to living here – it’s because of the people.

**KYE BORSERIO**
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Haida Gwaii is everything to me. Each day I wake up here I know it will be special. No where in the world has been able to lift my spirit like Haida Gwaii. Haawa, Haida Gwaii.
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BY APRIL DUTHEIL  MANAGER OF CRYSTAL CABIN & ISLAND RESIDENT

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Insider's Tip: You can find agates all along Haida Gwaii's east coast, not just at Agate Beach!

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