This is Haida Gwaii
Tadswii’· Kaats’ii Hla

Summer 2019
People | Culture | Place
Your Haida Gwaii Trip Planner
Gohaidadgwaai.ca | Haidanation.ca
Soaring above Taaw Tow Hill.

Photo: Gregory Gould

Want to advertise in This is Haida Gwaii? Contact alanah@gohaidagwaii.ca or call 250-559-8050

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The name of this publication, This is Haida Gwaii, is bracketed by two phrases – tadswii’, which is in the Hl Gaagilda Xaayda Kil Haida southern dialect, and k’ats’ii hla, in the G aw 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.
Welcome to Haida Gwaii, you show your self-respect by coming. Haawa for following your heart and accepting the pull of our homeland. Whether you have arrived by sea or air you are meant to be here, right now, as our guest. For many of the people of Haida Gwaii there is a strong belief that everything is connected and that everything happens for a reason.

In honoring your invitation to visit us, it is important to give back to this place and to contribute more than you have taken. This is how we maintain balance here. Balancing our needs as people with all of the creatures who share their lives and territory with us. We also must balance our relationships as hosts and guests and with the supernatural forces that surround us. When our relationships are disrupted and become out of balance this is when we end up in trouble as human beings. Here humans are equal to all of the rest of creation.

We are no more important than any other being, large or small.

So, as you move about and experience all the magic our home has to offer, please take a moment to appreciate all of the small things and beauty that surrounds us. Reflect upon your life and your place within this world and how you can give back and make things better for the future. You are here for a reason, you don’t have to search for why, if you move with respect the truth will reveal itself. A wave crashing, a hummingbird flying, a whale breaching, an eagle calling or a raven stealing your lunch – all happening around us – and we are all part of creation, so please act accordingly.

Ging gang da yahgudangs ang Gaa da Kaa Eyang ga Gil ga. You show your self-respect by coming.

Gaagwiis

Jason Alsop
President of the Haida Nation

A NOTE ON HAIDA LANGUAGE USE: In this publication, the geographic location of the story determines which dialect is used. For the stories located north of Gamadiis Port Clements we use Gaw Xaad kil and for those south of Gamadiis we use HlGaagilda Xaayda Kil.
The Haida Gwaii Institute is located on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the Haida Nation. The institute offers transformative post-secondary undergraduate and professional development programming in the areas of Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations, community resilience, natural resource management and marine conservation. To find a course right for you please visit hginstitute.ca.
Custom Sport Fish Processing

Located at the end of the causeway on the Government Dock in Queen Charlotte, we are open daily from June through Labour Day between 4-7pm for sport fish receiving via boat to the lower dock or vehicle to the plant.

Our Federally Inspected Facility Will:
Portion, vac pack, blast freeze and pack your fresh catch for next day pickup. We carry a variety of frozen products that you can add to your order to take home. Come see us about ice, wholesale seafood, and air travel packaging.

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Escape to the spectacular west-coast of Haida Gwaii and explore ancient Haida villages where few have set foot, dine on gourmet meals, and relax in luxury uncommon for such remoteness.

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AT TLLAAL

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Conveniently located in the village of Tlell, this cozy lodge is the ideal base from which to enjoy the many cultural experiences the Island has to offer. Self-guided options also available.

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haidagwaiimuseum.ca | museum@haidagwaii.net
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A&A Trading (Haida Gwaii) Ltd. forester identifying a
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Our forest management decisions integrate environmental,
cultural, and economic interests. We build mutual understanding
through relationships and information sharing.

www.aatrading.com

SUMMER STORE HOURS:
Monday to Saturday: 9:00am to 6:00pm
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Fresh. Delicious. Convenient. Enjoy a cup of coffee, breakfast or lunch with friends or while you wait for your flight!
Hours: Daily 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ABSENCE OF TIME HOUSE
- Two high-end, fully contained accommodation suites available
- Private and quiet
- On the shore of Skidegate inlet

Opened in July 2006, this romantic get away dances with light through its large skylights and generous windows overlooking the bay. The one-bedroom, fully contained suite downstairs offers a private queen bed with two additional queen-size Murphy beds. Upstairs, guests will find a fully contained three-bedroom suite.

ABALONE EYES HOUSE
- A rustic, chic, two-bedroom and fully contained waterfront suite
- Amazing views from the shore of Skidegate inlet

Abalone Eyes House is where you peek at the world and think “I should have been a poet” or “wish I didn’t have to work — this is where I would have retired” or simply “I could easily live here.” I say “it’s lovely” I am sure you will agree - outfitted from head to toe — although I don’t think abalone have either of those things — but you almost view the world as they see it. See it for yourself, you will know what I mean.

GREENROOT GUESTHOUSE
- Hand-worked, original design, bright and attractive
- Centrally located near shops and the marina
- Situated above local art gallery

Greenroot Guesthouse is an artisan-designed centrally located vacation rental available for nightly and weekly rentals. The accommodation can be found in a local heritage building that has been lovingly restored and renovated to offer an artistic and relaxing vacation get away.

charlisle
- Family-owned and operated
- Clothing, housewares, gifts, toys, fabric and souvenirs
- A real old-fashioned general store with a little bit of everything 😊

Queen Charlotte’s original general store opened in 1967 and it’s still going strong today. Stacked with an eclectic blend of a little bit of everything, visitors and locals alike will find a variety of goods from clothing and accessories to housewares and souvenirs.

TOURS - BOAT TRANSPORTATION - KAYAK RENTALS

Meeting the owners/operators at lovehaidagwaii.com Meet the owners/operators at lovehaidagwaii.com

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GOING TO SKIDEGATE OR QUEEN CHARLOTTE
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With 20 plus rooms to accommodate groups up to 40 at one time. Our cozy lodge has a relaxed atmosphere, comfortable rooms, amazing cuisine and spectacular views.

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Premier Creek Lodging

- Spacious rooms with spectacular ocean views
- A family-friendly establishment checks all the boxes: a sunny deck, decadent gelato, fair-trade coffee, aromatic espresso, snacks, goodies and so much more!
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The Last Resort

- One- and two-outdoor suites
- Conveniently located close to the ocean and features fabulous mountain views
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- Yoga and meditation classes for all levels
- Creative and dynamic classes, with engaging workshops

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Isabel Creek Store

- Organic Groceries, Local Foods, Produce and Dairy Products, Local Fish & Seafood, Cheeses, Books, Bodycare, Vitamins, Gluten Free Foods
- Discover a hidden gem in Queen Charlotte

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Haida Gwaii Fishing Charters

- Come fishing with us around the pristine waters of Haida Gwaii
- Experience rich wildlife, beautiful remote scenery, and bring home unforgettable memories

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Chateau Norm

- Relax on the deck of Chateau Norm while drinking in the sights and sounds of the Canadian Galapagos

Contact: 250-637-1056 • 601 Oceanview Dr • Queen Charlotte

Chateau Norm Private Liquor Store

- Private Liquor Store
- Fast selection of spirits, wines, coolers
- Open seven days a week including Christmas Day

Contact: 250-559-8600 • howle@qcislands.net • Queen Charlotte

Howler's Private Liquor Store

- Private Liquor Store
- A wide selection of cold beer, ciders, and coolers - we're pretty proud to say it's your choice for your adult beverages and accessories
- Make sure you check out our selection of cold beer, ciders, and coolers - it's pretty easy to say it's probably the widest selection in the Northwest!

Contact: 250-559-8600 • howle@qcislands.net • Queen Charlotte

Skyfall Cottage

- “Beyond Awesome! What a superb location & fantastically friendly owners. They go above & beyond to make you feel at home” - Sue Vernon, Forest Haven Expeditions

Contact: 250-559-8439 • 3127 2nd Ave • Queen Charlotte

Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre

- Inside our light house inspired, wheelchair accessible centre you will be greeted by our friendly and resourceful staff.
- We offer a local artisan gallery, an extensive gift shop, a touch tank saltwater aquarium, a media area screening local DVD's, and a 3D map table of Haida Gwaii. Also available are washrooms, a waterfront picnic area, a large parking lot, and Wifi.

Contact: 250-559-8316 • info@qcinfo.ca

Meet the owners/operators at lovehaidagwaii.com

Plan your adventure now!
ECHO BAY LODGE
- Minutes from downtown Queen Charlotte
- Dynamic ocean view
- Locally owned and operated

Family friendly restaurant serving a delicious offering of Chinese and Western cuisine.

ECHOBAY LODGE
- Minutes from downtown Queen Charlotte
- Dynamic ocean view
- Locally owned and operated

Misty Harbour Inn
- Comfortable and cozy accommodation
- Central, convenient location
- Beautiful view

Welcome to the Misty Harbour Inn! Our “sail-hard, settle-had” hotel is the perfect location for your visit to Queen Charlotte and Haida Gwaii. Choose one of five newly renovated rooms for minimum three-day rentals with access to a common kitchen. Enjoy our stunning views and convenient location. Book online through MistyHarbour.com.

J&T FAMILY RESTAURANT
- Excellent service, great food
- Eat-in or take-out available
- Centrally located in Queen Charlotte
- Watch for lunch buffet service

Forbes Pharmacy - Haida Gwaii
- Transferring your Prescription is Easy
- Free Blister Packs
- Free Delivery
- Medication Reviews
- Vaccinations & Travel Medicine
- Flu Shots
- Compounding
- And many other pharmacy services

Enjoying a stay on Haida Gwaii? Forbes Pharmacy in Queen Charlotte is your local pharmacy to meet your health needs.

Spruce Point Lodge
- Delicious breakfast delivered to your room
- Beautiful location with ocean view
- Clean, comfortable private rooms
- Knowledgeable local guide
- Land tours to all areas of Haida Gwaii

The Spruce Point Lodge provides land tours to all areas of Haida Gwaii. Our tours start and end in Sandspit and Queen Charlotte, visiting the most popular tourist locations that Haida Gwaii has to offer. We provide a BBQ salmon lunch and an experienced local guide to teach people about the cultural, artistic and historic sites of Haida Gwaii.

The Gwaii Land Tour Company provides land tours to all areas of Haida Gwaii. Our tours start and end in Sandspit and Queen Charlotte, visiting the most popular tourist locations that Haida Gwaii has to offer. We provide a BBQ salmon lunch and an experienced local guide to teach people about the cultural, artistic and historic sites of Haida Gwaii.

Echo Bay Lodge offers guests the privacy and feel of seclusion and solitude but with the convenience of being close to the amenities and services of Queen Charlotte. Bring your catch of the day back and cook it on the lodge’s gas barbecue or fire pit while enjoying the meticulously-groomed, landscaped yard and flowering gardens.

Paddle Gwaii Haanas
- Enjoy everything Haida Gwaii offers
- Guided Gwaii Haanas Expeditions
- Day or Multi-Day Tours of Haida Gwaii
- Bike, Kayak, Paddle Board Rentals

Enjoying a stay on Haida Gwaii? Haida Gwaii Expeditions offers a wide range of guided tours and activities to explore the stunning islands and natural beauty of Haida Gwaii.
Meet the owners/operators at lovehaidagwaii.com

**OCEAN VIEW PUB & GRILL**
- A food experience you won’t forget
- Centrally located
- Eat in or take-out
- Live music, karaoke, billiards & pool
- Catering and private rentals on request

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- A warm, friendly, family experience
- Centrally located with a view of the harbour
- Over 30 years providing accommodations in Queen Charlotte

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graciesplace.ca

250-559-4262  •  gracie@qcslands.net  •  Queen Charlotte

**HIGHLANDER MARINE SERVICES**
- Specialized marine transportation and freight services
- Reliable service to all of Haida Gwaii and North Coast
- Project management, ship consultation and logistical support

Highlander Marine’s high-speed catamaran loading craft can transport crews, large and small equipment, vehicles, freight and more! Their aluminum vessels are the best for handling the weather and sea conditions of the north coast and Haida Gwaii. Our office is centrally located – eat-in or take-out.

3301 Oceanview Dr., Queen Charlotte

250-837-1111  •  750 Oceanview Subdivision  •  Skidegate

**CASSIE’S COTTAGE**
- Fully independent one-bedroom cottage on oceanfront property in Queen Charlotte
- Steps from launching canoe/kayaks. Complimentary bicycles to explore our community and beaches.
- Personal fire pit to relax around and soak in the panoramic views. Enjoy your day with a spectacular one-of-a-kind sunset.
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778-260-0195  •  408 Oceanview Dr  •  Queen Charlotte

**SAPPORO JAPANESE RESTAURANT**
- Authentic Japanese cuisine
- Fast and friendly service
- Fully licensed
- Dine-in or take-out

Take a meal at Sapporo Japanese Restaurant in Queen Charlotte and enjoy fresh and delicious Japanese sushi, sashimi and other delectable dishes. The restaurant is wheelchair accessible and offers a selection of beer and wine. Hours vary by season.

250-559-8855  •  Queen Charlotte  •  127 Oceanview Drive

**HAIDA GWAI’I DESIGNS & SIGNS**
- Photography and printing center
- Photographs printed on digital canvas and framed
- Custom T-shirts designs
- Can make an exact copy of any signs

A diverse shop producing professional quality cut-vinyl and digitally printed signs. We also provide professional photography, custom T-shirts, and general photo printing. There has been many years of experience in the graphics field to assist you, from design layout to production.

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- Three accommodation options: luxury home and two lovely cottages
- Flat-screen TV, Wi-Fi, home amenities
- Dennis views of Skidegate inlet from a private terrace

Duffy’s Guesthouse will provide you with comfortable accommodations in a beautiful setting. There are three relaxing options to choose from, ranging from luxury vacation home to quaint cottages, all with panoramic ocean views. Each rental offers a full-size satellite TV, free Wi-Fi, lodgings, parking, and more.

Duffy’s Guesthouse has it all.

250-559-9844  •  Queen Charlotte  •  d2b2@uw.edu

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- Gasoline, diesel, water, oil and air
- Convenience store with snacks and drinks
- Propane cylinder refill
- Lottery, ATM and tax-exempt fuel & tobacco

Town Naay Gas Station is the last stop for gas until you reach Port Clements. Stop in for gas and snacks on your way north. We are open every round, 7 days per week and offer tax exempt sales of tobacco and fuel with your status card. Winter hours: 8:30am to 8:00pm

Summers hours: 8:00am to 10:00pm

**SKIDEGATE INLET RETREAT**
- Modern views over Skidegate Inlet
- Ocean and mountain view lodging
- A home away from home
- Service with a smile

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3105 Second Ave, Queen Charlotte

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- Furniture and home decor items
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- Industrial Health Classes, education and outreach programs
- Extension training and experience in massage therapy

Service with a smile

Healing, Caring, Relaxing.

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- Saturday July 20, 2019
- SKIDEGETE - HAI DA GWAI

Run Haida Gwaii

Marathon  •  Half-Marathon  •  10 km Run

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- Handmade cutting boards
- Gifts and souvenirs
- Car rentals
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Cozy. Warm. Convenient.
Relax in the tranquil natural surroundings of the Tlell River at Riverside B&B. Within walking distance of Tlell amenities and local beaches. Free wifi for all guests.

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250-557-4418 margaret@qcislands.net
haidagwaii.net/margaret

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- Outstanding Aboriginal Business Award winner. Wake up to an aromatic cup of coffee or hot-steamed espresso beverage and a fresh-baked muffin at Jags Beanstalk.

250-559-8826 • 100 Hwy 16 • Skidegate

The Long House Gift Shop is housed in a building fashioned after a traditional Haida longhouse and packed with local Haida artwork, handcrafts and Haida Gwaii clothing.
Email: love_haida@hotmail.com

NEW 2018 YAMAHA ZUMAS
SMOOTH & SAFE

Haida Owned & Operated

176 2ND AVE
SKIDEGATE

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A Gallery by Ben Davidson

(250)559-7864
allaboutuarts@gmail.com
248 Highway 16, Skidegate
allaboutuarts.ca

TLELL

RIVERVIEW GUEST HOUSE
Located on a private lot on Beitush Road, inside Naikoon Park, close to the river and the beach.

GRANDPA’S GUEST HOUSE
Heritage home on the historic Richardson Ranch, overlooking the Tlell River and tidal meadows.

Contact Leslie at: 250-557-4348 - don@richardsonranch.ca • www.richardsonranch.ca

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allaboutuarts@gmail.com
248 Highway 16, Skidegate
allaboutuarts.ca

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allaboutuarts.ca
WHY WE LOVE
HAIDA GWAII

I came to Haida Gwaii to find stability, I found home.

PHOEBE DYKSTRA
MASSET

GAW TLAGEE OLD MASSET

Because I grew up here and I love my home town. Rain or shine it is beautiful.

LAWRENCE JONES

I've lived here for many years and one of the things I love most about this place is how big of a heart the island has. When someone is in need, all the communities pull together and help out.

TRACY MARRS
GAMADIIS PORT CLEMENTS

I came to Haida Gwaii to find stability, I found home.

PHOEBE DYKSTRA
MASSET

Look around, this is the most beautiful place on earth! We are surrounded by the ocean and fresh air! Not many people get to say that killer whales swim in front of their house! I get to live close to my family and see them on a daily basis!

SGIIDS KUNG
VANESSA BELLIS
MASSET

I came to Haida Gwaii to find stability, I found home.

PHOEBE DYKSTRA
MASSET

Haida Gwaii is family, forest, the dunes, Duu Guusd and friends. It’s moved into my bones.

JENNY NELSON
MASSET

I came to Haida Gwaii to find stability, I found home.

PHOEBE DYKSTRA
MASSET

Tracy Marrs

I've lived here for many years and one of the things I love most about this place is how big of a heart the island has. When someone is in need, all the communities pull together and help out.

TRACY MARRS
GAMADIIS PORT CLEMENTS

I came to Haida Gwaii to find stability, I found home.

PHOEBE DYKSTRA
MASSET

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JENNY NELSON
MASSET

Haida Gwaii is family, forest, the dunes, Duu Guusd and friends. It’s moved into my bones.
Having finished the first round of unpacking and repacking, we set our kayaks on the water. Our group sets out on a falling tide heading roughly 25 kilometres east, towards our first camp near the mouth of Hl’kinul Kaahlii Cum-shewa Inlet.

As we paddle, we gaze over-side through rich blankets of seaweed spotting creatures below. One hundred and fifty years ago the sea otter trade eradicated Sea otters throughout much of the west coast. Freed from their primary predators, guudungngaay People urchin proliferated, consuming vast areas of kelp beds and creating ‘urchin barrens’ that characterize much of the Islands’ marine ecosystems today.

As we look from kelp forest to the rainforest towering above, Haida Gwaii’s complex geological origins grow more apparent. Towering Carnian mountains of volcanic rock recede to our south as much younger eskers approach along our northern side. Massive glaciers formed these hills as recently as 16,000 years ago. Today they roll beneath tall old-growth ts’uu Red cedar and kayd Spruce rainforests.

Having politely asked for, received permission from and paid a thank-you to the Haida family that manages the area we set up camp near the village site. Here a number of gyaalang monumental columns still watch over the village. We spend the remainder of the day snorkeling in the summer day’s lagging light.
DAY 2
We start day two by rounding King Gwaay King Island, a storied island, and make the seven kilometre crossing south to K’uuna Linaag. With pep and determination, we beat Gyuus Southeast Wind and make it to K’uuna in good time. Before landing, we radio ahead to the Haida Watchmen at the site. Watchmen have protected Haida village sites for decades. They help and welcome visitors and speak to their deep knowledge of Haida Gwaii. At K’uuna they graciously show us the many gyaaGalanG monumental poles and naGalaG monumental cedar houses that remain.

After a brief rest, we start paddling the two kilometres east to Gwaay’s dads Skedans Islands. Here we take a break in the sun and swim with good Harbour seals through kelp forests dotted with orange seapens. Sandpipers and oystercatchers chatter and scramble at the rocky point, their calls adding a lulling swell, embossed in sharp morning light. But swell and wind grow as we push through the last seven kilometres to Hlk’yah GawGa.

Having paddled 21 kilometres in a day, we are already full of memories.

DAY 3
On morning three, Juu Hlaasda North Wind overshadows the afternoon. We rise early to attempt the 20 kilometre crossing south to Tlaga Kun Gwaay’yaay Ahtilis Gwaay or Yeellis Island. GwaaGaw Gaawan Gwaay Gaawan Gay’yaay is often a dangerous stretch of open water. Winds can rush in to suddenly disturb calm waters. From the bay’s centre, hanging on the fragile edge of the weather’s whim, we sense our insignificance engulfing us. For now, Gyuus Southeast Wind gently scrapes shallow, whimsical forms into fulling swell, embossed in sharp morning light. But swell and wind grow as we push through the last seven kilometres to Hlk’yah GawGa. Unperturbed and welcome visitors and speak to their deep knowledge of Haida Gwaii. At K’uuna they graciously show us the many gyaaGalanG monumental poles and naGalaG monumental cedar houses that remain.

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DAY 4
On the morning of our fourth day strong northerly winds whip up the sea. From the quiet shore we look through the bay’s mouth, marked on either side by rocky islets. The sea beyond is awash with white-capped waves. We couldn’t have arranged a better place to settle in for a weather-day. As an estuary with sandy, gravely and rocky features, Hlk’yah GawGa supports diverse marine life. Tucked behind the protective shoulder of the bay, we are left to spend the day swimming in the intertidal, where Q’ust’an Dungeness crab, k’asla kelip crab, and especially guuding ngay’a Purple urchin thrive. We dive below the rolling swell at the mouth of the bay, where Juu Hlaasda North Wind makes the entrance impassable.

When one is kayaking, hygiene is of the utmost importance, and our crew enjoys leisurely baths in sunlit pools at Hlk’yah Gandel Gwaay’yaay Windy Bay Creek. We take time to admire birds, marine invertebrates, and small salmon fry, and get up close with introduced k’aad Stika deer.

DAY 5
Well fed, well rested and well scrubbed, we leave Hlk’yah behind early on our fifth morning. Subsiding northern winds and falling currents running south quickly carry us twelve kilometres through Gwaay’yaay Xangis Gagit Pasage. We wrestle driving waves with measured excitement. Ultimately loose hips and lots of dips bring us safely to Gدليل كين Gwaay’yaay Hotspring Island.

Watchmen and Haida fishing families greet us on shore, and we exchange stories about our travels. We bathe lazily in hot pools, chattering while a parade of friends, relatives and strangers stop by. Of course, the wisest of us use the hot springs to warm up between swimming excursions in surrounding cold seas. That’s really the whole idea. Throughout the day we dip in and out of the ocean, free-diving beyond the reef and through the cove, where schools of fish shelter and great herds of guuding ngay’a lay siege to the last remaining outcrops of kelp forest. Among them, rare and beautiful sea slugs wave deadly cerata as they scrape food from rocks or prepare to pounce on our prey of choice.

A brief two-kilometre jaunt north brings us to our camp in a bay on the south side of Gwaay’yaay Munchison Island. We can’t escape our friends, however, who catch up in their skiff to bring us fresh aaguu Pacific halibut. Once camp is set up, previous dinner plans are cancelled, and we enjoy a taste of Haida Gwaay. A beautiful k’ya alt’agwaan Western sandpiper joins us for dinner, and pokes delicately at the frond-covered shoreline.

DAY 6
On morning six we cross Gandaawuus ngay’a Xangis Juan Perez Sound west to Kingits’iis Gwaay’yaay Bischoff Islands where dozens of guud Ha- bbour seals have gathered, presumably to dive for cod among gray reefs. Guud flit all about our kayaks, surfacing here and there to huff indignantly. An arguably misguided surge of curiosity leads our little armada up Kingits’iis GawGa Beresford Inlet, a narrow branch of water stretching six kilometres northward. Gentle floating tides slowly push us up the inlet over kelp forests and past an islet of blossoming

Photo: Parks Canada / C. Houston

A kun whale takes a dive.

Photo: Parks Canada / C. Houston

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After a brief rest, we start paddling the two kilometres east to Gwaay’s dads Skedans Islands. Here we take a break in the sun and swim with good Harbour seals through kelp forests dotted with orange seapens. Sandpipers and oystercatchers chatter and scramble at the rocky point, as if to see us off, as we paddle south into GawGa Kwaa’Gaw Gaawan Gwaay Laseeek Bay. The area is an important bird habitat that has drawn scientists from around the world. Flocks of t’aal nga Marble murrelet and sqaqaga Pigeon guillemot accompany us as we paddle. These birds often concentrate in flocks and dive for schooling fish among other seabirds.

Another easy seven kilometres brings us to our destination, tucked safely behind Gits’aads Vertical Point. A pair of gyussaGayan and a Hl’Guu Great blue heron greet our party on the sandy beach. The warmest of the trio haews its body into the sky and heads northward to find solitude amongst rocky tide pools. The two gyussaGayan linger watchfully on nearby hemlock branches. We give these notorious ransackers an extra measure of vigilance as we unpack our kayaks and hang our food in a tree.

K’uuna dogfish leap headlong from the surface after prey as gentler winds retreat south.

To our west, long sandy beaches stretch between foreboding towers of Jurassic sediment, where white frothy waves begin to roil. We give these obstacles a generous berth, and luckily, we beat the weather into Hlk’yah GawGa.

We land in time to meet the Watchmen on site, who generously show us Gwaay Haanas Gnas Ga Gyaagan ngay’a Dan’ Gyaagan Gwaay Haanas Legacy Pole before sending us off to admire the surrounding old growth rainforest. In 1985, Haida ended industrial logging at Tlaga Kun Gwaay’yaay. Today visitors admire a part of that ongoing legacy, the monumental evergreens still standing tall around Hlk’yah GawGa.

Photo: Parks Canada / Heather Ramsey

Guud Harbour seals checking out the scene.

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k’ay Crab apple trees. Thrush calls re-
ound from the inlet’s forested slopes
and we soon arrive at its northern ex-
tremity.

One of our more intrepid members
suggests portaging across a narrow
isthmus east to Kuuniisii Xaw Dow
Gwaa Gyaa the northwest bay within
clouds of biting insects emerge to pun-
ish our for奥迪ucity.

Leaving the portage behind, we paddl-
east across Kisas Gwaa Gyaa Sedgwick Bay. At the northern end of this inlet Haida citizens stood
on the ‘Line at Lyell’ to put an end to
excessive logging in 1985. This historic

Day 8
On morning eight we decide to move
our camp farther south again to put us
in reach of Kiid Xyango’s K’idasii Burn-
aby Narrows. We plan around the winds
tides to cross 23 kilometres from Xyana Gwaay to Gaysiigas Kiidasi
Burnaby Strait. We grow meditative
during the haul south, recollecting our
journey. Dozens of ancient village sites
are within view on the shores around us
and obscured beneath us on the ocean
floor. This open water once bustled
with canoe traffic, and the presence of
kuuniisii is clearly felt. The day dis-
solves into consideration of the many
hundreds of generations of people that
came before us.

We awaken from our reverie close to
Gwaay Gwusdagang All Alone Stone,
where a gentle swell reveals its true
power, gulping and roaring as it smash-
es onto its cliffy sides. From there it is
another push south up the inlet, where
we camp beside a creek.

Day 9
On morning nine we set out for Kiid
Xyango’s K’idasii Burnaby Narrows. Don-
nng masks and snorkels we plunge
into the cold water. All kinds of inter-
tidal life concentrate at the narrows
and strong currents sustain the many
inhabitants with a constant influx of
creatures. Among them come the top
predators of the planktotic drifts, and
we are treated to an exquisite variety
of glittering cone jellies and frilled me-
dusozoa. Along the bottom youthful
cabezon passively await whatever mor-
sels might drift past with this bounty.

Real estate here is in high demand, and
shorelines are packed with all kinds of
cnidarians and their accompanying
cast of dependents, benefactors, and
antagonists. Juvenile fish disguise
themselves in dazzling patchworks of
brightly coloured encrusting bryozoa.

Small guskeahli Red rock crab hide
beneath wide, thick curtains of Dark
brown wrack kelp Laminaria bongardi-
ana and bright, tapering Turkish towel
Chondracanthus exasperata. Towards
the narrows northern end gyuudan
Moon snail engulf bivalve prey with
their white, fleshy feet.

These narrows, like so many areas in
Haida Gwaii, are abuzz with life. Two
village sites sit shoulder-to-shoulder
at each end of the small area. Both
flourished in the concentration of nat-
dual wealth. The narrows also provide
a visual feast: the final treat after nine
days of travelling. After another full
day, we return to camp greeting other
visitors along the way. Full of memories
and laughter, we leave the evening fire
one at a time to plunge headlong into
tented dreams.

Day 10
On morning ten we pack our gear and
load a large zodiac. With the roar of
the motors we awaken from our deep
dream, suddenly returned to the bustle
of everyday life. The three-hour ride
back provides a short time to revisit the
passing landscape, filled with memories
and plans for the next adventure.

"From the bay’s centre,
Hanging on the fragile edge
Of the weather’s whim,
We sense our insignificance
Engulfing us."

Packed up and loaded for transport back.
Photo: Parks Canada / Leslie Leong

Sedgwick Bay. An impenetrable wall
of rainforest locks away all sight of
any route. While a few of the crew
doggedly volunteer for scouting duty,
our other group elects to float near-
by, vigilantly snacking and listening to
birds. As minutes pass we idle, unim-
unitated by the unlikely prospect of our
companions finding the portage route.
But to our dismay, we all soon find our-
selves scrambling up a steep embank-
ment, squeezing our kayaks over roots
and under branches. Over an hour later
we have successfully crossed some 150
metres of ground. Upon the arrival of
our last kayak in the mucky cove, we
celebrate with a brief hurrah before
the water and up into the forest. At
mid-tide we reach Gaysiigas Kiidasi Mur-
chison Narrows, where the waters teem
with shellfish and dancing seaweeds.
We spend the day derping around in
the shallows before retiring to Gundil
K’in once again. A quick paddle south
from Gaysiigas Gwaay to a campsite
on the north shore of Xiina Gwaayasaay
Ramsay Island makes for an easy day.

Day 7
On morning seven we round the is-
land’s western side. Gwaa Gyaa Sedgwick Bay.

Photo: Parks Canada / Leslie Leong
But not when it’s really blowing. “If it’s too windy, we don’t work,” he says, sounding not the least bit unhappy about it. Unable to work on windy days, Beaupré and a half-dozen colleagues often swap their tools for windsurfing gear. “We actually want more people,” says Julien Boisvert, speaking at home in Masset with his partner Hilary, their baby daughter Aubrey, and their dog, Surfer. “Never thought I’d say that, ever!”

Like a lot of kiters, Boisvert first set sail on a windsurfer. “My mom, she bought like the first windsurfer available in the 1980s,” he said. “They were super heavy, super huge.”

One advantage is that when he was little, Boisvert and his mom could windsurf together, with him perched up front. He loved it. It was only six years ago that Boisvert got a chance to try kitesurfing while on vacation in the Caribbean. But the wind wasn’t so great, and he wasn’t hooked right away. Kitesurfing has a steep learning curve.

One reason is that depending on the wind and the size of the kite, kiters can harness a lot of power. Racing in shallow canals cut in the Namibian desert, kitesurfers have hit speeds of over 50 knots. The world record is just shy of 58 knots, or 107 km/h. By suddenly steering a kite upwards, riders can leverage that power to jump high off the water — the record is 28.6 metres.

Most people will never ride in such extreme conditions. But some are extreme in other ways.

A few people, mostly former windsurfers, are now kiting well into their seventies. While it might look otherwise from shore, kiters don’t need a ton of upper-body strength. The kite lines run to a waist or seat harness that handles most of the kite’s pull, while a control bar is used mainly for steering.

Perhaps today’s 70-year-old kiters are chasing what a young Benjamin Franklin discovered in his not-so famous kite experiment of the early 1700s. Floating on his back in a pond, young Franklin flew a regular kid’s kite high above and found he could glide from one shore to the other “in a most agreeable manner.” It takes considerably more training, with one-on-one help, for beginner kitesurfers to get the feel for controlling a kite, getting up on a board and riding downwind, and finally how to ride against the wind so they can sail back to where they started and avoid long walks on the beach.

Even so, when Boisvert got home from his Caribbean vacation and saw 50 kites and surfboards. Kitesurfing is still a fairly new sport, and it’s a stretch to say it’s taking off here on Haida Gwaii. There are maybe a dozen kiters on-islands, and visiting ones land about as often as a Eurasian Wigeon gets blown across the Hecate Strait. But those who make the trip in midsummer can find 17-hour days, endless beach, and prevailing northwest winds that almost always bring clear, sunny skies.

Beaupré and his girlfriend actually made the trip last winter, when the winds tend to blow from the southeast, bringing storms. They found surf, and some of the wildest seas he’s ever kited. What they and others won’t find easily, unless they seek them out, is other kiters.

For Jonathan Beaupré, summer revolves around the wind. In summer Beaupré repairs wind turbines in the Gaspésie, a peninsula in eastern Quebec that juts into the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and bristles with wind farms. Its Mi’gmaq name, gespeg, means “end of the lands.” Working mainly at height, whether on ropes or platforms, Beaupré fixes cracks in the turbines’ fiberglass blades.

But not when it’s really blowing. “If it’s too windy, we don’t work,” he says, sounding not the least bit unhappy about it. Unable to work on windy days, Beaupré and a half-dozen colleagues often swap their tools for kites and surfboards. Kitesurfing is still a fairly new sport, and it’s a stretch to say it’s taking off here on Haida Gwaii. There are maybe a dozen kiters on-islands, and visiting ones land about as often as a Eurasian Wigeon gets blown across the Hecate Strait. But those who make the trip in midsummer can find 17-hour days, endless beach, and prevailing northwest winds that almost always bring clear, sunny skies.

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Even so, when Boisvert got home from his Caribbean vacation and saw 50
kitesurfers riding all at once on the Ottawa River, he was in. At about the same time, he started seeing Hilary McNamee, who quickly picked up kitesurfing and excelled. Today, they can both boost big jumps and pull off tricks like backspins and raileys and darkslides.

“J was lucky,” McNamee said. “I had good instructors, and I didn’t have any bad experiences at the beginning.”

Living in the Ottawa area meant Hilary and Julien often had to drive three hours away to find strong, steady wind. That all changed when they moved to Masset two years ago.

Many of the best kite spots on Haida Gwaii are near Masset along the north shore of Graham Island, where there are also several beach and longhouse cabins for rent, and tenting at Hl’yaalan Galgusd Agate Beach campground. The mouth of Sgúdlii Sandlee White Creek is among the most beginner-friendly places to land and launch a kite, with a wide sandy beach and few trees or rocks around. Especially on a falling tide, Hl’yaalang waagusd North Beach east of the Hl’yaalan ‘Lingee Hiellen River tends to have long flats between the waves, though depending on the tide cycle kiters may find little or no space to land a kite at high tide.

There are hazards too, such as the no-go zones around the Masset and Sand spit Airports. Kiting in offshore winds is also a bad idea in such a remote place, where kiters can only rely on self-rescues if a line breaks or the wind dies. You might see Alaska from your house, but it’s still a long swim. Besides kiting with humpbacks, seals, porpoises, eagles, the Pesuta shipwreck, or the cliffs of Taaw Taw Hill in view, visiting and local kiters often say how friendly the sport is here and nearly everywhere.

Josh McDonald kited in Haida Gwaii twice last summer, but he mainly goes in the Sgíina Glanday Skeena River and other spots around his home in Kxeen Prince Rupert, including one where people kite to a hotspring and back. After a friend taught him to fly a trainer kite on shore, McDonald was hooked — in recent years, he and over a dozen whitewater kayakers have largely switched to kitesurfing.

“I think the appeal is the sunshine, and the community you can spend time with.” McDonald said, nothing that kayak trips are often in cold dark river valleys.

“There’s a nice community of people I find, who are good to give a helping hand when they need to.”

Among the new people Julien and Hilary are looking forward to kiting with is their daughter Aubrey, who is just starting to walk but has already enjoyed several summer days with mom and dad taking turns kiting on Hl’yaalang waagusd.

"It hasn’t happened to us yet that we need to leave early,” Boisvert said. “She loves the beach, and she doesn’t mind the wind either.”
Haida Gwaii is a treasure. The wild beauty of Haida Gwaii strikes a deep impression on visitors and residents alike. 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 our connection to the mainland, and the ferry lineup 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. Winter 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.

A guusd unital eagle soars above sunset waters in Gwaii Haanas.

Photo previous page: Owen Perry

### A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE

**SANDSPIT VISITOR CENTRE**

250-637-5362 · lovehaidagwaii.com/the-sandspit-visitor-centre

Sandspit Visitor Centre is located inside the Sandspit Airport. The staff members are local residents with firsthand information about local amenities plus special events, like the Moresby Market, Loggers Sports Day and the Sandspit Wild Harvest Festival. Ask us about the world-renowned Gwaii Haanas Haida Heritage Site, National Park Reserve, and Nation Marine Conservation Area. The Sandspit Visitor Centre is part of the official Destination BC Visitor Services Network and is operated by a not-for-profit community society.

**QUEEN CHARLOTTE VISITOR CENTRE**

250-559-8316 · queencharlottevisitorcentre.com

The Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre is located in heart of Daajing Giids and is part of the official Destination BC Visitor Services Network. They are open all year long, including seven days a week throughout the summer. The Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre and its services are an integral part of the islands tourism community of Haida Gwaii. 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 Gamadiis’ unique history. 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 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. During the rest of the year it is open Saturdays and Sundays, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**NORTHERN HAIDA GWAII VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

250-626-3982 · massetbc.com

The village of Masset operates the Northern Haida Gwaii Visitor Information Centre which is located at Mile 0 of the Yellowhead Highway at the entrance to town. The Masset Visitor Information Centre is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., from mid-June through mid-September. Stop in to shop local art and merchandise, and enjoy free Wi-Fi access, public washroom, and a telephone for anyone who needs to make a call.
Whether you’re planning travel to Haida Gwaii from T’agaa Vancouver, Toronto, Seattle, Beijing, London or your own special corner of the world, this information will help prepare for 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 has regularly scheduled 2.5-hour flights from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) to Sandspit International Airport (YZP).
- PACIFIC COASTAL AIRLINES has regularly scheduled 2.5-hour flights between Vancouver’s South Terminal (YVR) and the Masset Municipal Airport (ZMT).
- INLAND AIR has 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 bcferries.com.

Many of the communities have marinas, boat ramps and services catering to recreational boaters. For small craft harbour information in K’il Llnagaay call 250-626-5810, for Masset call 250-626-3995.

ARRIVAL BY LAND
For more information see the Sandspit Visitor Centre at 250-637-5362.

There are only about 140km of paved highways on the islands and many areas to camp in between the communities along the main highway. There is an extensive network of unpaved roads too, some suitable for a camper van 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 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, back roads 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?
All tours, especially to Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, Haida Heritage Site, Naikoon Provincial Park, etc. should definitely be booked in advance. The Haida Heritage Centre and Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum do not take bookings and have 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. See page 78 for more information.

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 float plane or boat. See page 78 for more information. For a list of licensed tour operators, including float plane service, visit the Gwaii Haanas website at pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/bc/gwaiihaanas/visit.

BIKE RENTALS
Masset: call Masset Bikes 250-626-8939 or North Beach Surf Shop 250-626-7873 or email Bike RePsych at bikerepsych@gmail.com
Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte - call Echo Bay Lodge at 250-637-1758 or call Green Coast Kayaking at 250-637-1093 or email Bike RePsych at bikerepsych@gmail.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should I get travel insurance?
Travel insurance and/or trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended. Frequently, many transportation routes (plane and ferry), as well as tours on Haida Gwaii are postponed or cancelled due to weather or sea conditions. This applies year-round.

Are there public transit buses on island?
Unfortunately, there is no public transportation on island. Most communities 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 140km of paved highways on the islands and many areas to camp in between the communities along the main highway. There is an extensive network of unpaved roads too, some suitable for a camper van on short distances, and some not advisable. You will want to enquire locally for information on the state of the roads and logging activity.
THINGS TO DO ON-ISLAND

Choose one or more idea from each block and build your own itinerary, one day at a time! See 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 shops to explore
- Shoreline walk along K’il KaasGan Shingle Bay
- Picnic at the whale-watching gazebo at Kun Gwaay Onward Point
- Spend the day at Dnal GawGa Gray Bay
- Hike the K’iiwaay Front Street

DAAJING GIIDS QUEEN CHARLOTTE AREA
- Maps available at Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre
- Bike and Kayak rentals available
- A waterfront stroll on the sea walk and docks
- Guided or self-guided kayak tour of Daajing Giids GawGa Bearskin Bay or Tlilgaduu GawGa Kagan Bay
- Explore Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte and Tlilgaduu GawGa Kagan Bay
- Guided sightseeing or fishing charter to Duu Guusd the West Coast of Haida Gwaii
- Guided single day boat tour exploring Xaana Kaaslii GawGa Skidegate Inlet
- Hike Kuu Jad TlldaGaw Sleeping Beauty Mountain
- Enjoy a variety of shops downtown

HLGAAGILDA SKIDEGATE AREA
- Xaaaydas Giinaa.h Naay Haaida Heritage Centre at K’yaayda and Saahlinda Naay the Haaida Gwaii Museum
- Choice of grocery store, restaurants and food trucks for lunch and dinner
- Check your fuel at Taaw Naay Gas station
- Walk the beach along Hl Gaagilda K’iiwaay Front Street and look for whales and seals
- Saahlinda Naay Haaida Gwaii Museum and Xaaayda’WaadGaanay Longhouse Gift Shop
- Visit Haaida artists at their studios (call before to confirm times and availability)
- Walk the GuuhlGa Siwaay K’yuu Spirit Lake Trail

TLLAAL 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 Tllas East Beach
- Stop at the Misty Meadows Campground for beach access
- Walk on the Arvil Trail and explore the upper reaches of the Tllas Gandlaay Tlil River
- Hike to the Pesuta shipwreck
- Explore Nee Kun area Naikoon Park

GAMADIIS PORT CLEMENTS AREA
- Take a guided kayak tour of Gw Kaashii Masset Inlet, Juus Kaashii Juskatla Inlet and river tours
- Join a guided land tour and explore logging roads to get to the Yaagun Gandlaay Yakoun River or Chaashii Kaashii Rennell Sound
- Explore the new walking paths throughout Gamadiis Port Clements
- Check out the pioneer artifacts and get up to date information at the Port Clements Museum
- Walk along the great Sunset Park Trail and go up to the bird-viewing tower at Yaagun Kaashii St’ang Yakoun Estuary

MASET
- Grab a bike or a water-sport rental to get around
- Explore local history at the Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum
- Walk along to bird-view platforms at the Deltatla Wildlife Sanctuary
- Choice of grocery store, restaurants and cafes to grab lunch or dinner
- Hire a fishing charter for a world-class fishing experience
- Walk the endless beaches and enjoy a Pacific sunset

GAW TLAGEE OLD MASSETT
- Walk or drive through Gw Tlagee and see gyaa’aang monumental poles
- Take a guided cultural tour on land or on the water
- Enjoy a meal at local cafes and restaurants
- Check out local shops and artist carving sheds (call in advance before visiting)

TAAW K’YUU TOW HILL ROAD AREA
- 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 at high tide
- Walk the 17km (one-way) beach to Nee Kun Rose Spit
- Hike the Sgjidiis Gandle K’yuweew White Creek Trail
- Search for agates at HlYaalal Galgusud Agata Beach
- Hike out to Tlilas East Beach via the Cape Fife Trail
- Explore the bogs and landscape of Nee Kun area Naikoon Park

For more information see gohaidagwaii.ca
Haida Gwaii Trip Planner

DO IT YOURSELF, BY SEASON

FALL & WINTER
• Surfing and kite surfing check out H'yaalaal Galgudusd Agate Beach and H'yaalaal Gandelie Hielen 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 Kwahitsisda the Blow Hole trail end.
• Beachcombing: look for wash-up after the winter storms (be sure to be safe around those waves)
• Go along the Pesuta shipwreck hike.
• Holiday craft fairs in all communities.
• Winter concerts: check the Haida Gwaii Arts Council and the Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre for dates and times.

MUST SEE AND DO, ANYTIME OF YEAR
• Hike the Guuhi Ga Siwaxi K'yuu Spirit Lake Trail in Hl'yaalang waagusd Skidegate.
• Visit the Tlell Tl'aal artisan shops and stop at Misty Meadows Campground.
• Walk along the magnificent old-growth trees along the Golden Spruce Trail outside of Gamadis Port Clements.
• Take a tour of the Gaw Tlagee Old Massett gya'aang monumental poles.
• Go to H'yaalaal waagusd North Beach: Walk the accessible Kwahitsuad the blow hole and climb to the Tow Hill lookout platforms.
• Stroll along the Daajing Gids Queen Charlotte sea walk.
• Bird watching at the "spit" in K'il Llnagaay and Siigee Beach.
• Kayak the Yaaguun G andlee in the Tow Hill area.
• Explore the Taaw and Hl'yaalan Gandlee Sleeping Beauty Mountain Trail just west of Daajing Gids.
• Look into Zodiac or sea plane tours of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve.
• Hiking: the Anvil Trail in Tlell.
• Stand-up paddle board in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve.
• Roadside whale-watching (April-May are good whale-watching months).
• Hiking: the Anvil Trail in Tl'aal Tlell or climb Kuu Jad TlidaGaw K'yuu Sleeping Beauty Mountain Trail just west of Daajing Gids.
• 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 Kwahtsisda the Blow Hole trail end.
• Visit the Haida canoe at Gamadiis Port Clements Museum.
• Land tours with Haida-owned and operated tour guides.
• Tour out to Ts'aa.ahl Llnagaay, one of many village sites on the west coast of Haida Gwaii.
• Land tours with Haida-owned and operated tour guides.
• Visit the Haida canoe at Gamadis Port Clements.
• Gaw Tlagee Old Massett gya'aang monumental poles.
• Haida artist's studio visit, self-guided tour — please contact the artists in advance.

SPRING & SUMMER
• Beachcombing for glass fishing floats and agates.
• Visit the Xayydaas Giniia ah Naay Haidea Heritage Centre Roadside whale-watching (April-May are good whale-watching months).
• Visit the Xayydaas Giniia ah Naay Haidea Heritage Centre Roadside whale-watching (April-May are good whale-watching months).
• Stand-up paddle board in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve.
• Hiking: the Anvil Trail in Tl'aal Tlell or climb Kuu Jad TlidaGaw K'yuu Sleeping Beauty Mountain Trail just west of Daajing Gids.
• 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 Kwahtsisda the Blow Hole trail end.
• Beachcombing: look for wash-up after the winter storms (be sure to be safe around those waves)
• Go along the Pesuta shipwreck hike.
• Holiday craft fairs in all communities.
• Winter concerts: check the Haida Gwaii Arts Council and the Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre for dates and times.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES
• Xayydaas Giniia ah Naay, Haidea Heritage Centre at K'yuu Llnagaay and Saahlinda Naay Haidea Gwaii Museum.
• Gwaii Haanas tours with Haida-owned and operated tour guides.
• Tour out to Ts'aa.ahl Llnagaay, one of many village sites on the west coast of Haida Gwaii.
• Land tours with Haida-owned and operated tour guides.
• Visit the Haida canoe at Gamadis Port Clements.
• Gaw Tlagee Old Massett gya'aang monumental poles.
• Haida artist's studio visit, self-guided tour — please contact the artists in advance.

DAY 1
Welcome to Masset. Pick up a rental car and groceries in town. Check in for a couple of nights at a cozy place in town or a B&B situated along H'yaalaal waagusd North Beach.
Head out to Taaw Tow Hill (30-minute drive). Spend the afternoon acclimatizing to a slower pace — sink your feet into the sand and consider your next few days.

DAY 2
Explore the Taaw Tow Hill area and H'yaalaal waagusd North Beach. In the morning, climb Taaw and enjoy unparalleled views of Sigea Dixon Entrance. Have a picnic lunch and then head back to Masset; grab a coffee and spend the afternoon exploring local galleries and shops. Tour Gaw Tlagee Old Massett and watch for the gya'aang monumental poles situated throughout the village, stop by the Haida art and gift shops. Take dinner at one of the local options and then back out to the beach to enjoy a lingering sunset. Spend a night two at a B&B, walk out onto the beach and look at the stars or enjoy the rain on the roof.

DAY 3
Drive to Chaahlul K'ashti Rennell Sound to experience the west-coast waves. Please see the advice for driving on active logging roads on page 44.

DAY 4
On the road to the south end to explore Tl'aal Tlell and the artisan shops and galleries on Wiggins Road; hike out to the Pesuta shipwreck or take the Anvil Trail loop. Stop for lunch and then head down to Hl'yaalang waagusd Skidegate.

DAY 5
Gwaii Haanas exploration day! Take a Zodiac day tour. Soak in the re-opened hotsprings, meet the Haida Watchmen and learn about the poles at K'uuna Llnagaay. If you're lucky you'll see a variety of whales and of course many different types of see and songbirds.

DAY 6
Explore Hl'yaalang waagusd Skidegate and Daajing Gids Queen Charlotte. Visit the beautiful Saahlinda Naay Haidea Heritage Museum. Browse the shops of Daajing Gids Queen Charlotte and meet with locals at one of the cafes, or for a change of pace, hike up K'yuu Jad Tlida Gaw k'yuu Sleeping Beauty trail and take in the 360 degree view from the top. Given the new ferry schedule you can even take off for an afternoon in K'il Llnagaay Sandspit — walk the Dover Trail, check out the new mural art at SuperValu and consider spending the night at a B&B.

DAY 7
Prepare for your departure. Think about all the places that you weren't able to get to and make plans to return to Haida Gwaii. Our winter season here is a whole other experience — try storm watching and winter surfing or enjoy a day in front of a wood stove by the window, with a good book while an impressive storm blows away outside.
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

TRAVELLING 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 prepared 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 chargers)
- 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 HAILA GWAI

Mobile device 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 K'ayihli Gwaay Gwaay Inlet — Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte, Hl'agagilda Skidegate, K'Il Llnagaay Sandspit — and up coast to about Gaindi SkihGaal 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 Tl'aal Tl'eel. Going north, your phone will chirp again at Gamadiis Port Clements and then just south of Masset. Service in the area around the entrance of Gwaay K'ayihli Masset Inlet is reliable, but as you head out to Hl'yaaylaan waagusd North Beach, service thins out. Check out the centerfold map for locations, and remember, the back-country is a “signal-free” area — enjoy!

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Gaw Iiisi
Masset/North End
Ambulance
250-626-5511
250-626-3991
RCMP
250-626-5511
250-626-3991

Gamadiis/Tl'aal
Port Clements/Tl'eel
Hi'agagilda/Daajing Giids
Skidegate/Queen Charlotte
K'I'L Llnagaay
Sandspit
250-626-5511
250-557-4355
250-559-8300
250-637-2222
800-461-9911
250-559-4421
250-559-4421

TIDES IN HAILA GWAI

Compared to predictions for Prince Rupert

GAW KAAHLL
Hunger Harbour
Low 3:20 after low flood
High 3:45 after high
Low 10 min early
High 5 min early

SKAATS'INSII
Hunger Harbour
Low 3:50 after low flood
High 4:55 after high
Low 20 min early
High 10 min early

JUUS K'ALAHII
K'YAL GAW GA
Low 4:45 after low flood
High 4:50 after high
Low 10 min early
High 10 min early

K YAAM HEE NAAAA
KAY TAY DAANAAY
Low 4:55 after low flood
High 5:00 after high
Low 10 min early
High 10 min early

WAGGY KAIAS
Dawson Harbour
Low 4:50 after low flood
High 5:00 after high
Low 10 min early
High 10 min early

DAAJING GIIDS
Queen Charlotte
Low 3:40 after low flood
High 4:05 after high
Low 10 min early
High same as Prince Rupert

HI L'YAALANG
Whitney Sound
Low 3:00 after low flood
High 3:20 after high
Low 10 min early
High 5 min early

MSET
20 min late
250-559-4355

GMADIS Port Clements
High 1:35 after high
Low 0:35 after low
Low 15 min later
High 20 min later

GAW KAAHL
Daajing Giids
Low 2:30 after low flood
High 2:50 after high
Low 5 min early
High same as Prince Rupert

GAW T'ALAGEE
Dawson Harbour
Low 2:50 after low flood
High 3:20 after high
Low 5 min early
High same as Prince Rupert

EMERGENCY SERVICES

RCMP
800-461-9911

RCMP
250-559-4355
250-559-8300
250-637-2222

Fire

Estimated using predictions from the Canadian Hydrographic Service. Estimates are unofficial and may vary significantly from reality. Use with caution.

From Haida Fisheries Program / Crawford Ecological Consulting

TIDES IN HAILA GWAI

Compared to predictions for Prince Rupert

UNDERSTANDING TIDES

Tidal currents occur in conjunction with the rise and fall of the tide. The vertical motion of the tides near the shore causes the water to move horizontally, creating currents. When a tidal current moves toward the land and away from the sea, it “floods.” When it moves toward the sea away from the land, it “ebbs.”

Tide tables are essential for exploring the beaches of Haida Gwaii. We have extreme tides here, up to 7.3 metre (24 foot) tidal variation. Booklets are published annually by the Canadian Hydrographic Service and they provide instructions on the use of tables to determine daily tides (time and height) for specific locations.

For Haida Gwaii you should have:

- Canadian Tide & Current Tables Volume 7: “Queen Charlotte Sound to Dixon Entrance”
- Graphs from Haida Fisheries Program /
- Crawford Ecological Consulting

Tide tables provide information on the time and height of the tide. It’s important to remember there are factors that can increase the effects of the tides, such as your location and storms.

Learn to read tide tables before traveling along the beach. A famous Hawaiian, Duke Kahanamoku, helped popularize the motto, “Never turn your back on the ocean.” His reasons were twofold: he wanted people to watch out for the physical dangers of being hit by a wave, and he wanted mankind to show respect for the ocean. Rogue or sneaker waves can appear at any time and on any beach.

Rip tides can form on any beach with surf. They are often found near jetties or between sand bars. If you are caught in a current that pulls you quickly from shore, swim parallel to the beach to break out of it.

For more information see gohaidagwai.ca
A tsunami is a natural hazard consisting of a series of long, surge-like waves generated when a large volume of ocean water is rapidly displaced. Most tsunamis are caused by major subduction earthquakes, where there is significant displacement of the ocean floor. Tsunami waves contain considerable energy; they can travel rapidly further inland compared to ordinary coastal waves. A tsunami may not look like a wave at all, but will have very strong currents under its surface.

Tsunami sirens are a challenging hazard to respond to. The arrival time of the wave generated far out at sea can be predicted fairly accurately, however, the intensity of the wave when it reaches shore is more difficult to predict, particularly in real time during an event.

While a distant tsunami will likely allow time for an official tsunami warning to be given, a local tsunami can reach the shore before an official warning has been lifted or as instructed by emergency officials before returning to low-lying areas.

When disaster hits, there won’t be time to buy emergency supplies. Ensure you have emergency kits for your home, workplace and vehicle. They should all contain food, water and supplies for a minimum of 72 hours. A week or longer is better. Information on building these kits can be found here at emergencygov.bc.ca/PreparedBC. Do not return to low-lying areas to gather your belongings. People should wait until they get notification that the tsunami warning has been lifted or as instructed by emergency officials before returning to low-lying areas.

**TSUNAMI SIRENS**

Tsunami sirens are located in the communities of Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte, Hl'gaagilda Skidegate, Masset and Gw Tlagee Old Massett. The warnings sound like an air-raid siren. Every Tuesday at 7pm, the Village of Masset tests their emergency sirens; the fire department call-out warning is first, and the tsunami warning siren is second. The Village of Queen Charlotte and Hl'gaagilda test their sirens every third Thursday in October on “Shake Out BC” day. Please see shakeoutbc.ca for more information on this province-wide earthquake drill day.

**EVACUATION NOTIFICATIONS**

If you are near the coast and feel a major earthquake making it difficult to stand, you must “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” and then evacuate to higher ground immediately with your 72hr emergency kits. Ensure you have emergency kits for your home, workplace and vehicle. They should all contain food, water and supplies for a minimum of 72 hours. A week or longer is better. Information on building these kits can be found here at emergencygov.bc.ca/PreparedBC. Do not return to low-lying areas to gather your belongings. People should wait until they get notification that the tsunami warning has been lifted or as instructed by emergency officials before returning to low-lying areas.

**ON HAIDA GWAI'I, EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION CAN BE:**

- If you feel a prolonged earthquake large enough to make standing difficult
- Tsunami Siren
- Continuous vehicle horns or police/fire sirens
- AlertReady: all LTE cell phones, radio, TV
- EC Alert
- ePACT call out: SMS, phone, email (only if registered at epactnetwork.com/en/signup/haidagwaiialerts)
- VHF 16
- If you feel an earthquake you can check the Pacific Tsunami Notification Centre website for real-time warnings: ptwc.weather.gov

**ACCESSIBLE ATTRACTIONS**

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.

- H'yaalang waagusd North Beach area 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 a parked vehicle. At the Hiellen campground:

- Kwâhtsiisda the Blow Hole at H'yaalang waagusd North Beach area and a tour of the monumental poles in Gw Tlagee Old Massett is an enjoyable and easily navigable north-island tour. The monumental poles in Gw Tlagee can be viewed from the roadside and the Kwâhtsiisda is a 20-minute walk (each way) via a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk from a parking lot. At the trailhead:

- The Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary and Nature Centre are also wheelchair-accessible to some degree. The 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 Gamadis 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.

- Gamadis 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 trailhead:

- Installed in spring of 2019, a new beach-access mobility mat is now installed on the beach at Misty Meadows Campground in Tll.aal Tlell. This mat is designed to float above the sand and give a firm surface to move a wheelchair along.

- 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:

- Xaaydas Giinaa.h Naay Haida Heritage Centre and Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum at Kay Ungaan were designed to be wheelchair-accessible. Although the inside of the centre is accessible, the outside area where the monumental pole tours have been conducted has proven difficult due to the gravel covering. Tours at the Centre include the monumental pole, Gya Haid canoe and weaving tours.

- The Queen Charlotte sea walk is located in central Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte. It provides a stunning view of Xaa Shaab Gwây'aa Skideigate Inlet and Queen Charlotte Harbour at the Visitor Centre, the Queen Charlotte Community Centre, and at the VIRL Queen Charlotte branch library.
### March

**Daijaing Gids Queen Charlotte**

**Hospital Day** held in Daajing Gids Queen Charlotte every third Saturday in June (in 2019 that's June 22). Hospital Day has been an annual tradition on the islands since 1908, when islanders came together to raise funds to build the first hospital. To this day, Hospital Day continues to provide monies for purchasing healthcare equipment for various healthcare programs all over the islands, as well as bursaries for medical education.

**July**

**Gamaidis Port Columns**

**Canada Day Events** on the nearest July 1 weekend in Gamaidis Port Columns. Mud bog, fishing derby and more. The day begins with a pancake breakfast followed by a parade that leads the crowds to the community park to participate in go-kart races, games, and more. The highlight of the celebration is the mud bog with participants from every community on Haida Gwaii.

**Hl'gaagilda Skidegate Days** in July at Hl'gaagilda Skidegate with canoe races, salmon BBQ and more. The Skidegate Days celebrations kicks off with a pancake breakfast at the "small hall" in Hl'yaalang waagusd. The multi-day event includes a slo-pitch tournament, Haida canoe races, games, and a salmon barbecue dinner.

### April

**Seniors' Winter Games** held in April, an all-islands event, the Winter Games is a popular event for all islanders (50+) and is organized each year by one of the communities.

**May**

**Gawu 4uns Siwiyaay Mosquito Lake**

**Trot Derby** held in May on Moresby Island. This fun family event at Gawu 4uns Siwiyaay Mosquito Lake is hosted on 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.

**Masset**

**Harbour Day** held during the May long weekend in Masset. A fun day with that starts off with a parade, a set of games, sports BBQs, fish bakes, pancake breakfasts, and even morning bird/muffin walk. See massettbc.com for more information.

### June

**Gaw Tlagee Old Masset**

**Aboriginal Day Celebration** held in Gaw Tlagee Old Masset - annually on June 21. Come celebrate the unique heritage, diverse culture and outstanding achievements of the Haida Nation.

**K'l Llnagaay Sandspit**

**Loggers Sports Day** held Saturday, July 27 at K'l 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, throwing, setting chokers, burling and a greased pole climb.

### July

**Haida Heritage Center Celebration** traditionally held on the 3rd weekend in August at K'ylnagaay. The celebration is for the award-winning cultural centre, and it begins with a clan parade followed by a day of traditional Haida celebrations. See haidaheritagecentre.com for more information.

**K'l Llnagaay Sandspit**

**Moresby Explorers Pig Roast** held on the last Saturday in August at K'l Llnagaay Sandspit. The Moresby Explorers crew welcomes everybody for an end-of-season party, pig roast and potluck-style dinner with live bands. For more information, see moresbyexplorers.com.

### August

**Tll Aal T'ell**

**Tlell Fall Fair** held on Sunday, August 4th at Tll Aal T'ell - the Sunday of the long weekend. Earliest fall fair in BC! The original fall fair started in 1912 in the Lawhill area of Haida Gwaii. The current format of the Tlell Fall Fair was established in 1982 by the Graham Islands East Coast Farmers Institute. The event is held on the nearest July 1 weekend in Gamaidis Port Columns.

**The Edge of the World Music Festival** August 9, 10, 11 in Tll Aal T'ell - Since 1975, the EOTW music festival is an annual event that happens the second weekend in August. The venue is one of the largest in Haida Gwaii, and has attracted musicians and tourists because of it’s uniqueness, hospitality, location, and upscale and personal feel. See edgefest.ca for more information.

**K'l Llnagaay Sandspit**

**Sandsput Wild Harvest Festival** held on September 6 and 7 in K'l Llnagaay Sandspit. This event includes speakers, wild mushroom identification lessons, food processing workshops, ecology tours and more! See sandsputwildharvest.wixsite.com or email sandsputwildharvest@gmail.com.

**K'l Llnagaay Sandspit**

**Haida Gwaii Museum Gala** held in the fall at K'ylnagaay. Collectors come to bid in an art auction featuring pieces from islands artists. See haidagwaiimuseum.ca for more information.

### September/October

**K'l Llnagaay Sandspit**

**Coho Salmon Derby** held in late September/October, K'ylnagaay Sandspit and K'sasda GawGa Copper Bay. The annual Coho Derby hosted by the Sandspit Rod and Gun Club. Contact Jim Henry for more information at 250-637-2212.

**Sandspit Wild Harvest Festival** held on September 6 and 7 in K'l Llnagaay Sandspit. This event includes speakers, wild mushroom identification lessons, food processing workshops, ecology tours and more! See sandsputwildharvest.wixsite.com or email sandsputwildharvest@gmail.com.

### October

**K'l Llnagaay Sandspit**

**Sandsput Wild Harvest Festival** held on September 6 and 7 in K'l Llnagaay Sandspit. This event includes speakers, wild mushroom identification lessons, food processing workshops, ecology tours and more! See sandsputwildharvest.wixsite.com or email sandsputwildharvest@gmail.com.

### November

**K'ylnagaay Sandspit**

**North Beach**

**Expression Sessions** held in November at H'yaalang waagusd North Beach. For more information, see northbeachsurfshop.com for more information.
In recent history Gaw Tlagee the land around Masset inlet was a busy metropolitan trading centre, crowded with canoe traffic. A rich natural ecosystem supported 11 Haida village sites found in and around Gaw Tlagee. Today the modern village of Gaw Tlagee sprawls across three of these, including Gáad Gaywáas at its north end, Ts’ágwaals towards its centre, and K’áayang towards its south.

Haida master carvers continue to fill Gaw Tlagee’s skies with gyaa’ang monumental columns, as they have since the arrival of kaaydaay trees up to 14,500 years ago. Please show respect to these living community members. Visitors also will find the village filled with woven, painted, carved, engraved, and hammered masterpieces. A stop at a gift shop will provide a glimpse into the diverse mediums Haida have mastered.

After exploring, hungry visitors can find meals at the gas bar & grill. You might be fortunate to arrive in time for one of many ceremonies open to visitors, where you could join the community for dinner. A boat launch is available should you prefer to catch your own meal. You will find a gas station in town on Guud k’yuuaas Eagle Avenue.

Just up town you will find the relatively young community of Masset, which traces its name to a similar origin as Old Massett. Registered in 1907, Masset’s roots lie primarily in fishing, logging and the military. The Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum will open a window into Masset’s maritime roots. All kinds of vessels arrive and depart from Masset Harbour, including local fishing charters.

You will find a visitor centre, hardware, electronics, groceries, adventure-gear, marine sports equipment, credit union, gas station, repair-shop, restaurants, hotels, library, post office, coffee shop and B&Bs. Masset Airport is a quick five-minute drive north.

Right behind Masset is Dal Kaahlii Delkatla Bird Sanctuary. You can encircle its leisurely 5.6-kilometre trail and roadway in about 45 minutes. Depending on the season and the day, you may be in for some incredible bird watching. Dal Kaahlii offers you the chance to see some rarer species and perhaps even catch some once-in-a-lifetime phenomena.

For more information: gohaidagwaii.ca
Haida Gwaii Trip Planner

**Hl’yaalang Waagusd North Beach & Hl’yaalang Hiellen**

Geaunuwee Supernatural Beings inhabit all corners of Haida Gwaii. You can find many of them very easily. Just a half-hour drive east from Masset you will find Taaw Tl’daaawee Tow Hill. You can drive a gravel road through old-growth forests, then follow a boardwalk to Taaw’s foot. With a flooding tide and strong swell you will see Kwahtsisiisda the Blow Hole throwing sea spray high into the air. cards stories K’iygang live on the eastern bank of Hl’yaalang Gandlee. Siigee the Haida canon of oral histories confirm, this village is one of the many villages existing below and above it, where SGeaunuwee live. Sprawling sandy and stony beaches, old-growth forests and diverse bog ecosystems characterize the surrounding area. In our physical realm, many neighbouring vil-

**Gaw Kaahlil Masset Inlet**

A drive 35 minutes south up Gaw Kaahlili Masset Inlet will carry visitors through bogs and cedar forests, past Gantl’ Gadaas Pure Lake to Gamadiis Port Clements. This is one of seven village sites that flourished around Yaagun K’ahlil’ Si’lang, an estuary at the mouth of Yaagun Gandlee Yakoun River to the west. With GAMADIES Gandlee to its east, the modern village of Gamadiis lives among abundant natural ecological wealth. The waterways shelter nine salmonid species, two lamprey species, and birds of all kinds. These nourish and maintain surrounding spruce and cedar old-growth forests.

The modern village at Gamadiis was founded in 1907 under the name Queenstown. Residents later changed the name to Port Clements in 1914. Today hard-working and friendly logging families fill the town. You will find a grocery store, hostel, restaurant and bar, gas station, post office, library and docks. Some residents also maintain businesses in adventure tourism, including kayaking and fishing outfits. Be certain to stop at the Port Clements Museum to see a terrific collection of objects that defined Haida Gwaii’s recent history.

On the west side of town you will find RV and camping sites at Sunset Park, a two-kilometer trail along berry-filled waterfront, and a walk through old-growth at K’iid K’iyaa’ Kyyuu Golden Spruce Trail. The gravel road leading west out of Gamadiis turns south to a vast network of logging roads. These roads will lead you to Chaahluu Kaahlil Rennell Sound and Yaagun Yakoun Lake. It can be easy to get lost. You will need accurate maps, and a VHF radio tuned to the local frequency is recommended.

For more information: gohaidagwaii.ca

For more information: gohaidagwaii.ca
A brisk 20-minute drive south from Gamadiis Port Clements will bring you to Tll.aal. Tll.aal Gandlaay the Tll.e River winds over 55 kilometres inland. Plentiful salmon return to spawn and support residents, just as they did when the site was a bustling Haida village, several thousand years old. Several daa.a house foundations are only around 150 years old; a testament to the area’s natural wealth. These houses were classic monumental cedar structures.

In summer, Haida gathered in the area near Wiggins Road. The coasts where they left trails of signs of these vanishing beings along rainforests. You can see the clearest signs of these vanishing beings along eskers now hidden beneath thick maximum, when ice sculpted the hills here reaches back to the late glacial.

To Gamadiis Port Clements

To HlGaagilda

For more information: gohaidagwaii.ca
Another ten minutes south will bring you to Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte. The modern village spreads across three Haida village sites, with Daajing Giids towards its eastern downtown centre, Kwagwagid Ling Daajing further up-inlet, and Xaana at its western extremity. Daajing Giids is just one of dozens of village sites that proliferated in the rich and protected waters of Xaana Kaaahl Gwagaay.

You can explore the many islands, coves, rivers and narrows by hiring charters based out of the harbour at K’yahjuu GawGa to access Regier Lake Trail via Foresty Hill. The trail leads you up the slopes behind Daajing Giids to Regier Lake. A little farther west Nanvay Glandlay K’yuul Gidv Brook Trail covers easier ground, looping behind the village. You will find a trailhead at the top of 8th Street. The trail exits behind "the Fishbowl", a cul-de-sac a little farther west. You can also walk through old-growth forests at Kaahlkwx Glandlay K’yuul Gidv Crabbapple Creek Trail. While exploring forests behind Daajing Giids, be certain to watch for trail markers carefully. A whole network of "backyard trails" can lead the unfamiliar astray.

Campsites are available at the western end of town at Hayden Turner Campground and Kagan Bay Recreational Site. At the end of the gravel road, called Honna Road, you can launch boats on the north shore of Tl’nas S’t’ng, the eastern end of Tl’Saduu GawGa K’agun Bay. While visitors sometimes decide to camp there, you should be aware that residents often use the area for late night fires and to sight rifles in.

A whole network of "backyard trails" can lead the unfamiliar astray.

The sunny village of K’il Llnagaay is one of the many dozens of village sites that flourished along the inlet’s southern shore. Gorgeous beaches, mountain hikes, rivers and forests distinguish the surrounding country. Just on the west end of town you will find the head of Haans Creek Trail, where you can explore a little of this beauty.

In town you will find a boat launch, restaurants, a grocery store, airport, hostel, B&B’s and the post office. A number of fishing and adventure tourism outfits will get you ready for your next adventure in Gwaii Haanas. These outfits can drive you along the network of logging roads to Gawu Kuns Moresby-By Camp, an important Haida historical site that is many thousands of years old. Many adventures into Gwaii Haanas start at the boat launch there.

Bird watching.
GYAAGANG.NGAAY
MONUMENTAL POLES OF HAIDA GWAI'I

After the trees arrived in Haida Gwaii, SGaanuwee Supernatural Beings showed Kuuniiisii Haida ancestors how to carve gya'aang monumental poles. The Haida word for monumental pole is related to the word gya'aang stand up. After Haida carve, dance, and raise them, gya'aang or gya'aang become living community members.

Gya'aang bring communities together and span generations. They remind people of a household's powerful lineage, celebrate the wealth and provision of a generation, or honour the memory of an esteemed community member. They can be said to be divided into three general categories: gwaaygiiGang crest poles, 'waahlGahl gya'aang or 'waahl'ahl gya'aang potlatch poles, and saahlin gya'aang or saahlang Xaad mortuary poles. While such events are rare, Haida and their coastal neighbours also raise gya'aang to ridicule a person for behaving shamefully.

Haida carvers bring countless other creations into existence, including interior house columns, smaller decorative pieces, model houses and poles. Haida carve gya'aang primarily with ts'uu Western red cedar, but sometimes use other materials such as argillite. They also cast figures and poles in other material such as bronze, resin, silver and gold. Haida carvers most often bring their creations into our world for specific purposes, to honour kuuniiisii, someone's lineage, or SGaanuwee.

You will find gya'aang throughout Haida Gwaii. We encourage you to admire our living community members from a respectful distance.
TAANUU
Date raised: June 4-9, 2001
Location: Kay Llnagaay
Lead carver: Gitkinjuuwas Ronald Wilson
Assistant carver: Vicky Moody
Figures (bottom to top): Sgáana, Xuyuy, Guujii, X'agáada, Taan

SGANG GWAAAY
Date raised: June 4-9, 2001
Location: Kay Llnagaay
Lead carver: Laada Tim Boyko
Assistant carvers: G'uuu Derek White, Eric Wilson
Figures (bottom to top): Taan, X'ing, Kyaaalu, Taan

CHIEFTAINSHIP POLE TO HONOUR MATRIARCH KII'ILJUU
Date raised: July 31, 2016
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate
Lead carver: Gitkinjuuwas Ronald Wilson

GIDANSDA PERCY WILLIAMS MEMORIAL
Date raised: Summer 2017
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate at Laana GwilNaas the Ball Field
Lead carver: Gidansda Guujaaw

GIDANSDA JIMMY WILSON MEMORIAL
Date raised: June 4-9, 2001
Location: Kay Llnagaay
Lead carver: Bert Wilson and Joe Mander
Assistant carver: Gordy Mills

STONGMAN
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate at Sk'aadgaa Naay Elementary School
Lead carver: Laada Tim Boyko

WEEPING WOMAN OF TAANUU
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate
Lead carver: Gaayyaah Norman Price Sr

GUD AD KIGAWAAY GYAAGANG.NGAAY BORN TOGETHER CLAN POLE
Date raised: July 31, 2016
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate in front of David’s Take-out
Lead carver: St'lllaa Garner Moody
Assistant carvers: Kwakyans Tony Greene, Laada Tim Boyko, St'lllaa Tyler York

EAGLE AND BEAR MOTHER
Date raised: 1993
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate at the entrance to GuuhlG a Siiwaay K’yuu Spirit Lake trail
Lead carver: Dick Bellis

YAAHL RAVEN ENTRANCE MONUMENT
Date raised: June 21, 2010
Location: Masset at Ka’adiya Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital
Lead carver: Cooper Wilson

GIDANSDA JIMMY WILSON MEMORIAL
Date raised: June 4-9, 2001
Location: Kay Llnagaay
Lead carver: Bert Wilson and Joe Mander
Assistant carver: Gordy Mills

Assistant carvers: Ga’uu Derek White, Eric Wilson
Figures (bottom to top): Taan, Xuyuy, Kyaaalu, Taan

YAAHL RAVEN ENTRANCE MONUMENT
Date raised: May 1, 2011
Location: K’uust’an Xaana
Lead carver: Laada Tim Boyko and Jason Gootzinger
Figures (bottom to top): Xuyuy holding Sgáana, Xuyuy, X’agáada, Taan, X’ing xllgalay

WIIGAANAD SID CROSBY NAA’UUWANS
Date raised: May 1, 2011
Location: K’uust’an Xaana
Lead carver: Laada Tim Boyko and Jason Goetzinger
Figures (bottom to top): Xuyuy holding Sgáana, Xuyuy, X’agáada, Taan, X’ing xllgalay

XAAD XILAA GYAHLAANG GYA*AANG MEDICINE STORY POLE
Date raised: May 18, 2009
Location: Masset in front Ka’ddiya Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital
Lead carver: Kihlguulans Christian White
Assistants: Ga’uu Derek White and Taaw ihaanaas Vernon White
Apprentices: Jerome McDonald, Yaahl iiwaang Bryce Williams, Neil Goertzen, Yaahl Sg’waansang Eugene Davidson, Stlaana Jeadess Daisy White
Finishing assistant: Tak’ittaayaa Corey Bulprit

STRONGMAN
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate at Sk’aadgaa Naay Elementary School
Lead carver: Laada Tim Boyko

EAGLE AND BEAR MOTHER
Date raised: 1993
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate at the entrance to GuuhlG a Siiwaay Kyuu Spirit Lake trail
Lead carver: Dick Bellis

YAAHL RAVEN ENTRANCE MONUMENT
Date raised: June 21, 2010
Location: Masset at Ka’adiya Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital
Lead carver: Cooper Wilson

TAANUU
Date raised: June 4-9, 2001
Location: Kay Llnagaay
Lead carver: Gitkinjuuwas Ronald Wilson
Assistant carver: Vicky Moody
Figures (bottom to top): Sgáana, Xuyuy, Guujii, X’agáada, Taan

CHIEFTAINSHIP POLE TO HONOUR MATRIARCH KII’ILJUU
Date raised: July 31, 2016
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate
Lead carver: Gitkinjuuwas Ronald Wilson

GIDANSDA PERCY WILLIAMS MEMORIAL
Date raised: Summer 2017
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate at Laana GwilNaas the Ball Field
Lead carver: Gidansda Guujaaw

GIDANSDA JIMMY WILSON MEMORIAL
Date raised: June 4-9, 2001
Location: Kay Llnagaay
Lead carver: Bert Wilson and Joe Mander
Assistant carver: Gordy Mills

STONGMAN
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate at Sk’aadgaa Naay Elementary School
Lead carver: Laada Tim Boyko

EAGLE AND BEAR MOTHER
Date raised: 1993
Location: HiGaagilda Skidegate at the entrance to GuuhlG a Siiwaay Kyuu Spirit Lake trail
Lead carver: Dick Bellis

YAAHL RAVEN ENTRANCE MONUMENT
Date raised: June 21, 2010
Location: Masset at Ka’adiya Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital
Lead carver: Cooper Wilson
**Haida Gwaii Trip Planner**

**Guud Ad Yaahl Monument**
Date raised: June 21, 2010
Location: Tlaga G awtlaas New Town
Lead carvers: Giits’aanagnaas Todd White and Ga’uu Derek White

**Family Centre Pole**
Date raised: June 21, 2010
Location: Tlaga G awtlaas Old Massett
Lead carver: T’aaw Iihaanaas Vernon White

**K’yaluu Eagle House**
Date raised: June 21, 2010
Location: Tlaga G awtlaas Old Massett at the Gwaii Trust Building
Lead carver: Jaałen Edenshaw

**Skilay Memorial**
Date raised: 2003
Location: Tlaga G awtlaas in Gaw Tlagee Old Massett at the Gwaii Trust Village Council Administration Building
Lead carver: 7idansuu Jim Hart

**St. John’s Church**
Date raised: 1969
Location: Gad Gaywáas at St John’s Anglican Church in Gaw Tlagee Old Massett
Lead carver: Guud San Glans Robert Davidson

**7idansuu Morris White Potlatch Monument**
Date raised: 1995
Location: Gaw Tlagee Old Massett in front Tlúa Xaadáa
Lead carvers: 7idansuu Jim Hart and Kihlguulans Christian White
Assistant carvers: Ga’uu Derek White, Laada Tim Boyko, Giits’aanagnaas Todd White

**Kihlguulans Geoffrey White Memorial**
Date raised: 2006
Location: Gaw Tlagee Old Massett in front Tlúa Xaadáa
Lead carver: Kihlguulans Christian White
Assistant carvers: Ga’uu Derek White, T’aaw Iihaanaas Vernon White, Ta’ik’it ayáxs Corey Bulj fft, Neel Goertzen, Yaahl sGwaansang Eugene Davidson
Figures: The monument features a shark at the bottom. The t’aaw copper shields represent Geoffrey White’s siblings. A white raven sits atop the monument.

**Wiílaa Chief Matthews**
Date raised: 2003
Location: Tlaga G awtlaas in Gaw Tlagee Old Massett
Lead carver: skil qaat'laaas Reg Davidson

**Amanda Edgars Memorial**
Date raised: 1992
Location: Tlaga G awtlaas in Gaw Tlagee Old Massett
Lead carver: Paul White

**Health Centre Monument**
Date raised: June 21, 2010
Location: Tlaga G awtlaas in Gaw Tlagee Old Massett at the Gwaii Trust Village Council Administration Building
Lead carver: Laada Tim Boyko
KAADSNÉE SHARK HOUSE
Date raised: 1986
Location: Gad Gáywás in Qame Tlagaé Old Massett
Lead carver: skil qaats’la.aas Reg Davidson

STAASTAS 7IDANUU MORRIS WHITE MEMORIAL
Date raised: 1999
Location: Gad Gáywás in Qame Tlagaé Old Massett
Lead carvers: 7idansuu Jim Hart and eagle by Kihlgulans Christian White

YAAN RAVEN
Date raised: 1973
Location: Gad Gáywás by the ball field in Qame Tlagaé Old Massett
Lead carver: Hláawàngddlii Skilaa Lawrence Bell

YAAN EAGLE
Date raised: 1973
Location: Gad Gáywás by the ball field in Qame Tlagaé Old Massett
Lead carver: Hláawàngddlii Skilaa Lawrence Bell

YAN POLE
Date raised: 1991
Location: Yaan Yan
Lead carver: 7idansuu Jim Hart

TAAW
Date raised: 2016
Location: Taaw Tow Hill
Lead carver: Gáuu Derek White
Assistants: Sílisa Naajdaas Daisy White, and Diana White
Figure: a portrait of Taaw

HAAPII
Date raised: 2016
Location: Taaw Tow Hill
Lead carver: Gáuu Derek White
Assistants: Sílisa Naajdaas Daisy White, and Diana White
Story: Haapii is the hero who killed a beast living atop Taaw. The creature’s helpers, a kun whale and Guud eagle, left their marks at Taaw in the form of the blowhole and the scratches on the rocks in front of Taaw ideal Tow Hill.

HLYAALAN SOLSTICE POLE
Date raised: June 21, 2017
Location: Hlyaalan ‘Língwe Háißen village
Lead carver: Kihlgulans Christian White
Assistant carvers: Taaw lihaanaas Vernon White, Gáuu Derek White, Shayanna Brown, Hak’wanaay Jay Bellis, Janki Bell, Sílisa Naajdaas Daisy White, Shane Bell, Skilaaq Captain Stewart-Burton, Naajdaas Haanaas Tiffany Boyko, Shaylene Brown, Lihlang Langas Paul Byron
Finishing assistants: T'aaw Iihaanaas Vernon White, Ga’uu Derek White, Starskilaaw Captain Stewart-Burton, Yaansuq Shyanna Brown, Paul Byron, Skilaaw Captain Stewart-Burton, Skilaaw Captain Stewart-Burton

 Figures (bottom to top): kilslaay holding t’aaw in the arms of his wife, Xooys, two Xooys’,sidalang in ears, T’ing, Súwaají Gágágáa, Sgyamun blue mountain hawk, Spanner Hawk, hlk’yan Squatt’lan, Súwaají transforming, S’ágaga in its mouth, two more hlk’yan Squatt’lan, man wearing Guud Gáa, Nang kílsílaas, Xooysuq Shyanna Brown, nang jaada synshyuú, S’ágaga
Kunxalas took on new meaning in 2008 as Kunxalas, or pierced nose.

and the larger peninsula to the south when the area and nearby Kunts’ii Haida know the bay as Diinal GawGa, Haida Gwaii in the summer of 1789.

fur trader who sailed up east coast besides another honour for Captain Robert Gray, the sharp-dealing Boston

besides another honour for Captain the English name had a hidden motive

Maybe the people who chose “Gray” for

nicely as it rolls over the fine sand of Gray Bay’s 5km crescent beach.

TADSWII • KAATS’II HLA  THIS IS HAIDA GWAII TADSWII • KAATS’II HLA  THIS IS HAIDA GWAII

Gray Bay is about as grey as the lush green of Greenland. Wind-sheltered and shallow, the wide, east-facing bay is actually one of the islands’ favourite summer spots. Especially on a calm day with a rising tide, the water warms nicely as it rolls over the fine sand of Gray Bay’s 5km crescent beach.

Maybe the people who chose “Gray” for the English name had a hidden motive besides another honour for Captain Robert Gray, the sharp-dealing Boston fur trader who sailed up east coast Haida Gwaii in the summer of 1789.

Haida know the bay as Diinal GawGa, and the larger peninsula to the south as Kunxalas, or pierced nose.

Kunxalas took on new meaning in 2008 when the area and nearby Kunts’ii Sheldens Lagoon, Kunxalas Cumshewa Head, and K’aasda GawGa the Copper River estuary all became part of the Kunxalas protected area that covers the northeast coast of Moresby Island.

Off-limits to logging and other extractive uses, Kunxalas is one of 11 mainly coastal areas around Haida Gwaii that is protected by the Haida Nation as a heritage site, and by the government of BC as a conservancy. Just west of Sandspit is another, smaller protected area, Damayaa, which includes the Dover Trail and K’il, a historic Haida seasonal camp by the mouth of Daamaxyah Sandlay, or Haans Creek.

While they are not so well known, the 11 protected areas on Haida Gwaii are actually larger than world-famous Gwaii Haanas

When mapped along with Haida Gwaii’s provincial parks and ecological reserves, it’s clear that over half the land on Haida Gwaii is permanently protected for cultural, spiritual, ecological, and recreational uses.

Today, Haida collect food, medicinal plants, cedar bark and other cultural materials from Kunxalas and the other areas as they have done for well over 14,000 years.

There are at least five historic villages or seasonal camps in Kunxalas, including Lанаayay Llnagaay, Kunts’ii Llnagaay, Hlнulul Llnagaay, KuuQahl, and Kunxalas Llnagaay.

Along the protected shoreline are seabird colonies, sea lion haul-outs, extensive kelp beds, and habitat for shellfish such as abalone, geoduck, and razor clams. The 2,350 hectares of old-growth forest in Kunxalas may also be home to a few of the endangered Haida Gwaii subspecies of Northern goshawk.

And among the mostly hemlock and cedar forest in Kunxalas runs K’aasda GawGa the Copper River and other fish-bearing streams that host Coho salmon, Dolly Varden, sculpin, Rainbow trout and Cutthroat trout.

Starting on School Road in K’il Llnagaay Sandspit and heading south, the route to Diinal GawGa goes by the Sandspit Airport and Willows Golf Course before passing through the shoreline neighbour-hood of Hardingville and onto an unpaved logging road, the Copper Bay Mainline.

From here, it is a bumpy but scenic 21 km drive south. After following the Copper River Mainline for 14 km, there is a single, well-signed left turn onto Gray Bay Road for the final stretch to the campground.

The first sights along the drive are towering rock and the opening of K’aasda GawGa Copper Bay, where Haida families gather every year to harvest returning coho and sockeye. In 1862, settlers excited by the prospects of copper ore dug a 190-foot mine shaft in the area, but it was soon abandoned and filled in by 1909 for safety.

After going by the many fishing cabins, the road passes around a river bend and you see the first full view of the Copper River threading through the forest to drain Skidegate Lake and the surrounding 180 km2 watershed.

The Copper Mainline hugs the river and passes by a tidal lagoon before coming to the turnoff for Gray Bay Road. A short drive later, campers who want an even quieter spot than Diinal GawGa can turn left towards Kunts’ii Sheldens Bay recreation site, which has three campsites.

After crossing a creek bridge, the road finally reaches Diinal GawGa the Gray Bay campground. Spread out just behind the dunes are 20 large beachfront campsites perfect for group trips or families — campers need to treat the nearby stream water or bring their own, but each site has a fire pit, privy, and hewn-log picnic table.

Just before the bridge is a left turn to the Secret Cove trailhead. An easy hike of about 1 km, Secret Cove is a fine walk for families and passes several tall Sitka spruce on the way to a pebble beach. In December 2018, a fierce windstorm whipped over Kunxalas Cumshewa Head with gusts of up to 166 km/h — it’s the most likely culprit for a pair of large windblown trees that recently fell across the trail but are easy enough to walk around or clamber over.

For a longer hike that is about a 10 km round trip, walk to the end of Gray Bay...
They fly at speed in mature and old-growth forest — swift, silent and grey. With yellow talons and piercing orange eyes, they hunt small birds and mammals by diving down from the treetops. Sometimes they stalk prey by walking the forest floor.

Stads k’un or Haida Gwaii goshawks, have always been tricky to see. Darker than their continental cousins, the raven-sized raptors are extremely nimble fliers that prefer to stay in the forest. Used as falconry birds across Eurasia for thousands of years, stads k’un can turn in a flash and wheel quick around branches, thanks to their short wide wings and long, rudder-like tail.

On Haida Gwaii, stads k’un prefer to hunt a huge area of forest — at 70 to 110 km², the typical foraging area is bigger than Manhattan.

Two years ago, Haida citizens at the Nation’s House of Assembly voted to recognize stads k’un as Haida Gwaii’s national bird. A recent genomic study is shedding new light on the birds, showing just how unique and endangered they really are.

Best estimates suggest there may only be 50 goshawks left on Haida Gwaii. Logging the islands’ old-growth forests dramatically reduced their habitat, and the deer introduced to Haida Gwaii over a century ago have spread and munched away much of the forest understory that provided habitat for their prey.

In 1940, ornithologist Percy Algernon Taverner identified the islands’ stads k’un as part of a darker, slightly smaller subspecies, Accipiter gentilis laingi, that differs from most other northern stads k’un in North America.

Based on what he could observe at the time, Taverner thought the subspecies ranged throughout the BC coast and Vancouver Island. But with so few samples and physical features hard to distinguish, there has long been debate about the extent of the laingi range.

More work needs to be done to definitively identify the Haida Gwaii stads k’un as a subspecies, but in the meantime, the UBC study will inform a new conservation plan that aims to protect the birds from extinction. Already, a Haida Gwaii land-use order – the rules and regulations governing logging on the islands – protects 200 hectares of forest around any known nest sites, and the old-growth and mature forests in Gwaii Haanas and the other protected areas that cover about half the Haida Gwaii are providing more habitat.

But with so few left on the islands, their precarious existence is one of concern and focused attention. Teams of people are out on the land watching for the birds and in offices developing plans to ensure populations not only remain stable but begin to rebound in the very near future.
Touring Haida Gwaii with the Ocean Bridge conservation program, the youth stopped to join an annual spring clean-up where local volunteers fan out from the Hl’yaalan Gandlee (Hiellen River) towards Nee Kun (Rose Spit) and rid the dunes of washed-up debris.

In the wake of the deadly 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami that hit north-east Japan, such marine debris captured international attention — among the things that washed from Japan onto Haida Gwaii a year later was a crated Harley Davidson motorcycle, rusted but intact. Stories about the tsunami debris finally trickled to a stop. But plastics keep washing into the ocean and onto Haida Gwaii.

An estimated eight million tonnes of plastic gets into the ocean each year, mostly from land-based sources. Two-thirds washes in with road runoff, and a quarter comes from wastewater, including the hundreds of thousands of plastic microfibres released with a typical laundry load.

If current trends continue, says a recent report by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, by 2050 all the plastic in the ocean could well outweigh the fish.

By Andrew Hudson
Along with organizing clean-ups — including difficult expeditions by boat to gather debris from Gwaii Haanas and Haida Gwaii’s remote west coast — islanders are looking at ways to stop the flow.

One of the latest has a name worthy of an ear-splitting heavy metal band: Cloe the Pyrolyzer.

“Cloe” is actually a new plastics-to-fuel machine being piloted by students at Gudangaay Taats’gaa Naay Secondary in Masset.

Basically, Cloe can melt, vaporize, burn, and cool certain kinds of plastic into a diesel-like fuel — her nickname comes from ClH2O, the fuel’s chemical formula.

“The machine up-cycles the plastic back into the fuel that it was made from,” says biology teacher Daniel Schulbeck, speaking in the school science class.

The machine handles Type 2, 4, and 5 plastics — a group that doesn’t include single-use water bottles, but does include yogurt containers, milk jugs, and bottles for shampoo.

A group that tried a similar machine in Whitehorse had a better result with washed-up marine plastics than with plastics from the local recycling plant, likely because of human sorting errors at the plant.

“Really, the ocean self-sorts,” Schulbeck said, noting how Type 2, 4, and 5 plastics tend to float high in the water.

Students will start by up-cycling batches of similar plastics from the school, including thousands of obsolete VHS cassettes (minus the tapes and hardware, the cassettes are all Type 5).

One kilogram of plastic makes about a litre of fuel, and there are at least 2,000 VHS tapes in the district office alone, Schulbeck said.

“There is 400 litres of diesel sitting in that room.”

Next, the students will have to decide what to do with the fuel. One idea is to boil Haida Gwaii seawater to make sea salt.

“It’s a negative-waste product,” said Schulbeck, perhaps the first made on Haida Gwaii.

The salt could be flavoured and sold through the high school greenhouse program — an existing social enterprise that helped pay for Cloe the Pyrolyzer.

“Well see how far we go with it,” said Schulbeck, adding that the whole project also gives Grade 10 science students a chance to see the organic chemistry they’re learning in action.

“Our fuel is not only free, it’s already paid for itself twice,” he said.

“One, we’ve reduced plastic. Two, we’ve learned about it in the classroom.”

Danny Robertson is another student of marine plastics, but for five years after the Tōhoku tsunami in Japan, his classroom was the true edge of the world — Haida Gwaii’s remote and rugged west coast.

A boat captain and co-owner of Highlander Marine, Robertson was one of several islanders hired to clean tsunami debris off the Haida Gwaii coastline.

The Tōhoku event swept an estimated 20 million tonnes into the Pacific. But the expected echo “wave” of debris never really came.

“By the third year, we stopped calling it ‘tsunami debris,’” Robertson says.

Even in 2014, the first year of the clean-up, he said only a fifth of the debris was definitively from Japan. Even less could be traced to the tsunami itself.

Instead, after returning year after year to the same west-coast bays and inlets — places even Highlander crews would rarely see otherwise — Robertson said it dawned on everyone what a huge amount of plastic washes onto Haida Gwaii every year. Some comes from commercial fishing, but mainly it’s a random sweep of world garbage.

“If we had an oil spill on our coast, the world would be watching. We would be right there and have every resource thrown at it,” Robertson said, noting that plastic is oil-based. “We do have an oil spill happening — it’s just happening in slow motion.”

While it was often heartbreaking, Robertson said the tsunami clean-up began with an “outstanding act of kindness and generosity” from Japan. Even it reeled from a deadly disaster, the country donated $1 million toward cleaning the West Coast.

“The Japanese gave us a gift,” Robertson said — not only money, but the first chance to do a multi-year survey showing just how much plastic debris washes up, and where.
Robertson remembers standing by a pair of Japanese scientists who flew to Haida Gwaii to open the one they recovered, and the look on their faces when they saw the equipment inside was still running. “As it turns out, that sensor happened to be the one deployed on the southeast corner of the epicenter,” Robertson said. “It carried incredible data — priceless.”

Haida Gwaii is a natural catchment zone. Any debris that doesn’t get captured by the “strainer” of the west coast bays and inlets can sweep around to the east coast, carried by the strong currents moving north and south of Haida Gwaii and into Hecate Strait.

Robertson said a rough rule of thumb is that areas with lots of driftwood draw lots of plastics — a complex combination of ocean currents, prevailing winds and refracting waves tends to create “hotspots” along the coast.

But there are surprises, such as at Gudal Bay, a long deep bay on the west coast where crews expected lots of debris and found next to none. A similar bay nearby had boatloads.

Funding for the tsunami clean-up ended in 2018, but it sparked a coast-wide network of interested, front-line people that includes First Nations, B.C. municipalities, and non-profits such as the Living Oceans Society. They recently spoke with a Vancouver MP keen to start an ongoing federal response.

Robertson noted that the Haida have found marine debris for thousands of years, much of it valuable. Storm-blown Japanese fishing boats occasionally washed up with metals aboard. Even today, local millers talk about sea-borne mahogany as “East Beach cedar.”

And even among all the trash, in 2014, Robertson and his crew did find one real treasure from Tōhoku — a 250-pound steel float belonging to the University of Tokyo. The steel alone cost $300,000, but inside was a seismometer with something far more valuable. Several of Japan’s ocean-floor seismometers broke loose in the 2011 earthquake. Most were recovered, but two were lost.
Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site is a wild place. With no road access, stores, cell phone coverage and little signage, it is a true wilderness experience.

Gwaii Haanas is not only home to a plethora of unique subspecies and environments, it is also home to Haida. Today the Council of the Haida Nation and the Government of Canada manage Gwaii Haanas through a cooperative agreement. They work together through the Archipelago Management Board, which protects Gwaii Haanas from sea floor to mountain peak.

Gwaii Haanas visitors can paddle kayaks or catch the wind sailing through waters alongside sGaana killer whales, sGaj Pacific white-sided dolphins and Steller sea lions. They may see pods of kun humpbacks breaching and flicking their tail flukes as they gorge on the bounty of the Gwaii Haanas marine area. Visitors can float through K’tiid Xyangs K’iiidaay Burnaby Narrows, teeming with intertidal life, and see a vast array of different species at lower tides.

Haida have lived among the sGaanawaay supernatural beings of Haida Gwaii at least since the end of the ice age, and have managed Gwaii Haanas to maintain its ecological integrity for at least 14,500 years. Kayak along shorelines teeming with sea stars, walk amid towering, century-old monumental poles and soak up the moss-shrouded magic of 1,884 islands and islets. In the summer, activities range from one-day guided boat trips to extended boating or kayaking adventures.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT
Gwaii Haanas balances recreation with protection of the natural and cultural features that attract people. With this in mind, the number of visitors entering Gwaii Haanas each day is limited. Available space is distributed between guided and independent travelers. July to mid-August is the busiest travel period, so if you plan to visit during this time, verify the availability of your Gwaii Haanas dates before finalizing your travel plans.

Are you travelling independently or on a guided trip? If you would like to take a guided trip, book your trip directly with a licensed tour operator. See pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/bc/gwaiihaanas/visit/guides/voyagistes-operators for a list of licensed tour operators. If you are travelling independently (in your own boat, personal or rented kayak) you will need to make a reservation and attend an orientation.

HAIDA WATCHMEN PROGRAM
For millennia Haida posted watchmen at strategic positions around villages to raise alarms in advance of approaching enemies. The current Gina Ga Ga Kyahts’as Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program began in 1981 as a volunteer initiative designed to protect Haida villages and other important cultural sites in Gwaii Haanas. Today, Watchmen welcome visitors and act as guardians protecting the villages from spring until autumn at: K’usna Llnagaay Skedans Taamuu Llnagaay Tanu Hlk’yah GawGa Windy Bay Sgang Gwaayyaay Hotspring Island Sgang Gwaay Ninstints/Anthony Island

Listen as Haida Watchmen share oral histories and stories which have been passed down through generations. Haida poles at Sgang Gwaay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and K’usna Llnagaay Skedans stretch into the sky telling ancient stories. Haida poles are maps of Haida lives and lineages and form a connection with the supernatural, displaying crests associated with certain families and people.
FEATURED TRAILS
For specific trail information see BC Parks.ca or gohaidagwaii.ca:
- Taaw (Tow Hill)
- Kwatsitsida (Blow Hole Trail)
- K’iid K’iis Da (Golden Spruce Trail)
- Anvil
- Pesuta
- Yaagun (Yaagun Lake Trail)
- Bonanza Beach
- Gregory Beach
- Dover Trail
- Secret Cove
- Sk’aw Gandalaa (Cape Fife Trail)
- Tltías (East Beach Trail)

CAMPSITE LOCATIONS
Agate Beach and Misty Meadows Campgrounds are subject to a nightly fee from June 1 to September 30:
- Hl’yaalan Galguusd (Agate Beach)
- Diinal GawGa (Gray Bay)

PICNIC & PADDLING AREAS
Make sure you understand the risks of water sport activities:
- Yaagun (Yaagun Lake Trail)
- Kwiid Suu (Mayer Lake Trail)
- Gantl’ Gadaas (Pure Lake)

THE TRAIL MARKER
There are two main shapes that make up Haida art, the ‘ovoid’ and ‘U’ shapes. Within many classical designs, you will find the salmon/trout head like this one used on the trail markers. The design is used to fill spaces in eyeballs, wings, body parts, etc. There are thousands of different ways this common design element can be used. Trail marker design: Ben Davidson

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
RCMP:
- Queen Charlotte: 250-559-4421
- Masset: 250-626-3991
- Ground Search & Rescue — contact closest RCMP

BC AMBULANCE: 1-800-461-9911

OBSERVE, RECORD, REPORT: 1-800-465-4336 (fish & wildlife violations, littering or pollution)

MARINE EMERGENCY:
- Prince Rupert Coast Guard: 250-627-3081
- VHF 16 - cell phone #727
- Rescue Centre: 1-800-567-3111
- 1-300-413-9933 (cell #727)

FOREST FIRES:
Coastal Fire Centre: 1-800-663-5555

The Haida Nation and BC Parks co-manage 18 terrestrial and marine protected areas across the Haida Gwaii archipelago. This amounts to one-third of the islands — just over 224,000 hectares (553,516 acres). Combined with Gwaí Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, 52% of Haida Gwaii is protected and managed collaboratively with the Haida Nation.

• HANGUDDAANG is the Haida concept for respect for the land, sea and all living things — please practice this during your visit to Haida Gwaii protected areas. Use the principles of Leave No Trace camping.
• Please do not remove any cultural artifacts that you may encounter along the route and report any findings to the Council of the Haida Nation and BC Parks.
• Respect sensitive plants growing in coastal sand ecosystems and do not trample or pick them.
• Avoid travel in the forest during high winds.
• On exposed beaches always be aware of the tide and never turn your back to the sea. Make sure you have a current tide table and know how to interpret it.
• Be Taan Bear Aware – they can be encountered throughout Haida Gwaii. Always store your food and trash properly and away from your campsite, keep dogs under control, and pay attention to your surroundings, especially near salmon rivers.
• Use fire rings if provided and never leave your fire unattended. Ensure it is completely extinguished before you leave.
• Use care and attention driving on active logging roads.
• Tsunamis: rare but dangerous. If you feel the ground shake strongly for more than 30 seconds or notice the tide dropping rapidly and drastically, immediately move to higher ground.

COUNCIL OF THE HAINA NATION
Haïda Héritage Sites
haidanation.ca
- Naikoon Provincial Park
- Gwaí Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site

BC PARKS
BCParks.ca

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parksmhtv.ca
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- Real estate listings and much more

Homegrown. United. Better for all. What’s your Haida Gwaii story? Send us your stories, photos, cartoons, etc. We look forward to hearing from you. Call 250-557-2088 or email info@haidagwaiitrader.com

Pick up the latest copy of the HG Trader magazine at participating retailers or check out our Ezine on the HG Trader website at haidagwaiitrader.com

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For more information about Naikoon Provincial Park visit: em.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/naikoon

Facilities at Naikoon Provincial Park managed by:

OLD MASSETT VILLAGE COUNCIL PARKS DEPARTMENT

For questions, please contact Park Coordinator:

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89
ELDERS SAY THERE WERE AS MANY DIALECTS OF HAIDA AS THERE WERE CLANS – AT ONE TIME NUMBERING WELL INTO THE HUNDREDS. TODAY THREE PRIMARY DIALECTS ARE RECOGNIZED: K’LIS XAAD KIL SOUTHEASTERN ALASKAN DIALECT, GAW XAAD KIL HAIDA NORTHERN DIALECT AND HLA XAAYDA KIL HAIDA SOUTHERN DIALECT.

The dedicated and vibrant Haida language community is thoroughly integrated into the islands fabric. The community provides translation services, spell-checking, the correct use of words, and context references to many publications and individuals on Haida Gwaii. The community includes fluent speakers mentoring younger students in all communities, elders who gather in centres like Xaad Kil Nee and Hla Xaayda Kil Naay Skidegate Haida Immersion Program (SHIP) to record and teach, university students earning teaching degrees, those who participate in discussion and write in the language online, and people teaching themselves at home.

A NOTE ON HAIDA LANGUAGE USE

In this publication, the geographic location of the story determines which dialect is used. For the stories located north of Gamadis Port Clements we use Gw Xaad Kil and for those south of Gamadis we use Hla Xaayda Kil.

SOME OF THE PLACE NAMES MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE

\begin{itemize}
  \item Apsuuk Kaksutka
  \item Nangu Xaad Kil
  \item Sgaa Xaayda Kil
  \item K’áang Xaayda Kil
\end{itemize}

HAIDA WORD GUIDE

**LAND & SEA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GAW XAAD KIL</th>
<th>HLGAAGILDA XAAYDA KIL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sdads k’un Stads k’un</td>
<td>Haida Gwaii goshawk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K’uu K’uuxuu</td>
<td>Salmon berries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K’yaaluu K’yaaluu</td>
<td>Pelagic cormorant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K’uu K’uuxuu</td>
<td>Eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T’Saayaa T’Saal</td>
<td>Salmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hl’yaalang waagusd</td>
<td>Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HlGaagilda</td>
<td>Haida northern dialect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaahluu Kaahlii</td>
<td>Skidegate Narrows</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**BEINGS**

The Haida canon of oral histories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K’uyang</th>
<th>K’uyang nga</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yaalas</td>
<td>K’uyal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guuda</td>
<td>Kustak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kunisii</td>
<td>K’uyal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nang Kilsdaas</td>
<td>K’uyal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ITEMS & EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gya’aang</th>
<th>Eck’al</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gya’yaang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naanii</td>
<td>Nanaay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naanii</td>
<td>Nanaay</td>
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<tr>
<td>T’aaw</td>
<td>Copper shield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gantl’ Gaadaas</td>
<td>Squamish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VOWELS**

- **p, b, m, w**
- **t, t’, d, n, ts, ts’, j, s**
- **k, k’, g, ng, x, w**
- **y, ch**
- **k, k’, g (in Xaayda KIl)**
- **G (in Xaad Kil)**

**HAIDA CANON OF ORAL HISTORIES**

- The Haida canon of oral histories
- Matrinilal descendants of the raven moiety
- Respected one
- Matrinilal descendants of the eagle moiety
- Haida ancestors
- One Whose Voice is Obeyed or Supernatural Raven
- Supernatural Being

**XAAYDA KIL AND XAAD KIL CONSONANTS**

**Lips**

- Back of teeth
- Hard palate
- Soft palate
- Uvula

**TADSII’ • KAATS’II HLA THIS IS HAIDA GWAI。”
GUUHLGA SIWIAY K’YUU
SPIRIT LAKE TRAIL

GuuhlGa Siwiay K’yuu the Spirit Lake trail complex is a network of looping trails in the hills just above HiGaagilda Skidegate. The trailhead is located across the highway from Naa Gaagudlit’k’agangs George Brown Recreation Centre and a Red cedar carving of a ‘WaasGuu a supernatural being’ by artist Billy Bellis marks the beginning of a series of walks that accommodates most fitness levels – from an easy stroll to a vigorous hike or run. Check the map at the trailhead to orientate yourself before heading up.

The main trail begins with an easy am- bles through the forest and then hits a short grade that takes you up to a side hill which follows Tam Gndllay Mission Creek. Once across the next bridge another short steep pitch takes you up to another bridge, and then one more moderate grade up into the lake area. Once there you have a choice of routes – short or long – and all are of easy to moderate effort. One trail traverses the outside of the lake and others loop the interior. Times vary given your route. For many people, about an hour will take you around the outside loop and back to the trailhead – not counting stopping for a rest or picnic, taking in the view or observing wildlife.

Low hills surround the lake on three sides producing a micro-climate that encourages the rich growth of plants and the animals that take advantage of the habitat. Views from the trail and fern-covered hillsides highlight the complex stages of a growing forest and the myriad shades of green typical of a rainforest. Trumpeter swans are seen in the winter along with ts’aag Bald eagles and Guuya ravens, and in the summer numerous song and water birds frequent the lakes. Throughout the area is evidence of Haida cultural practices including bark-striped trees and culturally modified trees. In one spot a portion of a felled tree still rests near its base.

The lake features dramatic spike-topped cedar trees and wetlands and is often a quiet place to enjoy the sights and sounds of Haida Gwaii’s natural environment on a late summer evening.
WHEN YOU’VE REACHED THE EDGE OF YOUR WORLD, OURS BEGINS

Respectful silence at Ts’aaxahl Gwaay’alya Chaat

Photo: Gregory Gould