



## THE HEART OF GWAI HAANAS

*Queen Charlotte Islands National Park Reserve*

CANADA ~ SEA KAYAKING ~ 10 DAYS

### TRIP DETAILS

*8 days sea kayaking,  
hiking,  
archeological sites  
7 nights camping  
2 nights B&B*

### 2012 DATES

*July 14 - 23  
July 21 - 30  
July 28 - August 6  
August 4 - 13*

### LAND COST

*\$2495 US / CDN\*  
Park User Fee :  
\$120 US / CDN*

*From : Sandspit  
Days : 10  
Group Size : 10*

*\*includes two nights B&B  
accommodation based on  
double occupancy  
Single Supplement: \$95\**

*Round-trip transport from  
Sandspit to  
Gwaii Haanas National  
Park Reserve*

*\*Subject to Harmonized  
Service Tax*

After over 18 years of guiding trips in Gwaii Haanas National Park we have settled on this itinerary as the most satisfying for those wanting the quintessential Haida Gwaii / Queen Charlottes experience. This trip ranges from the gloriously colorful intertidal display at Burnaby Narrows near the foot of majestic Yatza Mountain to Kunghit Island and the waters around Anthony Island. It also offers some of the most extraordinary scenery and archeological sites in the world including a visit to the jewel of the Queen Charlottes: the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Skun Gwaii village on Anthony Island (Ninstints). There the numerous standing totem poles bear powerful silent witness to the Haida's rich culture and artistic heritage.

Passing through some of the most spectacular terrain on the islands, we paddle from the waters of Hecate Strait to the open Pacific. Wildlife abounds on this stretch of coast: eagles survey their domain from treetops, deer browse contentedly through camp and even the occasional Queen Charlottes' black bear can be seen gleaning a meal from the rich intertidal zone.

Traveling from one end of the route to the other, the direction of these trips, north to south or the reverse, is dependent upon the specific departure date. To complete the experience of this biologically distinct and culturally significant area, on the return trip to Sandspit, we stop at Hot Spring Island to take in the panoramic view of Juan Perez Sound and the San Christoval mountains while enjoying a luxurious and well earned soak in the natural hot pools.

This active adventure is focused on exploring and interpreting the many aspects; biological, archeological and cultural, of this very special place. Kayaking Gwaii Haanas provides a unique perspective on this fascinating landscape. Each trip is crafted to ensure an unparalleled experience with; a memorable itinerary that allows you to see the best of the islands, seasoned knowledgeable guides and delicious organic cuisine. Find out for yourself why, in the July – August 2005 issue of National Geographic Traveler, over 300 park experts picked Gwaii Haanas National Park as the, “**Best Park Destination in North America**”.



## ITINERARY

### Southbound - (route is reversed each week)

#### Day 1 ~ Saturday

Arrive in Sandspit on the northeast tip of Moresby Island take either the Airport Shuttle or Sandspit Taxi (250-637-5655) to the Seaport B&B. The balance of the day is free to explore Sandspit, walk the beach and watch some of the many bald eagles that dot the treetops along the shoreline.

#### Day 2 ~ Sunday

At approximately 6:30 AM (or perhaps later - check with folks at the Seaport B&B) the Moresby Explorers will pick you up drive the group to Moresby Camp a small Bay on Cumshuwa Inlet. There you will board the Moresby Explorers inflatable for the exhilarating 2 1/2 hour trip along the coast of Moresby Island to the Swan Islands in Skincuttle Inlet. After settling into camp there will be a sea kayaking orientation and an exploration of Swan Bay to try out new skills.

#### Day 3 ~ Monday

After breakfast we will set course for Burnaby Strait and Dolomite Narrows (Burnaby Narrows). The dramatic profile of Yatza Mountain dominates the skyline as we round the southern tip of Burnaby Island. Floating the narrows by kayaking we will experience the colorful pageant of this biological wonder at close quarters before returning to our camp on the Swan Islands.

#### Day 4 ~ Tuesday

An early start. After a breakfast we will load the kayaks and set out. Crossing Skincuttle Inlet the ecological reserve of the Copper Islands is visible to the north as we pass the old village site of Hagi on Bolkus Island, and the abandoned mine works at Jedway. Rounding Deluge Point we head south towards our first campsite.

#### Day 5 ~ Wednesday

Today we will continue south crossing Collison Bay, the site of one of the earliest European settlements on the islands, towards Goodwin Pt. and on past the Rankine Islands ecological reserve sea bird nesting site towards our campsite, the old village site of Kaidju at Benjamin Pt. A short walk across the point from the protected north cove leads to a remarkable view of the point's winter storm battered south shore.

#### Day 6 ~ Thursday

Rounding Benjamin Pt. we get our first view of Kunghit Island. As we swing into Houston Stewart Channel we enter a narrow passageway from Hecate Strait to the Pacific and paddle into the territory of the Kunghit Haida and their last chief: Ninstints. Our camp is on Ross Island.

#### Day 7 ~ Friday

Riding the tide through the remainder of Houston Stewart we get an expanding view of the Pacific and finally Anthony Island comes into view to the west. Our camp tonight is Louscoone Point, which is an ideal jumping off spot for our visit to the ancient village of Skun Gwaii on Anthony Island.

**Day 8 ~ Saturday**

A short but dramatic paddle takes us past Adam Rocks and into the protected cove on the west side of the island. Entering the old village one can't help but be touched by the haunting majesty of the standing poles. We will spend as much time as possible exploring the village and have a visit with the Haida watchmen (The Haida caretakers of the ancient sites in the park who are well known for extending legendary Haida hospitality) before setting out for Ross Island.

**Day 9 ~ Sunday**

A leisurely morning on Ross Island we pack up personal gear and await the arrival of Moresby Explorers. The return trip, which includes a stop at Hot Springs Is, is scheduled to have participants back in Sandspit by late afternoon.

**Day 10 ~ Monday**

Departure

**Note on Itineraries**

Itineraries are intended as guidelines only. Tofino Expeditions reserves the right to change the itinerary without advance notice at the discretion of the guides, due to weather conditions or other general or logistical situations at the time of the trip. Tofino Expeditions is committed to producing trips of consistently high quality and safety without compromise.

**What's Included**

- two nights B&B accommodation in Sandspit
- professional guides
- transportation in and out of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve
- expedition kayaks, tents, PFD's (life jackets) and safety equipment (including satellite phone)
- all camp meals prepared by Tofino Expeditions staff
- group camping equipment
- comprehensive on-trip resource library
- group first aid kit

**What's not**

Airfares, park user fee, taxes, insurance of any kind (we strongly suggest that you purchase travel insurance that covers medical care and evacuation as well as cancellations for medical reasons), tipping of guides (5% is standard), town meals and beverages or items of a personal nature.

## Getting to the Queen Charlotte Islands

Located 80 miles off the northwest coast of British Columbia, the Queen Charlotte Islands rise from the waters of the open Pacific Ocean and are separated from the mainland by Hecate Strait. Our tours begin in Sandspit, a small town situated on the northeast tip of Moresby Island, the southern of the two main islands in the Queen Charlotte Archipelago. Sandspit is accessed directly by scheduled air service from Vancouver, BC and by ferry service from Prince Rupert via Skidegate on Graham Island. Guests can arrive on or before the first scheduled day of the trip and leave on or after the last scheduled day. If you have detailed questions about travel to the Queen Charlottes or add-on tour options please give us a call.

### **Air Access**

Air Canada Jazz services Sandspit from Vancouver on a daily basis. For a current flight schedule and reservations, please call 1-888-247-2262 (toll free) or on the web at [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca).

### **Ferry Access**

There is ferry service from Prince Rupert to Skidgate on the southeast end of Graham Island, the northern of the two main islands in the Queen Charlotte Archipelago. The very scenic and popular Inside Passage ferry service connects Port Hardy on the north end of Vancouver Island with Prince Rupert. The BC Ferry Corporation strongly recommends making reservations for autos from Prince Rupert to Skidegate. Foot passengers don't generally need to make reservations. Please call BC Ferries (604) 444-2890 or visit the web site, [www.bcferries.bc.ca](http://www.bcferries.bc.ca) to confirm their current summer schedule.

**General BC Tourist Information:** 1-800-663-6000

### **Sandspit Accommodation**

We stay at the Seaport Bed & Breakfast Tel: (250) 637-5698.

### **New - The Haida Heritage Center and Museum at QAY'LLNAGAAY**

Located 2 km. from the ferry terminal at Skidegate the new Haida Heritage Center and Museum is a worthwhile addition to a trip itinerary. Along with the many artifacts there are six newly raised totem poles. A visit to the museum adds historical context to the paddling trip. Seeing both the newly carved totem poles at the museum and the older ones on Anthony Island provides insight into the strength and continuum of Haida artistic tradition. For more information visit [www.haidaheritagecentre.com](http://www.haidaheritagecentre.com) or call (250) 559-4643.

## The Next Step

### **Ready to go? Registering is easy!**

Just call us at 1-800-677-0877 and reserve your spot! You can also book a reservation online at our website ([www.tofino.com](http://www.tofino.com)). If you prefer to use a travel agent, he or she can book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

### **Leave the Rest to Us**

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, up-to-date health advice and other details.

### **Why Tofino Expeditions?**

We have more than 23 years of experience as an expedition guide service, are leaders in sea-kayak instruction and have an industry wide reputation for safety, service and great food. We have guided thousands of paddlers on wilderness trips and are thrilled that so many guests become repeat clientele. Our trips are physically satisfying vacations that are designed to be relaxing, safe, thought-provoking and fun

We pride ourselves in preparing high-quality meals from the freshest available ingredients. We are committed to using organic ingredients whenever we can, and we support local food producers. Our menu varies, but a day could include a substantial North American breakfast and freshly ground Adam's Organic™ coffee, wholesome sandwiches and fresh salads for lunch, tried-and-true international favorites for supper — and fresh baked goods almost every day.

### **Our Commitment to Conservation**

Tofino Expeditions has always been at the forefront of minimum impact camping technique and we have been formally recognized for our responsible expedition methods and management. We actively support a range of organizations that share our commitment to wilderness preservation.

### **References**

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

### **Questions?**

Feel free to call us at 1-800-677-0877 if you still have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also check out our website at [www.tofino.com](http://www.tofino.com).

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Questions?

Please don't hesitate to call us if you have questions or concerns, we're here to help you. You can also find answers to many questions on our website ([www.tofino.com](http://www.tofino.com)).

### To Register:

If you would like to reserve a space on one of our expeditions, you can either call (800-677-0877), fax (503-364-5326), email us ([info@tofino.com](mailto:info@tofino.com)) or register online at our website ([www.tofino.com](http://www.tofino.com)). We accept Visa and Mastercard for deposits and trip costs. If you have any questions about our trips please contact our office.

### Deposits and Payment

A \$400 per person deposit holds your space until 60 days before trip departure, when payment is due in full. If your deposit is made by credit card we will process the balance 60 days prior to departure unless notified to do otherwise. Due to the nature of international operations, prices are subject to change.

### Inclusive Services

The information package for each trip contains a comprehensive list of equipment and services which are included in the trip cost. Please read these carefully and call our office if you require further information.

### Not included

Airfares, meals in towns (to allow for individual choice), gratuities to staff, insurance of any kind, airport taxes (if any), alcoholic beverages or soft drinks and other items of a personal nature. Medical expenses, costs of hospitalization, evacuation by helicopter or any other means are not covered in the trip cost.

### Cancellations

A significant portion of our expenses are committed long before departure. At the time we receive written notice that you must cancel your trip, the following fees will apply (all dates are from departure date):

From time of reservation until 90 days prior to departure: \$150

89 to 60 days prior to departure: \$400

59 to 30 days prior to departure: 50% of Land Cost

29 days or less prior to departure: 100% of Land Cost.

