



Untouched Haida Gwaii

June 11th to 16th, 2024

6 Day Haida Gwaii

Haida Gwaii is a wild and untouched archipelago on the west coast of British Columbia steeped in the culture of the Haida People dating back over 10,000 years. Discover the culture both past and present as we explore the dramatic landscapes and abundant wildlife of these incredible islands. Visit Haida Gwaii and experience a mystical world of adventure and breathtaking beauty.

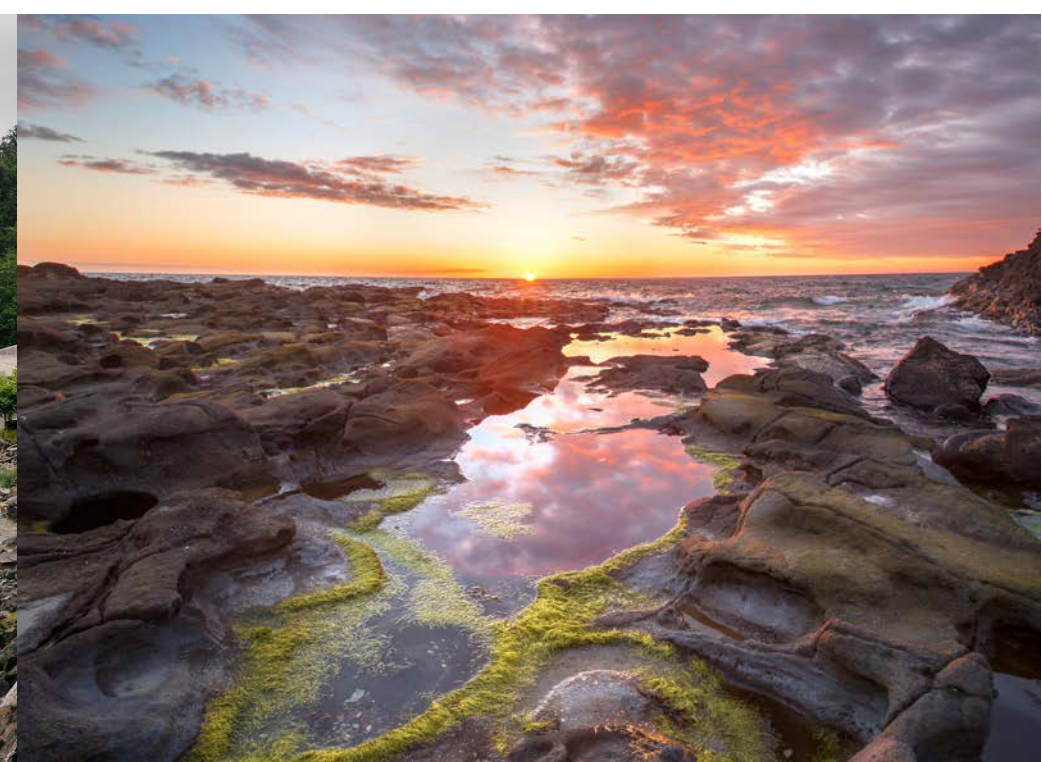
HIGHLIGHTS:

Excursion to Skedans - Haida Heritage Center - Old Massett and Tlell Artisans - Port Clements Museum - Balance Rock - Golden Spruce Trail - Masset Carver's Workshop - Naikoon Provincial Park - Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum - Copper Beech House

Photos 1, 2, 4 by: Destination British Columbia / Grant Harder | Photo 3 by: Northern British Columbia Tourism / Marcus Paladino



Photo by Destination British Columbia



This is a fundraising project of the Associates of WAG-Qaumajuj



Photos by: Destination British Columbia, Grant Harder

Hosted by Carol
Eliasson/Sue Irving,
Associates of WAG-
Qaumajuq

Your Hosts

Carol Eliasson

My passion for travel comes from being inflight with Air Canada for thirty-nine years travelling to many countries. I now work part time as a Tour Director, leading tours to destinations all over the world. I am a member of the Executive of the Associates of the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Sue Irving

Sue Irving is a volunteer with the Associates of WAG-Qaumajuq and loves travelling the world either independently or with a group. She was a tour guide for the Associates on a HEART OF THE ARCTIC voyage with Adventure Canada and also led an Associate's pop-up trip to OTTAWA during Canada's Sesquicentennial celebrations.

Itinerary

Day 1: Haida Gwaii, British Columbia | June 11th

Landing in Sandspit, Haida Gwaii, meaning "Islands of the People" is an archipelago of over 150 islands with an incredible history surrounding the culture of the Haida People who first inhabited these islands over 10,000 years ago. This afternoon we arrive in Haida Gwaii and travel to our modest Queen Charlotte City accommodation. Enjoy the evening at leisure to explore this island village.

Hotel: Sea Raven Motel | Meals: Dinner

Day 2: Excursion to Skedans (K'uuna Lnagaay) | June 12th

Important Note: The planned boat tour excursions in Haida Gwaii are heavily dependent on the constantly changing weather. Our aim is to include these boat tours but please be advised that we could be providing alternative programs in the event of unfavourable weather, wind, and sea conditions.

This will be the day tour to the village of Skedans or K'uuna Lnagaay, in the Haida language. Skedans was a village of 26 to 30 longhouses at its height. Today, the poles that remain and the depressions of several longhouses give you a sense of the former grandeur of the village, splayed out along Skedans Bay. We pass through the Laskeek Bay area, where we visit Kay (sea lion) rookeries, explore the shoreline, search for taan (bear) and cruise the seas looking for whales. Along the way, our guides will incorporate a combination of storytelling, songs and/or local history, giving guests a unique glimpse into our heritage. Alternatively, we may go to Windy Bay and Hotspring Island. This evening we plan for our Haida Style dinner experience.

Hotel: Sea Raven Motel | Meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch

Day 3: Haida Heritage Centre | June 13th

Today is a visit to the magnificent Haida Heritage Centre. The Haida Gwaii Museum is a magnificent showcase of the Haida People, culture, and way of life, highlighting the traditions of all fourteen Haida Clans. With an interpreter of the museum, we enjoy an interpretive tour of the facility followed by some time to experience the exhibits at leisure. You will have some free time to explore before we experience a traditional Haida Style dinner with the local people.

Hotel: Sea Raven Motel | Meals: Breakfast, Haida Feast Dinner

Itinerary

Day 4: Tlell, Port Clements and Masset, BC | June 14th

We start our day with a picture stop at Balance Rock, a remnant of the Ice Age that looks precariously posed on the coast, but is in fact, firmly in place and immovable. The trail to the rock may be slippery and we may opt to view this from a distance. We drive to Tlell, home to a variety of local artisans and take time at leisure to visit their shops and learn of their crafts firsthand.

A short distance from the village of Tlell is the south entrance of the Naikoon Provincial Park. Part of the traditional territory of the Haida people, the park figures prominently in their culture and history and holds many sites of cultural importance as well as historic villages and important traditional food gathering locations throughout the park. A walk along the East Beach Trail is a great experience. We strongly suggest bringing a pair of binoculars and your camera and reading up in advance about the natural and human history of Haida Gwaii before you start to gain in-depth knowledge and appreciation of the landscape you are travelling through.

Travelling a short distance further to Port Clements, an active forestry area, we visit the Port Clements Museum and learn about the past conditions of the forest industry in Haida Gwaii. Nearby is a short, easy hike from the museum to the Golden Spruce Trail. The trail is named after the Golden Sitka Spruce that grew at the end of the trail for nearly 300 years and had a mutation causing the spruce to grow needles of a golden yellow colour. The tree was cut down by a protester in 1997 leading to a Canada-wide outcry. A sapling was saved when the original tree grew and had been nurtured and grown at the Port Clements Memorial Park which we will visit after our walk along the trail.

We finally continue to the northern shore of Haida Gwaii and the town of Masset. Upon arrival, we will check into our accommodations and head off to experience a Carvers workshop with the locals. They will show us the traditions which they learned from their ancestors, which they continue proudly to represent the best of Haida design and workmanship.

Hotel: Oceanview Hotel, Masset | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5: Masset and the Naikoon Provincial Park, BC | June 15th

The village of Masset is located at the entrance to the Masset Inlet, an important centre for sport fishing. A short walk takes us to the Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum housed in a restored heritage building. The museum offers a look back at the early settlement and maritime history of the Greater Masset area.

We will then do a quick drive through nearby Old Masset, located 2 km north of Masset. The community of Old Masset is connected by road and a well-used sidewalk and sits on the site of three traditional Haida villages. Old Masset is one of 2 villages where the Haida Nation regrouped in the late 1800s, having been forced to leave most of their ancient villages due to their declining numbers, a severe consequence of smallpox introduced by Europeans. The Hudson's Bay Company operated a trading post at the far end of the village from 1869 to 1898. Old Masset is named after Maast Island, a small island in Masset Sound, which is believed to have been named after an early European sailor who was buried on the Island. Today, Old Masset is the administrative seat of the Council of the Haida Nation and is home to about 800 Haida people, including some well-known Indigenous carvers. We will take some time for some shopping. We will enjoy Tea and Sandwiches at the Copper Beech House. An artist's paradise of artwork and writings. You will meet with Susan Musgrave herself.

10 km east of Masset is an easily walkable boardwalk trail that allows access to a blowhole as well as to Tow Hill, both important landmarks in Naikoon Provincial Park. Tonight, we will experience another Haida feast with a different community and different backgrounds. We will learn the history, stories and be able to touch items from the grandmothers and grandfathers of the family. We will enjoy local songs and dance while we enjoy fresh local Fish, Bannock, Salad, and dessert.

Hotel: Oceanview Hotel, Masset | Meals: Breakfast, Haida Feast Dinner

Day 6: Depart Haida Gwaii, British Columbia | June 16th

We bid farewell to Haida Gwaii as we transfer back to Sandspit Airport to begin the journey home

Meals: Breakfast

To reserve your spot please contact Megan at Cruise Vacations

204-954-2095 megan@cruise-vacations.ca



Pricing & Terms

Extend your trip to the
Queen Charlotte Lodge
from June 7-10
prior to this package!

QCL
HAIDA GWAII

EXPERIENCE FISHING
FIRST CLASS

Double occupancy: \$4500 CAD per person

Single occupancy: \$5150 CAD per person

***Includes \$150 tax-deductible donation to WAG QAUMAJUQ**

- 1. Deposit is \$1000, Final Payment is due March 4, 2024**
2. All payments are non-refundable
3. Group Size limited to 16 passengers
4. Travel insurance is strongly recommended and can be quoted/purchased through Cruise Vacations.
5. Must be physically capable to participate in all activities as listed in this itinerary, including walking on uneven surfaces, short hikes, and getting in & out of boats.
6. WAG-Qaumajuq membership is not required to join this tour.

Included:

- Roundtrip flights from Vancouver to Sandspit airport
- Tour leader and coach driver gratuities
- Donation to WAG Qaumajuq
- Meals as indicated
- Private Coach Transportation
- Services of a Professional Tour Leader
- Accommodation as listed
- National Park Fees as Required
- Luggage Handling (1 bag per person)
- Attractions & Activities as listed

Not Included:

- Travel insurance
- Meals not listed
- Items of a personal nature
- Attractions not listed
- Credit card payment fees, where applicable
- Airfare to/from Vancouver



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VACATIONS

To reserve your spot please contact Megan at Cruise Vacations
204-954-2095 megan@cruise-vacations.ca

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