

Ocean Light Adventures

Gwaii Haanas

Haida Gwaii

2024



Gwaii Haanas

Detailed Information Package 2024

Haida Gwaii is a large archipelago that consists of 2 main islands and a myriad of small ones 120 kilometres off the northwest coast of British Columbia. Prior to 1977, the natural and cultural wonders of Moresby Island, the southerly of the two large islands, were little known except to a handful of biologists and archaeologists, and the Haida Peoples. In 1979, some of the first ecotourists were brought to the area and began to discover the never-ending magic of the place the Haida refer to as Gwaii Haanas, meaning, 'place of wonder'. In 1988, the Islands Protection Society and its friends, and supporters, were successful in winning a hard-fought battle which saw the creation of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve.

Highlights

What are some of the things that make Gwaii Haanas so incredible? They possess a biological and cultural treasure that is duplicated nowhere else on earth. South Moresby has one of the richest Temperate Pacific Marine Zones in the world and has a coastline that is ideal to cruise/kayak along due to the convoluted shoreline and countless islands. The area's biological treasures include towering forests of Sitka spruce and red cedar carpeted by thick mosses, scenic bonsai bogs and alpine forests. There are also major salmon runs, rich and diverse intertidal populations, the largest Stellar sea lion population in B.C., as well as other abundant wildlife including seals, whales and porpoise.

The second treasure of the islands is the Haida heritage. The Haida inhabited the islands for more than 10,000 years and habitation sites of various vintages are easily visible. Weather permitting, we will visit Windy Bay (Hlk'waah), Gandll K'in (Hotsprings Island), Burnaby Narrows, T'anuu, and SGang Gwaay (Ninstints), the hallmark of historic sites with its large standing totems.



What's Involved?

Your week aboard the *Afterglow I* is designed to give you access to the best Gwaii Haanas (South Moresby) has to offer; from abandoned Haida villages such as T'anuu and SGang Gwaay, to the magnificent Pacific northwest rain forest, to intriguing natural history displays, such as busy sea lion haul-outs and colourful intertidal areas. The exact itinerary of your trip will be dictated by weather and sea conditions; however, we will use the long days to maximize your time and experience in Gwaii Haanas. We will use the *Afterglow I* as a mode of travel between the spots of special interest exploring these areas on foot and by kayak and inflatable.

Fitness should be of a general level for this expedition; however, a good level of fitness will always make your trip more enjoyable, so please exercise regularly prior to your trip. Children are welcome to join trips aboard the *Afterglow* but we ask that parents contact us prior to booking to ensure that the voyage they choose is "family focused".



Ocean Light Adventures



2024 Dates & Prices

Dates:

- July 5 - 12
- July 12 - 19
- July 19 - 26

Availability: Email adventure@oceanlight.ca to check availability on any of the trips above.

Price: 7- night trip: \$6150 per person CAD plus plus 5% GST from Sandspit, BC. Price includes \$120 Park Fee, all meals as per the itinerary and return transportation into and out of the park.

No single supplement for single travellers.

NOTE: Payment schedule and cancellation policies are on page 6 of this package.

Number of Participants: Maximum of 8

Number of Crew: 2/3

What's Included?

- The services of a fully qualified skipper/guide and cook/crew
- Transfer services (i.e., van & zodiac or boat) while on the trip
- All meals as listed on the itinerary from Lunch Day 1 to Breakfast Day 8 (B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner)
- Use of all equipment on board Afterglow I – kayaks, paddles, fishing gear, etc.

What's Not?

- Gratuities for crew (optional and/or discretionary, but always appreciated!)
- Transportation between your home and Sandspit, BC
- Personal belongings and equipment as per "Clothing & Equipment List"
- Any meals and accommodation in Vancouver and/or Sandspit
- Excess baggage charges
- Any extra personal expenses incurred because of weather, logistical delays, or delayed departures of chartered or scheduled aircraft.



Itinerary

You must arrive in Sandspit prior to Day 1 of your expedition. Those wishing to spend some time exploring before or after the trip can travel north to Graham Island to visit Daajing Giids (Queen Charlotte City), the First Nations village of Skidegate, and the Haida Heritage Centre and Haida Gwaii Museum near Skidegate Landing.

Prior to or upon arrival in Sandspit, send Jenn an email at adventure@oceanlight.ca to confirm taxi pick up time on Day 1, usually between 6:30 and 7:30 am.

This itinerary is a sample only – the exact itinerary of your trip will be dictated by factors such as weather, tides, and group interest, with the crew working within the parameters of safety, time, and the highlights of the area.

Day 1 – L/D

In the early morning you will be taken by van to meet the *Afterglow I*. You may begin your trip with a visit to the magical moss-laden remains of west coast artist Emily Carr's favourite Haida Village, T'anuu or "Seagrass Town".

Days 2 through 7 – B/L/D

Beyond T'anuu, we may take the Inside Passage through beautiful Darwin Sound with its steep-sided mountains into scenic De La Beche Inlet. If weather permits we may venture along the east side of Lyell Island and into magnificent Windy Bay (Hlk'waah), a primeval watershed of ancient cedar and spruce forests. Further travels include cruising along the Tar Islets, a shore visit and soak at Gandll K'in (Hotsprings Island) and to the magnificent Juan Perez Sound. Across Juan Perez Sound is Burnaby Narrows with an incredibly rich display of intertidal life. This area also affords access to Gwaii Haanas' alpine, with its ornate bonsai bogs studded with miniature sundew. The Narrows open southward into Skincuttle Inlet where we witness the unique and sometimes bizarre nocturnal habits of many of the nesting seabirds.

We leave the East Coast through Houston-Stewart Channel, passing by the old whaling station at Rose Harbour to the open West Coast. Here we visit SGang Gwaay, the cultural site of Ninistints Village with its great display of Haida totems and spiritual ambience from the powerful past of its former residents. We may also have an opportunity to visit many of the surrounding inlets and western shores of SGang Gwaay to view seals, sea lions, and breathtaking seascapes.

Day 8 – B

An early morning van will take you back into Sandspit. In order to accommodate any delays in returning to Sandspit, **please book the afternoon flight to Vancouver.**



Getting to/from Haida Gwaii

If You're Flying. Air Canada (1-800-247-2262) offers daily service from Vancouver to Sandspit.

If You're Arriving By Ferry. BC Ferries (1-888-223-3779) operates from Prince Rupert, BC to Skidegate, BC.

Traveling to/from the *Afterglow I*

There will be some options with regards to your transfer to the boat. You will be transferred by van from Sandspit to Moresby Camp. Some trips may start or finish on board the *Afterglow I* in Sandspit. For your journey to the boat, please have warm clothing including rain gear available and wear your boots.

Baggage Weight Limits & Extra Gear

The maximum weight for personal baggage is 65 lb. per person, including camera gear. If you are traveling before or after the trip, please arrange to leave extra baggage at your hotel in Vancouver or Sandspit.