Ocean Light Adventures

Gwaii Haanas

Haida Gwaii

Mothership Kayaking

2027





Mothership Kayaking

Detailed Information Package 2027



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.

Opportunities will be made each day for 1-3 hours of unguided kayaking. The trip offers a balance of freedom while kayaking within the bounds of the safety regulations. Your kayak experience will take place in protected waters where you can explore spectacular shorelines. While most of the kayaking will be done as a group, we can accommodate individual needs and abilities. We will be using Current Designs Breeze single kayaks without rudders. These boats track very well and are extremely comfortable and versatile. All equipment is supplied.





2027 Dates & Prices

Dates:

- July 18-25
- July 25 – Aug 1
- August 1-8
- August 8-15

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

Price: 7- night trip: $7500 per person CAD 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". Before your first kayak, time will be spent on kayak set-up, loading procedures and an equipment briefing.

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 allows 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 Ninstints 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.**



More About the Trip

The Crew. Chris Tulloch or Barrett Johnson will be your skipper/guide. They are both certified Transport Canada Masters. Chris has been running wilderness tours since 1992 and his keen eye for wildlife ensures an exceptional experience. Barrett lives on Haida Gwaii and has been operating both kayaking and boating tours since 2004, he stresses safety and sound decision making on his wilderness adventures. Both Chris and Barrett have many years of coastal boating and wildlife viewing experience. Over the years they have introduced the coast of B.C. to hundreds of people, young and old.
Assisting as crew, guide and cook is Jenn Broom or Jill Drover. Jenn has worked on the coast since 1991 and will make you feel at home aboard her beautiful boat. She serves up delicious healthy, hearty food and keeps the boat clean and safe. Jill has worked on different boats on the BC coast and has lived on Haida Gwaii for many years, she joined Ocean Light Adventures in 2024.

More About the Trip cont'd

The Boat. *Afterglow I* is a 60-foot Gulf Commander built in 1972 at Yamanaka Boat Works in Steveston, BC. where they specialized in building fishing boats for the BC Coast that were known for their sturdy construction and nice lines. Afterglow is a heavily built fiberglass vessel, and her superstructure is constructed from solid yellow cedar beams. *Afterglow I* was built for the passenger industry and as such was designed to give lots of space to move about both inside and out. The main deck has a very spacious salon, galley and wheelhouse with windows all around for fantastic viewing. Below deck forward there are 2 heads and 3.5 cabins with room to sleep 7 guests. Below deck aft, there is a 3rd head and 2 double cabins: 1 for crew and 1 for guests. *Afterglow* is equipped with a 19 ft inflatable which is used for shoreline exploration and has 9 Current Designs single kayaks on board.

Meals. We take special care in preparing nutritious and delicious meals. All meals will be prepared aboard the vessel and will include fresh seafood, homemade soups, breads and salads. Wine is served with dinner, and you may bring your own drinks to be consumed in moderation and only when the anchor is down for the night. We will not tolerate excessive drinking on our vessel. Clients have the option to assist in food gathering and meal preparation. If you have particular dietary restrictions, please let us know well in advance and we will do our best to accommodate you.

What About the Weather? Weather along the coast in mid-summer can be variable. We can expect to have all weather conditions: hot, sunny days or cool, rainy days. Fog and ocean breezes make it feel colder so come prepared for all weather.

Safety. Your safety while participating in this expedition is of our prime concern. The crew is well trained in wilderness first-aid techniques and very experienced in the environment. Ultimately your guide makes decisions with your comfort and safety in mind yet tries to maximize the experience of the adventure for everyone. We stress that listening carefully to instructions and directions given by the guide is your ultimate responsibility and in the best interest of yourself and the group.

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*
You will be transferred by van from Sandspit to Moresby Camp. 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.

Accommodation During the Trip

On Board the *Afterglow I*. Each person has a berth assigned upon arrival. There are three double cabins with single beds and one double cabin with a double bed. Single participants may be required to share a cabin with someone of the same gender.

In Sandspit

We recommend:

1. **Seaport B & B**. 1-250-637-2215 or info@moresbyexplorers.com
2. **Northern Shores Lodging.** 1-250-637-2233 (Judy)
3. **Bayview Garden B & B.** 1-250-637-5749 or thebayviewgarden@gmail.com

In Vancouver

Best Western Plus Airport Hotel 604-263-1555
1-800-780-7234.

Visitor Information:

Queen Charlotte Visitor Information Centre: www.daajinggiidsvisitorcentre.com/, 1-250-559-8316
Sandspit Visitor Information Centre: 1-250-637-5362
Go Haida Gwaii: www.gohaidagwaii.ca

