4-Day Gwaii Haanas Tour Details

Our 4-Day tour visits the main sites of Gwaii Haanas and still has time to explore. The itinerary of every trip varies somewhat due to weather, tides, the unpredictability of wildlife, and any special interests that the group might have. However, we make sure to stop at several ancient Haida village sites, including the well-known UNESCO site of Sgan Gwaay. We also take time to visit bays and inlets that few people get to see, and of course we stop to view any wildlife that we might encounter along the way!

How to plan

Pick out a date that works for you from our webpage, then contact us to ensure availability. If the places are available, we will tentatively pencil you in and send you our medical form and waiver. Every person in your booking group is required to fill out this form and read the waiver prior to us taking your deposit. We will tell you how long you have to fill out this form, as it may change depending on how many seats remain, the time of year etc. but normally will range from one week to a few days. Once we receive and review your medical forms, we will contact you to confirm that you can go ahead and book your flights, accommodation, etc. and when you are ready, contact us again to put down a 25% deposit to confirm.

Cancellation Policy

At time of confirmation of booking we require a 25% deposit. The balance will be due the day before the trip. If you cancel more than 90 days prior to the beginning of the tour we will refund the full deposit amount. Between 90 and 60 days prior we will keep the 25% deposit. Less than 60 days prior we will keep the 25% and charge you the remainder of the amount owing if we cannot fill the space. This means if we book someone else in your space we will not charge you any more than the deposit. If we cannot find anyone else to fill the space we will charge you the balance on the date the trip starts.

If you are worried about cancelling, we suggest cancellation insurance. Some credit cards cover this for you, but if not it usually costs about 7% of the cost of the tour. Cancellation insurance covers you in case of illness or accident to you, a family member, or travelling companion, and in case of jury duty, but must be purchased prior to the purchase of the tour. If you would like us to hold off on taking the deposit until you get this insurance, mention it when you are booking.
What to Bring

How you should dress
We use open boats and therefore, it can be very cold and often wet. You should wear warm, layered clothing, preferably synthetic (like fleece), or wool, and if possible, avoid cotton as it is very cold when wet. We suggest you bring all the warm clothing you have as you can always leave some in the van if your guide thinks you have too much. You should also bring a warm hat, sunglasses and gloves. You may bring your own rain gear, but we also provide heavy rain gear and gumboots for everyone. A good idea is to wear your own raingear (jacket at least) underneath the heavy rain gear we provide. Then you can take off the heavy raingear while on shore, but still have some protection from the rain.

Gear List
We have very limited dry space in the boat, so all your gear should fit in a small soft pack or duffel (less than 35L).

- Warm Clothing
- Warm Hat
- Sunglasses and/or ski goggles
- Gloves
- Scarf or face buff
- Water bottle
- Towel (and Face Cloth if you use one)
- Personal effects for three nights
- Bathing suit
- Camera (optional)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Sunscreen (optional)
- Snacks (optional)
- Sandals (to wear at the lodge and in Rose Harbour, optional)
- Alcoholic beverage (to have with dinner, optional)
- Gratuities (if our staff exceed your expectations, optional)

Baggage Note
There seems to be an ongoing issue with "bumped" bags for people flying into Sandspit which has caused some difficulty for guests. If you are planning to arrive in Sandspit on the plane the day before your tour starts, we highly recommend bringing the bag you plan to bring along on the tour as your main carry on bag, with any items in it that would be absolutely necessary for your overnight trip with us. That way if your checked luggage does not show up when you get off your flight you will still be able to join us for the tour without too much stress.

What to Expect on the Trip

We start the trip by picking you up at your accommodation in Sandspit at 7:30am or at the Alliford Bay Ferry landing around 8:15am as discussed below. We will be gone for 4 Days and 3 nights. We return in the evening of the 4th day in time to catch the 5:35pm ferry back to Skidegate. Note, there is NOT time for the van to return to Sandspit prior to catching the last ferry, so if you are planning to catch this last ferry, please do not leave anything in Sandspit while out on the tour (eg. rental car, extra luggage, etc).
Travelling on the Boat

Our boats are Zodiacs (rigid hull inflatables), which have a deep-V hull that allows them to cut through the water with minimal bouncing, and tubes around the sides that provide stability. They are the most comfortable small fast boat around. However, the waters of the Hecate Strait can be unpredictable and choppy so the ride can be quite bouncy, as well as cold and wet at times.

We normally spend one to two hours in the boat and then get off to walk around, stretch and explore. We rarely spend more than two hours in the boat at once, but occasionally we might be in the boat for as long as three hours if rough weather forces us to slow down.

We do have some dry storage under our seats, but it is quite narrow (about 11 inches) and gear stored under there is not available while the boat is in motion. If you are an avid photographer, we recommend having a dry bag to keep your camera equipment dry and accessible. If you have a smaller camera, you can also just put it in a plastic bag in an inside pocket of your jacket.

Accommodations on the Tour

Before and After the Tour: Please let us know where you are staying the night before the trip so we know where to pick you up. If you are staying in Sandspit, we can pick you up at your accommodation. If you are staying on Graham Island the night before, you will need to catch the 7:40am ferry from Skidegate to Alliford Bay and we will meet you at Alliford Bay. If you are driving, you can leave your car on the side of the highway near the Skidegate terminal and walk on to save cost. Be sure you watch for the ferry as they don’t usually announce the ferry. Even as a walk on passenger, you purchase the ticket from the toll booth where the cars enter the lot.

On Tour: Our home for the two of the nights is a small floating lodge with cozy double occupancy rooms, a sitting and dining area, and a large covered deck. There are two bathrooms, with flush toilets, hot and cold running water - everything except a shower. We have a float camp cook that stays at the lodge for a few weeks at a time, hosting the trips and cooking for them.

This tour also spends one night at the Rose Harbour Guesthouse. This very basic, rustic hostel style (single bed) accommodation is situated on the abandoned Rose Harbour Whaling Station property where a few people make their homes pioneer style, with outhouse to match. This guesthouse may not be to everyone's taste, however it is in the very south of Gwaii Haanas, only half an hour from SGang Gwaay. Staying here allows us to visit this UNESCO World Heritage Site without too long a day in the boat. The food is excellent and there is a wood fired shower here for you to use in the evening. [http://roseharbour.com/descript.html#accommodation](http://roseharbour.com/descript.html#accommodation)

Food

We provide all of the meals from lunch day one to lunch day four on the trip, including snacks in between meals.
Moresby Island/Sandspit Information

Sandspit is a small community of about 300 people and is the only community on Moresby Island. There are a couple of restaurants, a small, but good grocery store, a post office, cardlock gas station and a thrift store that is open a couple days a week. If you are looking for more information on what to do in Sandspit or on the islands, there is a Visitor Information Centre at the Airport-(250)637-5362. If you find yourself with extra time in Sandspit, you can go for a walk around the spit or rent a bike and go down to the Dover Trail. There is also lots of beach to explore.

Travelling Moresby Island

Sandspit Bus Services
Shuttle services on Moresby Island with several vehicle size options including transport options for larger groups. Reservations strongly recommended.
sandspitbus@gmail.com

Bike Rentals
Available from the Sandspit Visitor Centre. An excellent way to explore the area!
250-637-5362

Eagle Transit
Airport Pickups/Drop offs, Graham Island shuttle, ferry connector, public bus, bus charters, taxi and delivery services, air cargo transfers.
Village of Queen Charlotte
1-877-747-4461
Ph: (250) 559-4461
eagle@haidagwaii.net
www.eagletransit.net

Car Rentals
There is one car rental company in Sandspit, and like the other car rental places on island, car availability can be limited so make sure you book ahead. Be sure to ask about their policies for unpaved roads if you are planning on going to any sites off of the main highway.

Budget Rent-A-Car
Located at the Sandspit Airport
(250) 637 5688

Restaurants
There are a few restaurants in Sandspit open during the high season, and a few of them are within walking distance from the Moresby Explorer's office and the Seaport B&B.

The Sandspit Inn
Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Usually open 5 days a week. Local seafood, and an excellent veggie burger (our staff love it with bacon)!
(250) 637-5377

Dick's Wok Inn
Chinese Food made from scratch without MSG. Great seafood hot pots!
Dine In/Take Out - Closed Wednesdays
(250) 637-2275
Accommodations

Seaport B&B
Our B&B is located in Sandspit just across the street from the beach. It is just three doors down from the Moresby Explorer’s office and within walking distance to all the restaurants in town.

Built in 2011, we have rooms with shared bathrooms for $95, private bathrooms for $120 and our master bedroom with the best oceanview and a private bathroom for $150. All the rooms in the have both a queen and a single bed and include hot breakfast in the morning.

We also have a shared luggage storage area and internet.

Contact our office to book. 1-800-806-7633 | (250) 637-2215  www.seaportbb.com

Bayview Gardens B&B & Hostel
Beach front, beautiful garden, breakfast ingredients provided, guest use kitchen.
401 Beach Rd
(250) 637-5749
Toll Free 1-800-306-6644
thebayviewgarden@gmail.com
www.bayviewgardenbandb.com

Maada's Nest
House rental, or room rental. Great for families or groups, close to our office, and has full kitchen and laundry.
379 Blaine Shaw Rd
(250) 637 2373
https://www.airbnb.ca/rooms/4997978?s=Bl6v

Sandspit Inn
Basic hotel style rooms, full restuerant, located directly across from the airport.
(250) 637-5377
www.sandspitinnc.com

Moresby Island Guest House
Beach front, basic accommodation with private rooms and dorm style shared rooms for a reasonable price.
385 Beach Rd
(250) 637-5300

501 RV and Tent Park
Located on the main road in Sandspit, facilities include both tenting area and RV full service sites.
Public laundromat and public showers open 9:00am to 9:00pm (longer for overnight guests).
501 Beach Rd
(250) 637 5473  rvpark@telus.net
Graham Island Information

Graham Island hosts the communities of Queen Charlotte, Skidegate, Tlell, Port Clements, Masset and Old Masset. Each of the communities has its own special draw and it is worth it to explore them all if you have time. In Queen Charlotte, you can enjoy the waterfront and unique shops. Skidegate is home to the Heritage Centre which has some great Haida history. Skidegate also has some Haida Art galleries and gift shops as well as some food services. In Tlell, there is an artisan community as well as the start of the hike out to the Pesuta shipwreck. Port Clements is home to a very thorough, although small, logging museum as well as the trail out to where the Golden Spruce stood. Masset has an airport that Pacific Coastal flies into as well as some great grocery stores and services. Old Masset has some art galleries and gift shops as well.

There is a great Visitor Information Centre in Queen Charlotte. They can answer your questions and help refer you to accommodations and operators that suit your needs. (250)559-8316  www.qcinfo.ca  info@qcinfo.ca

Travelling Graham Island

Travelling from one end of Graham Island to the other is not far, provided you have a vehicle. If not, there are several shuttle, taxi or car rental options, to help you explore!

Taxi Services

Gwaii Taxi
Licensed taxi services for the communities of Skidegate and Queen Charlotte. Larger groups can be accommodated with advance notice.
Taxi Ph: (250)559-8622
stratton@haidagwaii.net
www.gwaiitaxiandtours.ca

Eagle Transit
Graham Island shuttle, ferry connector, public bus, bus charters, taxi and delivery services, air cargo transfers.
Village of Queen Charlotte
1-877-747-4461
Ph: (250) 559-4461
eagle@haidagwaii.net
www.eagletransit.net
Car Rentals

Budget Rent a Car
605 Highway 33, Queen Charlotte (located in Charlotte Island Tire)
Weekly and Daily Rates available
Ph: (250) 559-4641 Toll Free: 1-877-559-4641 After hours call (250) 559-4504
Pick up at BC Ferries available.
cities@qcislands.net

Restaurants

There are many small cafes on island that are open during the summer and many of them have great ocean views. This is not a complete list, but it gives some options of places that we enjoy frequenting.

Queen Charlotte

Oceanview Restaurant
301-3rd Ave, Queen Charlotte
(250) 559-8503
Open 7 days a week - 7am-8:30pm

Queen B’s
3211A Wharf Street
(250) 559-4463
Great lunch place! Dinner on Fridays.
Open 7 Days a Week

Skidegate

Jags Beanstalk
100 Hwy 16
(Just past the Haida Heritage Centre)
Great specialty coffees, icecream, breakfast and lunches. Ocean view and outdoor seating. Accommodations also available.
(250) 559 8826

Kay Bistro
Inside the Haida Heritage Centre.
Excellent lunch features, and decadent desserts. Staff favourites include the southwest buttermilk sandwich and any of the feature tacos.
http://www.facebook.com/kaybistro?

Tlell

Crow’s Nest Country Store
Hwy 16
General Store/Cafe with snacks, treats and baked goods.
(250) 557 4593

Haida House at Tlall
2087 Beitush Rd
Excellent table d’hôte dinner menu.
Accommodation also available.
(250) 557-4600

Port Clements

Golden Spruce Motel
2 Grouse St
Great place for breakfast
(250) 557-4325

Yakoun River Inn and Pub
117 Bayview Drive
Port Clements, BC
(250) 557-4440

Masset

The Ground Gallery and Coffeehouse
1599 Main St
(250) 626 5251

Bud’s Bar and Grill
1675 Main St
50’s style restaurant
(250)-626-5426

Moon Over Naikoon Bakery
Tow Hill Rd
(250)-626-7737

Old Masset

Haida Rose Cafe & Roaster
415 Frog Street
Fresh roasted coffee beans, high speed internet, lunch specials and souvenirs.
(250) 626-3310
Accommodation on Graham Island

There are lots of choices for accommodation on Graham Island. It is always good to book ahead of time because most places have 10 rooms or less. This is not a complete list, but we have received good feedback from guests who have stayed at these ones. For more ideas, look at the Queen Charlotte Visitor Information Page at qcinfo.ca.

Queen Charlotte/Skidegate

Hecate Inn  
321- 3rd Avenue, QC  
(250) 559-8788  
www.hecateinn.ca

Jags Beanstalk Accommodation  
100 Hwy 16, Skidegate  
(250) 559-8826  
jagsbeanstalk@hotmail.com

Spruce Point Lodge  
Box 735, 609- 6th Avenue, QC  
(250) 559-8234

Premier Creek Lodge  
310 1- 3rd Avenue, QC  
(250) 559-8198

Dorothy and Mike’s Guest House  
This accommodation has self-contained suites with full kitchens, ensuite rooms and cottages.  
3127- 2nd Avenue, QC  
(250) 559-8439  
doromike@qcislands.net

Sea Raven Motel  
3301 Oceanview Drive, QC  
(250) 559-4423

Gracie’s Place  
3113 Oceanview Dr., QC  
(250) 559-4642

Tlell

Crystal Cabin  
778 A Richardson Road  
(250) 557-4383  
Toll Free 1-866-557-4383

Cacilia’s Bed & Breakfast  
(250) 557-4664  
www.qcislands.net/ceebyssea  
ceebyssea@qcislands.net

Chateau Lawn Hill  
Self-contained cottage  
19818 Highway 16  
(250) 559-7786  
ron.rowan96@gmail.com  
www.chateaulawnhillcottage.ca

Toad Farm Guest House  
Separate Guesthouse Available  
35770 Hwy 16  
(250) 557-4491  
keith@toadfarm.ca  
www.toadfarm.ca

Haida House at Tllaal  
2087 Beitush Road  
1-855-557-4600  
www.haidahouse.com  
email: info@haidahouse.com

Serenity Now! B&B  
#40623 Highway 16  
(250) 557-4646

Rising Tide B&B  
37580 Hwy 16  
(250) 557-4223

Port Clements

Golden Spruce Motel  
(250) 557-4325  
www.goldenspruce.ca  
info@goldenspruce.ca

Smillie’s Bed & Breakfast  
95 Bayview Drive  
(250) 557-4614  
smillie@haidagwaii.net  
www.gosmillie.com
**Masset**  
**Alaska View Lodge**  
Tow Hill Rd  
(250) 626-3333  
1-800-661-0019

**Rapid Richie’s Beach Cabins**  
#15901 Tow Hill Rd.  
(250) 626-5472  
[www.beachcabins.com](http://www.beachcabins.com)  
[lotsafun@beachcabins.com](mailto:lotsafun@beachcabins.com)

**North Beach Cabins**  
15965 Tow Hill Road  
(250) 557-2415  
[www.northbeachcabins.com](http://www.northbeachcabins.com)

**Copper Beech House**  
1590 Delkatla St. (Down by the docks in Masset)  
(250) 626-5441  
[cbh@copperbeech.com](mailto:cbh@copperbeech.com)  
[www.copperbeechhouse.com](http://www.copperbeechhouse.com)

**All the Beach You Can Eat Cabins**  
15831 Tow Hill Rd  
(250) 626-9091  
[info@allthebeachyoucaneat.com](mailto:info@allthebeachyoucaneat.com)  
[www.allthebeachyoucaneat.com](http://www.allthebeachyoucaneat.com)

**Additional Resources**

Go Haida Gwaii - [http://gohaidagwaii.ca](http://gohaidagwaii.ca)

Love Haida Gwaii - [http://lovehaidagwaii.com](http://lovehaidagwaii.com)