



HAIDA GWAI

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE ITINERARY

June 26 – July 3, 2018

Start and Finish: Sandspit, BC

Vessel: SV Island Solitude

8 Days

Haida Gwaii is an amazing area with over 100 islands, beautiful forested creek walks, rugged exposed headlands, and protected passageways between towering mountains. Theories suggest that parts of Haida Gwaii escaped the last ice age, forming a glacial refuge for certain forms of plant and animal life. This helps to explain the presence of plant species found nowhere else in the world, and noticeably different sub-species of birds, fish and mammals. Haida Gwaii provides a remarkable evolutionary showcase - hence the description as the “Canadian Galapagos”.

Guided by Haida Watchmen, we will journey through history as we visit ancient Haida villages lining the coast. Small ship travel through this unforgettable British Columbia landscape allows us to voyage to places not reachable by land. We wind our way through the archipelago to enjoy 8 days of exploration...All aboard!

INTENDED ITINERARY

On all our voyages, we intentionally keep our itineraries flexible to take advantage of wildlife sightings, weather and tides, and the interests of the group.

Arrival into Sandspit

Fly into Sandspit on Haida Gwaii with Air Canada on their daily flight direct from Vancouver (arriving in the afternoon ~3:20PM).

You will be greeted at the airport by our shuttle driver/guide. Once everyone has collected their luggage, the Haida Gwaii land tour will get underway. You will be transported to the ferry landing at Alliford Bay to take the ferry across to Skidegate on Graham Island. The ferry crossing takes approximately 25 minutes. Our first stop will be the renowned *Haida Heritage Centre* on Graham Island for a guided totem poles tour, followed by some free time to roam the museum and gift shop on your own. A traditional Haida dinner will be served at *Keenawii's Kitchen*, hosted in the beautiful seaside home of a local Haida family from Skidegate. After dinner, the group will be transported to your accommodation in Queen Charlotte for the evening.

Your evening's accommodation at the Sea Raven and breakfast the following morning are included in your trip fees.

Day 1 - Trip Start

Begin your morning with breakfast at **8:00am**. Following your breakfast your driver/guide will inform you of the departure time from the hotel. Please be sure to check out of your room with luggage in hand, prior to departure time.

The group will drive to Skidegate Landing to board the 9:45am ferry back to Moresby Island. Then we are off to meet with Bluewater's new flagship anchored at Moresby Camp – an hour drive on an active logging road away. Upon boarding the ship, you will meet the crew, cabins will be assigned, and everyone will participate in an introductory & safety orientation. During lunch, we will set sail into the waters heading south to Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve.

Days 2 to 7:

We will spend our time exploring the eastern and southern shores of Moresby Island. Daily activities include wildlife watching, shore excursions to explore ancient Haida villages, old growth forests,

beautiful creeks, shoreline, and intertidal zones teeming with life. Be sure to keep an eye out and your cameras ready, as we will encounter a wealth of marine wildlife on our journey. We aim to spot humpback whales, porpoise, sea lions, orca and if we are lucky, fin whales. We hope to capture the sight of the mighty, Queen Charlotte Black Bear foraging along the shoreline for the myriad of intertidal creatures found in these nutrient-rich waters.

One of the highlights is visiting the historic Haida village of SGang Gwaay, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, to take in the breathtaking sight of the last few standing totem poles. If weather permits we will visit Windy Bay, the site of the first pole raised in 130 years honoring the 20th anniversary of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement to protect the natural and marine resources in 2013.

Each evening we will anchor in a different secluded bay with time to discuss the day's wildlife sightings and provide you with the opportunity to explore the shoreline by kayak.

Day 8 - Trip Finish

The trip will finish mid-morning and you will disembark the vessel at **11:00am** at Moresby Camp. There will be a charter bus waiting to shuttle the group to the Sandspit Airport. The trip by bus takes about an hour and you can expect to arrive in Sandspit by midday. This will give you time to have lunch and do any last minute shopping at the souvenir shop located in the Sandspit Airport, prior to your **afternoon** flight to Vancouver.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Sandspit is located on Haida Gwaii, 900 kilometers (550 miles) northwest of Vancouver, BC. Scheduled air service is the fastest, most convenient way to get there. Book your flight well in advance to obtain the best fare. Be advised that flight capacity is limited.

Booking Your Flights:

Our designated Travel Agency is UNIGLOBE DIRECT TRAVEL LTD. If you need further accommodation or help with your Airfare and Insurance, please call Elaine at 604-538-2111 ext. 6614 or email elaine@uniglobedirect.com.

Air Canada Jazz provides daily scheduled service between Vancouver and Sandspit. Bookings: 1-888 247-2262 - www.aircanada.ca

Pacific Coastal provides scheduled flights between Vancouver and Masset, located about 130 km (80 miles) north of Sandspit. 1-800-663-2872 - <http://www.pacific-coastal.com/>

Inland Air offers seaplane service from Prince Rupert to Masset. Bookings: 1-888-624-2577 or 1-250-624-2577

BC Ferry Services

Scheduled ferry service connects Haida Gwaii with the mainland. The crossing between Prince Rupert and Skidegate Landing takes about 9 hours. Another option is to take the ferry from Port Hardy. Traveling the "Inside Passage" is scenic but will add 2 days to your trip in each direction. Reservations are required for both vehicles and passengers. It is not necessary for you to take a car on the ferry to Haida Gwaii, as there are reasonable options for local island transportation, including car rentals.

BC Ferries operates the smaller M/V Kwuna which carries passengers, vehicles and freight between Moresby Island (Sandspit) and Graham Island (Skidegate/Queen Charlotte). This scheduled service operates all day with regular sailings. Each scheduled crossing of Skidegate Inlet takes approximately 25 minutes.

BC Ferry Bookings: 1-888-223-3779 or www.bcferrries.com

**Be advised that adverse weather and sea conditions can often create delays and disrupt ferry schedules.*

We highly recommend extending your trip to explore Haida Gwaii on your own. Adding a day or two either before or after your voyage with Bluewater Adventures would allow you to explore Graham Island and visit Masset. Thus, we have added other local accommodation and travel information below.

ACCOMMODATION

Haida Gwaii has a range of accommodations to serve the needs of visitors. Hotels, Motels or Bed & Breakfast (B&B) establishments are found in Sandspit, Queen Charlotte and Masset. The following selected accommodation contacts may be useful in helping to plan your trip around your Bluewater Adventure.

Sandspit

Inn at Sandspit	(250) 637 5377	www.sandspitinn.com thesandspitinn@gmail.com	\$90-\$95
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BLUEWATER ADVENTURES & UNIVERSITY OF ONTARIO 2017

Seaport B&B	(250) 637 2215	www.seaportbb.com info@moresbyexplorers.com	\$95-\$150
Bayview Garden B&B	(250) 637 5749	www.bayviewgardenbandb.com thebayviewgarden@gmail.com	\$75-\$95

Queen Charlotte

Dorothy & Mike's Guest House	(250) 559 8439	www.qcislands.net/doromike doromike@qcislands.net	\$89-\$245
Sea Raven Motel	(250) 559 4423 1 800 806 7633	www.searaven.com searaven@qcislands.net	\$95-\$120
Premier Creek Lodge	1 888 322 3388	www.qcislands.net/premier premier@qcislands.net	\$40-\$110
Spruce Point Lodge	(250) 559 8234	www.qcislands.net/sprpoint sprpoint@qcislands.net	\$90-\$140

Masset

Copper Beech House	(250) 626 5441 1 855 626 5441	www.copperbeechhouse.com cbh@copperbeechhouse.com	\$100-\$140
Eagles Feast House	(250) 626 6072 1 877 485 7572	www.eaglesfeast.com bothofus@eaglesfeast.com	\$75-\$175

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Haida House	1 855 557 4600	http://haidahouse.com info@haidahouse.com	\$135-\$180
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LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Public transit service is not available on Haida Gwaii. Eagle Transit has scheduled service corresponding with the airport and BC Ferries arrivals and departures. You are advised to call ahead or reserve a spot online:

Eagle Transit Airport - Sandspit - Queen Charlotte City – Skidegate - Masset	(250) 559 4461 1 877 747 4461	http://eagletransit.net
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RENTAL VEHICLES

Vehicle rentals are available in Haida Gwaii with airport pickup and drop off.
For information and reservations call:

Budget-Rent-A-Car, Sandspit Airport	(250) 637-5688
Budget-Rent-A-Car, Queen Charlotte	(250) 559-4641
National Car Rental, Masset	(250) 626 3833

Budget-Rent-A-Car will offer Bluewater Adventures' guests a 10% discount on the daily rate when car rental is booked directly through the Budget–Rent-A-Car location in Sandspit.

TOURIST INFORMATION

For information on the Haida Gwaii call (250) 559-8316 or visit www.gohaidagwaii.ca

For general information on British Columbia's attractions, travel, restaurants, shopping, transportation and accommodation contact Destination British Columbia: 1-800-435-5622 or visit their website at www.hellobc.com