



GWAII HAANAS

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site is a place of contrasts: of wild open seas and calm, secluded bays; of fierce storms and perfect summer days. It is a place where travellers can encounter a world unlike any other.

The lives of the Haida have always been intertwined with this remarkable place. Haida communities thrive on the abundance of resources from the sea, sky, and land and these realms also provide immeasurable cultural and spiritual sustenance. Because of this deep connection and responsibility to protect the land, the Haida Nation led the successful effort to stop logging in the area now called Gwaii Haanas.

Today the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation manage Gwaii Haanas together through the Archipelago Management Board. This consensus-based board is comprised of equal representation from the Government of Canada and the Haida Nation and is held up as a model of cooperative management

Gwaii Haanas is designated a Haida Heritage Site by the Haida Nation and a National Park Reserve and a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve by the Government of Canada.

It is our responsibility to treat Gwaii Haanas with the care it deserves, so future generations will also be able to experience its richness and beauty.

© Tyson Brown

Yahguudang—Respect linang - Herring

Haida law is rooted in the principles of respect and responsibility and we ask that all who travel through Gwaii Haanas respect each other and the place. Please do your part by following the rules and guidelines outlined in this book.

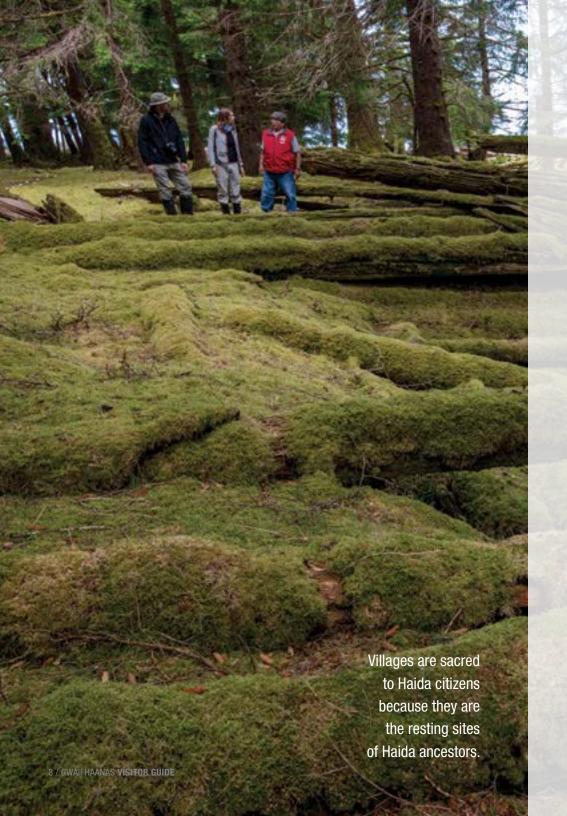
To welcome you and highlight how you can help protect this special place, an orienation session is required before visiting Gwaii Haanas.





Gwaii Haanas provides one of the best places in the world to experience Indigenous culture, with opportunities to explore ancient Haida village sites and interact with Haida citizens.

The Haida Nation welcomes you and asks that you travel with yahguudang (respect) and care to honour the deep Haida connection to the land, sea and sky.



PROGRAM HISTORY

In the 1980's, as the number of visitors to ancient village sites increased, the Skidegate Band Council became increasingly concerned about these sites and the cultural heritage found there. The Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program began in 1981 as a volunteer program. Today, the Watchmen Program works closely with Parks Canada, which has provided financial and logistical support since 1990.

Two to four Watchmen live at each site and serve as guardians to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the villages. They also provide visitor information and assist in emergency response.



Giid tiljuus - Balance
Gaalguuhlkyan - Abalone

HOW TO **VISIT**

The Watchmen's ability to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the sites depends on the cooperation of visitors.

You can help by observing the following:

- Please radio ahead on Marine VHF Channel 6 and ask the Watchmen for permission to land before you arrive.
- Ensure that there are no more than
 12 people ashore at a time or within site or sound of other groups.
- Access to the sites is on a first come, first served basis
- Stay on the trails cultural remains such as poles and longhouses are in fragile condition and can be easily damaged.
- All visits should end by 6 pm as the Watchmen are on call seven days a week.
- Camping is not allowed at any of the Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites except at Hlk'yah GawGa (Windy Bay), where there is a limit of one night's stay unless inclement weather prevents your departure.
- Mooring is permitted only during daylight hours.
- Cannabis and alcohol are not permitted at Watchmen sites.
- With the exception of service animals, pets are not permitted at Watchmen sites.
- Please ask permission if you wish to photograph the Watchmen.

GWAII HAANAS VISITOR GUIDE / 9



WATCHMEN SITES

Sgang Gwaay (Anthony Island) UNESCO World Heritage Site: 52°05.90'N, 131°13.0'W

Sgang Gwaay is on the exposed southwest coast of Gwaii Haanas. The ancient village, Sgang Gwaay Llnagaay, is located in a sheltered bay on the east side of the island. Here, human occupation is evident and visible in the forms of midden sites, upright and fallen poles, house pits, and standing posts and beams of longhouses. It represents one of the best examples in the world of a traditional Northwest Coast First Nations village. In 1981, Sgang Gwaay was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as a National Historic Site.

A major storm in December, 2018 resulted in extensive blowdown on Sgang Gwaay. Danger trees are only managed along the boardwalk and in the village, so for your own safety, stay on the established trail.

Sgang Gwaay is a globally significant seabird nesting area and most species nest in burrows underground. By staying on the trail, you reduce the possibility of trampling a burrow and contribute to seabird nesting success.

WATCHMEN SITES

<u>Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay</u> (Hotspring Island):

52°34.50'N, 131°26.50'W

<u>G</u>andll K'in Gwaay.yaay provides food in abundance and waters that comfort, heal, and nourish body and soul. Visitors to this unique island can still enjoy the relaxing and healing benefits of the springs. The thermal system that gives the island its name warms the thin soils and keeps the forests at bay.

Hlk'yah <u>G</u>aw<u>G</u>a (Windy Bay):

52°41.41'N, 131°27.30'W

Hlk'yah <u>Gawga</u> was one of the sites where Haida protested the logging on Lyell Island, and construction of *Looking Around and Blinking House* was part of the protest effort. The Haida Nation took a stand on the logging road at Sedgwick Bay in 1985. This action ultimately led to the establishment of Gwaii Haanas as a cooperatively managed protected area.

In August 2013, visitors, volunteers, Haida citizens, and Parks Canada staff raised the Legacy Pole at Windy Bay—the first monumental pole raised in Gwaii Haanas in 130 years! The pole honours the 20th anniversary of cooperative management between the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation.

T'aanuu Linagaay (Tanu):

52°45.90'N, 131°36.90'W

T'aanuu Linagaay translates to Eelgrass Town, which refers to the eelgrass beds found nearby. At one time, there were 25 to 40 longhouses in the village, which is located on the eastern side of Tanu Island. Today, little is left standing at T'aanuu Linagaay, but the spirit of the place remains strong.

<u>K</u>'uuna Linagaay (Skedans):

52°57.90'N, 131°36.40'W

K'uuna Linagaay is located on the northeast corner of Louise Island. At its peak, the village had 26 to 30 longhouses. In the late 1800s, more than 50 pieces of monumental sculpture were recorded at K'uuna Linagaay. Today, a few carved memorial and mortuary poles remain standing and the depressions of several longhouses give a sense of scale.



'Laa guu ga <u>k</u>anhllns—Responsibility Sgin <u>X</u>aana - Ancient Murrelet

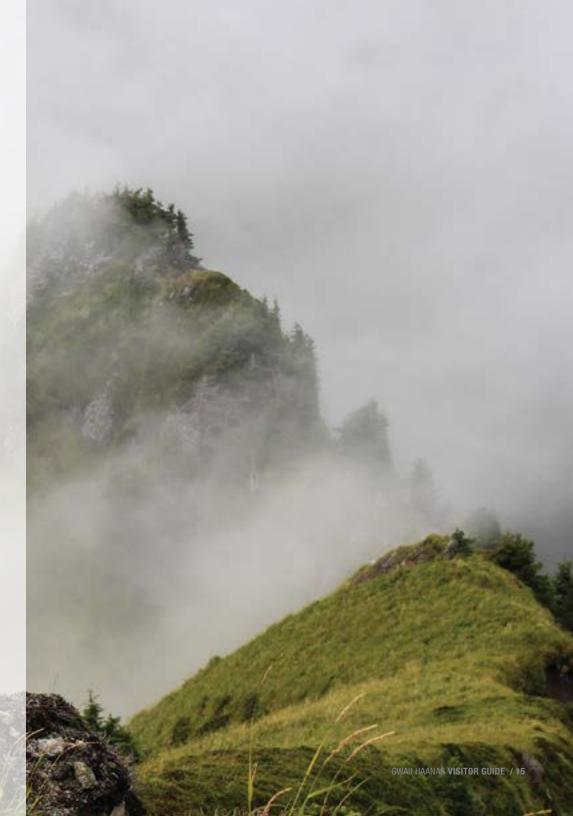


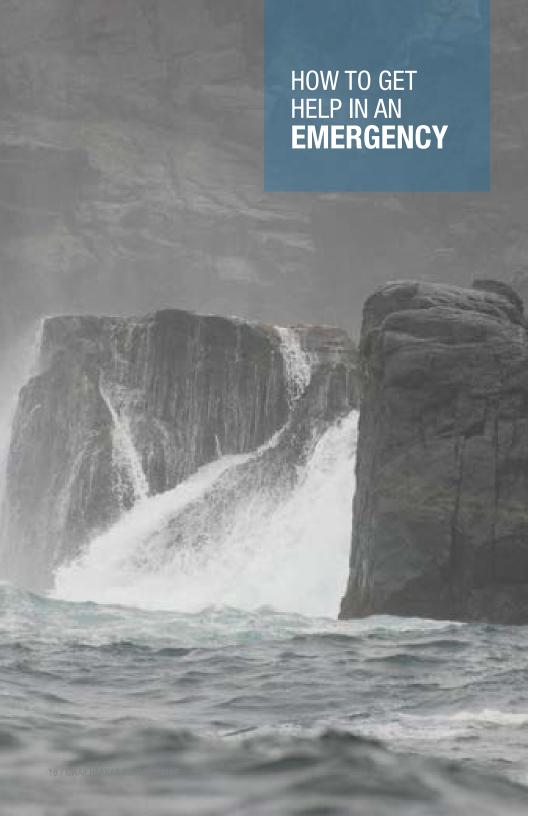
14 / GWAII HAANAS VISITOR GUIDE

SAFETY

Gwaii Haanas is a remote wilderness area. Visiting requires an adventurous spirit combined with careful planning.

- A marine VHF radio is essential to receive updated weather forecasts, to call for help in case of emergency, and to contact the Haida Gwaii Watchmen to visit Watchmen Sites.
- There is no cell service in Gwaii Haanas. Consider carrying a satellite phone and/or an Emergency Positions Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) as additional communication devices.
- Make a safety plan and discuss it with your group before you go and again when you arrive in Gwaii Haanas. Your daily plan should include an alternate route and alternate camping /mooring locations in case the weather deteriorates.
- Leave your safety plan with friends or family including your entry/exit dates and anticipated route of travel.
- You are traveling in a truly remote part of the West Coast. All travelers must be prepared to deal with emergencies.
 There is no guarantee of a quick rescue.
- Be prepared for changing weather conditions and for natural hazards in Gwaii Haanas.
- Bring enough fuel for your entire trip.
 There are no fuel facilities or services anywhere in Gwaii Haanas. Caching fuel or supplies is not permitted.





If you require assistance seek help as follows:

If you have an emergency while traveling on the water contact:

 Contact the Canadian Coast Guard on Marine VHF Channel 16. Stay on the channel for an answer. If you don't get a response in 15 to 20 seconds, try again.

If you have an emergency while on land contact:

- Contact Parks Canada Emergency Dispatch via satellite phone at 1-780-852-3100
- Assistance can also be obtained by contacting Haida Gwaii Watchmen on Marine Radio VHF channel 6. They can contact Gwaii Haanas staff or the Canadian Coast Guard on your behalf.
- Or in critical emergencies by using EPIRB or PLB.
- Radio reception can be unreliable in Gwaii Haanas. If your radio is not receiving, try moving to a different, preferably higher, location and ensure your antenna is pointing toward the sky.
- Other international distress signals that can be used to draw attention are:
 - Use flares and/or smoke signals.
 - Use any fog-signalling device such as a fog-horn, and continuously sound the device.
 - Draw attention to yourself using any unusual behaviour such as waving a bright t-shirt on a paddle like a flag.

MAYDAY

In a life-threatening emergency (if your life is in danger or your vessel is in danger of sinking) put out a distress call on Marine VHF radio Channel 16- this is the most rapid means of gaining assistance in a life-threatening emergency.

Say the following over the radio:

- 1) MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY.
- 2) This is __your name and call sign of the vessel in distress__ (Repeat 3 times).
- 3) Follow up again as soon as possible with:
 - MAYDAY again
 - · Vessel call sign
 - Vessel position
 - Type of emergency (sinking, flooding, fire) medical emergency
 - Number of people on board
 - Any injuries

Keep repeating the distress call until you get an answer. When the emergency is over, the vessel that was in distress or the station that controlled the distress traffic must transmit a message addressed to "All Stations" advising that the distress traffic has ended.

Pan Pan

This is used if the station calling has a very urgent message concerning the safety of a ship, aircraft, other vehicle, or person.



NATURAL HAZARDS ARE PART OF THE GWAII HAANAS EXPERIENCE

To reduce your chance of injury, be prepared for:

- Slippery rocks, logs, docks, boardwalks, and sea vegetation.
- Rough waters: due to swell, chop, tide, current and wind that can occur anytime, anywhere.
- Submerged objects: including uncharted rocks, that can be hidden under the surface at higher tides.
- Deadheads: Floating or partially submerged water-soaked logs can be a common hazard especially after big tides.
- Hypothermia: a serious medical emergency that can occur from immersion in the water or from sea spray on the water or on dry land.
- Dangerous goods: that wash onto shore as marine debris, including compressed gas cylinders, fuel barrels, military ordinances, and containers with unidentified contents.
- Shellfish poisoning: The waters of Gwaii Haanas are closed to shellfish harvesting to protect you from shellfish poisoning.

- Bear encounters: Remember to hang all attractants to avoid encounters with bears. Use caution around salmon streams in the fall.
- Falling branches, blow-downs, snags and widow-makers.
- Landslides and rockfall.
- Earthquakes and tsunamis.

What to do in case of an earthquake:



Remember to bring your emergency supplies, including a radio, with you to higher ground. Monitor Marine Channel 16 for updates.



MOORING BUOYS AND CLOTHESLINES

Mooring buoys and boat "clotheslines" are in several locations within Gwaii Haanas in addition to Watchmen sites. Mooring buoy usage is not mandatory, you are welcome to anchor throughout Gwaii Haanas.

Murchison Island (buoy)

Murchison Island (South Buoy) 52 35.574 131 28.212 Murchison Island (North Buoy) 52 35.599 131 28.243

Ramsay Island (buoy)

Ramsay Island (West Buoy) 52 34.401 131 23.876 Ramsay Island (East Buoy) 52 34.374 131 23.839

Section Cove (buoy)

52 25.109 131 21.762

Rose Harbour (buoy)

52 09.020 131 05.196

WATER



- Fresh water can be collected from streams or from one of two water hoses.
- Purify all drinking water before use as all water is non potable.
- In drier weather, small streams dry up. Fill your water containers whenever you have the opportunity.

Shuttle Island (water)

52 39.950 131 43.750

Louscoone Inlet (water) 52°11.64'N, 131°15.37'W

HELIPADS 🚤



Helicopter access is only permitted for emergency or management purposes. In the event that you are involved in a medical evacuation from a boat, you may be directed to a helicopter pad at one of the following locations:

Powrivco Bay

52 41.21 131 33.69

Jedway Bay

52 18.34 131 13.39

Sgang Gwaay

52 06.09 131 13.09



Isda ad dii gii isda—Giving and Receiving Ts'uu - Cedar Tree



TIDES

Generally, there are two high and two low tides in each 24-hour period, with approximately six hours between the high and low. Tidal range can be up to 7.5 metres (24 feet), with the highest and lowest tides occurring around the new or full moon. Large tides will have a more noticeable impact on the speed of the current. Tides flood (rise) from south to north, and ebb (fall) from the north to the south.

The tide table you will need to use to calculate tide times and heights will vary, depending on where you are travelling. Use the secondary ports listed in the Canadian Tide and Current Table booklet to fine tune the height and time of each tide for your specific location. Secondary ports listed in the tide tables do not cover all of Gwaii Haanas, so it is necessary to approximate the tides in some locations.

Some currents are marked on the marine charts.

Tides rushing through narrow inlets and channels increase in speed.

The hazard for rough waters increases when the wind and tide are running in opposite directions causing steep standing waves.

If you are kayaking against the current, paddle close to shore. Keep an eye on range marks. Sometimes, you can have the illusion of making progress when, in fact, you're actually gaining little or no ground.



Gina 'waadlu<u>x</u>an gud ad kwaagid —Interconnectedness

Taan ad Chiina - Black Bear and Fish



WEATHER AND SEA CONDITIONS

You put your life at risk if you venture out on the water without carefully considering the weather and its effects on sea conditions. Gwaii Haanas has a number of weather hazards unique to the area. Conditions can differ from one location to another and winds can approach from every direction. Of particular note are the following:

- Short, steep waves can develop very quickly in Hecate Strait because it is relatively shallow.
- Unless you are a very experienced mariner and are familiar with these waters, avoid the west coast of Gwaii Haanas. It is exposed, not fully charted, and has few sheltered anchorages.
- Many areas in Gwaii Haanas pose a hazard to boaters and kayakers. Use extreme caution when travelling around exposed points of land. There are often strong tidal currents, swells, and winds.
- The waters around Sgang Gwaay are exposed and travellers should be cautious when planning their crossing.
- Fog can quickly roll in at any time.

Follow these 5 steps when charting your course for the day:

1. Listen to the Marine Weather Forecast

Listening to the marine weather forecast gives you the big picture – what weather systems are developing, how fast they are developing, and how they are likely to affect your area of travel.

2. Observe

Keeping a constant weather watch is the single most important part of your routine.

3. Identify Local Hazards

Use charts, sailing directions and, if possible, local knowledge to identify areas where the interaction between wind, tide, and landforms is likely to create hazardous conditions.

4. Keep a Weather Log

Keep a weather log to record your observations and key information from the marine forecast. In particular, track changes in barometric pressure.

5. Watch for:

- Watch for strong winds, including those from the Southeast increasing in strength, which may indicate a storm is on its way
- Considerable swell may persist for several hours or days after a storm is over.
- Strong outflow winds coming out of the heads of inlets, which can develop.
- The approach of dark, threatening clouds which may foretell a squall or storm.
- Rapid pressure changes that can indicate an approaching storm.



WHAT THE FORECAST TELLS YOU:

The marine weather forecast for the north coast is transmitted from Prince Rupert and uses a number of repeater stations around the islands. Use the correct repeater for the area you are in and become familiar with the weather terms. The format for the forecast is:

- The synopsis describes major weather systems influencing the north coast, where they are located, which way they are moving, and what effects they are likely to have.
- Area forecasts give wind, weather conditions, sea state, and the outlook for each of the eight areas included in the North Coast forecast.
- Ocean buoy reports give recorded wind strength and direction, barometric pressure, and sea state.
- Automated reports give the wind conditions.
- Lighthouse weather reports cover sky conditions, visibility, wind, and sea state. Pay attention to the forecast for the area that you are travelling in and for the adjacent areas.

WEATHER WATCHING AND FORECASTING

Weather systems change quickly on Haida Gwaii, so it is important to check the updates for changes, especially when anticipating an incoming system or planning a bigger passage.

The Canadian Coast Guard broadcasts continuous marine weather forecasts 24 hours a day with an outlook for an additional 24 hours. They are updated four times daily at:

Rose Inlet Ch21B 161.65 MHz, Van Inlet WX1 162.55 MHz, Barry Inlet WX2 162.40 MHz, and Cumshewa WX3 162.475 MHz.



Gina k'aadang.nga gii uu tll k'anguudang—Seeking Wise Counsel

Kaagan Jaad - Mouse Woman



VISITING WITH YAHGUUDANG RESPECT

Land Zones:

On land there are 3 zones:

- **Green** areas are open to visitor access and open to camping.
- Yellow areas are closed to camping but open to day use.
- Red areas are closed to all access.

While on land in Gwaii Haanas, the following activities are prohibited, except in support of Haida traditional use:

- Possessing, disturbing, or removing flora, fauna, and natural objects
- Hunting or trapping
- Freshwater fishing
- Possessing a firearm
- Entering caves
- · Depositing garbage or other refuse
- Damaging, removing or destroying cultural artifacts
- Flying drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV)
- Burning open fires and collecting firewood above the ordinary high water mark
- Use of "bear bangers"
- Helicopter and fixed wing aircraft landings, except for management or emergency purposes

Marine Zones:

The marine area of Gwaii Haanas is managed by a system of zones. Approximately 60% of the area is open to sustainable recreational and commercial fishing and harvesting.

Light teal zones are open to harvesting:

- 1. Have a tidal waters fishing license.
- 2. Follow the fishing regulations and catch limits for the specific area you visit.
- 3. Fish sustainably take only what you need.

The teal zones are closed to all fishing and harvesting except in support of Haida traditional use. Boating is permitted in these zones.

The purple zones are closed to access.

- Neither boating nor fishing nor harvesting is permitted in these zones.
- These zones extend 100 m from the shoreline.
- The GPS coordinates for the boundaries are available at the Gwaii Haanas office and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans website.



AREA **CLOSURES**

To protect areas with significant cultural, spiritual, and ecological values, the following islands and islets are permanently closed to access:

- · Titul Island
- · Hotspring islets
- · House Island and islets
- · Bolkus Island and islets
- The isthmus between the two eastern Swan Islets
- · Rock Islet and surrounding islets
- · Slug Islet and surrounding islets
- Skincuttle Island and surrounding islets
- · Jeffrey Island and surrounding islets
- East Copper Island and surrounding islets
- · Rankine Islands
- · Garcin Rocks
- Kerouard Islands and surrounding islets
- Sgang Gwaay (Anthony Island) islets
- A portion of the north shore of Ramsay Island, across from <u>Gandll K'in</u> Gwaay.yaay (Hotspring Island)

RESTRICTED ACCESS:

- Bowles Point headland, west of the existing trail between the north and south beaches is closed.
- Burnaby Narrows is closed to camping.
 Avoid walking in the intertidal area to protect the high concentration of marine life living there.
- Please note that Vertical Point and the old Jedway Mine Site are also closed to visitor access through provincial regulations.
- At Louscoone Point, avoid trampling on the steep slope to minimise erosion.

CAMPING

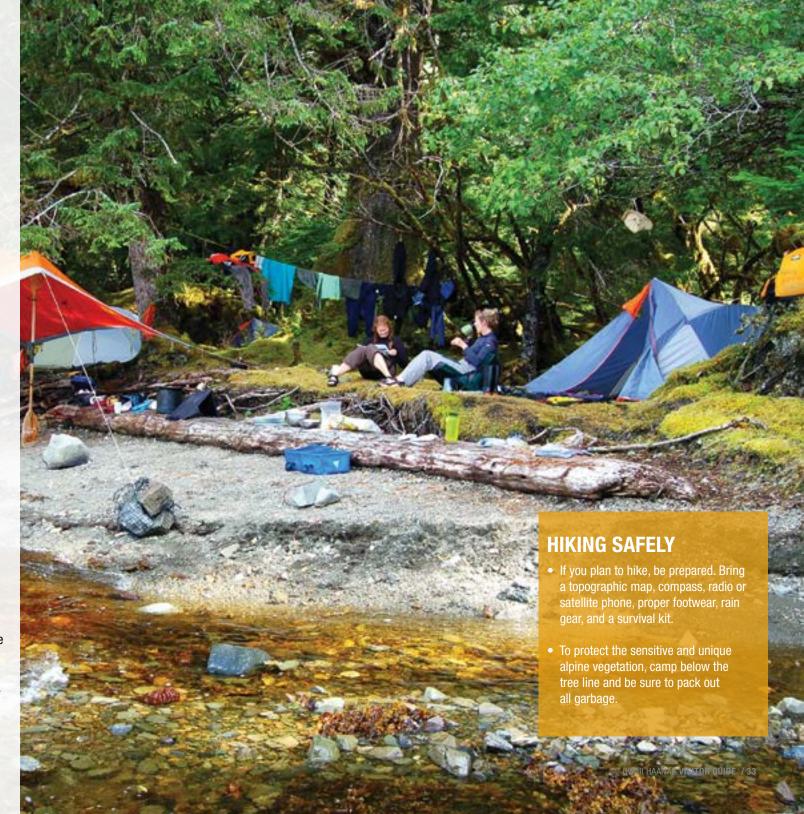
Gwaii Haanas does not have formal campsites. Instead, visitors are asked to spread their camping activities throughout the area to minimize impact to shore and forest vegetation and to ensure ongoing cultural protection.

Most areas that visitors find suitable for camping are the same areas that the Haida have used for generations. These locations have important ecological, spiritual, and archaeological values. Please show yahguudang (respect) by treating the area with care and minimizing your "footprint" on the land.

INTERTIDAL PRIVY

Use the intertidal privy. Make your deposit as close as possible to the waterline and cover with a rock. The micro-organisms in the ocean will decompose the waste.

- If you have no alternative, you can use the bush method. Dig a small 20-centimetre (8-inch) deep hole away from animal trails and at least 100 metres/yards from water sources.
- Bury human waste completely with soil. Never bury toilet paper or feminine hygiene products. Pack out your toilet paper or burn it in a beach fire. Treat feminine hygiene products as garbage.



CAMP AWAY from the mouths of streams, especially during salmon spawning season (beginning mid-August) to avoid bear encounters. USE BIODEGRADABLE SOAP when bathing. Select a location near the mouth of the stream and downstream from any place where people gather water for drinking.

Have NO MORE THAN 12 PEOPLE on shore at any one time.

STAY OUT OF SIGHT and sound of other groups.

Whenever possible, CAMP ON THE BEACH or on rock above the current high tide line. Keep CAMPFIRES small and below the high tide line. Burn driftwood for fuel and never leave the campfire unattended. Before you leave, scatter any rocks used for a hearth.

PACK OUT ALL
GARBAGE. Do not
burn foil or plastics.
Burn food scraps
completely or bag
them securely for
packing out. Return
fish entrails to the sea
well offshore.
Improperly handled
food waste can create
a dangerous situation
for the next camper.

WASH your dishes in the ocean with biodegradable soap and use sand as a natural scrubber.

Hang all food, garbage, grease, and toiletries, including toothpaste and feminine hygiene products, well away from sleeping areas, and at least 5 metres/ yards up a tree and 1.5 metres/yards away from the tree trunk. **NEVER LEAVE FOOD OR TOILETRIES OUT** when the camp is unattended. Do not cache food or garbage in kayaks.

metres

CAMPINGIN GWAII HAANAS

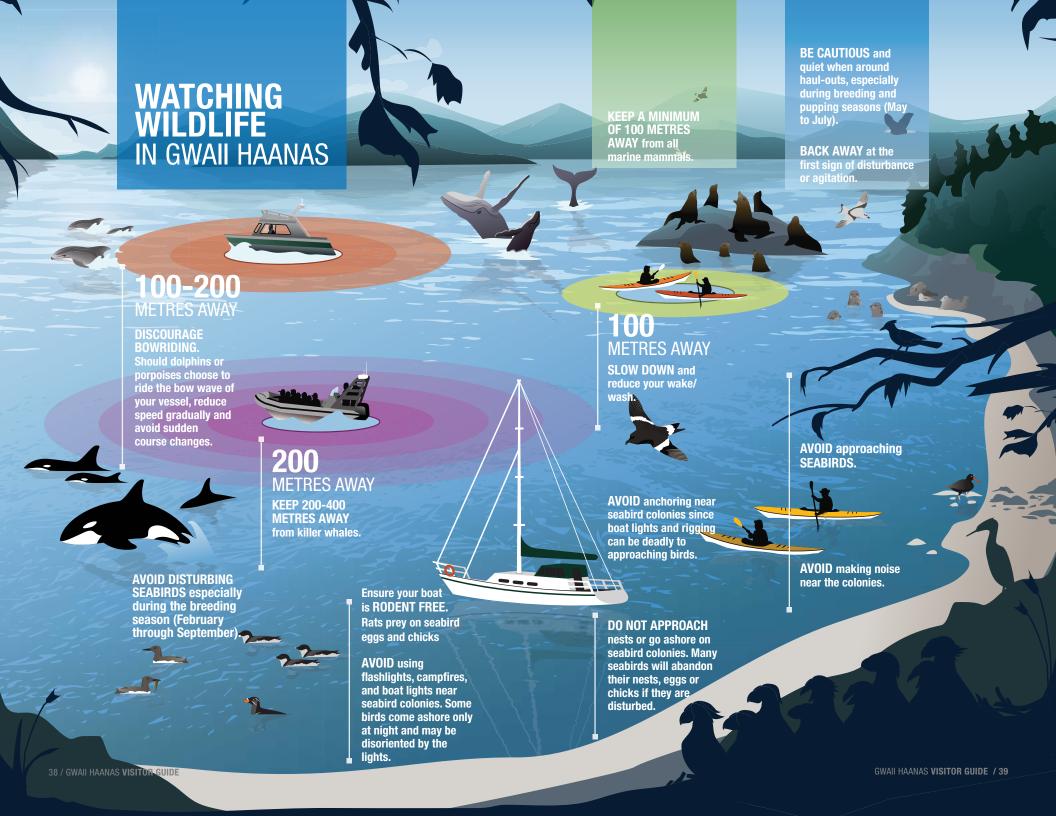
USE A PORTABLE STOVE whenever possible.

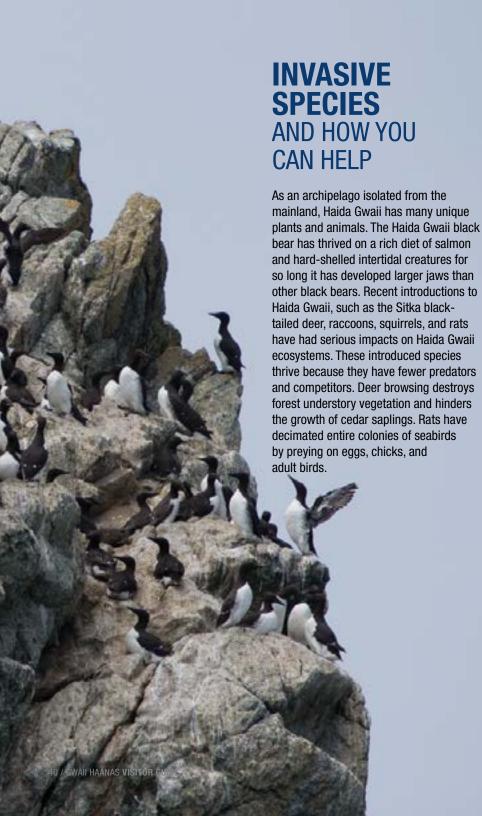
DISMANTLE BEACH
"FURNITURE" and put
logs and rocks back
in random positions
before you leave.

Treat each campsite as an archaeological site. DO NOT DIG through middens or disturb any historical features.

5 metres up







HELP PROTECT

Seabirds, native forest plants and underwater eelgrass meadows.

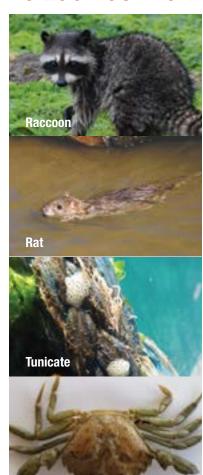


Introduced invasive species including rats, raccoons, deer and European green crabs are among the biggest threats to Gwaii Haanas plants, animals and ecosystems.

We all share responsibility for stopping the spread of invasive species to Gwaii Haanas! You can do this by:

- Inspecting your boat and gear for signs of rats and invasive marine species
- Cleaning your boat, gear and belongings
- Rat proofing your vessel
- Reporting marine invasive sightings

INVASIVE SPECIES TO LOOK OUT FOR:



How to Report:

Green crab

Report invasive marine species (tunicates, european green crabs) to: invasives@haidanation.com
Take clear photos, record date and locations. Report rat and raccoon sightings to: pc.gwaiihaanas.pc@canada.ca





CONTACTGWAII HAANAS

Phone: 1-877-559-8818 or 250-559-8818

Emergency: 780-852-3100

Email: pc.gwaiihaanas.pc@canada.ca

Web: pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas

facebook.com/gwaiihaanas