

SAMPLE ITINERARY



HAIDA GWAI

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Aboard S/V Island Roamer

9 days

SAMPLE ITINERARY (*Details are subject to change*)

Haida Gwaii, formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands, 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 bird, fish and mammal. 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 British Columbia coast. Small ship travel through this unforgettable landscape allows us to voyage to places not reachable by land. We wind our way through the archipelago to enjoy 9 days of exploration...All aboard!

SAMPLE ITINERARY

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

Arrival into Sandspit

Plan to arrive in Sandspit, BC the day prior to your trip start, to overnight at the Inn at Sandspit. Most of our guests fly with Air Canada direct from Vancouver.

Overnight accommodation has been arranged for you through our designated Travel Agency "UNIGLOBE DIRECT TRAVEL LTD". If you require further accommodation or help with your Airfare and Insurance please call Elaine Ross at 604-538-2111 ext. 6614 or email her at elaine@uniglobedirect.com

Transportation to The Inn is not required as it's located across the street from the Airport. It is a quick walk (approximately 150 yards), out the main doors and to your right. There are carts available to help you transport your baggage.

In order to facilitate the check-in process, we have reserved a room for you under your name at the Inn's front desk. Dinner for this evening is on your own. We recommend the Inn's dining room. If you would like to venture out, Sandspit has two other restaurant choices; **Dick's Wok Inn** (Chinese cuisine) and the **Orange Roof**.

Your evening's accommodation at the Inn at Sandspit and breakfast the following morning are included.

Trip Start - Day 1

Begin your day with an a la carte breakfast at The Inn's dining room prior to your journey to Skidegate. Please allow plenty of time to enjoy your breakfast, as the restaurant cooks all meals to order.

The group will meet in front of The Inn at Sandspit at **8:30 am**. Please be sure to check out of your hotel room with luggage in hand prior to this time. You will be greeted by our shuttle bus driver/guide for your Haida Gwaii land tour. You will be transported to the ferry landing at Alliford Bay to take the ferry across to Skidegate Landing on Graham Island. The ferry crossing takes approximately 20 minutes.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Our first stop will be the newly renovated *Haida Heritage Centre* on Graham Island for a guided tour followed by a traditional Haida lunch at *Keenawii's Kitchen* hosted by a local Haida family from Skidegate. Following lunch, we may have time for a short walk around Spirit Lake before catching the ferry back to Moresby Island. Then we are off to meet up with the Island Roamer, anchored at Moresby Camp, and her Crew. Upon boarding the ship you will meet the crew, cabins will be assigned, and everyone will participate in an introductory & safety orientation with dinner to follow. We will spend our first evening anchored nearby and will depart early the next morning into the waters of Southern Moresby Island to explore the Gwaii Haanas Park Reserve.

Days 2 to 8

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, and colorful intertidal zones. 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, fin whales, sea lions and orca.

We hope to capture the sight of the mighty, Gwaii Haanas black bear foraging along the shoreline for the myriad of intertidal creatures found in these nutrient-rich areas. Windy Bay is the site of the first pole raised in 130 years honouring the 20th anniversary of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement to protect the natural and marine resources. We visit the old Haida village of SGang Gwaay (Ninstints), a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site to take in the fabulous totem poles.

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

Day 9 - Trip Finish

The trip will finish mid morning and you will disembark "Island Roamer" at **11:00am** at Moresby Camp. There will be charter bus waiting to shuttle the group to Sandspit airport. The trip by bus takes about an hour. 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 in 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. Most services and facilities in Sandspit are within easy walking distance of the airport terminal.

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. Advance purchase return airfare between Vancouver and Sandspit costs approximately \$500-\$600 CAD per person.

Phone: 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/>

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Inland Air offers seaplane service from Prince Rupert to Masset.

Toll Free: 1-888-624-2577 or 1-250-624-2577

www.info@inlandair.bc

Eagle Transit offers shuttle service from the Masset airport to Skidegate, Queen Charlotte and Sandspit. 250-559-4461

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. Phone: 1-888-223-3779 or (250) 386-3431

www.bcferries.com

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

ACCOMMODATION

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

Sandspit

Lynn's Place B&B	(250) 637-5654		\$80-\$120
Seaport B&B	1-800-806-7633		\$95 - \$150
Inn at Sandspit	(250) 637-5377	thesandspitinn@gmail.com	\$99-\$120

Queen Charlotte City

Dorothy & Mikes	(250) 559-8439	www.qcislands.net/doromike	\$79-\$225
Sea Raven Motel	1-800-806-7633	www.searaven.com	\$79-\$250
Premier Creek Lodge	1-888-322-3388	www.qcislands.net/premie	\$35-\$95
Spruce Point Lodge	(250) 559-8234	www.queencharlotteadventures.com/lodging	\$75-\$85

Accommodations are priced in Canadian dollars and are subject to change.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Public transit service is not available in the Haida Gwaii. You are advised to call well-ahead to arrange for pickup:

Sandspit Taxi	(250) 637-5655
Eagle Cabs/Airport Shuttle Queen Charlotte City	(250) 559-4461 or 1-877-747-4461

SAMPLE ITINERARY

RENTAL VEHICLES

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

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

Budget-Rent-A-Car will offer Bluewater Adventures' guests discount when car rental is booked directly with Budget –Rent-A-Car in Sandspit.

TOURIST INFORMATION

For information on the Haida Gwaii call **(250) 559-8316** or visit www.info@qcinfo.ca

For general information on **British Columbia** attractions, travel, restaurants, shopping, transportation and accommodation contact **Destination BC** Call Toll Free **1-800-822-7899** or visit www.hellobc.com.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please note that the *Gwaii Haanas* archipelago is a remote wilderness area. Radio communications is not dependable and it can take considerable time to make contact with the outside world. You will not be able to make any telephone calls during the trip. If someone back home needs to get in touch with you for an important message, instruct them to call the Bluewater Adventures office **(604) 980-3800 / Toll Free: 1-888-877-1770**. Office hours are Monday to Friday (9:00 am to 5:00 pm PST). If they are unable to speak with our office staff they should leave a detailed message which will be relayed at the first opportunity.

In the event of an **emergency** they should first call the Bluewater Adventures office and speak with our staff, or call the emergency telephone number provided through the recorded message. If time is of the essence and the situation is critical they may call **Prince Rupert Coast Guard Radio (250) 627-3081**, explain the situation and request assistance in contacting a passenger aboard *Island Odyssey* sailing in the southern Haida Gwaii. If Coast Guard deems the situation to be sufficiently urgent they will then issue a radio alert for *Island Odyssey* to contact Coast Guard on Channel 16 for an urgent message. However, it still may take some time to establish contact.