

WILD WOMEN
expeditions

HAIDA GWAII KAYAKING ADVENTURE

8 DAYS

For more information please contact: adventure@wildwomenexpeditions.com or call 1 (888) 993-1222.



EXPERIENCE BRITISH COLUMBIA

Paddling through Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve is an immeasurable moment. The Haida First Nation waterways are as deep as the history that is held within the ancient totem poles that lean against time in the distance.

Tandem kayaking in this pocket of paradise is a genuine wilderness experience of untouched shorelines and the cacophony of seabird colonies. Located 129 km (80 miles) off Canada's turbulent northwest coast (the mountains of southeast Alaska are actually visible from here) this precious cluster of islands is home to the resilient Haida. The traditional art and seafaring roots of the Haida are evident in the legends, totems and respect for the protection of this land.

Dubbed the "Canadian Galápagos," Gwaii Haanas was voted the #1 wilderness park destination in North America by National Geographic for its baffling biodiversity. Within the old-growth forest's verdant depths, black bears amble. At the water's edge, sea lions and seals appear and disappear in slick, silver descents. It all sinks in when walking on the rainforest floor's spongy carpet of moss. If you want to sync yourself with nature, Gwaii Haanas embraces visitors in bird song, a hug of mist, cultural shadows and wild encounters.

With over 4,900 square kilometres from mountaintop to ocean floor, Gwaii Haanas is the largest integrated sea-land conservation management area in the world. Here's the quick math: kayakers can explore 1,700 km of undiluted shoreline and more than 800 diverse watersheds. On this 8-day Haida Gwaii Kayaking Adventure you can expect to paddle 4-6 hours a day in the company of Wild Women seeking the same extreme sojourn as you! Unrepeatable twitcher treats include sightings of a blue heron subspecies—the Queen Charlotte Goshawk. The rare Peale's peregrine falcons found here make up 25% of the bird's British Columbia population.

Fall to sleep pleasantly exhausted under the thin skin of a tent in this fully elemental, deep natural experience.

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Plan to arrive in Sandspit the day before the trip departs to properly get in the groovy groove. Upon arrival, check in with the Moresby Explorers' office, which is conveniently located next to Seaport B&B. They will confirm your rendezvous details for Day 1. Upon check in, you will be provided with an overview of the trip and have the opportunity to ask any last minute burning questions that you may have.

Meals Included: None

Tonight's Sweet Sleep: Not Included and should be booked as soon as possible.

Anticipation Level: HIGH! Off the nautical charts!

Seaport Bed & Breakfast or Bay View Garden Oceanfront Guesthouse are recommended but you are free range in regards to accommodations for this night.



You will be picked up at your accommodation at approximately 7:30 AM by van. Prepare to travel over the bumpy, lumpy logging roads to Moresby Camp (around one hour), a small bay on Cumshuwa Inlet. We will then board an open zodiac (an inflatable boat with a rigid hull) for a super scenic 2.5 hour ride along the coast of Moresby Island to Wanderer Island (how great is that?), just north of Burnaby Narrows.

Upon arrival at our first remote campsite, we will set up camp and have a thorough kayak and safety orientation. This is a participatory trip which means we'll be helping out with the critical aspects that help a camp run smooth as pudding-this includes erecting tents and doing dishes! (But no cooking!)

Chores complete, we'll swap travel stories over lunch before taking a seat in our kayaks and exploring the waters surrounding our camp.

Meals Included: Lunch and Dinner (*Please note breakfast is not included though it may be part of your hotel stay).

Tonight's Sweet Sleep: In a tent, Wanderer Island



After a filling breakfast, we'll kick off our Haida Gwaii kayaking expedition and set course for Burnaby Strait and Dolomite Narrows (Burnaby Narrows). The dramatic profile of Mount Yatza (yowza!) dominates the skyline as we round the southern tip of Burnaby Island. It's the highest point (2,320m/7,612ft) in Moresby Island's San Christoval Range.

Floating the narrows by kayak we will be totally immersed in this biological wonder in an

intimate way before returning to our idyllic camp on Wanderer Island.

Each day we will be on high alert for scenes from Mother Nature's 24/7 natural programming—bald eagles, cormorants, gulls, petrels, tufted puffins, humpback, minke and orca whales all cruise through here. Don't forget to look down too—Burnaby Narrows is synonymous with the highest density of intertidal life in the world. Below the surface brightly colored sea stars pepper the shallows in an unreal way.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Tonight's Sweet Sleep: Wilderness Camping, Wanderer Island



We'll be up with the birds today to take advantage of a big day of paddling. After breakfast and a round two on coffee, we will load our kayaks and push off into the wilds. We'll slice between Burnaby and Moresby Islands, cross Skincuttle Inlet and eyeball the ecological reserve of the Copper Islands to the north. Some of the low-lying isles of this area have surprise pockets of beach but are mostly characterized by rocky shorelines and tall stands of Sitka spruce, Western red cedar and Western hemlock.

Hey birders—be ready to tick off Ancient murrelets and Cassin's auklets!

Today we'll also pass by the village site of Hagi (Xaagyah) on Bolkus Island and the ghostly abandoned small-scale copper mine at Jedway as we head south toward our next campsite to take five for the day.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Tonight's Sweet Sleep: Wilderness Camping

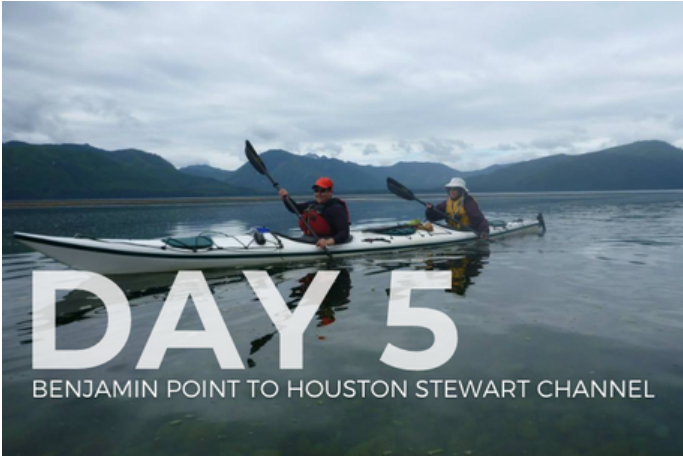


Nourished by another hearty breakfast in the wild, we will continue south using full forearm power to cross Collison Bay, the site of one of the earliest European settlements on the islands. As we paddle toward Goodwin Point, we'll cruise past the Rankine Islands ecological reserve and train our binoculars on the innumerable seabird nesting sites.

Near to our campsite, we'll drift by the former village site of Kaidju at Benjamin Point.

Here, we'll pull up our kayaks to take in a short walk across the point from the protected north cove. This will lead us to a remarkable view of the point's winter storm-battered south shore. Winters can be fierce and next to impossible to imagine in the balm of summer.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Tonight's Sweet Sleep: Wilderness Camping



Rounding Benjamin Point, we'll get our first view of Kunghit Island. As we swing into Houston Stewart Channel, we'll enter a narrow passageway from Hecate Strait to the Pacific and paddle into the territory of the Kunghit Haida and their last chief, Ninstints.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Tonight's Sweet Sleep: Camping, Ross Island



Riding the tide through the remainder of Houston Stewart, we'll have an expanding view of the denim Pacific until Anthony Island comes into view to the west.

After rounding the southern tip of Moresby Island through Cape Fanny, we'll head toward our camp at Louscoone Point, an ideal launch pad for our visit to the ancient village of SGang Gwaay (Red Cod Island) on Anthony Island.

Every day is akin to paddling deep inside an Emily Carr watercolour. The world-renowned Canadian artist painted over 200 works during her exploration of Haida Gwaii (known then as the Queen Charlotte Islands) in 1912.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Tonight's Sweet Sleep: Camping, Louscoone Point



A short but unforgettable paddle into history takes us past Adam Rocks and into the protected cove on the west side of the island. Entering the time-scraped village, it's impossible to not be forever moved by the haunting power and story of the standing poles. We will spend as much time as possible exploring the village and visit with the Haida Watchmen. The Watchmen are Haida caretakers dedicated to protecting the ancient

sites of the park and designated UNESCO Heritage Site.

Later, we'll paddle through Raspberry Cove's splendor before pulling up to our site for the night.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Tonight's Sweet Sleep: Wilderness Camping, Ross Island



Sigh, the final day of our kayaking journey. We'll absorb every bit of our surrounds and have a leisurely last morning together on Ross Island as we pack up personal gear and await the arrival of Moresby Explorers for our return by zodiac.

We will arrive in Sandspit very late in the afternoon or early evening so please plan your flights accordingly or choose to spend an additional night in Sandspit to digest the

incredible trip and enjoy British Columbia's best a little longer.

Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch
Tonight's Sweet Sleep: Sandspit or a cat nap on your flight home (not included)

NOTES ABOUT CAMP LIFE

We will all participate in the daily chores and contribute to the overall team environment such as food cache, meal prep and clean up, setting up camp, collecting firewood and drinking water, etc. You should be able to carry up to 20 – 30 pounds, as kayaks must be placed above the high tide line nightly.

NOTES ABOUT DEPARTURE

We highly recommend that you make arrangements to stay in Sandspit upon our return from the trip and plan for a departure from Sandspit the day after the kayak trip (or you can stay longer and explore this magical place).

The Haida Gwaii kayaking tour starts from the community of Sandspit, BC, Canada and can be accessed by plane or automobile; however, a ferry will be required for those not flying directly from Vancouver, BC.

We will be in a remote coastal environment exposed to a diversity of weather conditions and transportation to/from Gwaii Haanas and may require last-minute adjustments from our transport providers. For these reasons, we require all travel arrangements to be made no later than the day before the tour start date and leave the island no sooner than the day after the tour scheduled last day. If you have any questions please contact support@wildwomenexpeditions.com

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

Wild Women Expeditions and our local partners intend to adhere to the described itinerary. This is only a general guide to follow on your tour of the region. Our itineraries are subject to change, as we cannot predict the weather or other environmental conditions. We are continually striving to make improvements to all our trips based on feedback from Wild Women members, guides, partners, and other research. We reserve the right to alter itineraries based on the above at any time.

*Itinerary version as of April 5, 2023.

IS THIS TRIP RIGHT FOR ME?

This is a backcountry sea kayaking expedition intended for intermediate to advanced paddlers:

- You must have some previous backcountry camping and sea kayaking experience on open water in various weather conditions and be comfortable wearing a spray skirt and doing a wet exit.
- You must have the endurance to paddle 4-6 hours each day and be prepared to haul tandem kayaks from the shoreline. Daily distances will vary from 8 to 19 km (5-12 miles). Tandem expedition kayaks are used because of their added speed (at least 25% faster than singles) and their stability ensures safety and extra comfort as well.
- Also, please note that you will be wilderness camping, not glamping! You will be sleeping in spacious 3-person (*but with just 2 women per tent!) mountaineering tents and using the same washroom facilities as the bears!
- If you do not know how to swim, please let us know.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 2 energetic professional sea kayak guides (Lead guide will be female, the assistant guide may be female or male)
- Transportation in and out of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve
- Expedition tandem kayaks, PFD's (life jackets), paddles, spray skirts
- All satiating camp meals prepared by gourmand guide staff
- Group camping equipment (3-person, 3-season mountaineering tents)
- Shared tent accommodation (based on double occupancy)
- National park user fee
- Comprehensive on-trip resource library
- Group first aid kit, safety equipment, satellite phone

NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to Sandspit, BC (YZP)
- Pre and post trip accommodation in Sandspit (you must book these independently)
- Sleeping bag, sleeping pad, dry bags (you must provide your own). A comprehensive packing list will be provided.
- Guide tips
- Personal Medical and Evacuation Travel Insurance (mandatory) and Trip Cancellation Travel Insurance (highly recommended)