



# Haida Gwaii Kayaking Adventure

8 Days



## Arrival Day | Sandspit

### The Dream Begins

We advise arriving in Sandspit one day before the trip departs as this remote coastal environment is known for its diverse and unpredictable weather conditions. Transportation to (and from) Gwaii Haanas may require last-minute adjustments from transport providers.

Upon arrival, check in with the Moresby Explorers office, which is conveniently located next to Seaport Bed & Breakfast. They will confirm the details of our Wild Women group rendezvous for Day 1.

It's time to get into the groovy groove of supernatural British Columbia!

#### Included Meals

None

#### Accommodations

Tonight's stay is not included in the trip price. We recommend booking your accommodations as soon as possible. Local recommended options include Seaport Bed & Breakfast or Bay View Garden Oceanfront Guesthouse.



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## Day 1 | Getting There

### Setting up Camp

A shuttle van will pick us up at our individual accommodations around 7:30 a.m. Be prepared for one hour of bumpy, lumpy logging roads to Moresby Camp, a small bay on Cumshuwa Inlet. Here, we board a Zodiac for a super scenic 2.5-hour ride along the coast of Moresby Island to Wanderer Island (how great is that name?), just north of Burnaby Narrows.

Upon arrival at our first remote campsite, we set up camp and have a thorough kayak and safety orientation. This is a participatory trip which means everyone is expected to help 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 can swap travel stories over lunch before sliding our kayaks in to begin exploring the deep waters surrounding our camp.

### Included Meals

Lunch and dinner (Breakfast may be included in your hotel or B&B stay)

### Accommodations

Tent camping Wanderer Island



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## Day 2 | Burnaby Narrows

### See the Sea Stars Below

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

As we float through the narrows by kayak, it's easy to be totally immersed in this biological wonder. Be on high alert for scenes from Mother Nature's 24/7 bird channel—bald eagles, cormorants, gulls, petrels and tufted puffins frequent this area. Humpback, minke and orca whales all cruise through here as well. Don't forget to look down—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.

#### **Included Meals**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

#### **Accommodations**

Tent camping on Wanderer Island



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## Day 3 | Skincuttle Inlet

### Rewilding Together

Awake with the birds this morning as we take advantage of a big day of paddling. After breakfast and another round of coffee, we load our kayaks and push off into the wilds. We 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. Birders, be ready to tick off ancient murrelets and Cassin's auklets from your list!

We 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.

#### **Included Meals**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

#### **Accommodations**

Tent camping (location dependent on the day's paddle and weather)



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## Day 4 | Deluge Point, Ikeda Cove and Collision Bay

### Exploring the Silent Spaces

Nourished by another hearty breakfast in the wild, we continue south using full forearm power to cross Collision Bay, the site of one of the earliest European settlements on the islands. As we paddle toward Goodwin Point, we cruise past the Rankine Islands ecological reserve where innumerable seabirds have nesting sites.

Near to our campsite, we drift by the former village site of Kaidju at Benjamin Point. Here, we 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 sweet balm of summer.

#### **Included Meals**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

#### **Accommodations**

Tent camping (location dependent on the day's paddle and weather)



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## Day 5 | Benjamin Point to Houston Stewart Channel

### Padding into Time

The reward of a multi-day sea kayak expedition is simple—it means there are multiple opportunities to spot bald eagles, orcas, sea lions and tufted puffins!

Rounding Benjamin Point, we get our first view of Kunghit Island, one of the largest seabird islands on the British Columbia coastline. This isle is of global significance for the ancient murrelet population, pigeon guillemot and peregrine falcon.

As we move into Houston Stewart Channel, we enter a narrow passageway from Hecate Strait to the Pacific and paddle into the arresting territory of the Kunghit Haida and their last mighty chief, Ninstints. Here, whispers of oral traditions, carved mortuary and memorial poles tell the visual story of the past.

### Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

### Accommodations

Tent camping on Ross Island



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## Day 6 | Houston Stewart to Louscoon Point

### Paddle Strokes and Brushstrokes

Riding the tide through the remainder of Houston Stewart, it's an ever-expanding view of the denim Pacific Ocean until Anthony Island comes into view to the west.

After rounding the southern tip of Moresby Island through Cape Fanny, we head toward our camp at Louscoone Point. This point is an ideal launch pad for our visit to the designated UNESCO World Heritage Site—the ancient village of SGang Gwaay (Red Cod Island) on Anthony Island.

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

#### **Included Meals**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

#### **Accommodations**

Tent camping on Louscoone Point



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## Day 7 | The Totems of Sgang Gwaay

### Meet the Caretakers of History

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

#### **Included Meals**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

#### **Accommodations**

Tent Camping on Ross Island





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## Day 8 | Return to Sandspit

### Reflective Cups of Coffee

Sigh, it's the final day of our kayaking journey. Absorb every bit of our surroundings as we enjoy our last leisurely morning together on Ross Island. After we pack up personal gear, Moresby Explorers will pick us up for our 2.5-hour return by Zodiac and van shuttle (1 hour).

We arrive in Sandspit in the late afternoon or early evening, so please plan your flights accordingly or choose to spend an additional night in Sandspit to digest the incredible trip we had together and enjoy British Columbia's best a little longer!

#### **Included Meals**

Breakfast and lunch



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## Trip Details

### Know Before You Go

For all of the logistical details you'll need to know prior to departure—including the packing list, arrival and departure details and suggested tipping information, click [HERE](#).

Itinerary version as of March 6, 2024.