

HAIDA GWAI

August 2025

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**
a world to experience



Balance Rock

Our 47th year of tours to these amazing islands off BC's northwest coast!

Haida Gwaii is an archipelago of more than 150 islands located off the northwest coast of British Columbia. Formerly called the Queen Charlotte Islands until 2010, Haida Gwaii is the westernmost point of Canada and is known for its vibrant Haida culture, rugged coastlines, majestic mountains, stunning array of marine life, and giant old-growth cedars. One of the outstanding experiences is a Zodiac tour around Louise Island stopping at the abandoned Haida village of Skedans. Other highlights include the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay'Innagaay, Tow Hill with its Blowhole, Balance Rock, a studio and artisan tour, and a traditional Haida Feast. Come and see these amazing remote islands.



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

① **BC Interior:** August 4, 2025 - 6 Days

► Fares per person

① from **\$4,280** double/twin, **\$4,615** single*

*Further pricing details provided on page 2.

► Earn 85 Experience Points



Haida Heritage Centre

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

Your specific departure point will be confirmed at the time of booking. Passengers travelling from the BC Interior will begin and end the tour as follows:

- I BC Interior:** We fly from Kamloops or Kelowna to Sandspit on Monday, August 4. We fly to Kelowna from Sandspit on Saturday, August 9. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Standard Room	Oceanview Room	Notes
I BC Interior	\$4,280 double/twin \$4,615 single \$4,165 triple	\$4,425 double/twin \$4,915 single \$4,265 triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please add 5% GST. • BC Seniors (65 & over): \$6 discount with BC Services Card.

Golden Spruce Trail

WHAT'S INCLUDED

► Meals

- **11 total:** 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

► Transportation

- Transfers to Kelowna or Kamloops Airports
- Flight from Kelowna or Kamloops to Sandspit
- Current air transport taxes & security fees
- 6 days of mini-bus travel on Haida Gwaii
- Ferry between Moresby & Graham Islands four times
- Flight from Sandspit to Kelowna
- Transfers from Kelowna Airport to your pickup point

► Accommodation

- 5 nights of accommodation & motel taxes
- Luggage handling at motel

► Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

► Key Highlights

- Daajing Giids Visitor Centre
- Haida Feast with visit to a Skidegate home
- Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay'lnagaay with Haida guide & 2 interpretive programs
- Zodiac tour around Louise Island to Skedans
- Haida Gwaii local guide for a day
- Naikoon Provincial Park fee
- Balance Rock
- Port Clements Museum

Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.

► Guides, Gratuities, & Fees

- Skedans Village Watchman fee
- Gwaii Haanas National Park fee
- Gratuities for Haida Gwaii guide, Zodiac pilot, & drivers



Whale Skeleton in Tlell

ITINERARY

Monday, August 4

Transfers are provided to Kamloops or Kelowna airports, then we fly to Sandspit on Moresby Island. **Welcome to Haida Gwaii!** A mini-bus meets us at the airport, then we ride the ferry to Graham Island. We stay five nights in **Daajing Giids**, formerly Village of Queen Charlotte. Check out the Visitor Centre, browse the shops, or rent a kayak or bicycle. Tonight, we go to Keenawaii's Kitchen in Skidegate where a Haida member, Roberta Olson, serves a fabulous **Haida Feast** in her home. Savour traditional foods, possibly consisting of smoked salmon, halibut, venison, herring roe on kelp, salad, and a berry dessert (the menu may change).

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Sea Raven Motel

Tuesday, August 5

The day is devoted to the **Haida Heritage Centre** at Kaay'Il'nagaay, an impressive structure at Skidegate. The original Queen Charlotte Islands Museum was opened on this site in 1976 by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Six monumental poles were raised in 2001 to signal the beginning of construction of this world-class cultural centre and this multi-million dollar complex opened to great acclaim in 2008. It tells the story of the Haida Nation and features a large collection of Haida cultural materials and native art. Two programs are offered, conducted by Haida guides, the Outdoor Pole tour and Indoor tour.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Sea Raven Motel

Wednesday, August 6

We take the ferry to Moresby Island, then ride in vans on back roads to Cumshewa Inlet. This is the farthest point that a road penetrates the South Moresby wilderness which is mostly protected by **Gwaii Haanas National Park**. Here we board large Zodiacs for an excursion around Louise Island, exploring secluded coves and narrow passages, and watching for wildlife such as seals, sea lions, peregrine falcons, and eagles. A stop is made at **Skedans**, a village abandoned in the late 19th century, where we walk amid standing Haida totem poles. Weather and tides permitting, the return trip goes through Louise Narrows.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Sea Raven Motel

Thursday, August 7

A local guide joins us for the day. We drive to Masset on the north coast of Graham Island and visit the **Haida village of Old Massett**. The tour visits several totem poles including the 16-metre tall pole raised by carver Kihlyaahda Christian White in 2022. Nearby is Sarah Davidson's craft shop selling silver, wood, and argillite carvings. This afternoon, we drive along the scenic North Beach to **Naikoon Provincial Park**. You can hike to the top of volcanic Tow Hill for a magnificent view of the coast (and sometimes Alaska), admire the ocean's power if the **Blowhole** erupts, and search for agates along the beach.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Sea Raven Motel

ITINERARY continued

Friday, August 8

In the arts community of **Tlell**, we visit two interesting craft shops. Other stops are made at extraordinary **Balance Rock**, St. Mary's Spring, and the Port Clements Museum. Two walks are featured today: Masset Inlet Shoreline Trail and the remains of the famous **Golden Spruce**, felled by a vandal in 1997. We see some trees that are over 500 years old.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Sea Raven Motel

Saturday, August 9

The morning is free time, then we take the ferry to Sandspit and fly to Kelowna. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Meals included: Breakfast



Activity Level 3

High Activity: You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground, beaches/shorelines, or at higher elevations; climb in and out of zodiacs or small boats without any assistance; walk on docks which may have steep ramps at low tide; and stand for prolonged periods. You can climb three flights of stairs easily and unassisted, and can handle your own luggage in airports and at the motel where luggage handling may not be available. This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Hiking poles are fine. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.

The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

Please read the Activity Level 3 declaration attached to this brochure. By paying the tour deposit, you agree that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.



Tour Size 20

This tour is limited to 20 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience. This is due to the capacity of the mini-bus and the visitor limit imposed in Skedans. Early booking is strongly recommended as this is always a popular tour.



STAFF TESTIMONIAL

Pam, Wells Gray Tours Kamloops

What an AMAZING part of the world to be able to visit. I had the opportunity to go to Haida Gwaii with Wells Gray Tours to experience the rich culture of the Haida People. As a member of the Operations Team with Wells Gray Tours, this tour is one that I assist in coordinating every year and I welcomed the opportunity to see the areas our clients see and meet the locals our clients meet. Not only were the locals friendly and welcoming, but the views and landscapes are breathtaking. Everyone was so eager to educate our group on the Haida way, the culture and their past.

My favourite part of this tour was the Keenawaii's Dinner in the home of Roberta Olson. She creates a dinner from food she gathers that day, served in her home in the traditional cooking methods. My other favourite part of this tour was the hike to the top of volcanic Tow Hill for a magnificent view of the beach and forest. It was so misty and perfectly "West Coast" that day, the boardwalks, mossy trees and spectacular views were something that will stay with me forever.

Thank you Wells Gray Tours for offering a tour to this part of the world that is not so easy to get to, it was truly a chance of a lifetime.

HAIDA GWAI

Haida Gwaii is an archipelago of more than 150 islands located about 80 km off the northwest coast of British Columbia. The islands stretch nearly 300 km from Langara Island at the northwest tip to the Kerouard Islands, strung out like a sentinel off the south end. Haida Gwaii is the westernmost point of Canada and is known for its vibrant Haida culture, rugged coastlines, majestic mountains, stunning array of marine life, and giant cedars. About 5,000 residents are scattered between several communities on the two largest islands, Graham and Moresby, in an eclectic mix of cultures and lifestyles. The islands enjoy a mild climate with no great extremes in temperature and more sunshine than given credit for.

The islands form the heartland of the Haida Nation, upon which people have lived for 13,000 years, and who currently make up about half of the population. The Haida exercise their sovereignty over the islands through their acting government, the Council of the Haida Nation. Their culture is seemingly marked on every tree and rock. Their stories, language, and history entwine with Xuya (raven), Taan (bear), Guud (eagle), and Chiina (salmon). The Haida have been reclaiming their culture for the last 30 years and have many achievements such as the Heritage Centre, a national park to replace the logging industry, new monumental poles being raised, and repatriation of artifacts removed by early explorers.

The Islands were first visited by Europeans in 1774. Juan Perez sailed up the west coast looking for new lands to claim for Spain and trying to cut off the southern advance of the Russians. The land he spotted was Langara Island but named Cape Santa Margarita. In 1787, Captain George Dixon realized that these were islands and not part of the mainland as earlier believed. In true seafaring tradition, Dixon named the islands for his ship Queen Charlotte which honoured the wife of King George III. In 2010, the Queen Charlotte Islands were officially renamed Haida Gwaii, meaning "Islands of the Haida people".

Haida Gwaii has fascinated biologists for over a century. The islands were not glaciated during the Ice Age and are very isolated, so they have become a showcase of evolution with species found here that are non-existent elsewhere. Several areas have been set aside in their natural condition. Gwaii Haanas National Park is the largest, covering half of Moresby Island, and resulted from a hard-won battle with forest companies. Naikoon Provincial Park protects the northeast of Graham Island including volcanic Tow Hill, Rose Spit, and miles of wilderness beaches.

Wells Gray has offered tours to Haida Gwaii every year since 1978. We hope you can join us in 2025 which will be our 47th year of arranging tours to these amazing islands!

TOUR NOTES

Flights: The flights are on Air Canada from Kelowna or Kamloops via Vancouver to Sandspit, and return to Kelowna. All current air transportation taxes and security fees are included in the tour price, but these could change even after final tour payment, in which case a fare adjustment will be made. Checked luggage fees are not included. Air fares to/from Sandspit are very expensive, far higher than other Canadian routes where several airlines compete. This cost has increased nearly \$400 since 2024. This impacts the cost of this tour since your flights are included.

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the “No Flight” option with a fare reduction of \$1,300 and book your own flight which allows seat selection.

Flight delays or cancellations: Flights can be delayed or cancelled at the last minute, sometimes causing a missed connection. Wells Gray staff will try to assist with rebooking, but Air Canada generally wants to talk with the individual passenger. There may be an extra payment required if the issue is weather. Wells Gray Tours is not allowed to interfere with this process. Travel insurance (see page 7) is usually your best recourse for recouping additional flight costs.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Restaurants on

Haida Gwaii may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

Mini-bus transportation: There are no full-size motorcoaches on Haida Gwaii. Your transportation is in a 23-passenger mini-bus, operated by Eagle Transit based on Haida Gwaii. There is no on-board restroom, but facilities are available at frequent intervals and there are no long driving distances.

Accommodation on Haida Gwaii is very limited with a few small motels in Daajing Giids and Masset. Wells Gray Tours books rooms two years in advance to ensure availability during the summer season. This tour stays five nights at the Sea Raven Motel in Daajing Giids. There is no elevator to the second floor. Rooms are certainly not up to the standard that Wells Gray uses in the rest of British Columbia, but they are the only rooms available for a group tour. You can consider booking an “Oceanview Room” which is a slight upgrade from standard rooms, otherwise this tour may not be appropriate for your needs.

Identification: You must bring government-issued photo ID with you, such as a passport or BC Services Card/Driver’s Licence. Otherwise, you will not be allowed to board the flights.



TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 29, 2025. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level 3 Declaration, and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

Discounts: BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$6 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC government-issued identification showing your address in BC such as a Services Card or Driver's Licence.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 29, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From April 30 to May 29, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person (your deposit). From May 30 to July 2, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After July 2, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Our many suppliers may notify us about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. This tour stays in British Columbia. While your BC Services Card may cover you for a medical issue that arises during the tour, you will probably benefit from trip cancellation and trip interruption coverage in case of illness or a mishap before or during the tour. Many other benefits such as luggage insurance are included. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for cancellation, interruption, and luggage.

Photo Credits: WGT staff Pam (Tow Hill from Agate Beach) and tour director Lisa (all others).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 85 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until May 29, 2025.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

WE PLAN.
YOU PACK.
NO WORRIES!

www.wellsgraytours.com
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Offices are open weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Book an appointment or walk-in and visit us. _____

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Haida Gwaii — August 4, 2025

This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours using our new scale with 4 levels. This rating means there is a lot of activity as described here:



High Activity: You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground, beaches/shorelines, or at higher elevations; climb in and out of zodiacs or small boats without any assistance; walk on docks which may have steep ramps at low tide; and stand for prolonged periods. You can climb three flights of stairs easily and unassisted, and can handle your own luggage in airports and at the motel where luggage handling may not be available. This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Hiking poles are fine. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for people who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.

Since a few people who are not capable of doing these activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with “Activity Level 3” to be reasonably fit physically and mentally. By paying the deposit, you agree that you have read this Activity Level 3 Declaration and the statements are true.

- I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of “Activity Level 3” on the new scale with 4 levels.
- I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.
- I understand that this is the second highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.
- I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level, and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.
- I do not require the use of a cane, walker, wheelchair, or other mobility assistance devices.
- I have no cognitive impairment such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.
- If my physical or cognitive condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and travel insurance may cover this.
- If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, I understand that the Wells Gray tour director has the right to stop me from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and that travel insurance will probably not cover me. There will be no refund for unused tour services.

This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants.