

HAIDA GWAI

August 2026


WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Haida Heritage Centre

Our 48th 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 K'uuna Lnagaay. Other highlights include the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay'lnagaay, Tow Hill with its Blowhole, Balance Rock, a studio and artisan tour, and a traditional Haida Feast. Come and see these amazing remote islands often referred to as the Galapagos of the North.



CANADIAN



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

▼ **Vancouver Island:** August 17, 2026 - 6 Days

▼ **Lower Mainland:** August 17, 2026 - 6 Days

► Fares per person

▼ from **\$4,380** double/twin, **\$4,725** single*

*Further pricing details provided on page 2.

► Earn 105 Experience Points



Tow Hill

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking.

V **Vancouver Island:** We depart on Monday, August 17 and fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Sandspit. We fly home from Sandspit on Saturday, August 22.

Departure from Victoria: Designated pickup points are offered in the Greater Victoria Area. Home pickups may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area to the first 10 passengers for an additional cost.

Departure from Up-Island: Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. Please note that while we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox at the time of booking.

L **Lower Mainland:** We depart on Monday, August 17 and fly from Vancouver to Sandspit. We fly back to Vancouver from Sandspit on Saturday, August 22. Home pickup for passengers in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Langley, Abbotsford, or Chilliwack: No transportation is provided to or from Vancouver Airport to join this tour.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Standard Room	Oceanview Room	Notes
V Vancouver Island	\$4,430 double/twin \$4,775 single \$4,315 triple	\$4,585 double/twin \$5,080 single \$4,420 triple	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add 5% GST.• BC Seniors (65 & over): \$7 discount with BC Services Card.
L Lower Mainland	\$4,380 double/twin \$4,725 single \$4,265 triple	\$4,535 double/twin \$5,030 single \$4,370 triple	

Haida Canoe

STAFF TESTIMONIAL

"Spending six days in Haida Gwaii was such a special experience for me. I loved the way each day brought something new—whether it was learning Haida history at the Heritage Centre, standing among the remains of ancient village sites, or hiking up Tow Hill and along the Golden Spruce Trail to soak in the scenery. The warmth of the people we met made the trip feel unforgettable."

— **Angele, Sales & Operations**

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

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

▶ Transportation

- Transfers to/from Victoria or Vancouver Airport from the Greater Victoria or Greater Vancouver Areas
- Flight from Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo, or Comox to Sandspit & return
- Current air transport taxes & security fees
- 6 days of mini-bus travel on Haida Gwaii
- Ferry between Moresby & Graham Islands four times

▶ Accommodation

- 5 nights of accommodation & motel taxes

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

▶ Key Highlights

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

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

▶ Guides, Gratuities, & Fees

- K'uuna Llnagaay Village Watchman fee
- Local Haida Gwaii guide on August 20
- Gwaii Haanas National Park fee
- Gratuities for Haida Gwaii guide, Zodiac pilot, & drivers



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. 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 note: Prior to accepting your booking, you will be required to [sign a declaration](#) 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 K'uuna Llnagaay (Skedans). Early booking is strongly recommended as this is always a popular tour.



Balance Rock

ITINERARY

Monday, August 17

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 18

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 19

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 **K'uuna Lnagaay**, once known as 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, Dinner

Accommodation: Sea Raven Motel

Thursday, August 20

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 21

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

Accommodation: Sea Raven Motel

Saturday, August 22

The morning is free time, then we take the ferry to Sandspit. Our flight leaves in mid-afternoon for Vancouver with a connection to Victoria. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Meals included: Breakfast

HAIDA GWAII

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 2026 which will be our 48th year of arranging tours to these amazing islands!



TOUR NOTES

Flights: are planned on Air Canada from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox via Vancouver to Sandspit, and return. 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 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 \$900 and book your own flights 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 airlines generally want 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 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. There is no luggage handling service provided.

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 28, 2026. By paying the deposit, you agree to the **Terms & Conditions**, Activity Level 3 requirements, and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Discounts: BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$7 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 28, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From April 29 to May 28, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person (your deposit). From May 29 to June 29, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After June 29, there is no re-fund.

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: Tour director Lisa and Adobe Stock (Haida Canoe, page 2).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 105 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 28, 2026.

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

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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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