HAIDA GWAII

August 2027

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Haida Canoe

Our 49th year of tours to these amazing islands off BC's northwest coast!

Discover the remote beauty and rich living culture of Haida Gwaii, an extraordinary archipelago off British Columbia's northwest coast. Travel through rugged coastal landscapes, admire towering old-growth cedars, and keep watch for the marine life that thrives in these Pacific waters. One of the journey's most memorable experiences takes you by Zodiac to K'uuna Llnagaay, an abandoned Haida village where you can connect with the history and heritage of this remarkable place. At the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay'llnagaay, deepen your understanding of Haida culture, then explore the dramatic coastline at Tow Hill and its Blowhole, and marvel at the natural wonder of Balance Rock. Along the way, visit local artists and artisans in their studios, discovering the creativity and traditions that continue to shape Haida Gwaii. You'll also share in the flavours and hospitality of a traditional Haida feast. This is an immersive adventure into a place unlike anywhere else, where culture, nature, and unforgettable experiences come together.

CANADIAN TOUR | GROUP SIZE: 20 | ACTIVITY LEVEL: 3

- **Departure from:**
  - **BC Interior:** August 15, 2027 - 7 days
  - **Lower Mainland:** August 16, 2027 - 6 days
- **Fares per person**
  - from **$5,135** double/twin, **$5,485** single*

  **Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*
- **Earn 134 Experience Points**



Haida Heritage Centre

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Meals

- **I 14 total:** 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners
- **L 13 total:** 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

Transportation

- I Coach transportation to New Westminster
- Transfer to Vancouver Airport
- Flight from Vancouver to Sandspit
- Current air transport taxes & security fees
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfer from Sandspit to Daajing Giids
- 4 days of mini-bus travel on Haida Gwaii
- Ferry between Moresby & Graham Islands four times
- Transfer from Daajing Giids to Sandspit Airport
- Flights from Sandspit to Vancouver & Kelowna
- Transfers from airport to your pickup point

Accommodation

- I 6 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- L 5 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Luggage handling in New Westminster

Key Highlights

- Haida Feast with visit to a Skidegate home
- Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay'llnagaay with Haida guide & 2 interpretive programs
- Zodiac tour with stop at K'uuna Llnagaay
- Balance Rock
- Port Clements Museum
- Golden Spruce Trail

Attractions are subject to change. Please see our Terms & Conditions for more information.

Guides, Gratuities, & Fees

- K'uuna Llnagaay Village Watchman fee
- Gwaii Haanas National Park fee
- Local Haida Gwaii guide on August 19
- Naikoon Provincial Park fee
- Gratuities for Haida Gwaii guide, drivers, Zodiac pilot, Sea Raven housekeeper

Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Standard Room	Oceanview Room
I	BC Interior	**$5,295** double/twin **$5,775** single **$5,150** triple	**$5,430** double/twin **$6,040** single **$5,240** triple
L	Lower Mainland	**$5,135** double/twin **$5,485** single **$5,025** triple	**$5,265** double/twin **$5,745** single **$5,115** triple

- Please add 5% GST.
- Single seats are limited. Please book early if you prefer to travel single.
- **BC Seniors (65 & over):** $7 discount from BC Ferries with BC government-issued identification.

Tow Hill

ITINERARY

Sunday, August 15

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking. BC Interior passengers depart today. Transportation is arranged from Kamloops and the Okanagan to New Westminster. We stay overnight at the Inn at the Quay, built on a pier jutting into the Fraser River. Every room has a view of the river and you can watch all the shipping traffic going by.

Note: While it may seem unnecessary to drive to the Lower Mainland the day before your flight, the Coquihalla can have long closures or Interior to Vancouver flights can be cancelled by weather or smoke which would cause you to miss the once-daily flight to Sandspit.

Meals included: Lunch (BC Interior)
Accommodation: Inn at the Quay (BC Interior)

Monday, August 16

Passengers from Vancouver join us today. We fly from Vancouver 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. A visit to the nearby visitor centre at your leisure is recommended.
Accommodation: Sea Raven Motel

Tuesday, August 17

The day is devoted to the **Haida Heritage Centre** at Kaay'llnagaay, 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 Indigenous art. The Outdoor Pole tour and Indoor tour are conducted by Haida guides. 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: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Sea Raven Motel

Wednesday, August 18

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 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 Llnagaay, 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 19

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

Friday, August 20

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 21

The morning is free time, then we take the ferry to Sandspit. Our flight leaves in mid-afternoon for Vancouver with a connection to Kelowna for passengers in the BC Interior. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

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 or shorelines; 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. You must be able to handle your own luggage in airports and at the Sea Raven Motel.

This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Hiking poles are recommended. 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 cannot keep 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 or less, making it a more intimate travel experience. This is due to the capacity of the mini-bus and the visitor limit imposed at K'uuna Llnagaay (Skedans). Early booking is strongly recommended as this is always a popular tour.

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 last 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 2027 which will be our 49th year of arranging tours to these amazing islands!

TOUR NOTES

Flights are planned on Air Canada from 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. Airfares to and from Sandspit are very expensive, far higher than other Canadian routes where several airlines compete.

Flight seating: We are unable to take seating requests of any kind in any class. 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 flight which allows seat selection. For more information about the "No Flight" option, please see our **Terms and Conditions**.

Flight delays or cancellations: In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather, smoke or other reasons, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for flight delays.

Why we don't fly to Vancouver on the first day: Over the last few years, Wells Gray Tours' travellers have encountered several problems with the flight connection in Vancouver. Flights have been delayed or cancelled due to weather, smoke, or mechanical issues, resulting in a missed flight to Sandspit. If Air Canada can rebook you on the next day's flight, your itinerary on Haida Gwaii has to be compacted to make up for the missed day. Therefore, in 2027, we believe it is more reliable to drive to New Westminster the day before your flight to Sandspit.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Restaurants on Haida Gwaii probably cannot 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. 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. 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.

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

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of $500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due June 3, 2027. By paying the deposit, you agree to the **Terms and Conditions, Company Policies**, Activity Level 3 **Declaration**, and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Cancellation Policy:

- Up to May 3, 2027, the cancellation charge is $100 per person.
- From May 4 to June 3, the cancellation charge is $400 per person.
- From June 4 to July 2, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare.
- After July 2, there is no refund.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by battleface® travel insurance. 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. Insurance premiums are not refundable whether or not you make a claim.

Photo Credits: Adobe Stock (Haida Canoe), Miranda Shulz (Haida Heritage Centre), and tour director Lisa (Tow Hill).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 134 Experience Points or e-points. Redeem up to 134 of your earned e-points from a previous tour until June 3, 2027. Please see loyalty rewards on our website for more information about e-points.

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

For information on itinerary changes, fare changes, and more, please see our Terms, Conditions, and Company Policies.

KAMLOOPS
(Head Office)
250 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

KELOWNA
2575 Richter St.
Kelowna, BC V1Y 2R1
250-762-3435

VERNON
3206 35th St.
Vernon, BC V1T 6B7
250-545-9197

PENTICTON
159 Wade Ave E
Penticton, BC V2A 8B6
250-493-1255

VICTORIA
102-736 Broughton St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1
250-590-7889

WE PLAN. YOU PACK. NO WORRIES!

www.wellsgraytours.com 1-800-667-9552