

GoMedia **Canada 2020**

British Columbia

Haida Experience in Northern British Columbia

September 3-9, 2020

Theme

Discover the mysterious and unique treasures of Haida Gwaii – an untouched, rugged archipelago of islands off the northwest coast of British Columbia. Experience the hospitality of 100% owned [Haida accommodations](#) and learn about the history of the Haida people with this authentic immersive Indigenous culture adventure.

Description

This itinerary will take the media on a journey of discovery. Learn from the [Haida Gwaii Watchmen](#); watch history come to life with visits to [Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve](#), including a visit to the village of [SGang Gwaay L'nagaay \(Nan Sdins\)](#) a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the award winning [Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay L'nagaay](#). This tour facilitates discussion and interpersonal connections to Haida artists and guides and allows the media to experience traditional Haida meals.

This itinerary is a cultural enthusiast's dream. It will provide access to some of the oldest heritage sites on Haida Gwaii and bring history to life through viewing traditional Haida art, tasting traditional Haida cuisine, and trekking through the pristine and seemingly untouched natural environment of British Columbia's beautiful northwest coast.

Considerations

- Packing tips: The weather in British Columbia is mild and changes daily. We recommend bringing layered clothing, as well as a swimsuit, sunscreen, good running/walking shoes, smart casual evening clothing, fleece and a warm coat or jacket.
- There are no strenuous activities. Activities include outdoor walking tours on uneven terrain and media should be in "fair" physical condition.
- Limited cell phone reception and internet connection throughout the tour. There will be cell phone reception at Ocean House but not at Haida House. Wi-Fi will be available at all accommodations.
- A credit card will be taken at hotels upon check in to cover any personal incidentals such as laundry, long distance calls, movies, etc.
- Dietary restrictions and food allergies should be provided in advance of the tour.

Itinerary

Day 1 - Thursday, September 3

Day	Media arrivals in Vancouver. Transfer from the Vancouver International Airport to your hotel is provided by hotel shuttle (complimentary)
Overnight	Hotel (to be confirmed)

Day 2 - Friday, September 4

8:25 am	Depart Vancouver International Airport (YVR) at 8:25 AM (2.5-hour flight). Pacific Coastal Airlines flight number 8P 571.
10:45 am	Arrive in Masset Municipal Airport. Upon arrival meet Ocean House representative who will provide transportation to Ocean House (Drive time: 15 minutes)
11:00 am	Arrive and check-in to Ocean House in Masset. Ocean House is 100% Haida-owned. We are focused on providing our guests with an unforgettable retreat, complete with a relaxing spa, complemented with local history and cultural education. Cultural preservation is important to the Haida people, and we enjoy sharing our history and culture with our guests.
1:00 pm	Lunch at Ocean House and welcome with Kathy James of Haida Tourism .
3:00 pm	Visit to a Haida carving shed to meet Haida artists and observe a wood carving demonstration. Also, we'll have a totem pole tour of Old Masset (1 ½ hours).
5:30 pm	At Ocean House, there will be a pre-dinner media orientation with Parks Canada representatives, Miranda Post and Natalie Fournier, who will provide an overview for the visit to Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve .
7:30 pm	Dinner at Ocean House Post dinner we will enjoy a brief orientation and review the itinerary. After dinner, unwind with a walk along the beach which is just outside the lodge, or relax in the lounge or Guest Den with a nightcap.
Overnight	Ocean House

Day 3 – Saturday, September 5

7:30 am	Breakfast at Ocean House.
9:30 am	Depart Ocean House and head North to Gaw, Masset and Skilaaw (Drive time: 20 minutes) .
10:00 am	Visit the Old Massett Interpretive Pole Tour and Carving Shed

Known for its 18 totem poles, each with a unique design, story and history, Old Massett is one of 2 villages where the Haida Nation regrouped in the late 1800s, having been forced to leave most of their ancient villages due to their declining numbers, a severe consequence of the smallpox epidemic at Contact. Old Massett was historically four separate villages and each village had its own dialect.

- 12:00 pm Continue north to the 'Edge of the World' (Drive time: 30 minute)
- The community of Taaw K'yuu, Tow Hill and North Beach, known as the 'Edge of the World', is 22 kilometers from Massett and is primarily a stretch of sandy beach almost 100 kilometres long. We will have a brief stop at Hl'yaalan 'Lngee, Hiellen which features a magnificent 18.9-meter pole carved in 2017 by eight young apprentices, under the direction of Master Carver Kiltguulans Christian White.
- 12:30 pm Leisurely picnic lunch at Agate Beach
- 1:30 pm An easy hike up Tow Hill (45 minutes), which is an isolated volcanic plug with 125 metres of elevation. This hike will introduce you to Haida legends and culture, old growth forest, the Hiellen River, open ocean, fascinating geologic features, and wonderful views and wildlife. Those who prefer not to hike to the top, can go halfway to the Blow Hole or enjoy the beach near the Hiellen Longhouse camp.
- 5:00 pm Arrive back at Ocean House (Drive time: 30 minutes)
- 6:30 pm Dinner at Ocean House.
- 8:30 pm Enjoy a weaving demonstration and workshop with a Haida artist and master weaver.
- Overnight Ocean House.

Day 4 – Sunday, September 6

SGang Gwaay, UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Historic Site
Our tour will split into Group A and Group B. All arrival times are approximate & determined by wind, fog and tides.

For this portion of the itinerary, please bring waterproof walking shoes, light rain jacket, sunglasses, sunblock and a small personal bag due to space and weight limitations.

Group A

- 6:00 am Breakfast to go.
- 6:10 am Depart Ocean House to Queen Charlotte docks (Drive time: 2 hours). Boxed lunches will be provided.
- 8:00 am Board a float plane and fly to [SGang Gwaay](#), located in the southwest corner of [Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve](#).

Your journey begins with a one-hour coastal float plane ride to the most southern tip of Haida Gwaii to Kunghit Island. You will disembark at Rose Harbour, once a thriving whaling station from 1910 to 1943, suit up and transfer to a six-person Zodiac which will take you to the Village Site.

The village of SGang Gwaay (also known as Ninstints - Nans Dins) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Historic Site that features Longhouse impressions that are still visible in the ground, together with a dozen, still standing carved mortuary and memorial poles.

The site commemorates the living culture of the Haida and their relationship with the land and sea. The village of SGang Gwaay was occupied until shortly after 1880. What survives is unique in the world, a 19th-century Haida village where the ruins of houses and poles illustrate the power and artistry of Haida society.

2:30 pm Return to Queen Charlotte docks and transfer [Haida House](#).

4:00 pm Magical History Tour with our Resident Naturalist and Bird Expert Phred Collins.

Time slows down... spend a couple of hours and immerse yourself in the coastal environment of Southern Naikoon Park with our favorite local field naturalist Phred. Enjoy moderate, relaxed hiking with topics of conversation as wide ranging as deep ecology, palaeontology, geological history - all the while birding and wildlife tracking. Find beauty and gratitude in even the tiniest wildlife encounter.

Group B

8:30 am Breakfast at Ocean House.

9:30 am Depart Ocean house and transfer to Haida House at Tllaal (Drive time: 1 hour)

10:30 am Arrive at Haida House, check in and drop luggage off.

10:45 am Depart Haida House for the Queen Charlotte docks (Drive time: 45 minutes)
Boxed lunches will be provided.

12:00 pm Float plane departure to [SGang Gwaay](#), located in the southwest corner of [Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve](#).

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4:00 pm Return to Queen Charlotte docks and transfer to Haida House.

7:00 pm The two groups will reunite to enjoy dinner at [Haida House at Tllaal](#).

Located on the gentle banks of the Tlell River, Haida House is a welcoming beacon of light with 10 comfortable guest rooms, only steps away from miles of sandy beaches and windswept dunes. The unique position of our lodge is a culture enthusiast's dream as it provides access to some of the oldest heritage sites on Haida Gwaii and the unnerving experience of seeing history come to life. You will have opportunities to view traditional Haida art, taste local cuisine, trek through lush nature trails, comb sprawling beaches. We think it will take your breath away.

Overnight Haida House at Tllaal

Day 5 - Monday, September 7

- 7:30 am Breakfast at Haida House. We will be gone until after dinner so please bring everything you will require for the day.
- 8:15 am Depart Haida House with guide Phred Collins and Cultural Interpreter/Driver Aay Aay Hans. Aay Aay is also a respected Haida weaver and champion of the Xaayda Kil - Haida Language.
- 8:45 am Stop at Balance Rock for photo opportunities.
- 9:30 am Guided tour of Spirit Lake Trail in Skidegate (a moderate 1 ½ hour hike)
- 11:00 am Narrative tours of the villages of Daajing Giids - Queen Charlotte and HIGaa Gilda - Skidegate and we'll be able to view the new poles by Master Carvers Garner Moody, Guujaaw and Tim Boyko.
- 11:30 am Lunch at [Black Tail Bistro](#) in Queen Charlotte.
- 1:00 pm Tour of the award-winning Kay Llnagaay Heritage Centre & Museum (1 ½ hours).
- The \$26 million, award winning, [Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay](#) in Skidegate contains the Haida Gwaii Museum, canoe house, performing house, carving shed, the Bill Reid Teaching Centre, gift shop and café. It has been a 40-year-long dream of the Haida to share the island's history and rich natural heritage with the world. Six traditional totem poles and a series of longhouses give the Centre the feeling of a traditional Haida seaside village.
- 3:00 pm Free time
- 5:00 pm On route to dinner tonight, we'll stop at local Haida artisan's home studio or local carving shed if a pole project is underway.
- 6:30 pm Enjoy dinner at [Keenawaii's Kitchen](#). We'll join chef, Roberta Olson in her home in Skidegate for a multiple course, traditional Haida meal.
- 8:30 pm Return to Haida House.
- Overnight Haida House

Day 5 - Tuesday, September 8

6:30 am	We'll take breakfast as we head out to Queen Charlotte (Drive time: 45 minutes).
7:30 am	<p>Depart with Haida Style Expeditions from the main dock in Queen Charlotte on the Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay (Hotsprings Island) & Hlk'yah GawGa (Windy Bay) tour.</p> <p>This day tour takes you to Hlk'yah GawGa (Windy Bay) and to Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay (Hotsprings Island). This area is symbolic to Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage site because it was here, in 1985, that the Haida people took a stand against clear cut logging practices in South Moresby. This stand resulted in the creation of Gwaii Haanas, and the erection of the Legacy Pole. Along the way, our guides will incorporate storytelling, songs, and local history, giving guests a glimpse into our heritage, and how we protect our land and waters.</p>
12:30 pm	Lunch with Haida Style Expeditions
5:30 pm	Return to the dock and back to Haida House
7:30 pm	Dinner at Haida House
Overnight	Haida House

Day 6 - Wednesday, September 9

7:30 am	<p>Breakfast at Haida House.</p> <p>Check out, debrief and settle any incidentals.</p>
9:30 am	Departure from Haida House and head to Masset Municipal Airport (Drive time: 1-hour)
11:25 am	<p>Depart Masset Municipal Airport at 11:25 AM (4-hour flight)</p> <p>Pacific Coastal Airlines flight number 8P 972 to Vancouver then 8P 1415 to Victoria.</p>

Recommended items to bring

- Remember, you are travelling to a northern destination and temperature and weather systems can change quickly. While we've outlined a few guidelines, we always recommend preparing for a change in weather during your stay.
- Fleece, fall jacket, wind breaker, jeans, thin layers, hat, sunscreen, bug-spray, sunglasses, and walking poles. (Weather can vary greatly)
- Hiking boots
- Good runners/ walking shoes
- Camera