



Poles at SGang Gwaay.

Practicalities

Price per person:

- Two sharing: CAD \$4,269
- Single occupancy: CAD \$5,268

Payment is taken in Canadian dollars. If you are booking internationally, the exchange rate on the day of payment is used.

Deposit: There is a non-refundable deposit of CAD \$1,500 upon booking the tour. Payment in full is required by April 1, 2019.

Included:

- Seven nights' accommodation in a double occupancy room with private ensuite washroom
- Daily meals, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages
- Welcome gift and orientation with Haida House's Director of Cultural Services
- 24-hour use of guest den, with complimentary Wi-Fi, coffee and library
- All tours, excursions, activities, entrance fees and guide fees
- All local ground and water transfers
- Services of Royal BC Museum staff

Accommodation: **Haida House**, located on the gentle banks of the Tlell River, is Haida owned and operated. Specializing in providing Haida cultural experiences, the lodge includes 10 comfortable guest rooms located only steps away from miles of sandy beach and windswept dunes. Local, fresh cuisine, a relaxing den, a convenient conference room and a resident cultural interpreter all ensure an enjoyable and memorable stay.

Note that there will be limited internet and mobile connectivity during your visit to Haida Gwaii.

How strenuous? To enjoy the natural wonder of Haida Gwaii, a fair amount of walking is unavoidable. Tour participants should also be prepared to ride in a float plane, disembark directly into a Zodiac (inflatable boat), put on a floatation suit and start their rustic adventure.

Anticipated group size: 10 to 16 participants.

Booking information: This tour is a collaboration between the Royal BC Museum and Haida House. For information, or to reserve your place on this tour, please email Haida House at info@haidahouse.com or call **1-855-557-4600**.

To connect with a Royal BC Museum representative, please email jdallison@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca or call **250-413-7756**.

Royal British Columbia Museum
presents our third annual Director's Tour:

Haida Gwaii

for patrons of the Royal British Columbia Museum

16–23 June, 2019

Eight days / Seven nights

From CAD \$4,629 (double occupancy)

- A private tour led by Professor Jack Lohman CBE, Chief Executive, and Lucy Bell, Head of Indigenous Collections and Repatriation, Royal BC Museum, and member of the Haida Nation
- Visit a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Meet a hereditary chief and see Indigenous treasures
- Explore the wild Pacific Northwest coast and its cuisine



Monumental Poles at SGang Gwaay, UNESCO World Heritage Site.



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Poles at SGang Gwaay, BC Archives photograph (ref: I-15574).

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival on Haida Gwaii. Arrive at Sandspit and transfer to Haida House in the village of Tlell (approximately 90 minutes' journey, including a ferry ride). Check in, enjoy a complimentary aperitif and receive your orientation from Haida House's Director of Cultural Services. Unwind with a walk along the expansive beach or beautiful Tlell River followed by dinner in the company of renowned Haida artists.

Day 2: Cultural tour of Skidegate and Queen Charlotte Village. After breakfast, you will depart for the Haida village of Skidegate. There, you will meet Hereditary Chief Guujaaw. A visit to the Haida Heritage Centre and Museum at Kay Llnagaay will follow, featuring a private tour by Nika Collison, Executive Director and Curator. You will see rare Haida collections, including weaving, argillite carvings and poles, as well as an active carving facility and a natural history gallery featuring Haida Gwaii's incredible range of birds, mammals and fossils. The day culminates with a traditional Haida feast in the home of Haida chef Keenawaii.

Day 3: Marine excursion to the ancient village of Skedans. Joined by expert Haida guides, you will board a Zodiac for a day trip to the Haida village site of Skedans, also known as K'uuna Llnagaay. Historically, it was one of the larger villages in the southern part of Haida Gwaii. Poles and house pits remain. A Watchman,

a member of a special group of Haida volunteers dedicated to protecting and preserving Haida cultural sites, will guide you through the site, explaining what the village once looked like, who the figures on the poles are and how the people lived. On your marine adventure, you may also see intertidal life, marine mammals, sea birds, moss-covered forests and giant trees. Snacks, a hearty breakfast and lunch are included. A late-afternoon return to the dock and transfer to Haida House are followed by an elegant dinner.

Day 4: Cultural tour of Old Masset Village. After breakfast, you will tour the Golden Spruce Trail, a gentle 20-minute walk through lush old-growth forest and culturally modified trees (from which cedar bark is stripped and used for weaving). The trail leads to a view of the historic Golden Spruce, a rare, ancient golden-needled Sitka tree that was tragically felled. Next, you'll explore the northern part of Graham Island and visit the famed North Beach. An optional boardwalk hike to the top of Tow Hill offers breathtaking views of the seemingly endless beach and the Alaskan islands to the north. Afterward, your tour will continue to Old Masset, a Haida village known for its poles—each with a unique design, story and history. You'll also learn more about the Haida repatriation of ancestral remains. Visits to local carving and artisan studios follow. A late-afternoon transfer to Haida House is followed by dinner.

Day 5: Air and marine excursion to Gwaii Haanas. The highlight of any visit to Haida Gwaii, this day trip to the UNESCO World Heritage Site at SGang Gwaay (near the southern tip of Haida Gwaii) offers a glimpse of ancient Haida culture in an incredible natural setting. After breakfast, you will depart by private coach for Queen Charlotte Village to fly by float plane to the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve. This one-hour flight will take you to remote Rose Harbour, where you will board a boat for a 30-minute trip to the Haida Heritage Site on Anthony Island. There, a Watchman will provide you with a guided tour of the remains of an ancient village, including many standing poles. On this excursion, you may also see pods of whales, dolphins and seabird colonies.

Day 6: Private master class with a Haida weaver. We will begin the day by exploring Naikoon Park with a local naturalist. This optional three-hour walk through lush forest, over sand dunes and past fragile tidal pools will include a tour of a shipwreck site. The day continues with a hands-on class in Haida weaving. Once an important part of everyday life on the islands, Haida weaving suffered during the 1800s when populations plummeted due to disease. Kept alive by dedicated individuals, Haida cedar baskets are now world renowned. This is your chance to experience a true Haida tradition.

Day 7: Optional activities. Choose from one of two adventures:

- Join a fully certified and qualified guide for a peaceful kayak trip up Masset Inlet to the mouth of the Yakoun River. Lush scenery and abundant bird life provide an unsurpassed backdrop.
- A four-by-four back-road quest from mountain top to the Juskatla Estuary includes a spectacular view of Masset Inlet and the Yakoun River. You'll view the remains of an early logging settlement and an old trestle bridge and learn of the discovery of an ancient canoe—an important recent archaeological find. This remote region is known for bear viewing, massive eagle nests and old-growth forests. Be sure to bring your camera.

Picnic lunches are included with each adventure. Your unforgettable tour of Haida Gwaii culminates on your final evening with a sumptuous farewell dinner at Haida House.

Day 8: Departure. Breakfast at your leisure and enjoy a period of relaxation before your transfer to your flight. Those flying from Sandspit Airport (YZP) via Air Canada will depart Haida House at 10 am, while those flying out of Masset Airport (ZMT) via Pacific Coastal Airlines will depart Haida House at 11 am.

Please note: the itinerary is subject to change depending on weather or other considerations.