



ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES

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QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS: MOTHERSHIP SEA KAYAK VOYAGE

Off the coast of British Columbia and home to the native Haida people, the "Gwaii Haanas" or "Place of Wonder," is a wilderness paradise! **Repeatedly ranked the #1 National Park in North America by National Geographic**, it is common to see whales, porpoise, sea lions, sea birds, and the rare Tufted Puffin in this remote area. At low tide, kayaks are the perfect craft to unobtrusively view the rainbow explosion of marine creatures and witness black bears feeding on the shoreline. Ashore, hike among the pristine moss-laden old growth forests. Visit SGang Gwaay (Anthony Island), World Heritage sites, and other villages for a glimpse into the culture of the Haida. You travel in comfort aboard a 42-foot yacht, fully outfitted for your cruise. Kayaks are nestled snugly above the covered aft deck. With a well-oiled crew, these can be slung over the side and you can be away from the yacht within minutes. Whether paddling in hidden inlets or relaxing under a huge cedar tree, the remoteness and wildness of the Gwaii Haanas is magical!

Trip Dates: July-Sept Red indicates south bound

2011 Trip Cost: \$2699 + Park Fee + CN Gov't Tax

Trip Dates:

July 2 – July 9

July 20 – 27

Aug 7 – 14

Aug 26 – Sept 2

July 8 – July 15

July 26 – Aug 2

Aug 13 – 20

Sept 1 – Sept 8

July 14 – July 21

Aug 1 – Aug 8

Aug 20 – 27

Sept 7 – 14

Red indicates south bound and Black indicates north bound

General Note:

What follows is a general outline of how an 6-day Mothership voyage might go. Weather conditions and the interests of the group often determine the actual itinerary of our trip. You'll have some responsibilities in terms of helping with day to day tasks but also have a large measure of control over the pace and focus of the trip. We try to get going fairly early in the day to make the most of our time in Gwaii Haanas (i.e., up by 7-7:30 am and

away by 8). We travel, relax, explore and prepare meals together. We stop several times a day to go ashore or to kayak an interesting reef immersing ourselves in the rich natural and cultural points of interest in Gwaii Haanas. At the end of each day, we find a quiet anchorage and all help with evening meal preparation. Occasionally we might want to do meals onshore with a campfire. After supper, with the boat at anchor, there is usually time for relaxation. An evening paddle to absorb the peace and tranquility of this magical place is often irresistible. Our captain tries to visit at least one new place each tour. No two trips are ever the same.

Trip Direction:

Our itinerary is described in a northbound direction. Southbound trips will leave from Moresby Camp in Cumshewa Inlet and travel in a generally southerly direction, arriving in Rose Harbour on the evening of DAY 7. On the morning of the last day, passengers will be flown from Rose Harbour back to Queen Charlotte City on a 'Beaver' floatplane. Likewise, the northbound trips start with a flight into Rose Harbour, and cover similar ground to arrive eventually at the northern terminus of Moresby Camp. Regardless of whether the trip is northbound or southbound, we will (weather depending) visit several Haida village sites including Skedans, Taanoo, Hotsprings Island and the World Heritage Site of Sgaang Gwaii (Anthony Island).



DAY 1

Arrive by air from Vancouver, B.C. to Sandspit, you will be shuttled to Queen Charlotte City (QCC). This takes about an hour including the ferry trip across Skidegate Inlet. The shuttle will drop you off at your comfortable lodge for the night. (Flight arrangements, shuttle fee approx. \$20 and meals on your own).

DAY 2

After breakfast enjoy a spectacular flight over the Gwaii Haanas National Park by floatplane. The flight leaves from the float plane dock in central Queen Charlotte City, right across the street from our lodge. Check-in time is a minimum of 20 minutes before departure. The one-hour flight departs in the early morning and arrives in Rose Harbour. The captain will give a boat orientation, you'll settle in, and then it's off to explore a nearby beach or bay and anchor for the night. (BLD)

DAY 3

Bright and early we depart for Sgaang Gwaii (Anthony Island) and Nan Sdins village (Ninstints). The names may be somewhat confusing but the impression

that Nan Sdins leaves is most certainly not. Spectacular, fabulous, incredible are only a few of the adjectives that people conjure up to describe this place. Nan Sdins was named as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981. It remains as the only example in the world of a traditional Northwest Coast First Nations village, complete with standing poles and the

remains of massive cedar longhouses. The progression of human evolution from cave dweller to masters of architecture is clearly evident. The Haida's ability to "not just survive but to thrive" on this small windswept island is a tribute to man's ingenuity and force of spirit. Options in this southernmost area may offer sightings of marine life such as whales, porpoise, sea lions and a variety of birds species. We may hike to spectacular caves at Bowles Point or kayak in the Gordon Islands or Adams Rocks. Or, we could hike to the west side of Anthony Island, kayaking in the northern reefs of Sgaang Gwaii or visit (weather permitting) the spectacular sea lion colony off the southwest side of the Island. Kunghit Island offers great bird watching opportunities. Common to the area are Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, Cassin's Auklets, Storm Petrels, and Sooty Shearwaters. Luck on our side, we might see a Horned Puffin. The southern Queen Charlottes are the only place that they nest in Canada. Hot fishing spots along the way may provide a fresh seafood supper. (BLD)

DAY 4

Next we head north through Skincuttle Inlet and on to Burnaby Narrows, said to have the most abundant display of sea life on the Pacific Coast. An incredible array of intertidal flora and fauna reside here. Kayaks - maneuverable, quiet and unobtrusive, at low tide, are the perfect craft to view this natural splendor. By noon we're usually through "The Narrows". A spectacular old-growth forest walk or visit to an undisturbed salmon bearing stream may inspire discussions of forest, stream and riparian ecology and admiration of the works of the Great Spirit. Depending upon our arrival time at North Burnaby Strait and Island Bay, there's an opportunity for an alpine excursion up Yatza Mountain. The views are spectacular from the shoulder (east - over Skincuttle Inlet to Hecate Strait) and from the peak (west - over the Victoria Lakes to the Pacific Ocean). Kayaking may be enjoyed in Island Bay and by Kat Island. At times we may have to choose between hiking and kayaking. (BLD)

DAY 5

On this day we'll be heading up toward De La Beche Inlet or the Bischoff Islands. De La Beche offers great kayaking, short hiking excursions to mountain lakes and spectacular scenery. The Bischoffs are also great to kayak and offer the best anchorage in Gwaii Haanas. Spectacular Hotsprings Island is close by and may beckon for a luxurious soak at the end of the day. (BLD)

DAY 6

If we didn't squeeze in a soak in the hot pools yesterday, we'll hope to be there this morning! After a bath, we travel to the top end of Darwin Sound and drop the anchor at Anna Inlet or Echo Harbour for the night. We are now truly in a wilderness paradise! Anchored in Anna Inlet, it's hard to resist a climb to Anna Lake. It's about an hour-long hike and follows an old 1910 corduroy road established to facilitate copper mining. Evening kayaking here is a delight. (BLD)

DAY 7

Our last stop is often the ancient Haida village of T'aanuu. Although, T'aanuu has no remaining standing poles, it is an evocative village site. Powerful and lasting impressions of Haida culture in equilibrium with it's environment still exist here. Haida Gwaii Watchmen (usually two) are there to protect and help interpret the village history. Last overnight on the mothership. (BLD)

DAY 8

Arrive at the northern terminus of Moresby Camp and overland transfer back to Queen Charlotte City for some free time and overnight at your comfortable lodge. (B - onboard)

DAY 9

Relax and pack before transferring on your own back to Sandspit for your flight home. (Meals on own)

Continued...

Note from the Captain: I recommend planning one day on your own in Queen Charlotte City and Graham Island. There are some great shops, museums, galleries and sites: the famous Bill Ellis Book Store, Skidagate Museum, a hike to a shipwreck and shopping. This free day in QCC may be taken pre or post trip. Let Adventure Associates, (206) 932-8352, know your plans and we can make suggestions and help with accommodations, shuttles, car rental and dining suggestions (all expenses on your own).

Land Costs	Park Fee	Gov't GST	Deposit	In-country Flight(s)	Trip Dates	Group Size	Difficulty	Activities
\$2699	CN \$117.65	CN \$252	\$1000	1 Included*	July-Sept*	4-5	No Experience Needed	Kayaking, Cruise, Wildlife, Cultural Exchange

* Our captain reserves the right to transfer guests to and from the boat by the most efficient and cost-appropriate method. The flying in or out option is most desired but not guaranteed. Fuel surcharges will apply if the price of fuel goes above \$1.50/liter. For every \$0.10 increase, add \$12 per guest in order to offset the additional cost of marine diesel fuel and aviation gas and fuel costs passed on from all other suppliers. *Dates see page 1.

A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP...Read carefully

Included in your Trip Fee: All meals as indicated on itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner), one island flight*, accommodation onboard mothership, kayaks and related gear, two nights lodging on double basis in Queen Charlotte City, entry fees at archaeological sites & Gwaii Haanas National Park.

Not Included in your Trip Fee: International airfare; National Park Fee (CN\$117.70), Canadian Gov't Taxes (CN\$252), sleeping bag, pillow case (or sleep sheets if preferred); meals not specified on itinerary; airport shuttles Sandspit/QCC/Sandspit (approx. \$20 each way); alcoholic beverages; rentals and shuttles; airport departure tax; outdoor clothing and gear (packlist to be provided); tips to guides, drivers and bellhops; personal travel and medical insurance, passport.

Special Note: Although we try to adhere to this itinerary, due to circumstances beyond our control (i.e. weather, permits and travel delay) this schedule is subject to change.

A note about custom groups: The mothership is available for charter in May, early June and early September. We need a minimum group size of four to make the trip go. May and June are wonderful months to visit the Charlottes. The herring have returned in March and April to spawn along the shoreline followed by halibut, large bird populations and occasionally Orca whales looking for an easy meal. In recent years the humpback whale population in Gwaii Haanas has been nothing short of phenomenal. Huge populations of seabirds are returning ashore to nest during April, May and June. The Laskeek Bay Conservation Society is active at this time of year and trips ashore to their Limestone Island research station can be arranged. The weather is often fairly decent, particularly in May.

How Strenuous is this trip: The nature of the trip is "participatory" as opposed to "catered". Everyone helps with activities such as cooking, clean-up and any of a hundred other things that happen along the way. You'll occasionally be asked to 'throw a line on the canbuoy,' or some other such ambiguous nautical enigma. Don't worry though, it all falls into place pretty quickly, and with the right enthusiasm you'll be as happy as a clam onboard.

How is the food: It's wonderful – healthy and nourishing! The captain generally puts a selection of groceries on the boat, which will suit most everyone. He typically has a rough menu in mind but this is a very flexible trip, and depending on the catch of the day and everyone's consensus, you

can prepare what you want. You can expect lots of freshly caught seafood (we set traps for prawns and crab, jig for bottom fish such as snapper, cod and halibut, and occasionally troll for salmon if they're in the area), veggies, fruit and all of the captain's favorite recipes to share. Of course, fishing is fishing, so we come prepared with alternatives such as chicken or vegetable curry, barbequed steak, a pasta dish. As this is a participatory trip, you will be heavily responsible for meal prep and clean up. If you have special dietary needs or concerns, please inform Adventure Associates at time of booking.

Alcohol: The captain usually brings a box or two of B.C. wine, but if you prefer a specific type of wine, beer or liquor, please bring your own.

Sea Sickness concerns: Although we will try to organize the trip to avoid rough weather, 'mal de mer' can be a factor. If you are prone, please bring medication, skin patches, wristbands, ginger, voodoo magic – whatever works. "Slow Release" gravol is as effective as the regular stuff, but without the drowsy side effects.

Transportation/Flight Arrangements: Please consult with Adventure Associates as you prepare your flight arrangements for the best time of arrival/departures. We can provide suggestions for pre/post trip activities.

How to get to the Charlottes: Flights out of Seattle, WA can be arranged flying Seattle/Vancouver/Sandspit on Air Canada. Air Canada contact reservations line: (888) 247-2262 or www.aircanada.com. Airport Shuttle (1-877-747-4461) meets scheduled flights in and out of Sandspit by Air Canada. It takes about 1 hour including the ferry across Skidegate Inlet to arrive in Queen Charlotte City (QCC). The Islands are also well-served by daily 1-hour flights from Vancouver, BC, Canada by Air Canada and BC Ferries (www.bcferries.bc.ca) - six sailings a week from Prince Rupert (1-888-223-3779). You might also consider the BC Ferries Inside Passage scenic route from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island to Prince Rupert. A return trip via Highway 16 along the Skeena River and through the Bulkley Valley to Prince George and south makes for a great trip through supernatural B.C. Call "Supernatural B.C." at 1-800-663-6000 and ask for both their Gwaii Haanas and Queen Charlotte Islands information packages. Please contact Adventure Associates for travel plans suggestions.

Trip & Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend that travel insurance be purchased immediately following your registration. The insurance protects you and your money from late cancellations, accidents or illness in remote areas, emergency evacuation, loss of baggage, airline flight changes and other unexpected delays. The particular program we recommend (Access America) will cover "preexisting" conditions if you purchase the Comprehensive "Trip Cost Protection" within fourteen (14) days following your registration. Adventure Associated does strongly recommend a minimum coverage of Limited "Emergency Medical Transportation". This coverage is very inexpensive in comparison to present day emergency transportation costs. Information available upon request.

How to Register: If you have not downloaded an application form, please contact our office for a complete registration packet. Complete the application form and return it to our office along with the appropriate deposit. Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation and details about your pre-trip preparation.

Payment Schedule: We accept checks, Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

*Note: The American dollar fluctuates constantly in Canada. The trip price is based upon the dollar value at the time of printing (November 2011) and is subject to change.

\$1000 deposit is due to hold the boat (\$400 non-refundable)

Full payment due four months prior to departure date.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)	
90 or more	\$400
45 to 89	50% of total amount payable
1 to 44	100% fee

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip.

Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our Trip Schedule, whichever comes first.

Once a trip has been confirmed medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to our cancellation policy. However, if you have purchased a comprehensive Travel Insurance plan that covers cancellation, you may be able to retrieve some of the funds.

Fun Reading for your Queen Charlottes Mothership Kayak Voyage

The boat's library has a great selection of books on the natural and cultural history of the Queen Charlottes. Listed below are a few guides and general interest books that will enhance your knowledge of the Islands and help you to plan your trip. Most are available through major booksellers (at least on an order basis). If you like to shop locally, there are numerous gift shops on the Islands that offer most of these books for sale (Bill Ellis Books: nwcbooks@island.net 250-559-4681, Rainbows Gallery: 250-559-8420, Joy's Island Jewellers: 250-559-8890 and the Haida Gwaii Museum: 250-559-4643 are just a few in the Queen Charlotte City area). Bill's bookshop is a must see when in Queen Charlotte City, by the way. There is everything relating to northwest coast native, environmental and historical interests including all (maybe) of the books mentioned below.

Guide Books

Haida Gwaii, The Queen Charlotte Islands - Dennis Harwood (2000, \$18.95 CDN\$) Good up to date general guide with sections on the geography, social history and natural attractions of the Islands.

Guide To The Queen Charlotte Islands, Haida Gwaii (2001 edition) - Observer Publishing (Phone: 1-250-559-4680, \$3.95) Published annually. A good source of who offers what and things to do while on the Charlottes.

Haida Gwaii: Journeys Through The Queen Charlotte Islands - Ian Gill and David Nunik (1997, \$18.95) Fabulous photos, text a bit coloured.

A Guide To The Queen Charlotte Islands, Twelfth Edition - Neil Carey (1998, \$14.95)

Trail Guide To The Queen Charlotte Islands (or something...) - Fern Henderson (published by the Haida Gwaii Museum, \$7.00). A great little guide to hiking trails on the Charlottes. Available through the Museum 250-559-4643 and other outlets on the Islands.

The Queen Charlotte Islands - Book 2, Of Places and Names - Kathleen Dalzell (1973, numerous reprintings in paper) The level of detail in this book probably extends beyond "general interest". It's on the boat as a great reference source providing lots of history through a place name format.

Islands At The Edge - Islands Protection Society (1984). Not actually a 'guide book' but has a wealth of information and great photographs. Put together by John Broadhead and Thom Henley as part of the effort to increase awareness of the value of preserving Gwaii Haanas. Unfortunately out of print, so grab it if you see it anywhere. Bill Ellis Books (nwcbooks@island.net 1-250-559-4681) may have a copy.

Captain's picks

Passage to Juneau, A Sea and Its Meanings - Jonathan Raban (2000, \$23.00)

Guns, Germs, and Steel, The Fates Of Human Societies - Jared Diamond (1998, \$19.99)

Northern Haida Master Carvers - Robin K.Wright (2001, \$45.00)

Solitary Raven, Selected Writings of Bill Reid - Bill Reid (2000, \$40.00)

Story as Sharp as a Knife: An Introduction to Classical Haida Literature - Robert Bringhurst (Douglas & McIntyre 1998, recently released in paperback.)

Haida Monumental Art: Villages of the Queen Charlotte Islands - George F. MacDonald (1994, \$45.00)

The Curve of Time - Muriel Wylie Blanchett (1993, \$15.95)

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