



NATURE TOURS

Haida Gwaii

CANADA'S GALAPAGOS

Please enquire about available dates.



Haida
Gwaii



The “Islands of the People,” as these remote islands of British Columbia are known to the Haida, are the ancestral home of the Haida people. They are thick with mossy old-growth spruce forests, rugged mountains, rich tidal pools and ghostly totem poles.

The islands’ isolation is noteworthy, for it has created a unique set of circumstances that has encouraged local flora and fauna to develop characteristics that set them apart from their cousins on the mainland. Deer are tiny and tame. Hairy Woodpeckers have grey breasts. And very large Black Bears have unique characteristics. Formerly called the Queen Charlotte Islands, this archipelago is indeed “Canada’s Galapagos.” Our tour of Haida Gwaii is timed to coincide with favourable Pacific Coast weather and the peak of the region’s summer wildlife activities.

As we move around the archipelago, we’ll find such seabirds as Ancient Murrelets and Tufted Puffins, Peregrine Falcons, and Bald Eagles. Humpback and Fin Whales and Orcas are in their summer waters and Steller’s Sea Lions settle into their rookeries. Summer wildflowers are growing in profusion and add a colourful dimension to an already rich landscape. We’ll start our tour with a day on land visiting Haida communities. Then we’ll board our sailing ketch, which will be our home for the rest of the trip as we meander leisurely among the islands, going ashore to explore tidal pools and sandy beaches, hike through old-growth forests, and enjoy alpine meadows glowing with flowers. Join us as we explore and experience in depth this magnificent example of Canada’s unique cultural and natural heritage: the scenic wilderness areas of the legendary Haida Gwaii, and see why National Geographic selected this trip as “One of the Worlds 50 Best!”

PLEASE NOTE: This is not an exclusive Quest Nature Tours voyage. Quest participants will be part of the group onboard.



Old growth
forest

Signature Moments

- 🌀 Eating a traditional lunch with a Haida family
- 🌀 Walking among the moss-festooned giant trees of the coastal rain forest
- 🌀 Spotting the two metre-tall dorsal fin of a male Orca
- 🌀 Appreciating the huge communities of multi-coloured starfish in the tidal pools
- 🌀 Exploring the shoreline by kayak

Our Route



Detailed Itinerary

Day 0: Arrive in Sandspit

On arrival, exit the airport and check-in to your hotel. No transport required; your hotel is about 50 metres from the main doors. Carts are available to help transport your luggage.

Overnight: The Inn

Day 1: Embark at Sandspit

This morning we will meet our fellow travellers in front of The Inn at Sandspit at 8:30am. You will be greeted by our driver/guide for your Haida Gwaii land tour, after which we catch the ferry to Graham Island. Our first stop will be the newly renovated Haida Heritage Centre for a guided tour followed by a traditional Haida lunch, hosted by a local Haida family from Skidegate.

Following lunch, we may have time for a short walk around Spirit Lake before catching the ferry back to Moresby Island. Then we are off to meet up with our vessel and embark. Upon boarding the ship you will meet the crew, cabins will be assigned, and everyone will participate in an introductory and safety orientation with dinner to follow. We will spend our first evening anchored nearby and will depart early the next morning into the waters of Southern Moresby Island to explore the Gwaii Haanas Park Reserve.

Overnight: Aboard your vessel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 2-6 or 2-7:

Our cruise aboard our ketch is a true wilderness experience during which we'll be sailing through and exploring by land some of the more remote areas of Haida Gwaii. We will visit abandoned Haida village sites, old growth forest of Sitka Spruce with beautiful creeks, and colourful intertidal zones. We'll keep a sharp eye open for Humpbacks, Orca, Fin Whales, and a variety of seabirds, and also explore fascinating tidal

pools for intertidal creatures. We particularly hope to capture the sight of the mighty, Gwaii Haanas Black Bear foraging along the shoreline for the myriad of intertidal creatures found in these nutrient-rich areas. Windy Bay is the site of the first pole raised in 130 years honouring the 20th anniversary of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement to protect the natural and marine resources.

We visit the old Haida village of SGang Gwaay (Ninstints), a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site to take in the fabulous totem poles. Each evening we will anchor in a different secluded bay with time to discuss the day's wildlife sightings and opportunity to explore the shoreline by kayak.

If you are interested in sailing our vessel, or learning about maritime navigation, useful sailor knots, boat handling and other skills needed to sail a yacht, you will find the crew to be knowledgeable and helpful. Life aboard the ship is quite communal, and if we choose we will have a chance to help out with onboard chores and find out how a sailing vessel of this size operates.

Overnight: Aboard your vessel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 or 9: Disembark at Sandspit

We'll transfer to Sandspit in time for us to catch the afternoon homebound flights.

Meals: Breakfast

Please Note:

The voyage itinerary listed is an example only. Due to the nature of this cruise, weather or other conditions there may need to be changes to the itinerary and/or cancellation of certain shore excursions.



Black Oystercatcher



Humpback Whale



Kayaking



Steller's Sea Lions

Tour Details

Tour Cost (per person): From C\$7250 - C\$10,200, depending on ship/dates

Group Size:

Average 12 travellers.

Single Supplement:

A limited number of cabins are available for guaranteed single accommodations. If you wish guaranteed single accommodation, the single supplement for this trip is the tour cost plus an additional 50%.

Included Features:

- Accommodation based on double occupancy
- Meals as listed in the itinerary
- All activities while on board the ship and ashore
- Park entrance fees
- Services of crew and local naturalist
- SV Island Solitude only: bedding & provision of bath towel

Payment Details

A non-refundable deposit of C\$1500 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. Final payment is due 100 days prior to departure.

Not Included:

- Roundtrip flights
- Gratuities to ship crew and naturalist
- 5% GST
- C\$100 sustainability fee in support of conservation and research
- Airport and departure taxes
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature: laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc.
- Excess baggage charges
- Fuel surcharges, if applicable
- Travel insurance (this coverage is strongly recommended and can be purchased through Worldwide Quest)
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation
- SV Island Roamer only: bedding & provision of bath towel (bedding can be rented for an additional fee)
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation

What to Expect



Level of Activity: Easy to Moderate

While this is not a particularly strenuous trip and none of our hikes are particularly long or fast, you should bear in mind that walking on rough paths or pebbly beaches is sometimes more difficult than on hard ground or pavement. Good firm walking shoes and perhaps a trekking pole for extra balance should maximize your enjoyment of this trip. It is a good idea to have a change of shoes for on board.

There are no specific physical fitness requirements for this tour; however, we should all be able to climb in and out of small boats, with assistance from the crew, and walk moderate distances through wilderness that has no prepared trails. There are no docks and all shore trips involve beach landings. You should also take in to account that we will be travelling in an isolated area, with limited access to assistance in case of a medical emergency.

Prior to going ashore, our local onboard naturalist will explain the level of difficulty and physical fitness required for the scheduled shore activities. If any of us feels that, for one reason or another, we would rather not participate in the scheduled activity, we are welcome to remain on board the vessel or explore the immediate shore and beach area.



Kayaking

There are kayaks on board for use in sight of the boat when at anchor. The kayaks are very stable double kayaks (two people in each) and smaller singles. The crew of the boat will be happy to give you instruction and get you started.



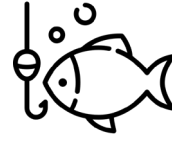
Packing Suggestion

Please note that these vessels are lovely, but they are not the QE II. The space aboard is ample for comfortable living, but not excessive. Soft luggage, such as a duffel bag, is most easily stowed as it is compressible.



Travel Documents

Nationalities other than Canadian, will require a passport for this trip. Please ensure it is valid for at least 6 months beyond your scheduled return home. Before booking, please refer to the Canadian government website to obtain travel advice for the destination(s) you are visiting: www.travel.gc.ca



Fishing

If you intend to fish, you will require a "Tidal Water Sport Fishing License." For further information, please refer to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website (Pacific region).



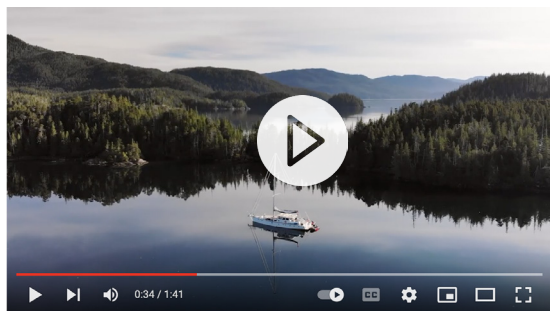
Water

This vessel carries a good supply of water, but it is important to remember that a boat is totally self-contained and in wilderness areas not always near a water supply. Travellers are asked to use water conservatively.



#SafeTravels

Worldwide Quest has been awarded the World Travel and Tourism Council's #SafeTravels Stamp for adopting health and hygiene global standardized protocols. [Learn more.](#)



About the *S/V Island Solitude* >>

This new yacht is scheduled to make its maiden voyage in 2018. She will be 82' long and **30% by volume larger** than the S/V Island Roamer and S/V Island Odyssey. Like her smaller cousin, she will carry 12-14 guests but she will provide **larger cabins** with two lower beds (no upper/ lower bunks) and **ensuite bathrooms**. The on-deck wheelhouse will accommodate the entire group for gourmet meals - surrounded by exceptional views. All cabins on the boats are of irregular sizes to fit the contours of the boat. Each cabin has accommodation for two people – some cabins with one double bed, most with two single bunks, often an upper and lower style. You will find that you don't spend much time in your cabin as there is always something to do or see on deck.



About the *S/V Island Roamer* >>

This ship is a custom 68-foot ketch that was launched in the early 1980s. The boat's design, safety and comfort make it particularly well-suited for this trip. It accommodates 14 passengers in 7 private cabins and have 3 heads with hot showers, a large comfortable inside lounge with an extensive natural history library, a well-equipped galley and a large covered seating area on deck with protection in all types of weather. All cabins are of irregular sizes to fit the contours of the boat. Each cabin has accommodation for two people – some cabins with one double bed, most with two single bunks, often an upper and lower style. You will find that you don't spend much time in your cabin as there is always something to do or see on deck.



About the *S/V Island Odyssey* >>

Joining the fleet in 2003, this 68-foot ketch, The Island Odyssey is the sister-ship to 'Island Roamer'. Originally built as a luxurious private yacht in 1984, it completed a major renovation in 2003 to update the cabins and all safety systems. It features 8 private cabins (double occupancy), 3 heads with hot showers and a comfortable salon with a natural history library. On deck, the large deckhouse provides a comfortable spot to watch for wildlife.

As with the Island Roamer, cabins are of irregular sizes. Each has accommodation for two people – some cabins with one double bed, most with two single bunks, often an upper and lower style.

Additional Info

Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946). See full details [here](#).

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing. See full details [here](#).

Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.



Worldwide Explorers Club

Travel twice with us and you become a member of the Worldwide Explorers Club. Earn 5% off all your subsequent eligible group tours. Look for the WEC icon to find your next tour. The bonus is non-transferable and cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount or credit. Note that some exceptions may apply. Members also get access to special offers and exploratory tours.



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How to Book

Please contact the Worldwide Quest office for more information and to secure your booking.

1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666
travel@worldwidequest.com