NAT HAB
CULTURAL JOURNEYS

Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections



Haida Gwaii: Islands at the Edge of the World

Exploring Coast, Culture & Conservation on an Intimate Sailing Voyage

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Trip Details:

Days
10 Days / May–Jun

Price
From $13995 (+Air)

Haida Gwaii: Islands at the Edge of the World

Exploring Coast, Culture & Conservation on an Intimate Sailing Voyage

Perched on the outer edge of the continental shelf off the northwest coast of Canada lies a place called Haida Gwaii: "Islands of the People" in the language of the ancestral Haida whose presence here spans millennia. Wild and windswept, this archipelago is one of the richest biological and cultural sites in North America, where geographic isolation has allowed numerous unique species to evolve. Encounter the wonder and mystique of Haida Gwaii from a deluxe sailboat as we explore ancient temperate rainforest, a vibrant intertidal zone, and a human heritage that dates back 13,000 years. Wreathed in mist, old-growth cedars, Sitka spruce and western hemlocks pierce the silver underbelly of the clouds. Old monument poles also rise skyward from abandoned Haida villages now sinking into the moss, while new ones emerge from the hands of contemporary carvers. Sandy beaches edge rockbound shorelines where sea lions haul out, and whales spout offshore. On this rare voyage of discovery, encounter a place that will move your spirit—a place called Haida Gwaii.

Trip Highlights

A Rare Journey Into Ancient Nature & Culture

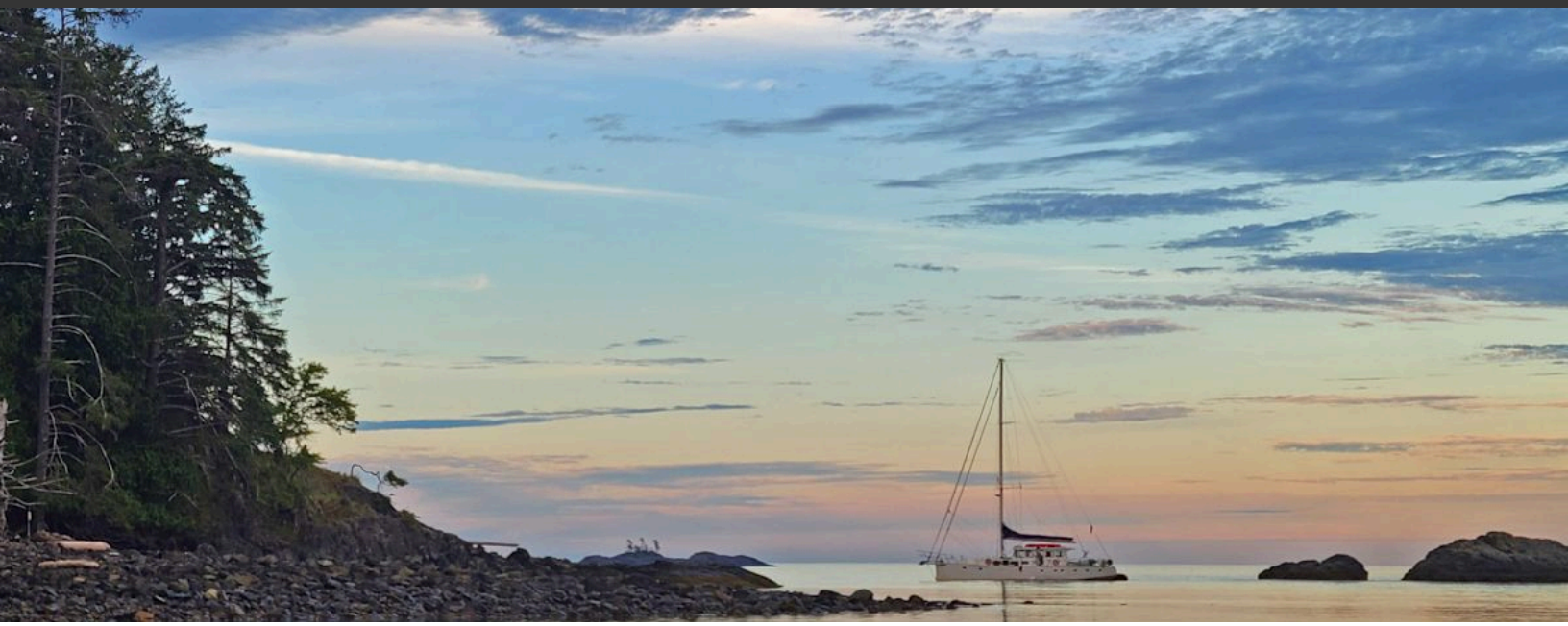
Meet 13,000 years of Haida history and eons of natural evolution in an archipelago so isolated that it's home to numerous species found nowhere else

Explore the Marine Wilderness Aboard a Deluxe Sailboat

Discover Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, a UNESCO World Heritage area protecting fragile ecological and cultural sites

Look for Abundant Wildlife at Sea & Ashore

Scout for humpback whales, orcas, Steller sea lions, puffins, bald eagles, black bears, otters and abundant marine life in some of world's richest intertidal zones



Haida Gwaii: Islands at the Edge of the World Itinerary

Exploring Coast, Culture & Conservation on an Intimate Sailing Voyage

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Vancouver / Sandspit
Day 2	Skidegate Landing / Haida Heritage Center / Moresby Island
Days 3–9	Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve
Day 10	Moresby Camp / Sandspit / Vancouver



Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 1

Vancouver / Sandspit

Arrive in Haida Gwaii before your sailing voyage

- Fly from Vancouver to Sandspit, 60 miles off Canada's northwest coast
- Learn how Haida title and stewardship guide life across the islands
- Share a welcome dinner of locally foraged ingredients hosted by a Sandspit resident

Our journey begins in Vancouver, British Columbia, with a scheduled flight to the tiny airport in Sandspit (K'il Kun in the Haida language), one of several small towns on Haida Gwaii. This remote island group lies roughly 60 miles off the northwest coast of Canada, near the BC/Alaska border. And while Haida Gwaii is served by ferry on an 8-hour crossing of the Hecate Strait, our arrival by air is much quicker and more comfortable. Our Nat Hab Expedition Leader meets you at the airport and accompanies you on the short transfer to Northern Shores Lodge where we check in on arrival.

Originally known as *Xaadala Gwayee*, or the "islands on the boundary of the world," the archipelago is perched on the edge of the continental shelf—the last landmass in this latitude of the North Pacific Ocean until you reach the Kamchatka Peninsula in Siberia. Protected by the turbulent waters of the shallow strait dividing the islands from the mainland, the Haida people lived free of invasion for millennia, until European contact in the late 18th century. Though the Haida never ceded their land in a treaty, in 1853 it was formally annexed by British colonial authorities and renamed the Queen Charlotte Islands. The name Haida Gwaii was officially restored in 2010 in an agreement between the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia. In 2024 and 2025, the Haida Nation's Aboriginal title to Haida Gwaii was formally recognized by the governments of British Columbia and Canada.

This evening, gather for an intimate welcome dinner, hosted by a Sandspit local and featuring a selection of delicacies from the first restaurant in Canada allowed to forage wild ingredients. As you are introduced to the flavors of Haida Gwaii, you will have an opportunity to take the Haida Gwaii Visitor Pledge as we get an orientation to all the adventures to come.

Day 2

Skidegate Landing / Haida Heritage Center / Moresby Island

Encounter Haida art, food and living traditions

- Tour monumental poles and meet contemporary Haida carvers at the Haida Heritage Center
- Share a traditional lunch at Keenawaii's Kitchen with a Haida elder
- Travel to Moresby Camp and board your private sailboat by Zodiac

After breakfast, we check out and transfer to the ferry landing at Alliford Bay for the half-hour crossing to Skidegate on Graham Island. Our first stop is the acclaimed Haida Heritage Center at Kay Llnagaay, which provides an introduction to Haida culture, a foundation we will build upon during the course of our trip. Our visit includes a guided monumental pole tour, with a chance to meet contemporary carvers, plus free time to experience the rest of the museum at your own pace. Six traditional totem poles, intricately hand-carved canoes and a series of longhouses evoke the feeling of a traditional Haida seaside village.

A special lunch is in store at Keenawaii's Kitchen, hosted by local Haida elder Roberta Olsen. Roberta crafts beautifully plated courses that showcase traditional Haida foods and the seasonal abundance of Haida Gwaii. After lunch, take an interpretive walk with Parks Canada staff along the Spirit Lake Trail to learn about the local flora & fauna, as well as some Haida folklore.

This afternoon, we catch the ferry back to Moresby Island and transfer by shuttle to meet the *S/V Island Solitude*, our floating home for the next eight nights. The one-hour drive on an active forest service logging road can sometimes be bumpy, but we may be gifted with sightings of black bears and Sitka black-tailed deer along the way. Once we arrive at Moresby Camp, we are transported by Zodiac to meet the anchored yacht. After introductions with the skipper and crew and a safety orientation, dinner is served aboard. We spend our first evening anchored nearby, ready to depart early the next morning for the marine wilderness.

Days
3–9

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve

Explore ancient Haida villages and the protected waters of Gwaii Haanas

- Visit ancestral village sites where Haida Watchmen share stories beneath weathered memorial poles
- Sail among sheltered coves, rainforest shores and marine channels rich with whales, sea lions and seabirds
- Paddle stable sea kayaks for an eye-level view of intertidal life and coastal wildlife

Aboard our deluxe sailboat designed for cruising BC's protected coastal waters, we spend most of our time exploring the remote eastern and southern shores of Moresby Island, with much of our trip taking place in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area and Haida Heritage Site. This protected zone, accessible only by boat or floatplane, encompasses a third of Haida Gwaii's landmass and the labyrinth of bays, coves and fjords that indent it. It lies within the territory recognized under Haida Aboriginal title, and stewardship of these lands and waters is guided by Haida law.

The landscape is an ethereal montage of wild sandy beaches, sheltered inlets, boggy plateau, and lush rainforest at the base of imposing mountains. Haida Gwaii's nutrient-rich cold waters are tempered by warm currents that nurture a proliferation of marine life. As we sail, keep an eye out for Steller sea lions, harbor seals, Dall's porpoise, Pacific white-sided dolphins, orcas and numerous whale species, especially humpbacks that feed here. In addition, K'iid Xyangs K'iidaay (also known as Burnaby Narrows) is one of the richest intertidal zones in the world, teeming with bright sea stars and other colorful creatures revealed during the twice-daily fluctuations of the 24-foot tides. Floating through these waters at low tide offers a wondrous view on a vast array of marine species.

On shore, search for endemic mammals that evolved as a result of the archipelago's isolation from the mainland during the last ice age, with pockets of unglaciated terrain. Among them are pine marten, river otter, Haida ermine, and the Haida Gwaii black bear, the largest of its kind in the world with an over-developed skull and strong jaws to crush sea urchin shells and salmon bones. So many unique species and subspecies developed in this evolutionary hotspot that Haida Gwaii is often called the Galapagos of the North.

Some 1.5 million seabirds breed in the islands of Haida Gwaii, attracted by concentrations of forage fish and plankton. We frequently spot long-distance pelagic species, and many year-round residents are found on land, including unique subspecies such as the endangered Haida Gwaii northern goshawk, a raptor whose population has fallen to fewer than 50 adult birds. Bald eagles are prolific, and we're also sure to spy tufted or horned puffins. During daily excursions on foot and by small boat, our naturalist Expedition Leader helps to identify coastal plants, birds, animals and marine life. We also explore the protected waters and shorelines from stable sea kayaks, for an eye-level view. Each evening, we move to a different secluded anchorage to spend the night.

Though it often feels like we are alone in a primeval wilderness, Haida people have lived on these islands since time immemorial, and this rugged landscape offers a rare glimpse into more than 12,000 years of human habitation. Our journey through Haida Gwaii's natural history is a cultural journey, too, as Haida Watchmen welcome us to the ancient village sites of T'aanuu Llnagaay (Tanu), K'uuna Llnagaay (Skedans), and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of SGang Gwaay (Anthony Island/Ninstints). These on-site guardians share their knowledge of traditional culture and bring their ancestors' traditions to life under weathered memorial poles and the remains of multi-level longhouses dug into the earth. As guests on Haida territory, we experience these places through the lens of Haida stewardship.

If weather permits, we will also visit Hlk'yah GawGa (Windy Bay) on Lyell Island, the site of the first Haida pole raised in 130 years. This 42-foot cedar Legacy Pole was carved by Jaalen Edenshaw and raised in 2013 to honor the 20th anniversary of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement between the Canadian government and Haida Nation to protect the archipelago's natural and marine resources. Today, Windy Bay is also a powerful symbol of Haida sovereignty, situated within the territory formally recognized under Haida Aboriginal title in 2024 and 2025. We may also have a chance to visit G□andll K'in Gwaay.yaay (Hotspring Island), whose pools have slowly returned since draining after an earthquake struck Haida Gwaii in 2012.

Day
10

Moresby Camp / Sandspit / Vancouver

Spend a final morning among the islands of Haida Gwaii

- Disembark at Moresby Camp after a final morning aboard
- Return to Sandspit for lunch before flying to Vancouver

Returning to Moresby Camp, our marine odyssey trip finishes late this morning, with disembarkation around 11 am. The shuttle van will transport us to the Sandspit Airport in time for lunch at the airport and a chance to pick up a few last-minute souvenirs at the gift shop before our afternoon flight back to Vancouver.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Haida Gwaii: Islands at the Edge of the World Accommodations

Exploring Coast, Culture & Conservation on an Intimate Sailing Voyage



S/V Island Solitude

The elegant 83-foot sailboat *Island Solitude*, with a host of environmentally conscious features, is designed for cruising BC's protected coastal waters, with spacious accommodations for just 12 guests.



Northern Shores Lodge

Across from the water in the small town of Sandspit on Moresby Island, this simple hotel offers a warm and comfortable welcome to our guests on their first night in Haida Gwaii.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/cultural-journeys/haida-gwaii-british-columbia-tour/accommodations.

What Makes Cultural Journeys Different?

Haida Gwaii: Islands at the Edge of the World

Aboard our comfortably appointed sailboat, you'll have an experience of Haida Gwaii that's far more in-depth than you would get on land alone or via a brief cruise ship call. And in such a small group, you'll experience silence and solitude you won't find aboard a larger ship. Discover why Nat Hab offers the most meaningful way to visit Haida Gwaii.

1

A Private Chartered Sailboat for Solitude & Flexibility

We charter a deluxe custom-designed sailboat, stopping each night at a different secluded anchorage surrounded by untouched wilderness. Most visitors to Haida Gwaii are based on land or see the islands briefly from a larger ferry or ship, which doesn't offer as quiet and rich an encounter. Depending on tides, weather and location of wildlife, each day presents a choice of hidden coves and rainforest trails to explore.

2

A Remote & Immersive Itinerary with Eight Nights Aboard

Most people who come to Haida Gwaii make a short stop, spending a couple of nights, perhaps taking a day cruise on a sightseeing boat, or making a brief port of call from a ship. In contrast, we spend over a week on board our chartered sailboat, focusing our time on the remote reaches of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Area, the southern sector of the islands that's only accessible by boat or floatplane.

3

A Small Group Ensures Intimate Encounters with Nature

Enjoy the camaraderie you'll find aboard our sailing yacht, which hosts a maximum of 12 guests. In this small-scale setting, you'll get the full attention of our Expedition Leader, skipper and vessel staff, and, most importantly, quieter and more personal nature experiences.

4

Explore Up Close by Zodiac and Kayak

On daily excursions by Zodiac and kayak, cruise and paddle in peaceful inlets with no other visitors in sight, with an eye-level view on swimming seals, feeding whales, colorful intertidal life, and other wild creatures.

5

Learn from Expert Naturalist Guides

Our naturalist Expedition Leader provides in-depth interpretation of Haida Gwaii's rich natural and cultural history, while the yacht's captain and crew are deeply familiar with the fjords and forests of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and adept at spotting wildlife. See Expedition Leader bios and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

6

A Focus on Haida Culture & Conservation

The Haida people have lived on these islands for millennia, with one of the world's oldest traceable histories, dating back approximately 13,000 years. Hear from local residents as we learn about Haida culture past and present, including their continuing traditions, efforts to reclaim sovereignty over unceded lands, and an enduring commitment to conservation and sustainability. Watch pole carvers and artists at work at the Haida Heritage Center, enjoy a Haida-hosted lunch of local specialties, and meet Haida Watchmen who stand guard over ancient cultural sites, offering interpretation for visitors and protecting them for future generations.

7

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of SGang Gwaay

See the remains of large cedar longhouses, together with carved mortuary and memorial poles at the village of SGang Gwaay Llnagaay (formerly Ninstints), which illustrate the art and way of life of the Haida. The property commemorates the living culture of the Haida and their relationship with the land and sea and offers a visual key to their oral traditions. The village was occupied until shortly after 1880. What survives is unique in the world, a 19th-century Haida village where the well-preserved ruins illustrate the power and artistry of Haida society.

8

Our Quality–Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Adventure

Natural Habitat Adventures offers an exclusive guarantee, which clearly states that we will meet the lofty expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. Read our important promise.

9

Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $13995 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 12 Travelers

Haida Gwaii: Islands at the Edge of the World Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
May 12 - May 21, 2027	**$13995** +internal air	Aboard S/V Island Solitude
Jun 14 - Jun 23, 2027	**$13995** +internal air	Aboard S/V Island Solitude
Jun 23 - Jul 2, 2027	**$13995** +internal air	Aboard S/V Island Solitude

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
May 12 - May 21, 2028	**From $13995** +internal air	Aboard S/V Island Solitude
Jun 14 - Jun 23, 2028	**From $13995** +internal air	Aboard S/V Island Solitude
Jun 23 - Jul 2, 2028	**From $13995** +internal air	Aboard S/V Island Solitude

See https://www.nathab.com/cultural-journeys/haida-gwaii-british-columbia-tour/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader, local guides and boat crew, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, airport transfers in Sandspit on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Vancouver, British Columbia. On Day 1, the group will fly from Vancouver to Sandspit, and **you must arrive in Vancouver before the scheduled group flight departs**. Exact flight times for the Vancouver–Sandspit and return Sandspit–Vancouver segments are typically confirmed in the spring; once finalized, we will notify you so you may book your arrival and departure flights accordingly. Please note that the cost of these internal flights is not included in your trip fee and will be assessed separately.

You may depart Vancouver at any time on the final day after the group flight from Sandspit returns.

NAT HAB
CULTURAL JOURNEYS

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