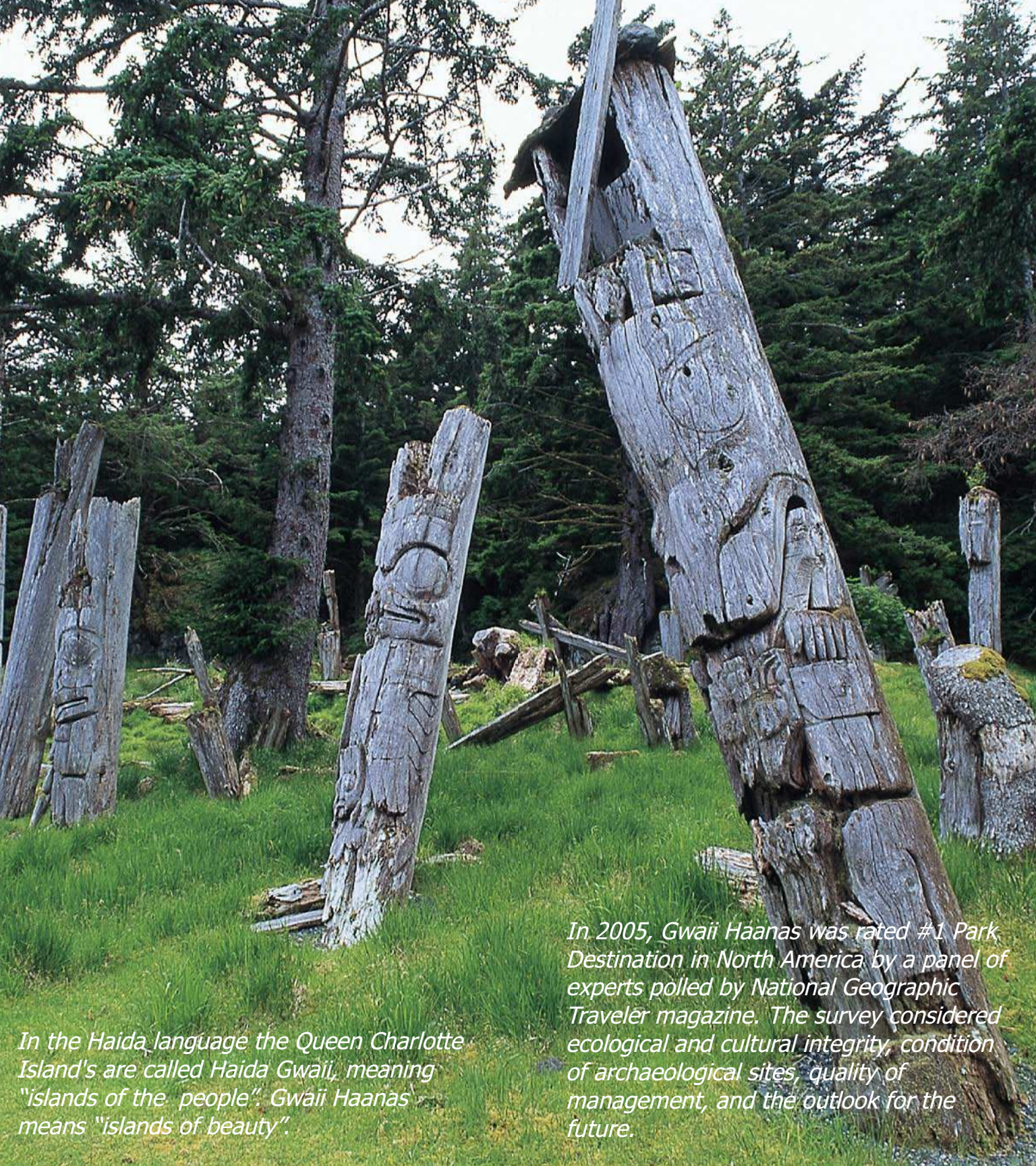


Sea Kayaking

Haida Gwaii and the
Great Bear Rainforest

www.kingfisher.ca



In the Haida language the Queen Charlotte Island's are called Haida Gwaii, meaning "islands of the people". Gwaii Haanas means "islands of beauty".

In 2005, Gwaii Haanas was rated #1 Park Destination in North America by a panel of experts polled by National Geographic Traveler magazine. The survey considered ecological and cultural integrity, condition of archaeological sites, quality of management, and the outlook for the future.

Gwaii Haanas National Park Tanu Island to Burnaby Island

This trip travels the mainly sheltered waters in the northern section of Gwaii Haanas National Park and Haida Heritage Site. This area is known for its quietness, and although it is closer to civilization, it is often the least traveled area of the park.

During this trip we will visit the Haida village site of T'aanuu Lnagaay, where we will see magnificent remains of Haida long houses. Highlights also include a stop at Hotsprings Island for a soak in the hot pools, and perhaps if the tides are right, a visit to Burnaby Narrows, known for its density of inter-tidal life. Throughout this area, wildlife is abundant, and it is not unusual to see Bald Eagles, Black Tailed Deer, and Black Bear.

This trip moves camp nightly, as with our other Gwaii Haanas trips, but also travels in slightly more protected waters than these other trips allowing for a slightly more leisurely pace.

Gwaii Haanas National Park Burnaby Island to Ninstints

This trip traverses the southern section of Gwaii Haanas National Park and Haida Heritage Site, starting near Burnaby Island and travelling south. It's an area known for its rugged beauty, excellent wildlife viewing opportunities, and spectacular campsites.

Heading south from Burnaby Island, we cross Skincuttle Inlet, and pass the abandoned Haida village of Haigi, long since deserted as a result of the smallpox epidemic. We also pass by the former townsite of Jedway, a community that developed to extract the mineral deposits in the area. It also has long since been absorbed back into the environment by the magnificent forests of Haida Gwaii.

Towards the southern end of the trip, we turn into Houston Stewart Channel and visit Rose Harbour – an abandoned whaling station. Weather permitting, we will visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ninstints (SGang Gwaay Linagaay) featuring the largest collection of standing poles in their original location..

Gwaii Haanas National Park Ninstints to Hotspring Island

One of our guide's favorites, this trip encompasses almost the entire bottom end of Gwaii Haanas National Park and Haida Heritage Site. It also covers the most distance per day of any of our trips, so it is best suited to hearty travelers.

Being in this area for a full ten days allows you to really experience Haida Gwaii – from the poles at the UNESCO world Heritage Site of Ninstints (SGang Gwaay Linagaay), to the magnificent intertidal life at Burnaby Narrows, and ending with a soak in the thermal pools of Hotspring Island.

On this trip we traverse around many rugged headlands such as Scuttle, Benjamin, and Iron Points – these often are the favourite feeding grounds for humpback whales and Stellar Sea Lions.

BC's Central Coast The Great Bear Rainforest

In true expedition style, these expeditions explore the central coast between the small coastal villages of Klemtu and Bella Bella. Also called the 'Great Bear Rainforest', it is one of the few pristine temperate rainforests left in the world. This rugged and challenging coast offers diverse paddling routes, abundant wildlife, a rich First Nations culture, and very few people.

This is our most challenging tour and thus we require participants to have prior kayaking experience. As these tours are more expeditionary in nature, we operate as a smaller group (six guests, two guides), paddle longer each day, and leave the itinerary flexible to deal with the dynamic environment we will be traveling in.

Please contact us for more information on this year's expedition.



Wilder than your dreams.....

...closer than you think.

Destinations

In addition to the sea kayaking tours of Haida Gwaii and the Great Bear Rainforest listed in this brochure, Kingfisher also offers sea kayaking tours of Northern Vancouver Island focusing on whale and sea otter viewing.

Departure Points

Our Haida Gwaii sea kayaking tours depart from Sandspit on South Moresby Island. Our Great Bear Rainforest tours, along with our Vancouver Island kayak tours, depart from Port McNeill on northern Vancouver Island.

Please call our office or visit our website for more information including dates, prices, availability, and detailed travel information.

Photo credits:

Poles at Ninstints: Tourism BC

Inter-tidal Life: Parks Canada

Sea Kayaks: Sarah Richardson



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