

karibu

A private trip to Wild Sublime North Vancouver Island

"An exceptionally curated experience. It was a most unexpected and transformative journey. I return home forever changed by what we saw and experienced and learned, it was incredible and will take some time to absorb it all."

– Anne M.



Our Mission

For the active adventurers and nature lovers who seek raw and real experiences in some of the world's most spectacular wild places, and want to help keep them that way through responsible and inclusive travel. Our carefully curated destinations celebrate what makes life truly awesome.



Signature trip to Vancouver Island's Northeast Coast

Our uniquely curated small group trip explores the best of one of the Island's true hidden gems; the Northeast Coast - ancestral home of the Kwakw̱a'wakw people and a mecca for sea kayaking and wildlife viewing. We are privileged guests of renowned Indigenous carvers, storytellers and cultural leaders, and kayak through the world's top spot for viewing orca whales and breathtaking views of lush inlets and the snow-capped peaks of the Coast Mountains. This is what impactful travel is all about.

Sea Kayaking and Immersive Wildlife Viewing

We spend three days kayaking through the glacier carved channels of the Johnstone Strait, world renowned for

orca whales, and home to a menagerie of aquatic wildlife, from Stellar sea lions and humpback whales to white-sided dolphins. We also travel by boat into the inlets of the Great Bear Rainforest at the best time of year for spotting grizzlies on the hunt for salmon.

Authentic Indigenous Engagement

We explore the Kwakw̱a'wakw peoples' rich artistic heritage as well as learn about their inspiring efforts to keep their culture alive. We visit the workshop of a renowned Kwagu'l carver and storyteller, and spend time on Alert Bay ('Yalis), home to the U'mista Cultural Centre, a one-time residential school site which now houses an award-winning Potlatch collection. A trip highlight is an invitation-only visit to a new community-led, land-based healing initiative on the traditional and unceded territory of the Kwikwasutinuxw people, in the Great Bear Rainforest.

7 days on Vancouver Island's Northeast Coast

Day 1: Arrival in Gwadzi (Port Hardy) + Amazing Art

Check into the Kwa'lilas Hotel, owned by the Gwa'sala'Nak'waxda'xw people and built to resemble a traditional cedar wood Big House. The Hotel showcases traditional Northwest Coast carving, masks and tapestries.

We kick off our trip with a visit to the workshop of a celebrated Northwest Coast carver, storyteller and elder, whose Kwagu'l style totem poles and mystical masks are sought after the world over.

Day 2, 3 & 4: Kayaking along the Johnstone Strait

We spend three glorious days gliding through kelp beds and island narrows of the Johnstone Strait, taking in spectacular views while on the look out for Stellar sea lions, humpback whales, porpoises, orca, and eagles.

We end the day with apps and a delicious meal and then head to a prime lookout over the Strait to spot for orca while the sun sets.

Day 5: The Great Bear Rainforest, Hada + Grizzlies

We journey by boat into Bond Sound and the traditional and unceded territory of the Kwi'kwəsutinuwxw people. We are entering the Great Bear Rainforest, the world's largest intact temperate rainforest. We visit Hada, a unique Indigenous healing centre, where cultural leaders share a rare glimpse into efforts to revive the Kwakwala language and culture.

Day 6: 'Yalis (Alert Bay) + Telegraph Cove

We visit the renowned U'mista Cultural Centre and its priceless Potlatch Collection before heading over to the Big House, with its towering totem poles and cedar log roof, for a performance of traditional Kwakwaka'wakw dances. We'll cap off the day with a visit to the picturesque fishing village of Telegraph, where we tuck in for dinner.

Day 7: Port Hardy + Depart

Enjoy the morning in Port Hardy. Check out Guido's, a favourite local haunt and eclectic mix of bookstore, artsy gift shop and gourmet sandwiches, before departing for your next adventure.



Accommodations

We stay at the Indigenous-owned, Big House-styled Kwa'lilas Hotel and a comfortable base camp for our kayaking trip. The base camp includes permanent A-framed tents with raised beds, kitchen and dining area, as well as an outdoor shower and toilet.

Date & Price

August 23-29, 2024. \$5,650 + tax pp double occupancy.

* Each base camp tent holds two guests. If you are not traveling as a couple, single travelers are paired with a tent-mate.

In order to offer the double price for single travelers, singles also have the option to share a hotel room (equipped with two double beds). Singles who prefer their own hotel room are charged an additional \$300.00.

[Book Now](#)

Activity Level

Participants should be moderately fit and comfortable kayaking 4-6 hours a day. No prior kayaking experience required. Appropriate for 15+.

What's Included - Just about everything

- All accommodation
- All transfers (shuttle, water taxis)
- Certified local guides
- All equipment
- All meals, except 2 dinners
- Artist studio visit
- Tickets to U'mista Cultural Centre & Big House dance performance
- Boat tour into Great Rainforest and Hada

* Alcohol, 2 dinners, gratuities not included

What to bring + Climate

August is a great time to travel, with average daytime highs of 18C dipping to 10C at night. While rainfall is relatively low, weather is ever-changing. Layer up, with clothes that dry quickly and retain warmth (merino wool, quick dry fabrics).



Getting there

Port Hardy can be reached by plane via Vancouver on Pacific Coastal Air, or by ferry to Nanaimo and then driving.