

Mystic Haida Gwaii

June 8 to 17, 2023

A ROMTravel Art, Culture and Nature Trip



Figure 1: Totem poles, SḠang Gwaay, Haida Gwaii. © Randy Burke, 2005.

Haida Gwaii is one of the richest biological and cultural areas in North America.

Cruise the waters of this remote archipelago and view ancient Haida villages, an abundance of wildlife and

outstanding wilderness scenery. Explore the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, an incredible area of 100 plus islands, beautiful, forested creek walks, rugged headlands, and protected passageways.

The number of visitors is limited to protect the fragile ecological and cultural sites. Only one group is allowed ashore at any time, and just a select group of companies are permitted to bring visitors to Gwaii Haanas. Bluewater Adventures has a stellar, proud history of cruising Gwaii Haanas. Small yacht travel through these waters allows access to places not reachable by land.



Figure 2: Bald eagle. © Terry Carr.

Ancient Haida villages contain the remains of great longhouses and memorial and mortuary poles. We will visit the UNESCO World Heritage sites of S̱Gang Gwaay, where 18 poles still stand, Hlk'yah GawGa, T'aanuu Lnagaay and K'uuna Lnagaay, one of the villages that inspired Emily Carr's haunting totem paintings. In the old uninhabited villages, walk with Haida Watchmen across ancestral lands, carpeted with sphagnum and dotted with giant cedars and spruce draped with moss. Listen to ancient stories told with pride and dignity, and learn about the art, history and culture of the Haida people.

Travel ashore in large inflatable Zodiacs and anchor in secluded bays. The landscape speaks its magic when we look at the bounty on the ocean floor at low tide in Burnaby Straits.

These islands are on the edge of the continental shelf. Upwelling nutrients provide a rich feeding area for marine mammals. Evidence shows that parts of Haida Gwaii were not glaciated during the last ice age, forming a refuge for subspecies of plants and animals found nowhere else, hence its description as the Canadian Galápagos.



Figure 3: A map of the areas to be visited.

Trip Itinerary and Highlights

Day 1 Sandspit

Individual arrivals at Sandspit Airport. Plan to fly early afternoon from Vancouver. Overnight at Northern Shores Lodge. Welcome dinner.



Figure 4: Yacht at anchor. © Chris Wheeler, 2018.

Day 2 Sandspit

Breakfast at the hotel. We will tour the Haida Heritage Centre and enjoy a traditional lunch hosted by a Haida family. In the afternoon, we will travel to Moresby Camp to board our yacht and start our voyage. Meet the crew, engage in a safety orientation, enjoy dinner, and spend the first evening anchored.

Days 3 to 9 Afloat

The itinerary is flexible to take advantage of wildlife sighting opportunities, weather and tides, and the interests of the group.

Sail in comfort along the protected eastern and southern shores of this remote archipelago and be immersed in the surreal surroundings. Anchor in picturesque bays. Kayak along the pristine inlets and shorelines and watch for wildlife from whales to puffins, Steller

sea lions, eagles and the unique Haida Gwaii black bear.

Specific highlights planned include T'aanuu Llnagaay, Burnaby Narrows, Rose Harbour, Hlk'yah GawGa, UNESCO World Heritage site of SGang Gwaay, the hot springs of Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay, and windswept K'uuna Llnagaay.

Day 10 Sandspit

Disembark from the yacht late morning. Transfer to Sandspit Airport arriving with enough time for lunch on your own and last-minute shopping at the airport souvenir shop. Individual departures on mid-afternoon flights to Vancouver.



Figure 5: Forest. © Ian Holmes, BC, 2015.

About the Sailing Vessel

The 82-foot yacht accommodates twelve guests in six cabins. Each is furnished with two lower berths and a private bathroom with a hot shower. The spacious wheelhouse accommodates the entire group during mealtime where guests enjoy healthy and delicious food surrounded by 360-degree views.

We will travel in elegance and comfort while exploring some of the most remote and beautiful coastal areas. There is plenty of space on deck for wildlife

watching with two Zodiacs for daily shore excursions and six sea kayaks for our use.

No smoking is permitted aboard the yacht. Soft-sided luggage only please!

Resource Person

A Resource Person, to be announced before the trip, will be travelling with us. Our Resource Person may have qualifications in art or cultural history, biology, education, zoology, anthropology or ornithology, and will be not only an expert in their field but enjoy sharing their enthusiasm with others.

ROMTravel Coordinator

Penelope Hughes has explored more than 40 countries and enjoyed a range of experiences from a polar dip in Antarctica to gorilla trekking in Uganda. She is a sailor based out of a large Toronto sailing club.

Trip Cost Per Person

\$9,935 double occupancy only.

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Single supplement accommodation is not available. If you are a single traveller, you will be assigned to a cabin and

paired with another single, same gender traveller.

Trip begins and ends at Sandspit Airport (YZP), Haida Gwaii, British Columbia.

Flight costs to and from your home and Sandspit Airport are not included.

How to Book

To reserve your space contact Rosanna Geraci at Ellison Travel & Tours at 1.800.265.7022 or 519.672.7020 extension 196 or email at RosannaG@ellisontravel.com.

Ellison Travel & Tours is a registered Ontario company, licensed to sell travel packages through the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO). Ellison Travel & Tours is required to keep all customer deposits in Client Trust Accounts and may only use the funds once the trip has begun, or to make a deposit to an operator on behalf of the client. Ellison's Client Trust Accounts are subject to audit by a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) on an annual basis and are regularly inspected by TICO auditors.

TICO Registration Number 2392471

Terms and Conditions

Mystic Haida Gwaii

June 8 to 17, 2023

COVID-19 and Vaccinations

COVID-19 safety protocols and best practices are followed as outlined by government and local health authorities. These protocols will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.

Bluewater Adventures requires that all participants on this trip be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. All trip leaders, guides, drivers and yacht crew will be fully vaccinated.

Tour Cost Per Person

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

\$9,935 double occupancy only.

Single supplement accommodation is not available. If you are a single traveller, you will be assigned to a cabin and paired with another single, same gender traveller.

Trip cost does not include flight costs to and from your home and Sandspit Airport, Haida Gwaii. Ellison Travel & Tours can assist with booking flights.

Tour Cost Includes

Transfer from Sandspit Airport to hotel on Day 1.

Transfer to yacht on Day 2, and from yacht to Sandspit Airport on Day 10. Ground transportation in best available vehicle.

Porterage of 1 standard sized soft-sided bag from airport to vehicle and vehicle to hotel on Day 1; hotel to vehicle and vehicle to yacht on Day 2; yacht to vehicle and vehicle to airport on Day 10.

Shared accommodation in double occupancy hotel room and yacht cabin with private facilities.

Overnight accommodation at hotel on Day 1, and onboard for remaining nights.

Welcome dinner on Day 1.

Breakfast at hotel and traditional lunch hosted by a Haida family on Day 2.

Tour of the Haida Heritage Centre on Day 2.

All meals on board the yacht from dinner on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 10.

Beverages on board the yacht, including wine, water, coffee and tea. No alcohol is permitted until at anchor.

Full use of all facilities aboard the vessel.

Yacht to shore activities and optional kayak activities.

Services of Captain, Resource Person, Chef and Mate.

Services of a ROMTravel Coordinator, Ellison Travel & Tours and Bluewater Adventures staff.

All taxes for all goods and services including Canadian HST; fuel, transport, drivers, and guiding staff related to the basic tour; all hotel and local taxes.

Parks Canada user fees and Sustainability Fee.

All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees, and events as per itinerary.

Pre-trip orientation. Post-trip reunion.

A tour handbook.

Not Included

Flight costs to and from your home and Sandspit Airport, Haida Gwaii. Airline baggage fees where applicable. Fuel surcharges, if any.

Visa fees, if any.

Gratuities for yacht crew. Plan for \$25 to \$50 plus per day.

Lunch on Day 10. Meals, snacks, beverages, and other services not specified as included.

Additional meals and accommodations due to delays for any reason.

Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone calls, and internet.

Camera and video fees where applicable.

Trip cancellation, interruption, baggage and out of province health insurance. Emergency evacuation costs.

Costs associated with any additional requirements for entry to Canada (or

transit points in between) to comply with COVID-19 regulations (such as RT PCR tests, antigen tests, and/or proof of vaccination).

Costs

All costs quoted herein are based on supplier rates, fees, taxes and exchange rates as of July 8, 2022. Costs are subject to change without notice for any reason and should these trip costs increase, Ellison Travel & Tours (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the cost accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Ellison Travel & Tours and Bluewater Adventures reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines, or vessels due to conditions beyond their control. Any change to the itinerary will not result in eligibility for a refund. Any increase in tour cost is the responsibility of the participant.

ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of Royal Ontario Museum. For a full list of membership levels and benefits, visit the [ROM website](#). Only one person per room must be a member.

Deposits and Final Payment

An initial deposit of \$1,100 per person is required at the time of booking. The balance of payment is due on February 8, 2023, 120 days prior to departure.

Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over

subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made or when it occurs, if later.

ROMTravel, Ellison Travel & Tours, and Bluewater Adventures and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or to retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made in writing to Ellison Travel & Tours. There is a non-refundable professional service fee of \$600 for cancellations more than 120 days prior to departure. A fee equalling 65% of the full trip fee amount will be applied for cancellations between 119 and 91 days. No refund will be provided for cancellations within 90 days of the departure date.

No refunds will be given for unused services.

Documents

For non-Canadian residents, a passport valid for six months after the return date is required. For Canadian residents, a valid passport, driver's licence or other comparable government-issued identification is required. It is the individual traveller's responsibility to ensure proper visas, affidavits, COVID-19 test results, proof of vaccination and/or any other documents that may be

required to enter and or to not have to quarantine at the destination or upon returning to your home. Neither Ellison Travel & Tours, nor Bluewater Adventures nor ROMTravel are responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents. Note that public health entry and quarantine requirements for any country may change with little notice. Entry to another country may be refused even if the required information and travel documents are complete.

ROMTravel Values Your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the trip handbook unless you advise not to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMTravel and the travel agency, and will not be shared with anyone else.

Insurance

Travel insurance is available and may be purchased from many travel insurance providers. Ellison Travel & Tours can facilitate the purchase of travel insurance. A ROMTravel waiver of insurance will be required if you choose not to purchase travel insurance through Ellison Travel & Tours.

Comprehensive travel insurance is highly recommended. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they have adequate out-of-province medical, evacuation, hospital, trip cancellation and interruption insurance and baggage insurance to cover changes in health or other

circumstances prior to, or during, the trip, including coverage related to COVID-19 or other transmissible diseases. All losses suffered or additional costs incurred associated with failure to have insurance, or to have sufficient insurance, are the sole responsibility of the participant.

Cancellation insurance may be purchased up to the time the initial deposit is processed to provide maximum coverage for unexpected cancellation, or at a later time, but may not cover payments already processed.

Insurance purchased through Ellison Travel & Tours is underwritten by Manulife Financial. The insurance premium is non-refundable. Insurance may be purchased up to the time the initial deposit is processed, or at a later time but, if purchased later, would be subject to any changes to the premiums and/or to the participant's health or other circumstances at the time of purchase. For coverage options and complete coverage details, limitations and exclusions, please contact Ellison Travel & Tours for a quote.

Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the conducting of the trip, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection

with this trip however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the trip. The applicant by applying to join the trip hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

Responsibility and Jurisdiction

Ellison Travel & Tours, Bluewater Adventures and their agents act only as agents for the participants with respect to services supplied to participants by others, including but not limited to transportation, hotel and restaurant or other food services, on the express condition that they are not liable for any failure in such services, or injury, loss or damage, delay or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any defect in any vehicle or any act, omission, accident or error in providing such transportation, hotel, restaurant or other services. There is no refund for unused portions of the trip. In case of an accident occurring during the land portion of any trip, the participant must submit any claim therefore only to the competent judicial authorities of the jurisdiction where such accident occurred, to be determined exclusively in accordance with the laws of such jurisdiction. By accepting the coupons and tickets and utilizing the services, the participant agrees that neither Royal Ontario Museum nor Ellison Travel &

Tours nor Bluewater Adventures nor any affiliated or subsidiary companies or representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage to the participant or belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or resulting directly from any occurrences beyond its control including breakdown in equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation or changes in itinerary or schedules, and so forth. Ellison Travel & Tours, Bluewater Adventures and its agents reserve the right to refuse to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip for any reason. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all of the trip or portions thereof. All trip services including, but not limited to hotel or other accommodations, restaurants, food services, guide services and transportation are furnished by independent contractors. Living standards and practices at the destination and the standards and conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those found in other parts of Canada or other countries.

In addition and without limitation, neither Ellison Travel & Tours nor Bluewater Adventures are responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay or damage to personal property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from but not limited to acts of God or

force majeure, illness, disease, pandemics, acts of war, civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of services, food poisoning, mechanical or other failure of aircraft or other means of transportation or for failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time.

Dietary restrictions and allergies must be disclosed at the time of reservation. Ellison Travel & Tours, Bluewater Adventures and individual restaurants do the best to accommodate and respect restrictions and allergies, but not all meal requests can be fulfilled, and substitutions will be made where possible. Participants should understand that meals reflect the local customs and may differ widely from standards in other parts of Canada or other countries. Kosher or Halal cannot be guaranteed, and in these cases, participants should select vegetarian meals. Neither Ellison Travel & Tours nor Bluewater Adventures bear responsibility if a meal does not conform to a dietary restriction nor if there is an allergic reaction. Accommodation is assigned as "best in class", however neither Ellison Travel & Tours nor Bluewater Adventures can guarantee specific views, room or cabin amenities, floor or location at individual properties.

Participants need to be aware of the risks associated with travelling in the COVID-19 era including trip cancellation.

Neither Ellison Travel & Tours nor Bluewater Adventures bear responsibility for interrupted or cancelled travel plans to destinations impacted by COVID-19 and any additional costs associated with rebooking and or quarantine are the sole responsibility of the individual participant. It is the individual participant's responsibility to understand and comply with the public health guidelines at intended destinations (for example, masks, social distancing, and self-isolation) and accept that guidelines can change rapidly. Neither Ellison Travel & Tours nor Bluewater Adventures bear responsibility for individual or group exposure to COVID-19 or any resultant health changes, interrupted or cancelled travel plans.

Cancellation due to COVID-19

The tour will be cancelled or postponed if "Canada Do Not Travel" regional, provincial or federal government advisories to the destination apply, or if

Bluewater Adventure deems it unsafe to travel to the destination due to COVID-19 or a related variant in which case either 50% of all monies paid less a \$600.00 non-refundable professional service fee will be refunded, or all monies paid less a \$600.00 non-refundable professional service fee will be transferred to a future travel credit with Bluewater Adventures to be used within 24 months of your original departure date (based on availability). Future travel credits are transferrable to another person. The above does not apply if the tour is cancelled by the purchaser.

Any add-on travel components that are not part of the tour cost, such as flights or pre- or post-hotels, are subject to their own supplier terms and conditions and cancellation penalties.

Cancellation insurance is highly recommended for all trips. A letter of cancellation will be provided to help with filing your claim.

Contact Information

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Internet Link for this Tour

This document contains an internet link which can be clicked when viewing the document on a smartphone, tablet or computer screen. It is a link to become a Member of ROM. The link is

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/join-us/membership/become-a-member>



Figure 6: Haida Heritage Centre, Skidegate, Haida Gwaii. Grant Harder, Destination BC, 2020.

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ROMTravel is organized by ROM's Department of Museum Volunteers to provide support for the Museum. ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

ROM