

HAIDA GWAI

Haida Heritage Centre AT QAY'LLNAGAAY

www.haidaheritagecentre.com

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It is a dream coming true.

The Haida's cultural renaissance, led by internationally acclaimed Haida artists such as Tim Pearson, Rufus Moody, Gordon Cross, Alfred Collinson, Christian White and Bill Reid, began in the 1960's. Plans for the Haida Heritage Centre at Qay'llnagaay began in 1994.

It has long been a Haida dream to share the islands' cultural diversity, rich natural heritage and history with the rest of the world. As of spring 2006, most of the heavy construction was complete, and the focus shifted to interior finishing and exhibits installations.

The \$26 million Centre is a series of longhouses connected by interior walkways and fronted with six traditional totem poles representing each of the 14 clans. The feeling is of a traditional Haida seaside village. This is a celebration of the living culture of the Haida people –

"Qay'llnagaay is a place for the Haida voice to be heard. This Heritage Centre is our gift to the world."



Tours and excursions:
Aay Oo Guiding Services is owned and operated by the Haida and offers cultural excursions, boat trips, and sportfishing expeditions.
www.aayoo.com

How to get here:
Air Canada Jazz has daily flights, year-round, from Vancouver International Airport to Sandspit.
www.aircanada.com
Pacific Coastal Airlines has flights from Vancouver to Massett (daily May to Oct)
www.pacific-coastal.com
BC Ferries operates year-round car ferry service from Prince Rupert, B.C.
www.bcferrries.com

Where to stay: Visitors to Haida Gwaii are made welcome at various accommodation facilities, restaurants, visitor services and other tourist attractions. The saltwater fishing, kayaking, bird watching and hiking available in this unique natural environment all contribute to a life changing experience. For more information:
• Queen Charlotte Islands Visitors Centre www.qcinfo.ca
• Haida Gwaii Tourism Association www.haidagwaitourism.ca

Please note: During 2006, the Museum and Gift Shop are open year-round. Construction of the remainder of Centre is nearing completion and site tours are available. Grand opening is summer of 2007. Visit: www.haidaheritagecentre.com for details.

TIMELESS VOICES. LIVING ART.

Enter the Spirit World.

The Haida have inhabited Haida Gwaii ("Islands of the People"), also known as the Queen Charlotte Islands, since the end of the last ice age. Here is an authentic living culture with a heritage dating back some 12,000 years.

The Haida are world famous for their Totem Poles and monumental art, as well as their argillite carvings. The iconography of the art is bound to the sea, sky, land and spirit world. The theme is transformation, where the supernatural and the natural planes of existence come together.

The Haida invite you to share their world.



Tours & Excursions

Orientation briefings for visitors making excursions to Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve – with its more than 500 Haida archaeological and historic sites – will be conducted at the Centre.

Haida Heritage Centre at Qay'Inagaay

"SAVING THINGS HOUSE" or Museum

Audio-visuals and interactive exhibits feature Haida history and culture. Highlights include totem poles from the Haida villages of Tanu and Skedans, contemporary Haida art, one of the world's finest collections of argillite carvings, and a comprehensive plant and wildlife exhibit.



"TRADING HOUSE" or Gift Shop

The gift shop promotes the work of local artists and artisans.



On offer is a wide selection of Haida art, argillite carvings, silver and gold jewellery, pottery, paintings, and fine books.



"CANOE HOUSE"

The Loo Taas canoe, carved by Bill Reid, can be viewed in the Canoe House. Learn the story of the Loo Taas through time and Bill Reid's role in canoe-making, as well as the world journeys it has undertaken.



"PERFORMING HOUSE"

A house for many occasions, where you may have an opportunity to share in Haida traditional performances, song, dance and storytelling.

"EATING HOUSE"

Enjoy traditional Haida cuisine as well as popular snacks and other light meals. Visitors may experience the preparation, presentation and preservation of traditional foods.



CARVING SHED

See monumental totem poles and Haida dugout canoes in the making.

BILL REID COLLECTION

The showing of Bill Reid's collection will be a feature exhibit during the grand opening of the Centre in the summer of 2007.

ARTISANS WORKSHOPS & THE BILL REID TEACHING CENTRE

Watch artisans work, and learn traditional and contemporary art forms and techniques for yourself. There are wood, silver, printmaking, drafting and textile studios, as well as a forge.



TOTEM POLES

In front of the buildings of the Haida Heritage Centre are a total of six totem poles carved by Haida artists and which represent the historic villages of the southern Haida.