



## *Women With Wings: Haida Gwaii Frequently Asked Questions*

### **How do I get to/from the airport in Haida Gwaii?**

A private transfer is provided for those arriving on Air Canada #8293. This flight departs Vancouver at 13:00 and arrives into Sandspit at 14:46.

A private departure transfer is provided for those departing on Pacific Coastal #972. This flight departs Masset at 12:05 and arrives into Vancouver at 14:19.

If you choose to take any other flights then you will have to make your own way to the accommodation which can be challenging.

### **Leader/Local guide**

Our Women With Wings leader Jennifer Hewlett will work with the local guides to ensure that everyone has a safe, fun experience. The local guides will be able to provide onsite information about all the areas we are traveling to.

### **What if I have a medical emergency whilst on the trip?**

Our goals begin with safety first, ensuring a truly stress-free, enjoyable tour for all. This requires that guests have a clear understanding of the expected weather, pace of the tour and physical requirements. Please read your tour brochure carefully for details on physical requirements. If you are unsure about elevation or length/timing of walks, please be sure to discuss this with us; we want this to be the right tour for you!

We require that all participants have valid emergency travel medical insurance. If you are from British Columbia then this is your BC medical services card. If you are from outside the province then you should have out of province/country travel medical insurance.

Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your Women With Wings representative straight away so that we can do our best to rectify the problem or provide assistance.

If an incident occurs where you require more medical attention than the WWW leader and local guide can provide, the leaders will liaise with our local tour company to assist. Since the leaders are unable to leave the group, this could be a representative of our local tour company who will help with questions at the hospital such as insurance, how to rejoin the group, or booking an emergency flight home. Please note that these could be an additional cost at your own expense.

It is **VITAL** that you are medically fit for travel at time of payments and if anything should change, it is up to you to communicate with Women With Wings.

### **What are the emergency contact phones numbers?**

Details will be provided closer to departure.

**What is the level of fitness required?**

A moderate level of fitness is required as the itinerary includes several guided walks and a half-day kayaking excursion.

The kayak excursion is suitable for all levels, and you don't need to be an expert kayaker to participate.

Should you choose not to participate in any of the scheduled activities, you are welcome to enjoy some leisure time at the accommodations.

This tour is best suited for those that can be on their feet for 3+ hours at a time and walk on varied terrain (packed and loose earth, sand, pavement, loose rock).

**What kind of footwear should I bring?**

Since there is a lot of walking, comfortable walking shoes or sandals are suggested. Water shoes are also recommended if you plan on swimming in the ocean.

Please check the weather forecast before departure.

**What is the accommodation like?**

Accommodation options in Haida Gwaii are limited, particularly for group travel. We encourage you to carefully review the accommodation information sheet outlining the two selected properties to ensure this tour aligns with your comfort and expectations.

While Haida Gwaii is not known for luxury lodging, guests can expect a warm, welcoming, and authentic experience that reflects the spirit of the region.

**What meals are included?**

Breakfast will be served at the hotels daily. Two lunches and five dinners are included.

**How much cash should I have? Can I use my credit card?**

When it comes to spending money on the trip, every traveller is a little different. You know your spending habits better than we do, so please budget an appropriate amount for things like meals, drinks, shopping, optional activities, and laundry.

Meals not included in the itinerary would cost approximately \$50 CAD.

Credit cards are widely accepted throughout Haida Gwaii and can be used for most purchases.

**Are gratuities included?**

Gratuities are included throughout this journey for the local guides and drivers.

When meals are not included in the itinerary, please consider tipping 15% of the bill.

**What is the weather like?**

As Haida Gwaii is in a temperate rainforest, it is known to get a fair amount of wet weather. Please wear layers and bring with you waterproof clothing and a travel umbrella.

In June, temperatures range from 10-15 degrees C on average.

**Is there anywhere to do laundry?**

The two resorts do not offer laundry services for guests but the towns of Masset and Dajing Giids have laundromats.

### **Is there a luggage allowance?**

We suggest you fly with Air Canada to Sandspit and return from Masset with Pacific Coastal. They have a checked luggage restriction of 23kg and carry-on luggage of 10kg.

### **Is there wi-fi or cell reception?**

The two accommodations provide free wi-fi.

Cell service is available albeit spotty in most larger communities and along major routes. More remote areas will not have service.

### **What apps would you suggest I download before travelling?**

- WhatsApp is a communications app where you can text or call anyone who has WhatsApp downloaded. You will need to be connected to data/Wi-Fi. WhatsApp is a great way to share photos amongst the group and message each other to make plans during your free time.

### **Is there any local terminology I should know?**

Xaayda *Haida* means People. Gwaay.yaay Gwaii means Islands. Therefore, Xaayda Gwaay.yaay *Haida Gwaii* means Islands of the People.

Gwaii Haanas means Islands of Beauty.

The Haida are a Nation unto themselves. Their language has two main dialects that have some similarities but many differences as well. These are Xaayda Kil *Skidegate* dialect and Xaad Kil *Old Massett* dialect.

During your visit to Haida Gwaii, you are bound to hear haawa (Xaayda Kil *Skidegate* dialect) and haw'aa (Xaad Kil *Old Massett* dialect) often. This means thank you.

“Indigenous” is the modern acceptable reference for First Peoples/Nations. Kindly refrain from using the term “Indian”, as it is not geographically correct.

### **What books should I read before traveling to Haida Gwaii?**

- The Golden Spruce by John Vaillant
- A Story as Sharp as a Knife by Robert Bringhurst
- The Raven Steals the Light by Bill Reid and Robert Bringhurst
- All That We Say is Ours by Ian Gill

### **What else should I know?**

We know that our WWW guests appreciate the flexibility that our tours offer. Feel free to take a day to yourself if you so wish...this is your holiday! Occasionally we have to change the timing of activities. Flexibility is the key to this program – you are in the hands of experts who are there to ensure that all of the little details are taken care of.