

SMALL-SHIP EXPEDITION CRUISE

Haida Gwaii

May 25 – June 2, 2027

From **\$15,495** to **\$19,795 CAD** per person

Aboard the *Cascadia*

Starts: Vancouver, BC, Canada

Ends: Vancouver, BC, Canada

Charter Flights: included



Expedition Summary

On this journey through Haida Gwaii, you'll move from city to island, from land to sea, and into a place where culture and ecology are entwined. Beginning in Vancouver and continuing north to Haida Gwaii, the expedition opens with visits that offer cultural context before turning toward the archipelago itself—its forested shores, village sites, sheltered inlets, and the waters of Gwaii Haanas. Travel by small expedition ship allows for a flexible approach shaped by tides, weather, wildlife, and the guidance of Haida hosts.

This voyage follows the cultural and ecological contours of Haida Gwaii. Time at Kaay Llnagaay, T'aanuu, SGang Gwaay, Hlk'yah GawGa, and K'uuna Llnagaay brings depth to the journey, while rainforest walks, intertidal exploration, and cruising through whale-rich channels reveal the diversity of the islands from many angles. Across the expedition, Haida voices, cultural landscapes, and the meeting of forest and ocean remain central, offering a fuller understanding of an archipelago shaped by long relationship, resilience, and care.

Itinerary

Day 1: Vancouver, BC, Canada

Day 2: Graham Island

Day 3: Tlell, Skidegate and Kaay Llnagaay

Day 4: Gwaii Haanas

Day 5: SGang Gwaay

Day 6: Gwaii Haanas Coast

Day 7: Juan Perez Sound

Day 8: Hlk'yah GawGa (Windy Bay) and K'uuna Llnagaay (Skedans)

Day 9: Cumshewa Inlet, BC, Canada

This expedition is operated by Maple Leaf Adventures, Adventure Canada's trusted partner on the Pacific coast. Together, we share a commitment to thoughtful exploration, environmental responsibility, and meaningful engagement with place—creating journeys rooted in learning, respect, and a deep appreciation for the coastal world.

Highlights

Where rainforest meets ocean

Haida Gwaii lies at the outer edge of Canada's northwest coast, where old-growth forest meets the open Pacific and the tide leaves its mark on every shore. Across this archipelago, land, sea, and culture are closely entwined, shaping a journey defined by scale, quiet, and connection.

Haida village sites and cultural landscapes

Travel into Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site, where village sites, old-growth forest, and remote waterways reveal the depth of this remarkable archipelago. At sites such as T'aanuu, K'uuna, and SGang Gwaay, house remains and memorial poles speak to enduring Haida history. At SGang Gwaay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Haida Guardian Watchmen share stories, knowledge, and protocol that deepen your understanding of this extraordinary place.

Wildlife of shore, forest, and sea

Wildlife is abundant here across shore, forest, and sea. Whales travel the surrounding channels, black bears forage along the tideline, and seabirds fill the air above rocky islets and offshore waters. With patience and close attention, each landing and passage offers new ways to witness the richness of an ecosystem shaped by both island and ocean.

Haida voices throughout the journey

This journey is enriched by Haida voices and perspectives. Through interpretation, storytelling, and shared knowledge, Haida hosts and cultural leaders offer insight into an archipelago shaped by long relationship, responsibility, and care. Their presence helps guide the experience on the water and ashore.

Exploration by ship, shore, and small craft

Travelling by expedition ship allows you to experience Haida Gwaii with flexibility and depth. Shore landings, Zodiac excursions, and opportunities for kayaking bring you into closer contact with remote beaches, sheltered inlets, intertidal life, and forested coastlines. Each day brings a different way of experiencing the archipelago.

A journey shaped by conditions

In Haida Gwaii, tides, weather, wildlife, and local guidance all help shape the day. This flexibility is part of the experience, allowing the expedition to respond thoughtfully to changing conditions and to travel with care in a place where attentiveness matters.

Highlights at a Glance

- Travel through the full length of the Haida Gwaii archipelago, from north to south, by expedition ship.
- Cruise into Gwaii Haanas, where cultural and ecological protection are closely intertwined.
- Visit SGang Gwaay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and encounter one of the most significant cultural landscapes on the coast.
- Watch for whales, black bears, seabirds, and other wildlife across shore, forest, and sea.
- Learn from Haida Guardian Watchmen and other Haida voices throughout the journey.
- Explore remote beaches, forested shorelines, and sheltered inlets by shore landing, Zodiac, and kayak.

Itinerary

Day 1: Vancouver, BC, Canada — Gateway to the Pacific Northwest

Your journey begins in Vancouver, where the city offers an opening perspective on the Pacific Northwest and the histories, artistry, and living cultures that shape the journey ahead. A guided day program introduces this context through visits to the Reconciliation Pole, the Museum of Anthropology at University of British Columbia, and the Bill Reid Gallery—three powerful spaces that speak to the enduring presence, artistry, and histories of the Indigenous peoples of the Northwest Coast.

Later, gather with your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner, the first chance to connect as a group before setting out toward Haida Gwaii.

Day 2: Graham Island — First Impressions of Haida Gwaii

Fly from Vancouver to Haida Gwaii, leaving the city behind for the forested islands and shifting light of the North Pacific. On arrival, begin with a land-based orientation that offers an early introduction to the archipelago's landscapes, communities, and rhythm.

By day's end, settle into your lodge and take in this first sense of place before the journey turns fully toward the water.

Day 3: Tlell, Skidegate, and Kaay Llnagaay — Into Living Waters

This is where the journey shifts from land to sea. Visits to Tlell and Skidegate, along with time at the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay, deepen your understanding of Haida history, artistry, and enduring cultural presence. Here, poles, longhouses, and stories rooted in place begin to reveal the deep relationships between the islands and the surrounding waters.

Later, board the ship and set out for the southern archipelago. As you cruise toward Gwaii Haanas, keep watch for whales and seabirds, and settle into the rhythm of expedition travel along a coastline shaped by tide, weather, and time.

Day 4: Gwaii Haanas — Ancient Sites and Intertidal Life

Sail deeper into Gwaii Haanas, where cultural and ecological protection are closely intertwined. A visit to T'aanuu, a former Haida village site, offers a quiet and powerful encounter with Haida history and presence, inviting reflection on the relationships that continue to shape these islands.

At K'iid Xyangs K'iidaay (Burnaby Narrows), the richness of the intertidal zone comes vividly into view. Depending on conditions, explore by kayak or small boat and look closely at a shoreline alive with sea stars, urchins, chitons, anemones, and other marine life, all revealed by the movement of the tide.

Day 5: SGang Gwaay — A World Heritage Site

Arrive at one of the most significant cultural sites in Haida Gwaii: SGang Gwaay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the location of a former Haida village. Here, standing poles, longhouse remains, and the surrounding landscape speak to continuity, memory, and enduring presence. Guided by Haida Guardian Watchmen—many of whom are part of the expedition team—your visit is shaped by local knowledge, protocol, and care.

Later, continue exploring by Zodiac and along the coast near Rose Harbour, where wildlife, layered histories, and the quiet power of the surrounding landscape continue to unfold.

Day 6: Gwaii Haanas Coast — Where Forest Meets Shore

Today invites a slower pace and close attention to the details of the landscape. Step into the rainforest beneath towering Sitka spruce and red cedar, where moss, fern, and filtered light create a world of texture and quiet. These forest walks invite a slower, more attentive experience of Haida Gwaii—through stillness, scale, and immersion.

Along the shoreline, keep watch for black bears, often seen foraging in the intertidal zone as the tide recedes. These quieter moments, shaped by patience and observation, often leave the deepest impression.

Day 7: Juan Perez Sound — Whales and Seabirds

Cruise through Juan Perez Sound, where humpback and grey whales are often seen in the waters of Gwaii Haanas. Keep watch from deck as the expedition moves through this rich marine environment, with opportunities to observe not only whales, but also the seabirds that gather and feed in these coastal waters.

A visit to an active seabird colony, along with time spent learning from researchers in the field, offers insight into the scientific work that supports conservation across the archipelago. As always, the day unfolds with flexibility, shaped by conditions, wildlife, and the opportunities each moment brings.

Day 8: Hlk'yah GawGa (Windy Bay) and K'uuna Lnagaay (Skedans) — Cultural Heartland

At Hlk'yah GawGa (Windy Bay), step into a place of profound ecological and cultural significance. The protection of this area helped shape the future of Gwaii Haanas, and its towering red cedars and restored longhouse speak to both resilience and stewardship.

Later, continue to K'uuna (Skedans), a Haida village site where memorial poles stand among the forest edge and shoreline. Here, as throughout the journey, Haida history is felt as a living presence in the land itself.

Day 9: Cumshewa Inlet, BC, Canada — Journey's End

Spend your final hours aboard ship cruising through Cumshewa Inlet, taking in one last stretch of Haida Gwaii's forested shorelines and sheltered waters before disembarking at Moresby Camp. From here, transfer to Sandspit Airport for your included outbound flight.

As the journey draws to a close, the return to the mainland carries with it more than memories of remarkable landscapes: a deeper sense of a place shaped by ancient relationships, enduring culture, and the forces of land and sea.