



# Ocean Sound Kayaking

Haawa - Thank you for celebrating over three decades of  
***"Once in a Lifetime moments on Haida Gwaii"*** with us.

The **Haida Gwaii Trip Planner** is designed to help with your registration, preparation, and the overall expectation of your upcoming vacation with Ocean Sound Kayaking.



We're proud of our reviews – but don't just take our word for it, read what people are saying about us on Trip Advisor [View Reviews](#)

**The Council of Haida Nation welcomes you to take  
[The Haida Gwaii Pledge](#).**

## ***Haida Gwaii Trip Planner***

The Trip Planner has been designed keeping your needs in mind, and aims to provide you with all the necessary information while guiding you through the registration process for a kayak vacation with Ocean Sound Kayaking.

Our past guests have appreciated our attention to detail, which has helped them to plan a successful trip. Once you register for a tour with OSK, we will provide you with a comprehensive information package that reflects our experience and expertise on Haida Gwaii.

To help you navigate this document - ***Click on any Heading and/or Sub Heading below in the Table of Contents for further information and for future references:***

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## Guest Expectations

I have introduced many people to Haida Gwaii over the past three decades of leading sea kayak trips in Gwaii Haanas, and before we travel together, I want to ensure that all my guests have a clear understanding of my trips, so that your expectations will be met.

This document can answer many of your questions, and help you plan accordingly, so you and the entire group can travel successfully together. Once registered on a trip with Ocean Sound Kayaking, an in-depth package will be provided for you.

## Personal Fitness

First and foremost, I would like to make it clear that age means nothing to me. I see it simply as a number. The fact that you have connected with me, tells me you are an adventurous soul, and seek intrinsic wilderness experiences, which is what we are after.

We travel in a self-propelled mix fleet of single and double sea kayaks. There is NO support boat on any of my kayak tours.

Kayak experience is not required; however, I do ask that guests feel comfortable around water. More important than one's paddling skill, is that guests arrive with past camping experiences to draw upon. Past experience's travelling and camping in the wilderness will assist you greatly, ensuring your personal comfort in a remote wilderness setting such as Haida Gwaii.

## Lifting and Carrying Gear

To make any trip successful all guests must participate in the daily chores, and contribute to the overall team environment such as: food cache, meal prep, meal clean up, setting up camp, collecting fire wood and drinking water, etc.

We can accommodate those that have physical limitations in this department; however, guests are expected to be able to carry up to 20 – 30 pounds, as kayaks must be placed above the high tide line nightly in teams of 6- 8 people.

## Toilets

There are no outhouse facilities throughout Gwaii Haanas. The use of low impact practices such as the "intertidal flush", a standard set by Parks Canada for all kayakers in Gwaii Haanas.

Your guide will give you a briefing of this practice and present a private area for the group washroom at each rest stop, and campsite.

## Bathing – Water

Many of our chosen camps have a freshwater source to collect water and to bath in. Your guides will create the boundaries along with a private location for guests.

The kayak tour will have the capability of carrying 110 Liters of water to sites that do not have suitable or reliable water supply.

Non-Scented wet wipes are some handy items around camp, as they are convenient and easy.

## Our Principals

Our goal is to offer a wilderness experience that will remove you from your everyday distractions, replacing cell phones with solitude, and street lights with stars.

Let's keep the wild, "WILD". With this in mind, it is our responsibility to travel thru Haida Gwaii with an ethical approach. After all, there are a limited number of places that offer such an authentic wilderness experience like Haida Gwaii.

Your guide will provide you with a trip orientation on day one, a Parks Canada requirement of all Gwaii Haanas guests. The purpose of the trip orientation is to offer insight to: the Haida Culture, the sensitivity of Ecological Reserves, and to deliver awareness as to how our tours will be practicing industry standards regarding low impact camping, and wildlife encounters.

Known as the "Galapagos of the Pacific North West" – Haida Gwaii can offer some incredible wildlife experiences. After all, these encounters are one of the greatest attractions to any kayak trip. Our approach to such species like Humpback Whales, dolphins, porpoises, Orcas, bears, sea birds, seals and sea lions can be reviewed below in our Wildlife Etiquette.



## Tour Itineraries

[Kayaking Gwaii Haanas – Haida Gwaii](#) is a true wilderness experience and to travel safely in a self-propelled vessel, with no support, a flexible mindset is needed. The success of the tour will depend on weather, tides, group interests, and the overall ability of the group. No one person (guides included) has any control over such variables.

I believe that the tours are your tours, and OSK will try to facilitate the overall goals of the group, which can deviate from any tour itinerary found on my webpage. Each person arrives to Haida Gwaii with their own personal bucket list and interests that we are trying to fill.



## Frequently Asked Questions

- How long can I expect to paddle each day?
- What fitness level is required for such a trip?
- What is the weather on Haida Gwaii at this time of year?
- Can you accommodate my food allergy?
- What is the difference between an Expedition and Basecamp Tour?

These are questions you should be asking yourself. [The answer to the above and many other questions can be found here.](#) Please [connect with me](#) if you have any questions.



## What is Included

- **100 % Trip Departure Guaranteed** with any OSK booking.
- Owner/Guide - Steve Konik has **27 years of intimate knowledge** of the waters surrounding Haida Gwaii to share with you!
- **Unmatched** – over five decades of combined guiding experience to share with you!
- Roundtrip transportation between your chosen accommodations in Sandspit, and our remote camp in Gwaii Haanas National Park.
- Three Fully Certified Guides on each tour.
- All Meals while kayaking in Gwaii Haanas National Park.
- The use of a mix fleet of 6 singles, and 2 double fiber glass kayaks.
- Life Jacket and all required kayak rescue gear.
- Tent (individual tents may be provided for those travelling solo).
- Library of books related to Haida Gwaii.
- Satellite Telephone, Satellite Inreach and 2 Marine Radios for emergency use.
- Two Kitchen Tarps which comfortably houses the entire group in inclement weather.
- A fully stocked camp kitchen.
- Fully stocked First Aid Kit.
- Lastly each individual is guaranteed to have more than a few laughs!

## What is NOT included

- Travel to/from Haida Gwaii from your home
- Airport transfers while on Haida Gwaii
- Accommodations before or after your kayak tour
- Personal Travel and/or Evacuation Insurance
- Personal Snacks for paddling or around camp.
- Personal Mug
- Gratuities
- Personal Clothing - Gear List, will outlined extensively once you have registered

## Registering for a Kayak Vacation

Please note that Ocean Sound Kayaking does not accept online bookings. We value human interaction and believe that speaking to guests over the phone is the best way to introduce ourselves and answer any questions about our tours or Haida Gwaii.

This also allows us to customize your trip to your preferences, which is what sets us apart at OSK. This is yet another reason why small business operators are better for you!

## Terms and Conditions



### Deposit & Payment Schedule

Reservations require a non-refundable 300\$ Canadian deposit per participant to secure all tour reservations.

This deposit will hold a participant's space on the tour, while final payment is required 90 days from your tour start date.

### Cancellations Policies

The cost to make an expedition successful begins well before the departure date. The following payment schedule will apply.

>90 days to departure date – Full Refund minus 300\$ deposit

<90 – 60 days prior departure date – 50% Refund of full cost

<60 days prior departure date – No Refund

If for any reason you are to cancel your tour, 90 days prior the tour start date, and you or Ocean Sound Kayaking can find a suitable replacement, a full refund less deposit can be granted.

All cancellations must be submitted by email, and confirmed by Ocean Sound Kayaking.



## Travel to Haida Gwaii



All Haida Gwaii kayaking tours start from the community of Sandspit, BC, Canada and can be accessed by plane, train, or automobile; however, a ferry from Prince Rupert to Haida Gwaii will be required for those not flying directly from Vancouver, BC to Sandspit (YZP).

Our tours will be in a remote coastal environment exposed to a diversity of weather conditions and our water taxi to/from Gwaii Haanas may require last minute adjustments from our transport providers. It is for these reasons that we require all travel arrangements at minimum are to be made No later than the day before the tour start date, and leave island NO sooner than the day after the tours scheduled last day.

Since 2021, *there is ONLY ONE flight from Vancouver to Sandspit BC,* the staging area of all Ocean Sound Kayaking tours, to accommodate everyone. Traditionally there was two flights a day, making it possible for lost luggage, or missed connector flights to be adjusted with the afternoon flight. Unfortunately, this luxury no longer exists, so you will need to decide if arriving the day prior is acceptable, if missed luggage and/or missed connectors occurs to you.

I encourage guests to take additional time to explore Haida Gwaii, however, I suggest these days be added prior to your trip, so any hick ups you encounter can be resolved before your tour departure date. It is recommended that you stay in Sandspit on your final evening. Mother Nature may not cooperate, and a later than desired return may occur, which may NOT provide you enough time to catch that limited ferry.

[Links - Planes, Trains, and Automobiles Options](#)

[Links to Local Haida Gwaii and BC Ferry Schedules](#)

## Local Transportation

For those that are staying on island prior or after their trip and relying on local transportation to get to/from the Alliford Bay ferry landing, the Gwaii Airporter can get you as far as the Alliford Bay ferry terminal. This service will only cover the 17km between the ferry terminal at Alliford Bay and Sandspit. If you wish to go to the Haida Gwaii Museum it will be a very short 7-minute walk from the [Skidegate ferry terminal](#).

To travel further abroad on Graham Island, you will need to arrange for a rental car.

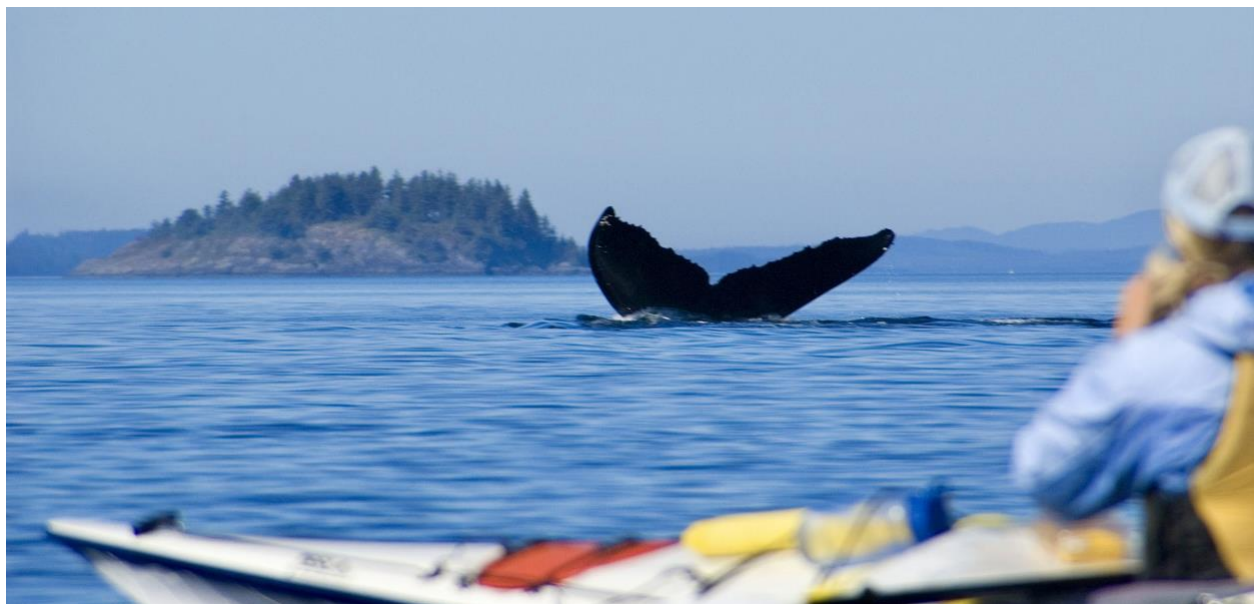
## Arriving at the Sandspit Airport

To get yourself from the airport to your accommodations in Sandspit there are currently only two options – Gwaii Taxi or Walk.

Gwaii Taxi/Airporter, is located in Daajing Giids (Queen Charlotte City) on Graham Island, and they offer airport shuttle services for guests staying in Sandspit.

They ONLY take bookings a month out from your arrival. Here is [the Gwaii Taxi Link](#)

Walking - Borrow a luggage cart and walk to your accommodations. This is acceptable protocol in this small town. Depending on your desired accommodations in Sandspit, they are all within a short 7 to 20-minute walk from the airport. North Shores being the furthest.



## Sandspit Accommodations

In 2023, a unique experience has opened up for OSK Guests.

My long-time Sandspit peeps, born and raised local brothers – Doug and Scotty, are welcoming like-minded travelers into their “Beach House”. The Gould family have been welcoming me and my family into their homes for almost 30 years. Doug was the founder of Moresby Explorers, a predominate zodiac tour company which still operates in Gwaii Haanas today, and my initial employer when I arrived in Sandspit. The rental of the Beach House is ideal for groups, but individuals are welcome as well.

Here is a link to [meet the Gould’s and review the expectations of the Beach House.](#)

Due to Air Canada and BC Ferry’s limited scheduling, combined with the transport out from Gwaii Haanas, all guests MUST stay in Sandspit their last night of the trip.

If guests chose to leave the islands on the last schedule day of their tour, Ocean Sound Kayaking is not responsible for any additional costs to your travel arrangements such as missed flights, and ferries.

All tours start and finish in Sandspit, BC the location of the island’s main airport. I strongly suggest that all guests stay in Sandspit the night before and after their tour dates. Guests not staying in Sandspit will be required to make their way from the ferry crossing at Skidegate landing (Graham Island) which is 17 km from Sandspit, at your own expense. This ferry has a limited schedule and does not get you to Gwaii Haanas.

Beds are limited in a small town of 250 people, and I strongly suggest once you have confirmed your booking with OSK, that you book your accommodations ASAP.

[Accommodation options for Sandspit, complete with web and toll free #'s](#)

### Extra Luggage

Guests should leave any extra luggage not required for the tour at their accommodations in Sandspit while on tour. All the accommodations in town are familiar with this request and should not have a problem with this other than **North Shores (Judy)**.

If you do not wish to leave your items at your accommodations of choice, then you can leave items in my cargo trailer found in the North Shores Parking lot. Once you have registered on a tour, detail instructions will be provided.

## Travel Responsibly

The type, coverage, and cost of Travel Insurance is a personal choice. Travel insurance has never been more important or helpful than it is today. Purchasing appropriate and adequate travel insurance will protect your travel investment and decrease stress if you are not able to travel as planned.

If Ocean Sound Kayaking does not receive a completed form a month prior to your trip, this suggests you have chosen not to protect yourself and your investment.

Medical Assistance in a remote location such as Haida Gwaii can be a very costly event. Ocean Sound Kayaking recommends that ALL guests cover themselves properly.

Tour delays can be costly, whether it's due to bad weather, cancelled or delayed transportation (flights, ferries or zodiac), Covid, and illness or like situations that Ocean Sound Kayaking cannot control, are not included in the tour costs.

Depending on your policy of choice, you may or may not be able to purchase coverage immediately, or the policy may require you to purchase it within a short time period prior to your tours start date. Whichever is the case, please advise Ocean Sound Kayaking of the following information at your convenience.

- Canadian Travelers, [here is a good starting point to compare coverage and costs.](#)
- International Travelers, [here is a good starting point to compare coverage and costs.](#)

## Emergency Contacts

In case of an outside emergency while on your sea kayak tour with Ocean Sound Kayaking, relatives and friends can contact you by following these instructions.

Please this is for emergency purposes only as many people will be going out of their way to relay your friends/family members call out.

Ocean Sound Kayaking Office      1 403 609 5576      [info@oceansoundkayaking.com](mailto:info@oceansoundkayaking.com)

My wife Lise can be of assistance. If she does not answer the phone, please leave a message, and then continue to proceed to call Moresby Explorers.

Moresby Explorers Office      1 250 637 2215      [info@moresbyexplorers.com](mailto:info@moresbyexplorers.com)

This is a company that I work closely with on Haida Gwaii and they have an office person available almost 24/7, until 9 pm at night. They have multiple guides daily in the park and will be able to get the message to me/you at our remote location.

The caller must identify that the message is for a participant of Ocean Sound Kayaking, as they deal with a lot of people and leave contact # with Moresby Explorers for us.

In the field, Ocean Sound Kayaking has 2 marine radio phones, a satellite phone, and an Inreach for emergencies only, so we have the capability to call out to the required personal, anywhere in the world.

### Health Regulations

Ocean Sound Kayaking recognizes with respect the traditional territory of the Haida First Nations. Following the health regulations set out by the [council of Haida Nation](#), [Federal](#) and [Provincial Government](#) of Canada will be maintained at all times.

### Haida Gwaii Visitor Centers

Many guests often enjoy a few extra days exploring the islands before or after their kayak trip, which I can definitely help with some suggestions for activities and attractions. To get the most current information on car rentals, Graham Island accommodations, hiking trails, etc. one should check out the following webpages: [Sandspit Visitor Center](#), [Go Haida Gwaii](#), or the [Daajing Giids Visitor Center](#)





## Rental Gear

Ocean Sound Kayaking attacks campers, and we feel if you are a camper, you should either have the items to fulfill the gear list, or the community of friends that can help fill in those gaps.

I do offer the following items to Ocean Sound Kayaking guests only.

I have the ability to outfit 2 guests per trip, its first come first serve when it comes to rentals.

Here is the rental pricing for the following items:

- 30\$/ trip Complete set of Dry Bags (2x5L, 2x10L, 1X20L)
- 30\$/ trip Paddling Jacket
- 30\$/ trip 3 season Sleeping Bag
- 30\$/ trip 3 season Therma-a-rest



## OSK Gear List – Tried and Tested since 1989!

Once you have registered with Ocean Sound Kayaking, a very comprehensive information package with over three decades of trial and use - will discuss the following to set you up for success:

- Gear List – An Extensive information package regarding desired material, ideal gear, foot wear, etc
- How to your pack your items
- Preparing you for the Day One
- Books
- Wildlife Etiquette

### Printable Itemized Check List for your reference:

- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping pad
- Sleeping Bag Liner (renters)
- Camp Chair
- 1- 2 Ikea bag(s)
- Dry Bags 1/20L, 2/10L, 2/5
- Rain Coat & Pant
- Paddle Jacket
- Camp foot wear
- Kayaking Foot wear
- 1-liter wide mouth water bottle
- Mug/ Thermos (250 – 500ml)
- Snacks
- 2 pairs of nylon quick drying shorts
- 2 pairs of nylon quick drying pants
- 3- 4 pairs of wool socks
- thermal vest
- 1- 2 short sleeve quick dry shirt
- 2 pairs of thermal long under wear and top
- 2 long sleeve quick drying shirts
- 4- 7 pairs of underwear
- Insulated Jacket, Synthetic Fill is ideal, as fleece/ wool sweater is bulky.
- Bandana, or balaclava
- Toque, winter hat for those south of the boarder
- Brimmed hat of sort
- Lip Balm
- Sunglasses
- Sun Screen
- Headlamp (new batteries)
- Toiletries and personal medication
- Wet wipes – quantify
- Environmental Camp Soap
- Bathing suit or Haida style
- Small quick dry towel
- 2-3 lighters
- 5 large zip lock bags
- 4 large thick garbage bags
- Camera
- Extra Batteries and Storage Insect repellent
- Optional Book – kindle
- Optional Binoculars
- Optional small collapsible umbrella
- Optional Pocket Knife
- Optional Fishing License/Gear
- Optional Wine/ Spirit



## Snacks

Over years I have noticed that everyone's palette is different when it comes to snacks. We ask guests to bring their own snacks for their personal time in camp and while on the water kayaking to ensure you are getting the specific snack you desire.

## Alcohol and Cannabis

Alcohol is welcomed on all our trips. Supervalu has a variety of spirits for you to choose from. We simply ask that you pack out all recyclable products.

Cannabis is legal within Canada; however, it is illegal within all National Park's, and for this reason alone, we ask that you to respect this.



## Tents

When it comes to your home away from home, I believe in quality tents.

Designed for comfort, strength, and inclement weather conditions, OSK will use the following tents for our tours:

[Link - Mountain Hardware Trango Tent](#)

[Link - Big Agnes Copper Spur HV 3 Expedition](#)

## Reflections



As a small business I am always striving to provide an exceptional experience to my guests. I understand this is your vacation, and I wish to make it a memorable journey. I will connect and reflect with you, regarding your experience with Ocean Sound Kayaking.

From my family to you - haawa for choosing Ocean Sound Kayaking.



If you have any questions regarding the following information or Haida Gwaii in general, please do not hesitate to [contact me.](#)