

## **The OSK Philosophy**

We have been introducing people of all ages, abilities, from around the world to Haida Gwaii for the past 30 years, and we want to ensure that all our guests have a clear understanding of our trips before we start, so that your expectations are met.

First and foremost, it's important to note that age is just a number to us. We see that you are an adventurous soul who seeks intrinsic wilderness experiences, and that's exactly what we aim to provide. If you're in good physical condition and willing to share in occasional camp chores, you're welcome on our tours.

In our lives, the environment plays a significant role in shaping our experiences and emotions. This is precisely why we are so irresistibly drawn to the untamed beauty of nature. Our encounters with pristine natural spaces have the remarkable ability to revive, fortify, and broaden our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Through our extensive explorations of Gwaii Haanas, we have gained profound insights into our own identities and our aspirations for living harmoniously on this planet. The essence of our kayak expeditions exemplifies our unwavering dedication to nurturing a sense of community, championing environmental responsibility, and fostering enlightening educational experiences.

## **Community**

A successful kayak group thrives on the combined skills of its members to achieve shared goals and overcome adversity. Together, we are able to surpass individual limitations, sharing burdens and responsibilities to enhance our collective standard of living. Our group's resilience enables us to conquer nature's challenges and fully embrace each day. The bond of community, cooperation, and sharing unites strangers as friends within our group. During our trips, both guides and guests benefit from mutual learning, fostering a welcoming environment where we can collectively grow and explore.

## **Environmental Responsibility**

We are honored to share this incredible opportunity with you and are fully committed to preserving the environmental well-being of Gwaii Haanas and Haida Gwaii as a whole. In both our personal lives and business practices, we prioritize sustainability and environmental responsibility. We strive to minimize our ecological footprint through thoughtful consumption, reuse, and recycling. Additionally, we actively support the local economy by collaborating with other businesses, sourcing local produce, and hiring local staff. Furthermore, we are dedicated to giving back to our communities by allocating a percentage of our profits to fund enriching experiences on Haida Gwaii.

## **Education**

If you have a passion for kayaking, nature, and the life of Haida Gwaii, we are here to make your experience unforgettable. While we journey as a group, there is always time for individual pursuits, such as fishing, honing kayaking skills, relaxing with a good book, exploring the intertidal pools, or taking in the tranquil beauty of the forests. When it comes to understanding the rich cultural and human history of these islands, we have the privilege of tapping into the knowledge and wisdom of the Haida Watchmen. This incredible program, established in 1981, is dedicated to safeguarding the natural and cultural legacy of abandoned village sites in Gwaii Haanas. From May to September, Haida guardians oversee these sites, ensuring minimal visitor impact and offering a warm welcome to the villages. Their role goes beyond preservation, as they breathe life into their ancestral homes, reminding us of the integral connection between humans and the environment.