

Our guided kayak tours and expeditions explore the most distant regions of Haida Gwaii; an area that highlights the best of Gwaii Haanas National Park. The southern tip of Gwaii Haanas consists of secluded island clusters, isolated beaches, jutting headlands and sheltered inlets. Humpback whales and tufted puffins thrive in this rich and diverse marine environment. Our group size is six guests plus two guides. Each person is equipped with a single kayak. Discover the wilderness spirit of these remote, misty isles.

Visit the extraordinary ancient Haida village of Ninstints. This historical settlement is a [United Nations World Heritage Site](#), also known as SGang Gwaay.

Join veteran guide [Gord Pincock](#) on his 38th summer of kayaking Haida Gwaii. Enjoy the many advantages of traveling with the most experienced sea kayak guide in Gwaii Haanas National Park.

This document contains general information on our guided sea kayak trips, as well as details on our reservation and cancellation policies. Our website contains [itineraries](#) for all our tours and expeditions, a [photo & video gallery](#), an interactive [route map](#), our [menu](#) details plus a current list of trip [space availability](#).

[Gwaii Haanas](#) is a remote wilderness archipelago situated in the North Pacific, off the west coast of British Columbia. The area is managed by the unique partnership of [Parks Canada](#) and the [Council of the Haida Nation](#). Butterfly Tours explores the isolated and pristine southernmost regions of Gwaii Haanas; an area preserved in its natural state. By concentrating on the most remote regions of the archipelago, we leave behind all signs of civilization. Here, the temperate rainforests include giant old-growth cedar, spruce and hemlock, completely untouched by modern logging.

These trips are not designed to be suitable for everyone. Our kayak tours and expeditions are best suited to participants who are reasonably [able-bodied](#). We encourage the process of [informed selection](#) that occurs while people decide which outfitter to choose. Those who enjoy our trips the most tend to [read our website](#) in detail before making reservations.

We experience a variety of sea conditions during the wilderness kayak journeys. When it becomes too windy, we remain on shore; there are many scenic campsites that provide great shelter during stormy days. On calmer days, we venture out in the kayaks to experience some gentle ocean swell and light to moderate winds.

Our wilderness kayak journeys provide plenty of time to "simply be" on Haida Gwaii, as well as opportunities to paddle between the islands. Each day we cook wholesome [slow food](#) over a driftwood campfire while enjoying quiet, unstructured time on shore. Those who become comfortable with "being in the moment" tend to gain more pleasure from our trips, compared to those whose attention may be continually focused on reaching some other destination.

We offer several trips suitable for relatively inexperienced paddlers, including our accommodation tours. Some previous kayaking experience is highly recommended; attending a sea kayaking course prior to a trip could provide valuable skills to an inexperienced paddler. Additionally, we offer more [advanced expeditions](#) specifically suited to experienced kayakers.

The "Butterfly way" refers to our [style of travel](#). It is based in communication, cooperation and the eternal principles of seaworthiness. The Butterfly way evolved during well over a quarter-century of sea kayak tours and expeditions on Haida Gwaii. It is a considerate method of wilderness travel and appropriate conduct, most appreciated by [team players](#).

Even with accomplished paddlers, we ask each group member to cooperate with our professional risk management guidelines. Our groups remain with the guides when on the water; there are very limited opportunities to paddle without the guides. Those who may not appreciate this style of group-oriented risk management are urged to consider a self-guided trip. Most people who willingly work in cooperation with others and value a group's interdependence will appreciate and enjoy our style of travel.

Arriving with appropriate outdoor clothing is essential to each guest's comfort and personal well-being during the trip. A detailed clothing and equipment list is provided upon registration.

Wilderness kayak journeys are guided camping trips. These experiences are well suited to those seeking a degree of personal challenge; the North Pacific can be an exciting place to explore by kayak. Our guides comply with changing weather and sea conditions. Depending on conditions, we generally paddle up to five hours in a day. After a couple of hours in the kayaks we typically go ashore to enjoy lunch before returning to sea.

Accommodation tours provide a "softer" adventure with heated, indoor lodging after each kayak day-trip. These tours are suitable for a wide range of skill levels and preferences; relatively inexperienced paddlers and accomplished kayakers are all welcome, as are those who may prefer not to paddle.

We provide each participant with a Seaward Tyee fibreglass **single kayak**. Many kayakers seek the freedom and rewards of paddling their own craft, yet not everyone prefers to be responsible for the propulsion of their own vessel. Arriving with reasonable **balance, reflexes, fitness and coordination** will generally enable people to enjoy touring at **optimum cruising speed** in our single kayaks. Of course, the ability to maintain a positive attitude during challenging moments will also provide a tremendous advantage.

If you are interested in our trips and want to invite a friend, please be sure that your friend also seeks the additional challenges provided by a single kayak. See our website for important information on [inviting a friend or partner](#).

As an alternative, a Seaward Southwind fibreglass double kayak is available; however, we do not provide a paddling partner for the double. (We provide each person with the opportunity to paddle a single kayak.) If you would prefer paddling the double, please be sure to arrive with a paddling partner.

Our fleet of fibreglass Seaward Tyee kayaks can comfortably fit a wide range of people; Tyees are relatively spacious single kayaks. Two of our Tyees are high-volume models, making them even roomier for long-legged people. Before registering on a trip, it is recommended that particularly large people try out a high-volume **Seaward Tyee** (with a standard-sized cockpit) to ensure that the kayak will fit them.

Team Players & Group Awareness

Our guides promote group awareness and respect; the best interest of the group generally outweighs the desires of an individual. Many people naturally understand and embrace this universal social concept.

Unfortunately, a few people seem to reject group consciousness - they may be accustomed to continually getting their own way. Our trips are not likely to fulfill the desires of these few.

Team players willingly work in cooperation with others and value a group's interdependence. Most team players entirely appreciate and enjoy the trips we offer.

Personal Preparation

Self-propelled multi-day wilderness journeys involve some challenging moments. These moments may not happen each day. When they do occur, the challenges are often quite brief. Many people relish the moments as they arise, some soon consider them a highlight of the trip. Every year, a variety of people enjoy kayaking with Butterfly Tours. Several of our guests are small women in their sixties. Smaller people and less experienced kayakers can enjoy exploring the North Pacific by single kayak, provided they are **able-bodied** and maintain a positive attitude during challenging moments. Ultimately, a person's flexible and positive attitude, combined with an openness to learning, can become far more important than their perceived level of experience.

Our guides are accomplished kayak instructors, able to assist each guest in developing efficient paddling techniques. However, properly utilizing these techniques requires each participant to arrive uninjured, with dependable reflexes and reasonable balance, fitness and coordination. When these physical capabilities are combined with a positive and flexible attitude, people appreciate and enjoy the wilderness journeys we offer. Each prospective tour guest and expedition participant is encouraged to view the information on **cruising speed**, available on our **website**. Additional details are provided online for those **inviting a friend or partner**.

Our food is healthy, tasty and abundant. Your guide Gord is an excellent chef, with decades of professional campfire cooking experience. Meals are of a vegetarian nature, with the possibility of adding freshly gathered seafoods. We provide **wholesome, delicious meals**; however, it is not always possible for us to cater to an individual's specific food preferences. Those with special dietary requirements are asked to provide their own preferred menu items suitable for campfire cooking. If you require specific foods, or are entirely unable to eat certain foods, please **contact Gord** to request more information *before* registering on a trip.

These trips are not designed to be suitable for everyone. We encourage the process of **informed selection** that occurs while people decide which outfitter to choose. Please see our website for **detailed preparation information**.

What is Included on Waters of SGang Gwaay & Cape Freeman. See our website for what is [included on other trips](#).

- Certified and experienced sea kayak guide and assistant guide.
- Seaward Tyee [single kayaks are provided](#).
- A Seaward Southwind double kayak is also available. (If you prefer the double, please arrive with a paddling partner.)
- [Tents](#), tarps, [paddles](#), [sprayskirts](#), [PFDs](#) and group gear.
- [Delicious meals](#), from lunch on day one to lunch on day eight.
- National Park entrance fee is included.
- [Speedboat transport](#) between Sandspit and Rose Harbour. (Alternate transport may be substituted.)
- Dinner and accommodation at the Rose Harbour Guest House on the last night of the kayak trip.
- In the unlikely event of delayed transport due to weather or other factors on the last days of the tour, meals and accommodation are provided to guests in Rose Harbour.

What's not Included on Waters of SGang Gwaay & Cape Freeman Expedition. See our website for [other trips](#).

- [Transportation](#) between your home and Sandspit, British Columbia.
- [Accommodation](#) and meals in Sandspit prior to and following the kayak trip.
- [Gratuities](#) are entirely optional and always greatly appreciated.
- Each person loads and unloads their kayak, as well as sets up and takes down their tent.
- Each person provides their own sleeping bag & pad, appropriate outdoor clothing, eating utensils and items of a personal nature.
- Arriving with appropriate outdoor clothing is essential to each guest's comfort and personal well-being.
(A detailed clothing and equipment list is provided upon registration.)
- If a tour guest or expedition participant misses our chartered speedboat, alternate transport costs are not included.
- If boat transport to SGang Gwaay is requested by guests, this optional transport is not included.
- In the unlikely event of delayed transport due to weather or other factors on the first days of the tour, additional expenses such as accommodation and meals in Sandspit are not included.

Travel to Sandspit See our website for [travel and accommodation](#) options.

Reservations

A deposit of \$500 per person is payable in Canadian or [American](#) dollars and will hold your space until four months prior to departure, at which time the balance of payment becomes due. Last-minute reservations are welcome and require full payment within one week in order to confirm space.

Before making a reservation, please familiarize yourself with the terms of the [cancellation policy](#).

[Mothership cruise](#) reservations require a \$1000 deposit and are managed by [Ocean Light II Adventures](#).

Online payments

Please see our website to transfer funds within Canada via [Interac e-Transfer](#), or to complete an international, secure credit card transaction via [PayPal](#).

Phone payments

We accept Visa, MasterCard & American Express payments by phone for CAD \$500 per person deposits.

Phone payments are *only* for Canadian dollar deposits. For card verification, we require the 3-digit CSC and *Canadian* billing postal code. Sorry, the phone-in credit card system is not available for balance of payment, or USD transactions.

To charge your credit card in USD, please use [PayPal](#).

Mail payments

We accept Canadian and American funds by cheque, money order and bank draft, payable to Butterfly Tours, or Evolution Guide School, or Gord Pincock. Please [contact us](#); we will hold space for up to one week to allow time for your deposit to arrive by mail.

Wire transfer payments

We accept international wire transfers. A \$25 surcharge is added to each wire transfer, which helps cover our bank's receiving fees. Your bank may also charge you a sending fee. A wire transfer may be the most economical method of payment for overseas transactions. For transactions within Canada and the USA, it is often more economical to use [PayPal](#), or to mail a money order or bank draft. [Contact us](#) for wire transfer details.

Confirming Reservations

Upon receiving your deposit, Butterfly Tours will provide you with access to our password-protected online resource. The resource includes printable files containing the equipment list, medical form, waiver and terms.

To confirm your reservation, the completed medical form, waiver, terms and balance of payment must be received by Butterfly Tours at least four months prior to departure.

Please contact us if you are going to miss the due date. For details, see: [Cancelled Reservations](#)

Last-minute reservations are welcome and require full payment within one week in order to confirm space. (Reservations made less than four months prior to departure are considered last-minute.)

Payment is accepted by Interac e-Transfer, cheque, money order, bank draft, wire transfer or PayPal.

We cover PayPal's processing fee for the \$500 per person deposit.

If you later provide the balance of payment via PayPal, a 5% processing fee is charged. To avoid the 5% fee, please provide your balance of payment by cheque, money order, bank draft, wire transfer or Interac.

If you would like to pay the balance by PayPal, please [contact us](#) to request an invoice.

There is *no additional fee* for the \$500 per person deposit. The 5% fee is charged *only* if you later provide balance of payment via PayPal.

Balance of payment must be provided in the same currency as the deposit.

American participants may find it beneficial to pay their deposit in USD via PayPal, then later mail a USD cheque to cover their balance of payment.

Different conditions apply to the [Outer Coast Expedition](#), our [seat sale](#) and [group discounts](#).

Cancellation Policy

Since numerous arrangements and commitments are made immediately upon receiving a reservation, we adhere to the following cancellation policy. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended.

If you cancel...

- Four months or more prior to departure, a \$300 per person cancellation fee is charged.
- Three to four months prior to departure, 50% of the trip price is non-refundable.
- Less than three months prior to departure, 100% of the trip price is non-refundable.

On our [Dates & Prices web page](#), trips marked with an asterisk are confirmed departures. Most trips require only two people in order to become confirmed.

In the unlikely event that we must cancel a trip, you will have the choice of a free transfer to another trip, or a full refund of your payment to Butterfly Tours.

Before registering on a trip, please read the [preparation](#) web page and consider how you will [travel to Sandspit](#).

Different cancellation policies apply to the [Outer Coast Expedition](#), our [seat sale](#) and [group discounts](#).

Cancelled Reservations

To confirm your reservation, the completed medical form, waiver, terms and balance of payment must be received by Butterfly Tours at least four months prior to departure.

If the balance of payment and completed forms have not been received four months prior to departure, the reservation becomes cancelled. In this case, the space would be released to our waiting list and 50% of the trip price would become non-refundable.

Please contact us if you are going to miss the due date and would like to request extra time; it may be possible to hold your reservation for up to seven additional days to allow your completed forms to arrive by email, or express postal mail. (For Sechelt, express postal mail often arrives sooner than couriers: Purolator has a depot in Sechelt, FedEx does not.) Alternatively, please see: [Last-Minute Reservations](#)

Different payment conditions apply to the [Outer Coast Expedition](#), our [seat sale](#) and [group discounts](#).

Last-Minute Reservations

Last-minute reservations are welcome and require full payment within one week in order to confirm space. (Reservations made less than four months prior to departure are considered last-minute.)

Upon receiving your \$500 per person deposit, Butterfly Tours will provide you with access to our password-protected online resource. To confirm a last-minute reservation, the completed medical form, waiver, terms and balance of payment must be received by Butterfly Tours within one week.

Different conditions apply to the [seat sale](#) and [group discounts](#).

Transfers

Under certain circumstances, it may be possible to change a reservation to an alternate date during the same year. The following policy applies if you transfer to another trip after your reservation has been received.

If you transfer to another trip...

- Four months or more prior to departure, a \$300 per person transfer fee is charged.
- Less than four months prior to departure, an \$800 per person transfer fee is charged.

Transferring your reservation to another person may be possible in certain circumstances. Generally, it is your responsibility to find another [appropriate person](#) to take your place on a trip. Please contact Gord for details.

Different transfer conditions apply to [group discounts](#).

Returned Cheques To cover bank charges, there is a \$40 fee per returned cheque.

Fees Cancellation, transfer and returned cheque fees are listed in both Canadian and American dollars:

- If the trip price is paid in Canadian dollars, then fees are in Canadian currency.
- If the trip price is paid in American dollars, then fees are in American currency.

Currency Exchange Canadian dollar [prices are available online](#).

For approximate exchange rates, please see: IslandsofBeauty.com/exchange

Please contact us to request a currency exchange quote in American dollars. Due to fluctuating rates, our currency exchange quotes are valid for one week. To confirm your space after receiving a quote, payment must be delivered to Butterfly Tours within seven days.

Alternatively, reserve your space by paying a \$500 deposit. Balance of payment would then be due four months prior to departure, using the currency exchange quote in effect at the time. Please provide balance of payment in the same currency as your deposit.

- When paying in Canadian dollars, the CAD \$500 deposit is subtracted from the Canadian price.
- When paying in American dollars, the USD \$500 deposit is subtracted from the currency exchange quote in effect at the time your balance of payment is delivered.

Insurance Travel medical and trip cancellation insurance is recommended.

**Butterfly Tours &
Evolution Guide School**
owner, guide & instructor

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Gord is pleased to personally respond to email, phone and letter mail inquiries.
You are welcome to phone during Sechelt's daytime hours.

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