



Points of Interest

Haida Gwaii



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interest to learn more.

15 Prince Rupert

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15 Prince Rupert

Prince Rupert is known as the City of Rainbows, receiving over 2500mm (or 100in) of rain annually making it one of the wettest cities in Canada. As a transportation hub it affords access to some of the world's most remote and admired natural scenery.

Prince Rupert is located in an area rich with history dating back thousands of years. The natural deep-water harbour has long been an intersection of trade and commerce for the Indigenous People since time immemorial. The port today handles significant volumes of commercial traffic, and provides the shortest shipping route to the Asia-Pacific, with ocean-going freighters from all over the world loading products such as grain, lumber, pulp, sulphur and coal destined for international markets.

Prince Rupert is located on the traditional territory of the Tsimshian (Sim-she-ann). Other Nations from nearby territories are also represented in Prince Rupert, such as the Gitksan, Nisga'a, Haida, and Heiltsuk people.

Prince Rupert's name came from Charles Melville Hays, president of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, who saw the island on which it sits as the perfect terminus for marine trade, rail and sea travel. A competition was held in 1906 to name the town. The winning name of "Prince Rupert" was chosen after Rupert of the Rhine, the governor of the Hudson's Bay Company.

On May 8, 1908, the first sod was turned and by 1910 Prince Rupert was incorporated. Unfortunately, on a trip back from Europe in 1912 where he was raising money to finance his vision, Charles Hays met with an untimely death aboard the Titanic.

The arrival of settlers and missionaries, drawn by the fur trade and other goods, transformed many Tsimshian habitation sites into trading posts and western-style settlements. This period also saw the establishment of salmon canneries along the coastlines, with steamships and paddle-wheelers facilitating trade and transportation in the Prince

Rupert area. This laid the foundation for the local economy, particularly in commercial fishing, which continues to be a significant industry today.

The All Native Basketball Tournament and the vibrant arts scene in Prince Rupert exemplify the community's commitment to celebrating and preserving its rich cultural heritage.

16 Skidegate

Haida Gwaii is an archipelago of more than 150 islands spanning about 250 kilometers from north to south and covering approximately 10,000 square kilometers. It has a diverse and thriving natural environment, and is the homeland of the Haida Nation.

Before arriving on the islands, visitors are encouraged to take the Haida Gwaii Pledge at haidagwaiipledge.ca to learn how to be respectful visitors as they explore the islands.

The islands are bound by Hecate Strait to the east, Queen Charlotte Sound to the south, and the open Pacific to the west. The land is a paradise for nature lovers, with lush rainforests, rugged coastlines, and remote beaches. Visitors can explore moss-covered trails, stand among ancient cedar forests, identify unique plant species, and marvel at the abundant birdlife.

The marine life is also spectacular. You may spot humpback whales breaching, orcas gliding through the waters, and sea lions lounging on rocky outcrops. The area is rich in smaller marine animals like otters, seals, and porpoises. The tidal pools and beaches offer a fascinating glimpse into the vibrant ecosystem, with colorful starfish, crabs, and sea urchins.

Due to Haida Gwaii's isolation, there are many subspecies not found anywhere else on earth, including the Haida Gwaii black bear, or 'taan,' which is North America's largest black bear and can be seen along the beaches eating crab and other shelled seafood.

In the surrounding waters, twenty species of whales and dolphins have been recorded, with grey and humpback whales sighted regularly during spring migration. Over 1.5 million seabirds nest throughout the islands, and eagles and ravens are readily spotted in the skies above.

To preserve the beauty and integrity of these shining islands, follow the “Leave No Trace” principles. Pack out your trash, stay on designated trails, and respect the environment and yourself. If you’re camping, choose established sites and practice fire safety. Your efforts help ensure that Haida Gwaii remains a vibrant and thriving place for future generations.

Respect the land, cherish the marine life, and leave with memories that will last a lifetime.