Haida Gwaii and the Canadian West Coast

Itinerary July 22 - August 5, 2027

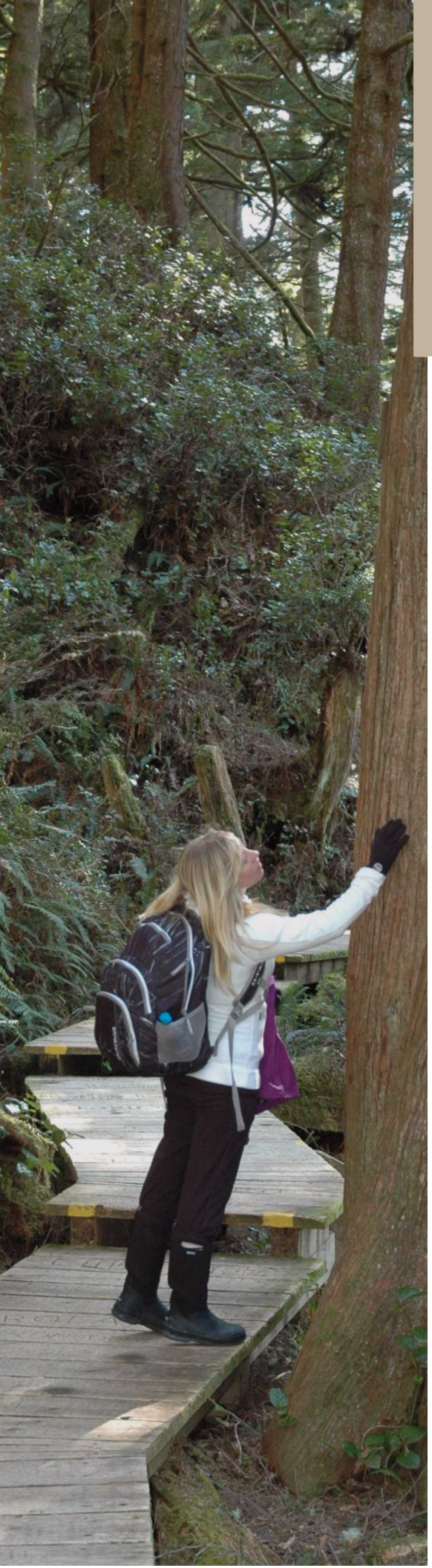
An Active, In-Depth Journey
by Way Out West Tours

WAY OUT WEST
Tours & Charters

Overview

Embark on a fully guided, 15-day journey through **Haida Gwaii and the Canadian West Coast**, combining scenic landscapes, rich culture, and engaging activities at a comfortable pace. From the vibrant streets of **Vancouver** and **Victoria**, to the coastal forests of **Tofino**, the charming towns of **Campbell River** and **Whistler**, and finally the remote islands of **Haida Gwaii**, this tour immerses you in Canada's Pacific coast like never before.

Enjoy **daily explorations**, short hikes, wildlife encounters, and **cultural experiences** led by professional local guides, with all transportation, select meals, and accommodations thoughtfully arranged. This journey is designed for curious travelers who want to experience Western Canada beyond the highlights, without compromising comfort or ease.



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Inclusions

Included in journey offer:

- 14 nights accommodation
- 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 9 dinners
- All ground and ferry transportation as per itinerary
- Return flight Vancouver - Haida Gwaii (economy class)
- Professional local guides throughout
- All listed group excursions, including admission to Butchart Gardens, Kayak tour, Wildlife Rescue Center, Salmon Hatchery, Squamish & Lil'wat Cultural Center, Campbell River Museum, Haida Heritage Center, totem pole workshop, Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum, boot tour to K'uuna Llnagaay
- In Tofino: Choice between whale watching, surfing lesson or Maquinna hot springs tour
- In Whistler: Choice between Peak 2 Peak gondola, biathlon lesson, zip-lining or spa entry.
- All applicable local taxes and national parks fees
- Gratuities

Note: Itinerary and inclusions can be subject to changes due to external factors such as weather or supplier constraints.

Exclusions

- Flights to/from Vancouver before/after tour
- Travel insurance
- Optional activities
- Meals not listed
- Personal Expenses

DAY 1, July 22
VANCOUVER

Your journey begins in this vibrant west-coast city. Starting at noon, your tour director from Way Out West Tours will take you on a guided tour of Vancouver's highlights. See the **totem poles in Stanley Park**, the Lions Gate Bridge, Downtown, Chinatown, and Gastown, and learn about the rich and diverse history of this remarkable place.
During the **welcome dinner**, you will meet your fellow travelers, and your tour director will share everything you need to know about the exciting two weeks ahead.

Details:
Meals: Welcome Dinner
Accommodation: Sheraton Wallcenter Vancouver, or similar

DAY 2-3, July 23-24
VICTORIA

Day 2: Cross the Georgia Strait by ferry and arrive on Vancouver Island — your home for the next week. The first highlight is a visit to the famous **Butchart Gardens**, a stunning collection of themed flower gardens, including the Japanese Garden and the Sunken Garden. In the afternoon, arrive in British Columbia's capital, Victoria, where your guide leads a tour from historic **Chinatown** to Mile Zero. Afterwards, explore the city on your own: visit the **Parliament Building**, the Royal BC Museum, or enjoy a stroll along the waterfront to **Fisherman's Wharf**.

Day 3: Today brings you to Sooke for a round of **guided kayaking** — traditionally one of the most important modes of transport along Canada's rugged coastline. Alternatively explore Sooke town. Afterwards, take time to explore the lush **Sooke Potholes Provincial Park**, set within a mystical, forested river landscape. The day concludes with a relaxed group dinner.

Details:
Meals: Breakfasts, Dinner on day 3
Accommodation: Best Western Plus Inner Harbour Hotel

DAY 4-6, July 25-27
TOFINO

Day 4: Your journey continues through the interior of Vancouver Island, where you will meet some special residents: wild animals at a **rescue centre**, offering insight into the beauty and fragility of Western Canada's wildlife. Afterwards, the group goes on a short hike to the **"Hole in the Wall"** rock formation. The destination for the day is Tofino and **Pacific Rim National Park**, known for its surfing beaches, marine wildlife sightings, and west-coast lifestyle.

Day 5: Tofino awaits with an abundance of activities. after breakfast go **whale watching** or take a boat to **Maquinna Provincial Park** and enjoy a swim at the natural **Hot Springs Cove**. Along the way, spot sea lions, bald eagles, and—if you are lucky— black bears.

Day 6: More opportunities to get active in Tofino. A moderate hike through the rainforest leads to a historic **plane crash site**. Visit beautiful beaches or you try a **surfing lesson**. Beyond its marine activities, Tofino is also known for its vibrant restaurant scene.

Details:
Meals: Breakfasts, Dinner on day 5
Accommodation: Tofino Motel Harbourview, or similar

DAY 7-8, July 28-29
CAMPBELL RIVER

Day 7: Vancouver Island has much more to offer. The morning begins with a visit to Ucluelet, or "Ukee." Go for an easy hike on the **Wild Pacific Trail** along the rugged west coast, where powerful waves crash over boulders and cliffs. It is an ideal place to spot wildlife, listen to the ocean, and enjoy a picnic. Next, stop at an **old-growth forest** and the bizarre rock formations of the **Oyster Creek Potholes**. You will arrive in Campbell River, the world's salmon fishing capital.

Day 8: Campbell River is a "real" Canadian town, and today you will experience local life and celebrate with the community. Visit a **salmon hatchery** and learn about this keystone species. Feel the power of water while crossing the suspension bridge at **Elk Falls**. Then have a look at the **traditional "Tyee"-club** and let a fisherman tell you about his greatest catch.
Explore the **Campbell River Museum** to learn about coastal First Nations' culture, logging, and fishing, and see evidence of history's largest conventional explosion, which occurred nearby. Enjoy the evening with ocean views and cruise ships passing by or a stroll through town with its antique shops, souvenir stands and arts galleries.

Details:
Meals: Breakfasts (one of them picnic style), Dinner on day 7
Accommodation: Above Tide Motel (with ocean-front rooms)

DAY 9-10, July 30-31
WHISTLER

Day 9: The tour leaves Vancouver Island and continues to Whistler, host of the 2010 Winter Olympics. After returning to the mainland by ferry, enjoy one of British Columbia's most scenic drives along the **Sea-to-Sky Highway**. The road winds beside the Howe Sound fjord, offering spectacular views of islands and the **Coast Mountains**, with scenic stops along the way. **Whistler Village** is a lively pedestrian-only area. Your tour director will lead a walking tour highlighting key sights, museums, dining options, and local shops.
The region is home to the **Squamish and Lil'wat Nations**, who together established a cultural centre well worth visiting. A welcoming song introduces a guided tour where you will learn about local traditions, arts, and First Nations history.

Day 10: Time to get active in the mountains. Choose one of the following included activities: Visit **Whistler Olympic Park** and try yourself at the biathlon shooting range, ride the Peak 2 Peak Gondola, go zip-lining or relax in the Scandinavian Spa. This evening marks the end of the first part of your vacation and the group meets for a group dinner again.

Details:
Meals: Breakfasts, Dinner on day 10
Accommodation: Aava Hotel or similar

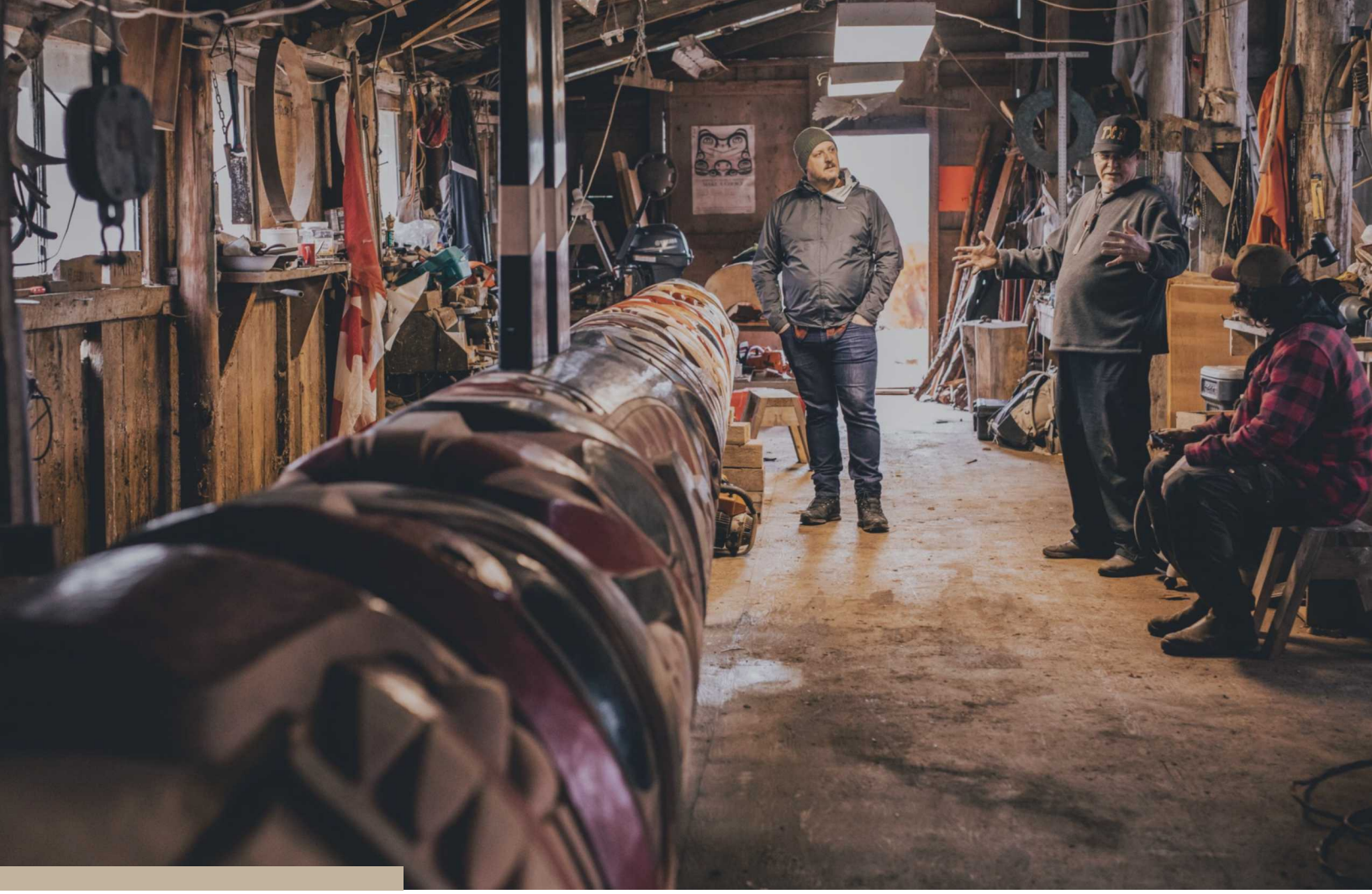
DAY 11-12, August 1-2
HAIDA GWAII

Day 11: One more time you pass along the Sea 2 Sky Highway and reach the airport of Vancouver. The group boards a **flight to Sandspit** in Haida Gwaii. This is where you meet your Ocean Edge Expeditions tour director who leads the last days of the tour.

Your Haida adventure begins with a scenic journey by highway and ferry to Graham Island. After checking into your comfortable accommodation, you'll enjoy a **traditional Haida dinner** in the home of a local Elder, savoring authentic cuisine while learning about Haida Gwaii's rich culture and history. This intimate gathering offers a deep connection to the land and its people, concluding with an orientation to prepare you for the incredible experiences ahead.

Day 12: Begin with a guided pole tour at the **Haida Heritage Centre**, where you'll learn about the significance of Haida crest poles and their stories. Explore the Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum, immersing yourself in the island's history through ancient artifacts and Haida craftsmanship. In the afternoon, embark on a cultural interpretive hike along the **GuulGa Siiwaay K'iiwaay/Spirit Lake Trail**, guided by a local expert who will share the rich history and significance of the land..

Details:
Meals: All Breakfasts, Lunch on day 12, and both Dinners
Accommodation: Jags Guest Rooms

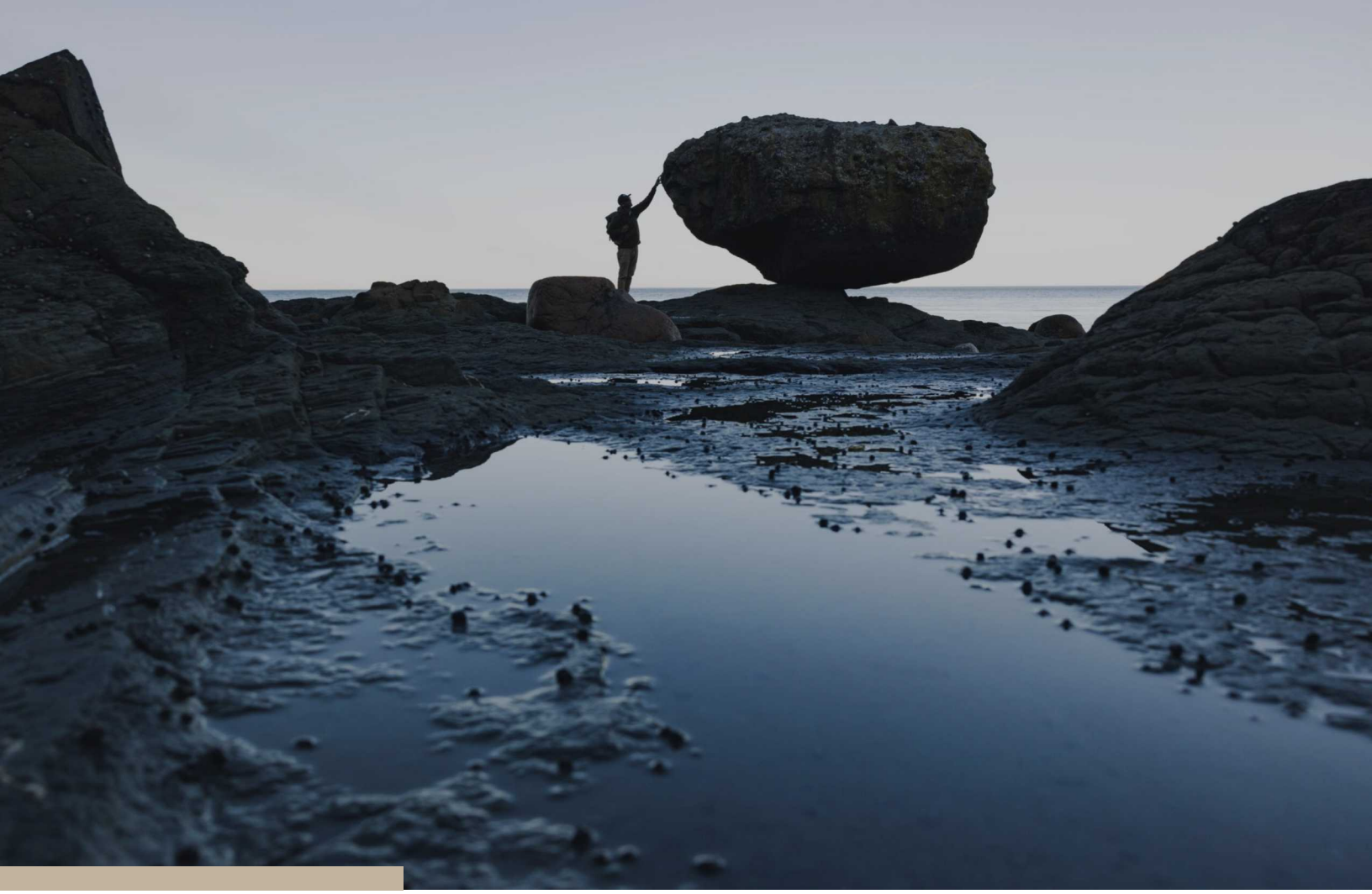


DAY 13-14, August 3-4
HAIDA GWAII

Day 13: Immerse yourself in Haida artistry by **visiting a local carving** shed to learn about the intricate process of Haida crest pole creation. Then, explore Haida art galleries featuring both traditional and contemporary works. Next, visit the **Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum** to discover the region's maritime history before heading to North Beach to see the tallest standing Haida crest pole in Hiellen Longhouse Village. In the afternoon, enjoy an easy hi**ke to the blowholes**, followed by an optional and more moderate trek up **Tow Hill**, a historic landmark once used by Haida navigators. Both trails offer breathtaking views and a deeper connection to the island's cultural and natural landscapes.

Day 14: Embark on another Haida experience. Journey to **K'uuna Llnagaay**, an ancient indigenous village site, where an enclosed vessel takes you to a powerful historical landscape filled with original Haida crest poles and rich cultural stories. This tour provides excellent opportunities to witness marine life along the way, making for an unforgettable day on the water.

Details:
Meals: All Breakfasts, Lunches and Dinners
Accommodation: Jags Guest Rooms



DAY 15, August 5
HAIDA GWAII

On this last day, visit the iconic **Balance Rock**, a striking natural landmark perfect for reflection. We will then board the ferry to travel to Moresby Island to participate in a short, easy hike on the Louise Dover Memorial trail located in the Damaxyaa Conservancy. We will then enjoy a **farewell lunch** together prior to travelling to the Sandspit Airport to check-in for departure.

Details:
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Transport: Flight back to Vancouver (Economy Class, 1 piece of checked luggage)