

# Northern BC Explorer

## ITINERARY

### Port Hardy - Prince Rupert - Skidegate, Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands) - Prince Rupert - Terrace - Hazelton

#### PORT HARDY TO PRINCE RUPERT

From Port Hardy you will travel aboard BC Ferries to Prince Rupert. This is a full day journey up the fjord-like waters of the Inside Passage. Prince Rupert is home for many of the Tsimshian First Nations people, as well as members of other First Nations bands in the north. Prince Rupert is a major transportation hub - it is a deep-sea port and quickly becoming one of the busiest on the west coast with container and cruise ships visiting from around the world.

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While in Prince Rupert, introduce yourself to the colourful and rich history of this city, including the culture and history of the Tsimshian First Nations. **Seashore Charters** features a selection of sightseeing excursions which introduce the visitor to the culture, history, wildlife and natural splendour of Prince Rupert and the surrounding region. Seashore Charters' guides share their First Nations culture and history with the visitors as well as interpret the natural surrounding of the region. Tours offered range from sightseeing excursions and cultural interpretation programs, to sea kayaking, whale watching, grizzly bear viewing and fishing charters.

A must visit in Prince Rupert is the **Museum of Northern B.C.** View exhibits that portray Northwest Coast history and culture dating back to the end of the last ice age. Witness the legacy of oral history, archaeological discoveries, outstanding works of art and unique artifacts that depict the ancient and modern history of our spectacular region. Daily tours of the museum and performances at the Tsimshian Longhouse all bring the history of the Northwest Coast region alive.

#### ATBC MEMBERS

- Museum of Northern B.C.
- Seashore Charters

#### PRINCE RUPERT TO QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

From Prince Rupert you will board BC Ferries and sail west to the Queen Charlotte Islands. Known as Haida Gwaii by the Haida First Nations, the region is an archipelago renowned for its ancient rainforest, wildlife and rich culture. Located on scenic Haida Gwaii, the **Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay** celebrates the living culture of the Haida dating back some 12,000 years. This spectacular centre, owned and operated by the Skidegate Band, is located at the old Haida seaside village site of **Kaay Llnagaay** or "Sea Lion Town".

This world-class centre includes the Haida Gwaii Museum with extensive exhibits and audio-visuals, and the Bill Reid Teaching Centre. Visitors may have an opportunity to experience traditional performances in the "Performing House" and see carvers working on totem poles and canoes in the carving shed and marvel at Bill Reid's famous LooTaa in the Canoe House.

#### ATBC MEMBER

- Haida Heritage Centre at **Kaay Llnagaay**

#### QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS VIA PRINCE RUPERT AND TERRACE TO HAZELTON

From the Queen Charlotte Islands, travel aboard BC Ferries back to Prince Rupert. Upon arrival in Prince Rupert, follow the Skeena River to Terrace and Hazelton. The drive will take you along beautiful scenery with rough and craggy mountains and deep green forests.

There is a fascinating abundance of sights and activities of Aboriginal and cultural significance to be found in this region.

In Terrace, the **Kitselas Canyon National Historic Site** is a cultural tourism development undertaken by the Gitselasu First Nations. Currently, at the center there are 3 contemporary longhouses which house a carving shed, arts and crafts display as well as wildlife animal exhibits. The site features a 1.1 km long interpretive trail which leads to a viewpoint overlooking the Skeena River. There are also a number of cultural and historical features in and around the canyon; 3 ancient archaeological sites, and petroglyph sites which are only accessible when conditions permit. The site has guided and unguided tours available to the public.

In Hazelton, visit **'Ksan Historical Village and Museum**. The museum is located near the ancient village of Gitanmaax, at the confluence of the Bulkley and Skeena Rivers. As a replicated ancient village, 'Ksan illustrates many features of a Gitksan village from the distant past. The museum is the oldest component of 'Ksan Historical Village and Museum. Since 1960, 'Ksan's antecedent, the Skeena Treasure House, and the present 'Ksan Historical Village and Museum, have been amassing a sizable collection from the surrounding area. 'Ksan's museum collection consists of approximately 600 items. Comprised of both ceremonial and utilitarian materials, this collection illustrates the great diversity within the material culture of the Gitksan.

#### ATBC MEMBERS

- Kitselas Canyon National Historic Site
- 'Ksan Historical Village and Museum

