

## The Totem Trail - Land of Totems



**DURATION** 14 Nights / 15 Days  
**DATES** May to October, *check BC Ferries' schedule for sailings*  
**ROUTE** Vancouver | Victoria | Campbell River / Quadra Island | Port Hardy | Prince Rupert | Haida Gwaii | Prince Rupert | Smithers | Prince George

Discover British Columbia and its rich First Nations culture. Explore ancient villages and impressive totem sites, plus encounter stunning wildlife during whale and bear-watching tours on this fascinating and captivating itinerary. The totem poles you'll encounter on the journey are as varied as the cultures that make them, and recount timeless legends, clan lineages or notable events. British Columbia has some of the largest, oldest and the world's best examples of totem poles - with a number of these ancient art forms still standing in their original, historic settings. Touch these timeless treasures and interact with many of the world-famous master carvers and artists who live in these regions and share their heritage and culture as they create their art.

### SUGGESTED ITINERARY

#### Day 1-2 Vancouver Exploring

Vancouver is one of the world's most beautiful cities, rich with culture, nature and world-class shopping, dining and hotels. It is also home to the Coast Salish peoples including the Tsleil-waututh, Musqueam and Squamish Nations. Explore Aboriginal culture at the **Klahowya Village in Stanley Park** and visit the nearby Totem Poles. Other attractions include the **Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art** in downtown Vancouver or **Khot-La-Cha Art Gallery &**

**Gift Shop** just off the Lions Gate Bridge in North Vancouver. First Nations activities include a canoe adventure with **Takaya Tours** and a guided tour of the Coast Salish art and culture with **Richard Krentz Tours and Jewellery**. In the evening, enjoy First Nations cuisine at the **Salmon n' Bannock** restaurant.

#### Day 3 Vancouver | Victoria

Travel from Vancouver to Victoria on BC Ferries, for a scenic ferry ride through the Gulf Islands. Take the remainder of the day to explore Thunderbird Park next to the Royal British Columbia Museum. The park

is home to many totem poles and other First Nations monuments. Afterwards stop at the museum and explore the First Peoples Gallery, one of the permanent exhibitions of the museum. This gallery gives visitors dramatic glimpses of First Nations cultures before and after the arrival of Europeans.

#### Day 4 Victoria | Sidney Exploring

Explore the city sights of Victoria and the nearby harbour town of Sidney. In Sidney, **Sea Quest Adventures & Aboriginal Tours** welcomes visitors to its traditional territory to discover the

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rich cultural history of the Coast Salish people on whale-watching and cultural interpretive tours.

## Day 5 Victoria | Duncan | Campbell River | Quadra Island

From Victoria, travel north up the east coast of Vancouver Island to the community of Duncan. The route travels over the scenic Malahat Highway, which offers spectacular views to the Saanich Inlet and the Gulf Islands. Be sure to visit the **Qw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre** and enjoy an authentic First Nations experience, including interpretive tours, salmon barbecues, displays and live demonstrations, and traditional dance performances. From Duncan continue to Campbell River where you will take a short car ferry ride to quaint Quadra Island, the home of **Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge, the Oceanfront at Cape Mudge**. The lodge features Pacific Coast Kwagiulth architecture as well as traditional and contemporary Aboriginal art.

## Day 6 Quadra Island Exploring

While on Quadra Island you can explore the **Nuymbalees Cultural Centre** or partake in wildlife or adventure tours with **Aboriginal Journeys**. Their whale-watching and bear-viewing tours are interwoven with insights into local First Nations history and culture. In the evening enjoy West Coast seafood cuisine at the resort.

## Day 7 Quadra Island | Port McNeill | Alert Bay | Port Hardy

The North Island Highway travels through the rugged northern half of Vancouver Island. From Port McNeill, a short ferry ride will bring you to Alert Bay, home of the

Namgis First Nation. In Alert Bay you can explore the rich and vibrant culture and history of the Kwakwaka'wakw people at the **U'mista Cultural Centre** or at the **Culture Shock**

**Interactive Gallery**. Today's journey will end in Port Hardy.

## Day 8 Port Hardy | Inside Passage | Prince Rupert (BC Ferries)

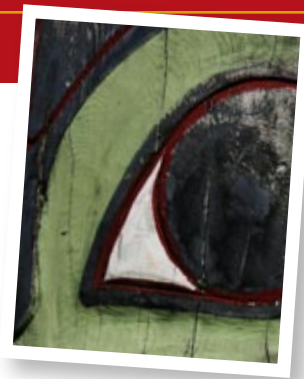
Enjoy the early morning sailing aboard BC Ferries to Prince Rupert. This is a full-day journey up the fjord-like waters of the Inside Passage. Enjoy the amenities of this vessel, and relax as it winds its way through some of the most rugged and beautiful sceneries in the world. Keep an eye out for wildlife along the shoreline, killer whales and porpoises in the channel or great bald eagles circling overhead. Watch for remote First Nations villages tucked into several of the bays along the route. You will arrive in Prince Rupert late evening.

## Day 9 Prince Rupert Exploring

Prince Rupert is home to 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. Take time to soak in the culture of the area. **The Museum of Northern BC**, housed in a magnificent, Northwest Coast-style longhouse, is a must-see.

## Day 10 Prince Rupert | Haida Gwaii

Upon arriving in Haida Gwaii either via ferry or by plane, head for Tlell. A charming town mid-island, Tlell offers guests easy



access to the northern and southern parts of Graham Island (the northern island of Haida Gwaii). Miles of beaches, a meandering

river hugging lush forests, an abundance of hiking trails and many quaint artisan shops makes this an ideal getaway for everyone.

The Haida House at Tlaal will be your home for the next three days.

## Day 11 Haida Gwaii Exploring

You may wish to relax at the Haida House, or explore other parts of the island. Visit Old Massett with 18 totem poles each with its unique design. You can take a tour that will explain the history and meaning of each totem pole. In Skidegate, the **Haida Heritage Centre** invites you to explore the fascinating history and living culture of the Haida. Don't miss the Farmers' Market in Queen Charlotte or the many potlatches and cultural events available during the summer months.

## Day 12 Moresby Island Exploring

Today you will explore many fascinating inlets of Moresby Island (the southern island of Haida Gwaii) and Gwaii Haanas by zodiac boat. The main stop is the ancient Haida village of Skedans. A Haida Gwaii Watchman will be your guide and explain the history of the village and the meaning of the remaining totem poles.

## Day 13 Haida Gwaii | Prince Rupert

Travel aboard BC Ferries or by plane to Prince Rupert. If time allows, explore the surrounding areas of Prince Rupert. Known for great wildlife-viewing, Prince Rupert is also home to the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary. You can book cultural

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tours and wildlife-viewing adventures with **Seashore Charters.**

## Day 14 Prince Rupert | Terrace | Hazelton | Smithers

From 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 Hazelton, visit **'Ksan Historical Village and Museum.** As a replicated ancient village, 'Ksan illustrates many features of a Gitksan village from the distant past. Take a self-guided totem pole tour of neighbouring Kispiox, Gitanyow,

Gitwangak and Kitseguetia. Over 50 standing totem poles are located in eight scenic Aboriginal villages.

## Day 15 Tour Ends in Prince George

From Smithers, drive to Prince George - where you can head back to Vancouver or continue your trip to Jasper and the Canadian Rockies.

### TRIP OVERVIEW

Day	Location	Activities	Information on Totems	Hotel Suggestions	km / Day
1	Arrive in Vancouver	Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art Salmon' n Bannock Restaurant		Coast Coal Harbour Hotel	N/A
2	Vancouver Exploring	Klahowya Village in Stanley Park (Jun - Sep) Totem Poles in Stanley Park Khot-La-Cha Art Gallery & Gift Shop Takaya Tours Richard Krentz Tours and Jewellery	Eight Totem Poles in Stanley Park - these totems are the most-visited attraction in all of BC	Coast Coal Harbour Hotel	N/A
3	Vancouver to Victoria	Thunderbird Totem Park Royal British Columbia Museum	Thunderbird Park hosts many totem poles (mostly Gitksan, Haida, and Kwakwaka'wakw)	Abigail's Hotel	70 km / 1.30 hr Ferry
4	Victoria / Sidney Exploring	Whale-watching with Sea Quest Adventures & Aboriginal Tours (in Sidney)		Abigail's Hotel	52 km
5	Victoria to Quadra Island	Quw'utsun' Cultural & Conference Centre -Duncan	With 80 totems within the city, Duncan is also called "The City of Totems"	Tsa-Kwa-Luten, the Oceanfront Resort at Cape Mudge	267 km
6	Quadra Island Exploring	Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre - Quadra Island Whale-watching or bear-viewing tours with Aboriginal Journeys - Campbell River		Tsa-Kwa-Luten, the Oceanfront Resort at Cape Mudge	N/A
7	Quadra Island to Alert Bay ending in Port Hardy	U'mista Cultural Centre - Alert Bay Culture Shock Interactive Gallery - Alert Bay	The world's tallest totem pole (173 feet) can be found in Alert Bay	Quarter Deck Inn & Marina Resort	240 km
8	Inside Passage to Prince Rupert	Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Inside Passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert		The Crest Hotel	10.15 hr Ferry
9	Prince Rupert Exploring	Museum of Northern British Columbia		The Crest Hotel	N/A
10	Prince Rupert to Haida Gwaii	Travel by BC Ferries or Plane		Haida House at Tlaal	6 hr by Ferry or 1 hr by Plane
11	Haida Gwaii Exploring	Haida Heritage Centre - Skidegate	Explore the 18 totem poles of Old Massett and the totem poles at the Haida Heritage Centre	Haida House at Tlaal	N/A
12	Gwaii Haanas Exploring	Zodiac tour to Skedans, an ancient Haida village site with Moresby Explorer	Ancient totem poles at Skedans	Haida House at Tlaal	N/A
13	Haida Gwaii to Prince Rupert	Travel by BC Ferries or Plane		The Crest Hotel	6 hr by Ferry or 1 hr by Plane
14	Prince Rupert to Smithers	Explore the region 'Ksan Historic Village and Museum	Over 50 standing totem poles located in eight scenic Aboriginal villages	Hudson Bay Lodge	348 km
15	Smithers to Prince George	Tour ends in Prince George			371 km