

- | People | Pronunciation |
|-------------|---------------|
| Sekani | Sik-un-ee |
| Squamish | Wet-sweet-en |
| Tsilhqot'in | Chik-then |
| Gitksan | Git-k-san |
| Gitksan | Gik-san |
| Tahltan | Tah-tan |
| Gitksan | Gik-san |
| Tahltan | Tah-tan |
| Dene-Ha | Den-ee |
| Hyak | Hya |
| Kitkane | Kit-kan |
| Gitksan | Gik-san |
| Nisga'a | Nis-ga |
| Tahltan | Tah-tan |
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BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Aboriginal

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP

ABORIGINAL
TOURISM ASSOCIATION OF BC
our story, your experience.

USE THIS MAP to discover First Nations culture and explore the many cultural attractions and special sites in BC. Each brown box highlights a First Nation's attraction and the nearby red box is a site of significance to them. There are ten attractions to explore in southern BC and six more attractions in the north. Listed on the map are website addresses where you can get directions to the location and more information on the cultural attraction.

LEARN ABOUT OUR CONNECTION to the land through our interpretive centres. Discover special places dear to our people. We have many stories to tell and many experiences to share. Be a witness to the living cultural legacy that has been passed down through the millennia from the ancestors: tour a traditional First Nations village; view repatriated potlatch treasures; visit museums to learn about the art and history of the people; discover artifacts that pre-date the pyramids; and learn about our sacred transformer stones.

AMIDST SPECTACULAR SCENERY AND PRISTINE NATURE, experience our vibrant First Nations cultures, traditions and warm hospitality.

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our story, your experience.

“Our vision for Aboriginal tourism is that when our visitors see the messaging about Canada as a country, they see a seamless integration or fusion of Canada and its indigenous population. We tell the same story from two different perspectives, but together we create the whole story about this country.”

—Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia

KitseLas Canyon National Historic Site

The site offers guests an opportunity to view three contemporary longhouses featuring the culture and history of the people who have occupied this territory for at least 10,000 years. A cultural tourism project of the Gitksano First Nations, the area includes archaeological and petroglyph sites, accessible only when conditions permit.

www.kitseLas.bc.ca

Traditional Territory of the Gitksano

The KitseLas Canyon is strategically significant because the water ways served as the original travel routes, allowing the Gitksano to control traffic both up and down river. Visitors who travelled through the territory were required to stop and offer some of their wealth to the chiefs, which contributed to the power and wealth of the Gitksano.

Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy

Gwa'ni Nimpkish River

“Do you want to become a river?” Gwa'nalalis thought for a long time and liked this idea, “Yes, let me become a river that I may flow for as long as the days shall dawn in the world and provide every kind of salmon for my next generations to come.” K'anik'lakw heard his thoughts and put his hand on Gwa'nalalis' forehead and pushed him down, saying, “There, you will be a river and flow for as long as the days shall dawn in the world, be full of salmon so that your descendants may never be hungry.” So the small river began to flow over Gwa'nalalis' forehead and over his body and became a large powerful raging river. Its name is Gwa'ni and still is today, it is the river of the 'Namgis, the descendants of Gwa'nalalis.

www.umista.ca

U'mista Cultural Centre

The longest-operating First Nation museum and cultural centre in Canada, the U'mista Cultural Centre houses the world-renowned Potlatch Collection—cultural masks and regalia confiscated by the federal government in 1922 and returned in 1980. Now on permanent display, the collection is complemented by a series of rotating exhibits year-round, with tours and stories by First Nation guides.

www.umista.ca

Nch'kay Mount Garibaldi

Looking north from Squamish, an enormous sharp-peaked mountain dominates the landscape. The original name for this peak is Nch'kay. Thousands of years ago, after the Great Ice Age, the waters rose drastically causing the Great Flood. During this time the people tied their canoes to this peak with a rope made from woven cedar bark in order to prevent being swept away. As the waters receded the people adapted to the ever changing landscape. The Great Flood is a metaphor for catalysts of change which is a recurring theme in Squamish mythology.

www.slcc.ca

Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park

Experience the culture of the Secwepemc people through oral history, legends, photographs, illustrations and artifacts. The 12-acre park and gardens feature trails that lead visitors through the remains of a 2,000 year old winter village site, four reconstructed winter pit houses and a summer village.

www.secwepemc.org/museum

Secwepemc Ethnobotanical Gardens

Established in 1999 to promote an understanding of Secwepemc language, culture and use of native plants, the people relied heavily on plants for food, medicines, tools and implements. Plant knowledge continues to be an essential part of Secwepemc cultural knowledge and is communicated through traditional stories, place names, beliefs and values.

Ka?intak?akuqnuK Whiteswan Lake Provincial Park

Whiteswan Lake, which is located within the Kootenay Ranges of the Rocky Mountains, was an important site of the Ktunaxa people. An important seasonal hunting camp of the Ktunaxa people and their use of the area dates back at least 10,000 years. Test the water's therapeutic benefits, long known to the Ktunaxa people and said to increase with dips in the adjacent, frigid river. Whiteswan Lake was used intensively by the Ktunaxa people because of its important geographical location. Not only did the lake serve as a marshalling point for journey to the Elk Valley and the prairies, but also as a staging area for ceremonial and social events.

Ts'zil Mount Currie

Immediately south of Pemberton is an enormous mountain called Mount Currie. The original name for this place is Ts'zil and it is highly regarded by the L'il'wat Nation. The face of the mountain has been etched by the travels of a giant two-headed serpent and along the northwest ridgeline you can still see rocks standing where L'il'wat hunters were transformed to stone.

Xat'seq

Xat'seq is word that means sacred bulrush and is a lake just east of Xáytem and is in the area of Mission known as Hatzic where Xáytem is located.

Ktunaxa Interpretive Centre

At the St. Eugene Resort near Cranbrook, in a building that for 60 years housed a residential school for aboriginal children, the Ktunaxa Interpretive Centre showcases contemporary aboriginal art, culture and heritage. Permanent displays include many historic photographs, a scale model of a traditional tipi and the sturgeon-nosed canoe.

www.ktunaxa.org

Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre

A family oriented cultural experience focusing on the living culture of the Okanagan First Nations and the unique plants and animals of their traditional territory's desert habitat. The 22-hectare site features cultural exhibits, walking trails, outdoor sculptures and hands-on interactive displays. Highlights include a reconstructed Aboriginal village, two theatre experiences and “Cotton's Corner” animal exhibits. Daily guided walks and rattlesnake talks offered from July through September.

www.nkmpdesert.com

Nuyumbalees means “the Beginning”

The Nuyumbalees Society was founded in 1975 by Hereditary and Elected Chiefs of the Kwa'kwaka'wa'kw people, to negotiate the return of their potlatch treasures and regalia (Kikasuwa). The priceless and historic collection of original Kwa'kwaka'wa'kw Kikasuwa was returned in February, 1979.

Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre

Featuring the sacred potlatch collection of treasured masks and regalia, the centre offers a unique experience into the rich culture, traditions and history of the Kwa'kwaka'wa'kw people. Guests may treat themselves to a guided tour of the three galleries, visit the artist workspace and relax in the pavilion by the waterfront.

www.nuyumbalees.com

Quw'utsun' Cultural & Conference Centre (Heritage Cowichan River)

The First people of Cowichan came to earth from the sky. They found a rich land warmed by the sun and nourished with a river teeming with salmon, which they called Quw'utsun Sta'lo. For thousands of years, this 47 kilometre river has provided their descendants with abundant food, transportation and water. When settlers arrived in the mid-1800s, they also relied on the gifts of the river and prospered through fishing, farming and logging.

www.quwutsun.ca

Xáytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre

A 9,000-year-old Aboriginal village site, Xáytem encompasses two underground circular pit-houses, a traditional cedar longhouse, a sacred transformer stone and “B.C.'s oldest house”, where visitors are invited to experience Stólo history, culture, archaeology and spirituality. Guided interactive cultural tours, programs, workshops and overnight experiences are offered.

www.xaytem.ca

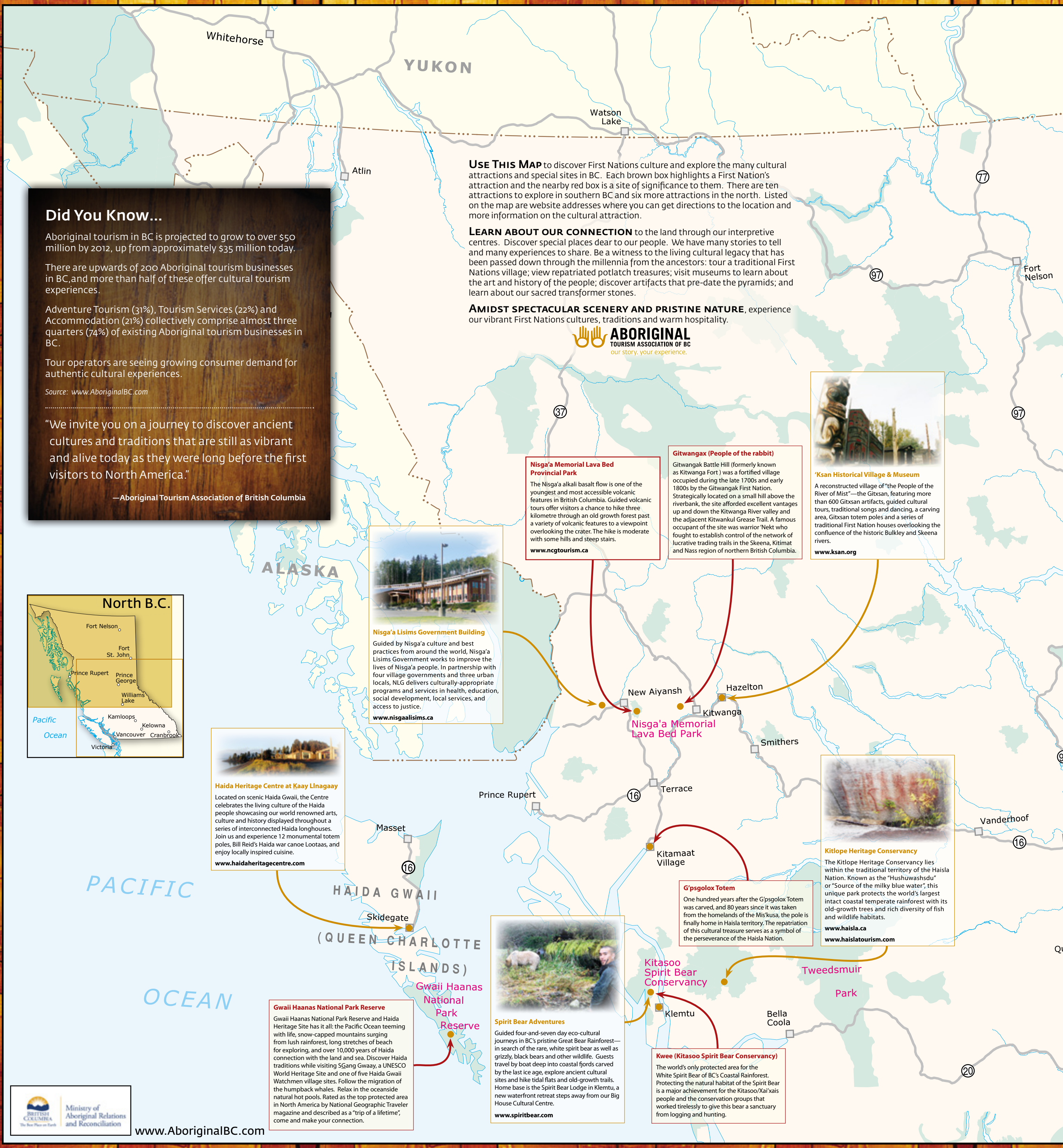
Snaza'ist Discovery Centre & Mascot Gold Mine Tours

Backdroped by the scenic Similkameen Valley, visitors view the Discovery Centre exhibits, then venture 3000 ft above the valley floor to the Mascot Gold Mine to experience the netherworld of turn-of-the-century miners during the province's gold rush.

www.mascotmine.com

Klil'x' (Spotted Lake)

Klil'x', Spotted Lake is a sacred lake to the Sylix (Okanagan) because of its healing properties. Special minerals, similar to Epsom salts, give the lake its unique colours which change from green to white through the seasons. Under the summer sun, the lake waters evaporate and crystallized minerals form white-rimmed circles. It is said that there are circles for every day of the year. Aboriginal people continue to come to this lake for yearly ceremonies. For many years, the lake was privately owned but was returned to the Okanagan Nation in 2001. Visitors can view the lake from a small parking area off the road, but are asked not to walk down to the lake.



Did You Know...

Aboriginal tourism in BC is projected to grow to over \$50 million by 2012, up from approximately \$35 million today.

There are upwards of 200 Aboriginal tourism businesses in BC, and more than half of these offer cultural tourism experiences.

Adventure Tourism (31%), Tourism Services (22%) and Accommodation (21%) collectively comprise almost three quarters (74%) of existing Aboriginal tourism businesses in BC.

Tour operators are seeing growing consumer demand for authentic cultural experiences.

Source: www.AboriginalBC.com

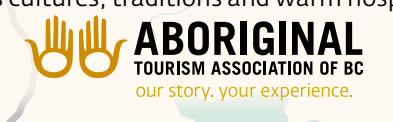
"We invite you on a journey to discover ancient cultures and traditions that are still as vibrant and alive today as they were long before the first visitors to North America."

—Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia

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AtBC Members

AtBC Members	Location	Member Categories									
		Accommodation	Art Galleries	Cultural Centres & Museums	Cultural Tours & Activities	Food & Wine	Spa, Steam, Lobes & Hot Springs	Gifts	Wilderness & Adventure	Wildlife, Flora & Fauna	
Aboriginal Journeys Wildlife Viewing & Adventure Tours	Campbell River										
Bednesti Lake Resort	Vanderhoof										
Best Western Tin Wis Resort	Tofino										
Bill Hein Art Gallery	Parksville										
Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art	Vancouver										
Cariboo Chilcotin Jetboat Adventures	Williams Lake										
Cross River Wilderness Centre & Kootenay Wilderness Tours	Kootenay National Park										
Culture Shock Interactive Gallery	Alert Bay										
Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay	Skidegate										
Haisla Tourism	Kitamaat Village										
I-HOS Gallery	Courtenay										
Khot-La-Cha Art Gallery & Gift Shop	North Vancouver										
*Ksan Historic Village & Museum	Hazelton										
Ktunaxa Interpretive Centre	Cranbrook										
Kwikwetlem's Colony Farm Bike Tours & Rentals	Coquitlam										
Museum of Northern British Columbia	Prince Rupert										
Nisga'a Tourism	New Aiyansh										
Nk'Mip RV Park	Osoyoos										
Nk'Mip Cellars	Osoyoos										
Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre	Osoyoos										
Nuchatlaht Park Lodge	Tahsis, Nootka Island										
Okanagan Princess Houseboat Dining Tours	Kelowna										
Qw'utsun Cultural and Conference Centre	Duncan										
Retasket Lodge & RV park	Lillooet										
Ruby Creek Art Gallery	Agassiz										
Salmon Feast	Black Creek										
Sea Quest Adventures & Aboriginal Tours	Sidney										
Seashore Charters	Prince Rupert										
Secwepemc Museum & Heritage Park	Kamloops										
Snaza'ist Discovery Centre & Mascot Gold Mine Tours	Hedley										
Sonora Dunes Golf Course	Osoyoos										
Spirit Bear Adventures	Klemtu										
Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort Spa	Osoyoos										
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre	Whistler										
St. Eugene Golf Resort Casino	Cranbrook										
Stó:lō Artisan Centre	Chilliwack										
Takaya Golf Centre	North Vancouver										
Takaya Tours	North Vancouver										
Talking Rock Resort & Quaaout Lodge	Little Shuswap Lake										
Tete Jaune Lodge	Valemount										
Thornton Motel	Ucluelet										
TLA-OK Cultural Adventures	Tofino										
Tsa-Kwa-Luten, The Oceanfront Resort at Cape Mudge	Quadra Island										
Tsycum Canoe Tours	Sidney										
U'mista Cultural Centre	Alert Bay										
West Coast Expeditions	Spring Island										
Wickaninnish Gallery	Vancouver										
Xá:ytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre	Mission										
Xats'íl Heritage Village	Williams Lake										

