HIGHLIGHTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Robin will meet you at the Sandspit Airport on the afternoon of July 31, 2018, and accompany you to the Inn at Sandspit. On the morning of the August 1, you will have breakfast at the Inn before traveling to the Haida Gwaii Museum at Kay’lnagaay for an introductory tour of the art and culture of the Haida. This will be followed by a luncheon in Skidegate of traditional Haida foods before boarding the Island Solitude when your sailing tour to the remote sites on Gwaii Haanas begins. Your voyage will stop at K’uuna (Skedans), T’aanuu, and Sgang Gwaay (Ninstints: a UN World Heritage Site that has the largest collection of standing poles with some two dozen weathered tributes to the Haida ancestors and artists of the 19th century) and possibly other old village sites of Cumshewa, Windy Bay, and Rose Harbour.

Birds, and other terrestrial wildlife have been protected by the Haida Nation and the Canadian government with the creation of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation area. These preserve the fragile ecology of one of the most wondrous spots in the world. This sailing voyage will work within Park regulations and codes of conduct, while providing you with unequalled access to the natural wonders of Haida Gwaii.
GWAII HAANAS
A PLACE OF WONDER
with Robin K. Wright
July 31 – August 8, 2018

On this trip you will visit Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site, home of the Haida people. The Haida are masters of the elegant formline art style that has fascinated anthropologists, art collectors, and art historians around the world.

Tour highlights include visits to a number of ancient villages, including a visit to the UN World Heritage site SGang Gwaay (or Ninstints). The Island Solitude crew will share their extensive knowledge of the natural history of Gwaii Haanas, and Dr. Wright will guide you through the villages of monumental art with the Haida Gwaii Watchmen, the caretakers at each village site. This trip will provide participants with an opportunity to explore Haida Gwaii in a unique way that allows access to an array of fascinating wildlife. Along the way you will see various species of whale, sea lions, seals, eagles, and hopefully puffins. Traveling with Dr. Wright you will learn about Haida culture, history, and art.

You are encouraged to come early or stay after the trip for a day or two, so you can rent a car and travel north to Old Massett to see more poles and visit with Haida artists. Bluewater Adventures can recommend a travel agent who can assist you with your travel arrangements.

ABOUT THE ISLAND SOLITUDE

SV Island Solitude is the new flagship of Bluewater Adventures. She is an 82’ motor/sailor launched in 2017. The boat’s design, safety, and comfort make her particularly well suited for these trips. She has 6 ensuite private cabins, each with 2 single beds, for a group size of 12 passengers. The wheelhouse on deck (see above) is large enough for the entire group to dine together. There is also a lounge, natural history library, and galley. Two bow cabins house the group leader, her guest, and crew.

The Island Solitude affords easy access for people of any age and most physical capabilities. She is a Canadian Coast Guard certified passenger vessel and has all the safety and navigation equipment you would expect for a vessel of her standard. There are two large inflatables for shore excursions and both double and single kayaks for quietly exploring islands and shorelines.

The crew of the Island Solitude consists of a Coast Guard licensed captain, professional cook, and expert mate/naturalist. They all bring knowledge gained from years exploring the islands, and training in marine biology, education, ornithology, or anthropology.

ABOUT ROBIN K. WRIGHT

Robin K. Wright (Ph.D., Art History) is curator emerita of Native American art at the Burke Museum, former director of the Bill Holm Center for the Study of Northwest Native Art, and professor emerita of art history at the University of Washington. She has published extensively on Haida art and has been leading yearly tours to Haida Gwaii since 1986.

Recommended Reading


MacDonald, George F. 1983 Haida Monumental Art, Villages of the Queen Charlotte Islands. Vancouver: University of British Columbia.


Wright, Robin K. and Daina Augaitis (eds) 2013 Charles Edenshaw. Vancouver and London: