

## A Special Message

Please help us protect this pristine environment. Enjoy your visit to the Kitlope, but please leave it as you have found it so all future visitors may enjoy it as you have.

### **Please be extremely careful with fire.**

Campfires leave scars. If you must light a fire, use a metal fire pan or build fires in an area that can be covered. Primus type stoves should be used for cooking.

Flowers, trees, shrubs, and other natural and cultural artifacts are all part of the protected areas natural and cultural heritage. Under the Park Act, the collection or removal of any natural or cultural resources is prohibited.

**Firearms are prohibited** in the Protected Area except during a valid hunting season.

Please consult the British Columbia Hunting and Fishing Regulations if you plan to hunt or fish.

Camp on gravel or sand bars whenever possible. Choose an area where removal of vegetation is not necessary.

Pack out all garbage. Never bury garbage or food scraps.

Help protect the delicate balance of the water system by washing yourself, your clothes, and dishes at least 30 meters from lakes or streams.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Please Contact:

Kitlope Watchmen  
Nanakila Institute  
130 Owekeno Street  
Box 1039 Haisla PO  
Kitimaat Village, BC  
V0T 2B0

Telephone: 250-632-3308  
[www.nanakila.ca](http://www.nanakila.ca)

BC Parks  
<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



Ministry of Water, Land and  
Air Protection



**Kitlope**  
**HERITAGE**  
**CONSERVANCY**  
**PROTECTED AREA**

**Huchduwaach**  
**Nuyem Jees**  
Sacred legendary place  
of milky blue waters



*Northwestern, BC*

# KITLOPE HERITAGE CONSERVANCY - Huchsduwaach Nuyem Jees

**K**itlope Heritage Conservancy Protected Area, over 321,000 hectares of pristine wilderness, protects the largest intact coastal temperate rainforest in the world. In August 1994, preservation of the Kitlope was announced with West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd., sole holder of timber harvesting rights in the area, voluntarily relinquishing those rights, without compensation from the B.C. Government. This unique rainforest has old-growth trees over 800 years old. Located approximately 100 km southeast of Kitimaat Village, BC, the Kitlope encompasses a rich diversity of natural and cultural heritage values.

## NATURAL HERITAGE

The rich temperate rainforest of the Kitlope watershed forms a unique relationship with the rugged granite peaks of the Kitimat Ranges. The Kitlope watershed provides a large intact diversity of wildlife and fish habitats. Ranging from estuaries, lakes, rich flood plains, steep side slopes, and alpine areas. The Kitlope is home to grizzly and black bears, mountain goats, moose, and many more species of wildlife. A variety of water fowl and birds, including the threatened seabird, the marbled murrelet is dependent on old-growth forests for nesting, can also be found throughout the Kitlope watershed. All five species of pacific salmon, herring, and oolichan spawn throughout the many rivers and creeks.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Kitlope Valley encompasses part of the ancestral lands of the Haisla Nation and it is of central importance to its cultural and spiritual well being. It is still a Haisla tradition, to wash one's face when entering the Kitlope for the first time. By washing your face, you are introducing yourself to the water and the spirit of the Kitlope. This living connection between the land and the people reflects the Haisla's devotion to preserving and managing the Kitlope for future generations. The Kitlope's rich cultural history continues to be passed on to younger generations through the stories told by elders.

The area is located in the traditional territory of the Henaaksiala, a part of the Haisla nation who have lived in the Kitlope for centuries. **The name Kitlope, is a Tsimshian word meaning "the people of the rock."** A reference to the towering granite mountains with many sheer bare faces and numerous waterfalls. Early Hudson's Bay traders adopted this name and that is how the Kitlope Henaaksiala became known to the outside world.

The rich diversity of fauna and flora provide all the necessities for the Henaaksiala. The cedar tree was used for canoe building, its bark for ropes, baskets, and clothing. The valleys and mountains supplied a variety of game, including mountain goats, beaver, bear and deer. Fish played a significant role to the Henaaksiala. Oolichan, herring, pacific salmon, a variety of shellfish, groundfish, and sea mammals were utilized. The oolichan was harvested and boiled in cedar or spruce boilers to recover their oil for eating and preserving other foods. This oil was one of the primary staples of the North Coast diet, and was widely traded with other First Nations.



## GETTING THERE

The Kitlope is located at the head of the Gardner Canal, on British Columbia's central coast, approximately 120 km southeast of the town of Kitimat.

For Boat access follow the Gardner Canal from the Douglas Channel or from the Verney Passage area. Marine fuel is available in Kitimat. Visitors should be experienced in ocean navigation and wilderness survival. If you are planning a trip to the Kitlope, ensure that you have the appropriate topographic maps and marine charts.

A number of permitted commercial operators are available for transportation to the Kitlope or for a fully guided excursion. A list of commercial operators can be obtained from the contacts listed under **For More Information**.

## RECREATION

A range of recreation opportunities exist within the Kitlope Heritage Conservancy Protected Area. The ocean, lakes, and rivers, are the base of all recreation activities. Canoes, kayaks and jet propelled river boats are suited for travel within the Kitlope Heritage Conservancy.

There are no developed trails within the Kitlope Heritage Conservancy.

The many rivers, creeks, and lakes offer excellent angling opportunities in a pristine setting.

Explore the fascinating natural and cultural history. Photography and nature viewing opportunities are bountiful.

## WILDLIFE CAUTION

All wild animals are potentially dangerous and may be encountered at any time. Be careful when near wildlife. Bears are particularly unpredictable; these powerful animals can cause serious injury or death. While the risk of animal attack is low, you can increase your safety by following this advice:

- Female bears with cubs are very dangerous. Never approach or feed bears or other animals.
- Securely store food by hanging it from a tree at least 4 meters above the ground and 2 meters from the trunk.
- Don't cook or store food in your tent and keep your camping area clean.
- Be alert for bear tracks, droppings, and trails. Avoid camping or travelling in areas where signs of bears are found.
- Stay calm if approached by a bear. Move away slowly if possible.

More information about bears and other wild animals is available from any BC Parks office

## A NOTE ON SAFETY

Visitors using the inlet as an overnight anchorage should be aware of tidal fluctuations, particularly near the estuary, where water depths can vary considerably.

The creeks, rivers, and lakes within the Kitlope watershed can fluctuate dramatically with rain or snow melt in the spring.

River characteristics can change overnight. Strong currents, rapids, and whirlpools can appear where the water was calm the previous day.

Log jams, sweepers, and other hazards can be found on all rivers and creeks.

Visitors should be experienced boat operators or paddlers for travelling on the rivers within the Kitlope.

Be prepared for all weather conditions in this variable climate. Always carry first aid equipment, extra clothing, food, and an extra life jacket.

The Kitlope is extremely remote. Communications are limited. Watchmen staff if available, operate with a satellite telephone for emergencies. The next closest communication link to emergency services is at Kemano.