



**W**elcome to Clayoquot Sound, an area of spectacular beauty, steeped in a rich natural and cultural heritage.

Natural wonders including unique flora and fauna, pristine old-growth forests, secluded sandy beaches, uninhabited islands and churning tidal rapids can all be found here. To protect this outstanding natural and cultural diversity, while providing exceptional recreational opportunities, 16 provincial parks and two Ecological Reserves have been established in Clayoquot Sound. The Sound is a boater's paradise but there are also opportunities for hiking, swimming, camping and nature exploration.

Inhabited for thousands of years by Nuu-chah-nulth people, most of Clayoquot Sound looks much like it did in the late 1700s when Captains Juan Perez and James Cook first plied these waters. Explorers, traders, whalers, sealers, miners and pioneers have all spent time in the Sound through the years. In the 1900s, settlers came to the area and fishing and logging became viable industries. Today, tourism is a driving force, encompassing whale-watching, sport fishing, sea kayaking and other activities.

While travelling in Clayoquot Sound, it is important to have a sense of history. The connection of Nuu-chah-nulth peoples to this land is a vital, driving force. It is equally important for visitors to respect this connection. The parks in Clayoquot Sound lie in the traditional territories of the Hesquiaht, Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. Access to designated Indian Reserves is prohibited unless prior permission has been granted. The locations of these reserves are shown on the reverse of this brochure.

**FIRST NATIONS CONTACTS in Clayoquot Sound:**  
 Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (250) 725-3233  
 Ahousaht First Nation (250) 670-9563  
 Hesquiaht First Nation (250) 670-1100



**For More Information:**

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



**PROVINCIAL PARKS**



**Vancouver Island**

# CLAYOQUOT SOUND PROVINCIAL PARKS

## CLAYOQUOT SOUND PARKS

**WARNING:** Hazards exist within these parks, you must be self-reliant and prepared for all activities you undertake. BC Parks DOES NOT provide rescue services.

  **CLAYOQUOT ARM:** Old-growth forests, salmon spawning habitat.

  **CLAYOQUOT PLATEAU:** Limestone caves and sinkholes; pristine forest. Access - foot access only from Highway 4. Extremely difficult.

  **DAWLEY PASSAGE:** Strong tidal flow, with a high diversity of marine life.

  **EPPER PASSAGE:** Waters are rich in marine life.

  **FLORES ISLAND:** Three undisturbed watersheds with old-growth forests; exposed rocky coastlines and sandy beaches.



  **GIBSON'S MARINE PARK:** Warm sulphur springs; spectacular beaches.




**HESQUIAT LAKE** Forest habitat.

  **HESQUIAT PENINSULA:** Offshore reefs, varied shorelines and old-growth stands.

   **KENNEDY LAKE:** Day-use only. Sandy beaches, swimming, fishing and boating.

**KENNEDY RIVER BOG:** Unusual low-acid bog.

   **MAQUINNA MARINE PARK:** Natural hot springs. Outhouses and change house available. Note: no camping within hot springs area.

   **STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK:** **Megin/Talbot Addition:** The largest undisturbed watershed on Vancouver Island, karst limestone geology, old growth forests, salmon habitat.

 **SULPHUR PASSAGE:** A scenic passage, an estuary, old-growth forests and salmon habitat.

 **SYDNEY INLET:** A fjord, old-growth forests, and salmon habitat.

 **TRANQUIL CREEK:** Forested slopes & alpine meadows surrounding a pristine mountain lake.

  **VARGAS ISLAND:** Exposed rocky coast, long sandy beaches and a sheltered lagoon.

## BE PREPARED & TRAVEL SAFELY

Prepare for the worst and hope for the best!

Clayoquot Sound is a wilderness area. Be realistic about your abilities and physical condition. Leave a trip itinerary with someone back home. Know basic first aid and how to treat hypothermia.

## CARRY PROPER EQUIPMENT

Good quality rain gear is essential, even in the summer. Bring emergency equipment and spare clothing. Carry marine charts (#3673 and 3674) and a compass and know how to use them.

Use the tide tables for Tofino listed in Volume Six of the Canadian Tide and Current Tables. (Add one hour during Daylight Savings Time.)

## TRAVEL SAFELY

**WEATHER:** Winds can build suddenly and fog rolls in quickly. North-westerly winds are common in the summer and generally build from noon until dusk. Morning and early evening are usually the best times to travel on the water. VHF marine radios will pick up the weather forecast for the area.

**WATER:** Travel on the water with extreme care. Winds, swells, currents and tides can produce challenging conditions. Make your channel crossings as short as possible and whenever practical, start travelling early in the day.

**WILDERNESS:** This is a wilderness area which is not patrolled on a regular basis. Be prepared to deal with emergencies without assistance.

**SHELLFISH:** Shellfish (clams, mussels, oysters) can sometimes contain toxin-producing organisms that may result in the life threatening condition Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning. Always check with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (250-725-3468) before harvesting shellfish.

**ANIMALS:** Bear, wolf and cougar may be present anywhere in the Sound. Keep your pets and young children close. Do not feed any wildlife.

## IF YOU NEED HELP

In an emergency, use VHF channel 16 to contact the Tofino Coast Guard. Cellular phone coverage is limited in this area.

## WILDERNESS ETHICS

**CAMPING:** Wilderness camping is permitted in all parks except in the hot springs area of Maquinna. There is a commercial campground adjacent to the Government Dock in Maquinna Park. Camping is free in Clayoquot Provincial Parks. A fee may be charged in the future. Practice no-trace camping. **FRESH WATER:** Filter and/or boil any water that you collect. It is advisable to bring your own supply of water.

**FOOD AND GARBAGE:** Cache food out of reach of animals. Carry out what you carry in and do not bury or burn garbage.

**CAMPFIRES:** Try to be campfire free—use a camp stove instead. If you do have a fire, keep it small and below the high tide line. Use only driftwood.

**ECOLOGICAL RESERVES:** The reserve at Cleland Island is off limits to everyone, except researchers with a research permit.

**COLLECTING:** The Park Act prohibits the removal of any items from park land.

**PETS:** As the Sound is considered a wilderness area, pets are not encouraged. If you have brought a pet it should be leashed and under control at all times.

**HUMAN WASTE:** There are 2 composting toilets at Maquinna Hotsprings and several pit toilets in popular kayak beach locations on Vargas and Flores Islands. Portable toilets are recommended. Use of the intertidal should only be considered in areas of low use and high water action. Use of the upland for toilet purposes should be avoided at all times. Pack out or carefully burn all toilet paper.

**BATHING:** All bathing should be done at least 50m (160 ft.) from any fresh water source. Note: All soaps pollute, even “environmentally friendly” products. Please avoid or use them sparingly. Soap and shampoo are not permitted in the hot springs at Maquinna Marine Park.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY:** Please avoid private lands and Indian Reserves. Boundaries extend to the high tide line.

**HUNTING, FISHING & HARVESTING:** Hunting, fishing and shellfish harvesting are permitted in certain areas with the proper licenses. Please report infractions to BC Parks.



# Parks of Clayoquot Sound

## ENJOYING WILDLIFE

Encountering wildlife is exciting but it is important that your activities do not disturb them.

- Avoid entering surge channels and sea caves where seabirds often nest.
- If resting sea lions or seals enter the water, or seabirds dive or take flight, you have come too close.
- If you see whales, stay at least 100m (300 ft.) away and travel parallel to the animals. If they approach you, avoid sudden changes in speed or direction. If travelling by kayak, make subtle noises (i.e. tapping boat hull) to enable whales to confirm your location. Idle motorized boats when stopped.
- When exploring intertidal zones, do not remove any plants or animals and replace all rocks.

Hot Springs visitors: no soap, shampoo, pets, glass, alcohol or camping is permitted.

Cleland Island  
No access at any time without permit.

Not for navigational purposes.  
Use marine charts 3673 and 3674.

### LEGEND

- Road - Paved
- - - Road - Loose Surface
- ..... Trails
- Indian Reserve
- Ecological Reserve
- ▨ Provincial Park
- ▩ National Park
- - - Park Boundary
- ⛺ Camping
- 🚤 Boat launch
- 🛢 Fuel
- 🚻 Toilet
- 🏠 Accommodation
- 📦 Store

Please note:  
Some Parks may contain private land.

