

Provincial Parks of the Clayoquot Sound

Area Map and Information Guide



Photo credit: Caitlin Ronda



BC Parks

RAPP
Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24-Hr Hotline:
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)



rapp.bc.ca



BC PARKS

West Coast Region–Clayoquot Area
www.bcparks.ca

Ahousaht First Nation
www.mhssahousaht.ca

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation
www.tla-o-qui-aht.org

WELCOME TO THE CLAYOQUOT SOUND

An area of spectacular beauty, seeped 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 the Clayoquot Sound. The sound is a boater's paradise but there are also opportunities for hiking, swimming, camping and nature exploration.

The provincial parks in the Clayoquot Sound lie in the asserted territories of the Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, all of whom are members of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation. Nuu-chah-nulth people have inhabited the area for thousands of years by surviving off the natural bounty that the forest, ocean, and streams provide. Historically, seasonal activities of the First Nations people often coincided with the arrival of whales or salmon, the spawning of herring or the ripening of berries. The Nuu-chah-nulth culture is rooted in its peoples' relationship with nature through all aspects of their lives; the connection of First Nations peoples to this land is a vital driving force. Basic sustenance, land management, political structures, and artistic endeavors are all intricately linked with the environment and its resources. This link to the land continues to guide the Nuu-chah-nulth and it is equally important for visitors to respect this connection while recreating in the Clayoquot Sound. Please respect this relationship while exploring their asserted lands.

Historically, most of the Clayoquot Sound looks much like it did in the late 1700's when Captain Juan Perez and James Cook first plied these waters. Explorers, traders, whalers, sealers, miners, and pioneers have spent time in the Sound through the years. In the late 1900's, settlers came to the area where both fishing and logging became viable industries. Today, tourism is a driving force of the local economy, encompassing whale watching, sport fishing, sea kayaking, and other activities.

Access to designated Indian Reserves (IR) is prohibited unless prior permission has been granted.

FEATURED PARKS

Flores Island Provincial Park



The park is comprised of three undisturbed watersheds with old-growth forests, exposed rocky coastlines and sandy beaches. One of the main attractions is the Wild Side Trail approximately 10 km from the village of Ahousaht to Cow Bay. Muddy and slippery sections are present on this route.

Gibson Marine Provincial Park



Provides access to the Wild Side Trail from the Village of Ahousaht to Cow Bay. This portion of the trail includes numerous sandy beaches and Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation Heritage sites including middens and Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs) in Whitesand Cove.

Kennedy Lake Provincial Park



A popular day-use destination for lake and beach-based recreation. This park is comprised of two sites along the south shore of Kennedy Lake, adjacent to Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. The rustic boat launch provides the best access to Kennedy Lake and Clayoquot Arm.

No camping or fires permitted.

Maquinna Marine Provincial Park



Home to the largest natural hot mineral spring within the Clayoquot Sound. A pleasant half-hour (1.7km) walk along a boardwalk trail through an old-growth rainforest leads to the hot pools. The pools, although small, remain at an average temperature of approximately 50°C (104°F) year-round.

Vargas Island Provincial Park



A popular paddling and wilderness camping destination comprised of exposed rocky coastline and sandy beaches. The park area includes Blunden Island, Cleland Island Ecological Reserve and La Croix Group immediately northwest of Tofino. Many of the rocky islet are home to a great diversity of nesting sea bird colonies including the Rhinoceros Auklets, Cassin's Auklet, and Black Oystercatcher.

WILDERNESS ETHICS



Camping is permitted in all parks except for Kennedy Lake Provincial Park, Cleland Island Ecological Reserve and Maquinna Marine Provincial Park (Hot Springs Cove). There are numerous established campsites throughout the sound with outhouses and food caches; these are located in Vargas Island Provincial Park, Gibson Marine Provincial Park, Flores Island Provincial Park, and Clayoquot Arm Provincial Park. Park users are encouraged to camp at established campsites to ensure safe food storage and limit negative impacts on the sensitive coastal ecosystem.

Each year thousands of tons of marine debris washes ashore on British Columbia's coastline. This trash negatively impacts sensitive shoreline ecosystems along with the animals and organisms that call these places home. Parks are not self cleaning. **Pack out what you pack in.**



There are numerous outhouses throughout the Clayoquot Sound, the majority of which are user maintained and cleaned infrequently. These facilities are for human waste only, not garbage. If you wouldn't put it in your toilet at home, it doesn't belong in the outhouse either.

If you are not near an outhouse facility, dig a hole 15cm– 20cm deep and 100m away from camp, trails, and freshwater sources. Pack out used toilet paper and bury waste.



Bring your own drinking water; potable water is not available. Boil, treat or filter your water before use.



The safe storage of attractants is a crucial part to ensure the safety of wildlife and the public. Improper storage can result in a negative human–wildlife interaction that could pose a significant safety risk to the animal and park user. Food (including organic waste), garbage, cook ware and hygiene products (toothpaste, deodorant, etc.) are all wildlife attractants and should be properly stored when not in use. If there is no food cache available, hang all food and attractants. Items should be hung approximately 100m away from sleeping areas, approximately 4m from the ground, and 3m from the nearest tree. Storing attractants in kayak hatches is not a secure way to store food.



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, do not cut trees, snags or other vegetation for firewood.

Park regulations protect the natural state of the park and ensure a quality experience for all visitors.

TRAVEL SAFETY

IF YOU NEED HELP contact the Canadian Coast Guard on a marine VHF channel 16 or dial 911. Cellular coverage is limited throughout the Clayoquot Sound.

The Clayoquot Sound is a remote, highly exposed, wilderness area. Conditions in the area are always changing so please get up to date information prior to departure. Park information will be posted at trailhead info shelters and on the BC Parks website. Your fitness, knowledge, skills and equipment must meet the challenges of your adventure. Be prepared for rain and damp mist. Incidents of hypothermia and physical injury increase significantly during prolonged wet periods.

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 evenings are usually the best times to travel on the water. VHF radios will pick up the weather forecast for the area.

Ocean: Travel on the water with extreme care. Winds, swell, current, and tides can produce challenging conditions. Make your channel crossings as short as possible and whenever practical, start traveling early in the day.

Wildlife: The Clayoquot Sound is a remote, wilderness area and is home to WOLVES, COUGARS and BEARS. It's imperative that you do your part to prevent a human–wildlife conflict. Limit or avoid encounters with wildlife by adhering to the following guidelines:

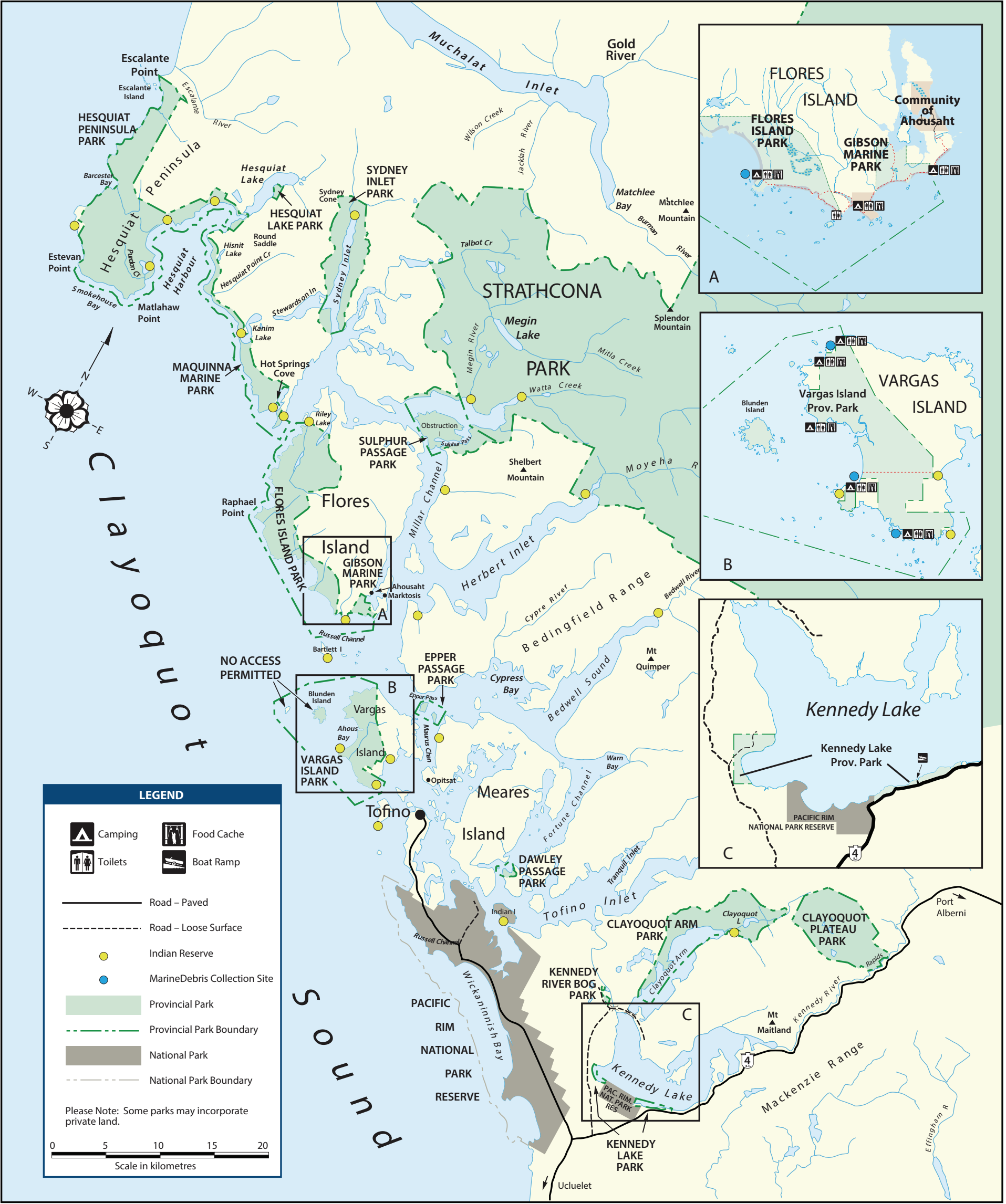
- Keep a clean camp, cook and store attractants away from sleeping areas
- Do not bury garbage. If you pack it in, pack it out!
- Always keep children nearby and in sight
- Always keep pets leashed and under control. If possible, keep pets at home.
- Do not camp near a carcass
- Never approach a wild animal. Always stay a safe distance away.

Do not feed any wildlife

In the event a wild animal approaches you, begin to scare them immediately, well before they are within 100m. Do not let the animal approach any closer than 100m. As a group, make yourself appear larger by raising your arms and waving. Make noise, throw sticks and rocks to try and scare the animal away.

All encounters with wildlife should be reported to the Conservation Officer's RAPP Line (1 (877) 952-RAPP (7277)) to allow for early intervention.

Parks of Clayoquot Sound



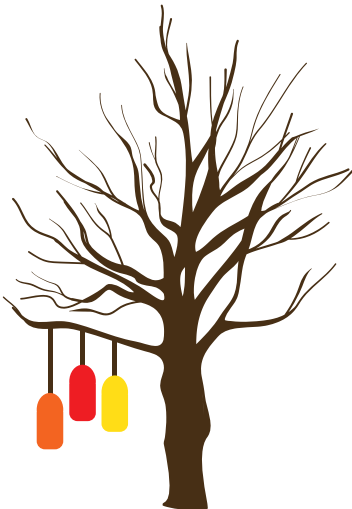
EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS

Vancouver Island is situated along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) which stretches over 1,000km from the northern tip of the island to Cape Mendocino, California. This subduction zone separates the Juan de Fuca plate from the North American plates. These types of subduction zones can produce the largest earthquakes in the world (known as megathrust earthquakes) yielding a magnitude of 8.5-9.0. Historical and geological evidence indicates that these earthquakes occur every 400 to 600 years. The last known earthquake along the CSZ occurred in January 1700.

Earthquakes produced from coastal subduction zones typically generate a series of unusually large waves known as **tsunamis**. In the event of an earthquake follow the **20 metres in 20 minutes guideline**. After the shaking stops there will be approximately 20 minutes to seek higher ground before the arrival of the first tsunami wave. It is advised that all park users register to the 'Voyent Alert!' app to receive notification and information in the event of an earthquake or tsunami or carry a marine VHF radio and regularly listen to the weather and sea forecasts on channel 21.

BUOY MARKERS

When hiking along the beaches always keep a look out for coloured crab trap buoys. Beach access may be cut off from the trail during high tides or storms. Orange, yellow, and red buoys have been coloured to identify trail access from the beach, designated camping areas, and outhouse facilities.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ocean Navigation: When travelling on the water, it is recommended that park users use navigational maps 3673 and 3674 for the Clayoquot Sound.

Marine Debris Collection Sites: Every winter massive amounts of marine debris are washed ashore into the protected areas of the Clayoquot Sound. Park users are encouraged to collect marine debris when recreating on Vargas and Flores Island, the collected debris can be left at any marine debris collection site noted on the map for removal by park staff. **MARINE DEBRIS ONLY**, absolutely no garbage.

Limited Use Areas: There are many diverse and ecologically sensitive ecosystems throughout the Clayoquot Sound. Some areas are managed for recreational opportunities while others are managed for their conservation values. Park users are encouraged to concentrate recreational activities on designated trails and at campsites with facilities.