BC Parks - Protected Areas of Kyuquot Sound and Checleset Bay

What You Need to Know

A few reminders to ensure your visit is safe and respectful of park values:

- Practice "leave no trace" low impact camping and use toilets, food caches and tent pads where provided.
- Please stay on designated trails and open beach areas.
- Be respectful of First Nation Sites. Do not seek them out and if you encounter sites that appear to have archaeological significance do nothing to affect their well-being. Please respect their value to all peoples, leave them intact and move onwards.
- View all wildlife from safe distances and never feed or approach them. Store your food so as not to attract wildlife.
- Keep children in sight and close by. Please leave pets at home or at a minimum keep them on a leash at all times.
- Drinking water is scarce – make sure you bring enough and treat or disinfect any local sources used.

Travel Safely

These protected areas are wilderness areas, and not patrolled or serviced on a regular basis. Visitors must be entirely self-sufficient and be prepared to deal with all emergencies on their own. Marine weather and sea conditions can be very unforgiving and can change without notice. Winds, fog and ocean swell can be challenging. Marine travel is often the safest during the morning hours, before winds pick-up. Please monitor VHF weather channels and consult tide charts for the local area, prior to departure.

Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations Message

The Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations Territory is a very special place to our people. The land and sea is full of beauty. Almost untouched. The land has almost every type of flower, tree and wildlife. The soil is rich and full; ready each season to produce more beauty. The clear blue water is filled with colourful sea life. This abundance of food on land and sea has sustained our people and still does. Our people were known for their hunting skill. For hundreds of years, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations people travelled the great ocean by canoes to trade furs, cedar bark, weaving grasses and medicinal plants. They traded their art such as carvings, basketry and stoneware. Our people traded with other tribes, as far as American tribes, for goods they had special to their territory. Only what was needed for families and trading was taken from land and sea. - Lucy Pavio Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nation

Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' Lands and Quatsino First Nation Reserve

The First Nations of Kyuquot Sound and Checleset Bay have lived in this region for thousands of years. There are extensive cultural heritage values and archaeological features throughout the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations Nisma and Quatsino First Nation traditional territory. These include former village sites and trails, hunting and fishing grounds and gathering areas for food, medicines and other materials ranging from clothing to housing. All of the resources of the area had, and continue to have, a use in the First Nations' culture. Visitors to the protected areas may encounter evidence of cultural uses of resources. Culturally modified trees – including cedar bark stripping, carved wooden faces in trees, and trail markers – have been found in the area. Work to identify these cultural sites and uses is ongoing so they can be considered in protected area management.

Emergency and Local Contacts

General Emergencies	911
Police:	250-956-4441 (non-emergency)
Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations:	250-332-5259
Quatsino First Nations Phone:	250-949-6295
Nearest Phones:	Fair Harbour, Zeballos, Kyuquot
Nearest Medical Facility:	Kyuquot Red Cross Health Center 250-332-5289
	Zeballos Health Center 250-761-4274
Report Forest Fires:	1-800-663-5555
Report All Poachers and Polluters:	1-877-952-7277 (RAPP)
Coast Guard Radio (Marine Emergencies):	VHF Radio / Channel 16

You are entering a very unique region of Vancouver Island. This area is well known for its biodiversity and number of Protected Areas, covering everything from rugged alpine to windswept coastlines. They are within the traditional territories of the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations and have a long history of use and contain cultural heritage values. Visitors can enjoy numerous recreational opportunities in these wilderness settings that include hiking, kayaking, camping, fishing, and wildlife viewing. All together there are 11 protected areas throughout the region which include: 6 Parks, 4 Ecological Reserves and 1 Protected Area.

LEGEND

Camping	Telephone	Accomodations	Trail	Ecological Reserve / Protected Area	
Food/Groceries	Fuel	Information	Park Boundary	Lands of the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/ Che:k'tles7eth' First Nations - Private	
Boat Launch	First Aid	Hiking	Park Area	Lands of the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/ Che:k'tles7eth' First Nations - Public	
Parking	Toilets	Anchorage			

Brooks Peninsula

1 Muquin/Brooks Peninsula and Hisnit River Watershed Protected Area

This park and protected area complex is second only to Strathcona Park on Vancouver Island. It covers everything from ocean to alpine in a rugged remote environment. Together these two protected areas conserve coastal old growth forest ecosystems, rare species associated with glacial refugium intertidal and marine values, and important First Nations cultural heritage values. Accessible by boat the shores make for pleasant beach camping with no developed camping facilities, only minimal signage and rough trails over rocky headlands.

2 Solander Island Ecological Reserve

Solander Island Ecological Reserve was established to protect large colonies of breeding seabirds and their habitat, many of which are rare and endangered. It is one of the windiest locations on the west coast of Vancouver Island and comprised of an irregularly shaped, steep-sided island with associated offshore rocks. This small eight hectare island provides habitat for globally and nationally significant populations of burrow nesting seabirds including Leach's storm petrel, Cassin's Auklet, Tufted Puffin, Pelagic Cormorant, Glaucous-winged Gull, and Pigeon Guillemot. It has the second largest Tufted Puffin colony and pelagic cormorant colony, as well as the third largest Leach's storm petrel colony, on the British Columbia coast. The island is also used as a winter haul out by northern and California sea lions. The island is devoid of trees, with the vegetative cover consisting mostly of grass species, unique plants like the hairy goldfields also occur here.

Photo Courtesy of Ada and Blaise Wilson www.naturepicsonline.com

Tufted Puffin

3 Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve and Big Bunsby Marine Park

Sea Otter

The foreshore areas of Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve and Big Bunsby Marine Park protect a variety of marine values including unique species such as Sea otters, Stellar sea lion, Northern abalone, Olympia oysters and a range of important habitats like large kelp beds for rockfish and herring and rocky islets that make up important sea bird colonies. Humpback and Grey Whales also transit here in search of food from the abundant waters. ***There are no developed facilities in this area. Big Bunsby Marine Park does have a sheltered bay that provides a reasonable anchorage located on the islands west side.***

4 Clanninick Creek Creek Ecological Reserve

Clanninick Creek Ecological Reserve preserves a small stand of old growth Sitka Spruce, with trees that reach 3 metres in diameter and 75 metres in height. The creek itself is about one kilometre in length, and is of low gradient with frequent shaded pools, and one small waterfall. This shaded creek provides spawning habitat for small numbers of chinook and pink salmon, and runs of coho and chum salmon. It is located just north east of the village of Houpsitas / Kyuquot and offers a level of protection for drinking water sources nearby.

5 Tahsish Kwois Park and Tahsish River Ecological Reserve

Coho Salmon

(Photo: NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center)

Roosevelt Elk

Spruce Trees

This rugged, isolated park is one of the largest parks on Vancouver Island and features old growth forest and scenic river valleys. Accessible primarily by boat, this park offers outstanding wilderness recreation opportunities, including wildlife viewing and fresh water fishing. The river and estuary are important rearing and spawning habitat for chinook, chum, pink, sockeye, coho, cutthroat and steelhead.

The park also contains one of the most important Roosevelt elk winter ranges on Vancouver Island. There are no developed facilities in this park. The south end of the park encircles the Tahsish River Ecological Reserve, providing the primary access into the park. The Ecological Reserve protects unique plant communities that vary from forest cover dominated by Sitka spruce to tidal meadows and surf grass. Wildlife includes Roosevelt elk, deer, black bears, Bald Eagles, harbour seals, river otters, shorebirds, Canada Geese, Trumpeter Swans and various shorebirds and duck species. ***The Ecological reserve is closed to hunting and camping.***

6 Dixie Cove Park

Located on the north east side of Hohoa Island, Dixie Cove provides one of the best all weather sheltered anchorages in Kyuquot Sound. Visitors can enjoy views of the surrounding mountains and old growth rainforest. There are no developed facilities in this park.

Rugged Point

7 Rugged Point Marine Park

Accessible by boat only, Rugged Point is home to one of the most beautiful stretches of shoreline on the entire west coast and offers spectacular views of the open Pacific Ocean and Kyuquot Sound. Its quiet, protected beaches on the north side of the peninsula are a sharp contrast to the wild, surf-swept beaches of the outer coast. There are opportunities for walk-in wilderness camping here, as well as a small day-use/picnic area with a pit toilet, bear-proof food cache and an open-walled cooking/picnic shelter near the beach.

8 Artlish Caves Park

This Park preserves a major underground river cave system. For a portion of its length, the Artlish River flows completely within the Artlish River Cave leaving no flow at the surface making it the largest active river cave system currently known in Canada.

The Park includes undisturbed surface karst features and a total of 20 caves. It also contains old-growth valley bottom with coastal western hemlock and western red cedar as the dominant tree species It also provides winter habitat and a migration corridor for Roosevelt elk. ***This park is very difficult to access and there are no developed facilities.***

Artlish Caves