

Welcome to Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

Breathe in the fresh, salty air. Feel the warm, west coast sun on your face. Feast your eyes on the beautiful islands surrounding you.

Climb a mountain. Spot a whale. Learn to sail. Discover geocache treasure. Fall asleep to the sound of the waves. Shop at a farmers' market. Sing a campfire song with a park interpreter.

Choose a new adventure each weekend and experience first-hand the distinct culture and lifestyle of each Gulf Island!



Pender Island

One short ferry ride to the Pender Islands and you've made the perfect escape. Will it be a kayak tour, a challenging hike to the summit of Mount Norman, a treasure hunt on the geocache trail, or a rousing game of disc golf? You decide! After you've burned off some energy, pitch your tent in one of our 3 campgrounds!

Discover the delight of sleeping in a douglas fir forest and enjoying the warmth of a campfire at Prior Centennial Campground. Get away from it all at a hike-in backcountry campsite and enjoy the sunset by the water's edge at Shingle Bay or Beaumont Campgrounds.



Mayne Island

Brush up on your birding skills at Georgina Point — an Important Bird Area overlooking Active Pass. Use the high-powered viewscope to get a closer look at Harlequin ducks and black oystercatchers. Don't forget to take a selfie by the light tower!

Hike down the Campbell Point trail through an old-growth forest and enjoy views across to Georgeson Island. Hire a local kayak guide to launch you from Bennett Bay, introducing you to the diversity of wildlife on your journey along the Belle Chain Islets.



McDonald Campground

Need a quick recharge? Park your RV or pitch your tent in a campsite surrounded by tall cedars. Only 25 minutes from Victoria, McDonald Campground makes a perfect basecamp for exploring the Gulf Islands and the Greater Victoria area.

Cyclists can discover easy access to beautiful walk-in campsites. Looking for a scenic ride? The Lochside trail runs directly in front of the campground and you can follow it all the way to Victoria or the Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal!



Saturna Island

Escape to this laid-back island where you set the pace. Don't miss the legendary whale watching at East Point — from shore! While you're there learn about endangered orcas during one of our park events! You can also soak up island lore at the community museum in the heritage fog alarm building.

If you are looking to get off the beaten track head to our rustic backcountry campground, Narvaez Bay. Set up camp and relax beside the shimmering waters. Follow nearby hiking trails to the spectacular views at Monarch Head.



Sidney Island

Spend a day on car-free Sidney Island. Hop on the passenger ferry at Sidney Pier and soon you'll be kicking off your shoes and exploring kilometers of warm sandy beaches. Need longer to unwind? Grab your friends and disappear for the whole weekend at the quaint campground by a peaceful lagoon.

Looking for a boater's paradise? Tie up to our Sidney Spit dock or mooring buoys for an overnight stay and treat yourself to a spectacular sunset.



Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

Visitor Guide



Boating + Kayaking

Float your boat at one of Canada's premier boating destinations. Feel the waves under your kayak as eagles soar overhead. Drop anchor at Russell Island and tour a historic Hawaiian Homestead. You'll be greeted by sheltered waters and friendly volunteer hosts.

Discover spectacular coastlines around every corner. Spot seals, sea lions and porpoises. If you are lucky you may even come home with stories of sighting a pod of orcas.



Coast Salish Traditions

The Gulf Islands are part of the homeland of the Coast Salish First Nations. They have lived in this region for thousands of years and their knowledge, culture and oral history have been passed from generation to generation. Since time immemorial, the land and sea have nourished and sustained First Nations communities and their ties to the natural world can be seen in all aspects of their culture.

Discover these connections first-hand by participating in a Coast Salish Traditions activity this summer!



Discovery

Awaken your family's sense of wonder this summer at one of our park events. Discover the magic of a campfire with the whole family at the weekly "S'mores and More" program at McDonald Campground. For adventures and crafts don't miss Drop-in Family Sundays on Saturna. Listen for seals at Sunset Wildlife Watch. Fall in love with a whale at Orca News.

Prefer to go at your own pace? Download our EXPLORA trail guide app for a self-guided tour. Search for geocaches and earn a Parks Canada geocoin. For the perfect kids' adventure pick up a copy of our Xplorers book and complete the challenges to earn a prize!



MORE INFORMATION

WEBSITE parkscanada.gc.ca/gulfislands
 TELEPHONE 250-654-4000
 TOLL FREE 1-866-944-1744
 EMERGENCY CONTACT 1-877-852-3100
 EMAIL gulf.islands@pc.gc.ca
 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! @GulfIslandsNPR
 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! [facebook.com/GulfIslandsNPR](https://www.facebook.com/GulfIslandsNPR)

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Camping

Are you new to camping or a seasoned pro? Gulf Islands National Park Reserve offers outdoor overnight experiences for everyone. Book your favorite campsite, pack the car and take the family for a weekend escape to a sun dappled forest.

Looking for an adventure? Go backcountry! Cycle, paddle or hike to a rustic waterfront campsite. Add some stars and a few hoots from an owl and you've got the perfect evening!

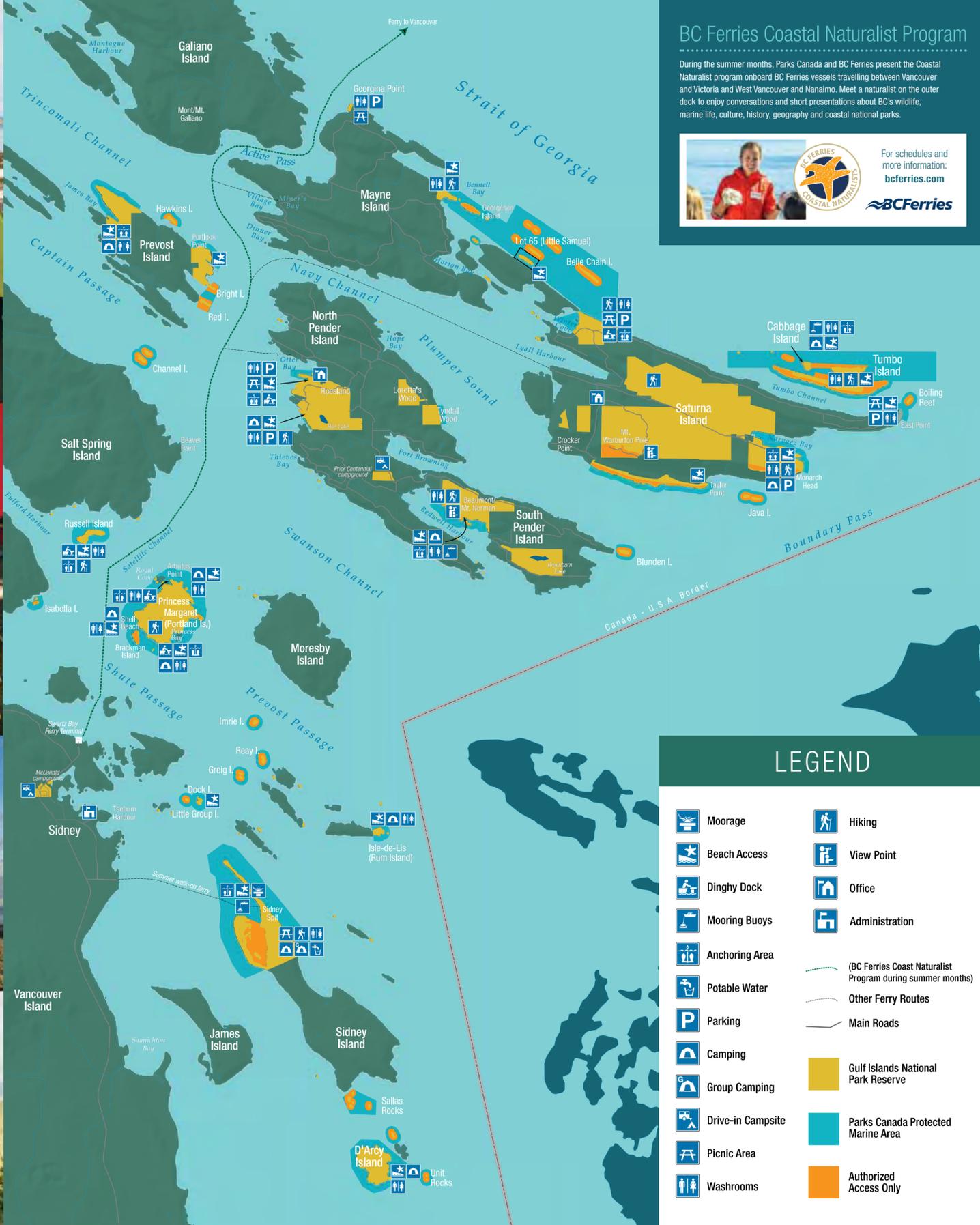
New! Reserve a backcountry site at Shingle Bay on North Pender Island.



Visit parkscanada.gc.ca/gulfislands for trail and campground details.

Hiking

From easy shoreline trails to invigorating shore-to-sky mountain climbs, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve has walks and hikes for all energy levels. Stroll barefoot along sandy beaches for hours. Let your feet carry you to mossy waterfalls, salt marshes and spectacular ocean views. Along the way, happen upon history: old cottages, homesteads and logging roads.



BC Ferries Coastal Naturalist Program

During the summer months, Parks Canada and BC Ferries present the Coastal Naturalist program onboard BC Ferries vessels travelling between Vancouver and Victoria and West Vancouver and Nanaimo. Meet a naturalist on the outer deck to enjoy conversations and short presentations about BC's wildlife, marine life, culture, history, geography and coastal national parks.



For schedules and more information:
bcferries.com



Plan Your Visit

Getting here:

Set sail aboard BC Ferries to reach Pender, Saturna, Mayne, and Vancouver Islands. Hop on board the seasonal walk on ferry from the town of Sidney to reach Sidney Island. Explore the park reserve at your own pace by boat, kayak or water taxi.

Season of Operation: May 15 – September 30

Reservations:

Book your campsite online: reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca or by phone: **1-877-737-3783**. McDonald, Prior Centennial, Shingle Bay and Sidney Spit campgrounds accept reservations. All other campgrounds are first-come-first-served.

Programs and Events:

For full program and event details check out our events calendar.



Adventure awaits — leave ordinary behind and discover Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

