Gulf Islands
National Park Reserve

Hiking, Camping and Boating Guide

A Prevost Island 48° 50′ North 123° 23′ West



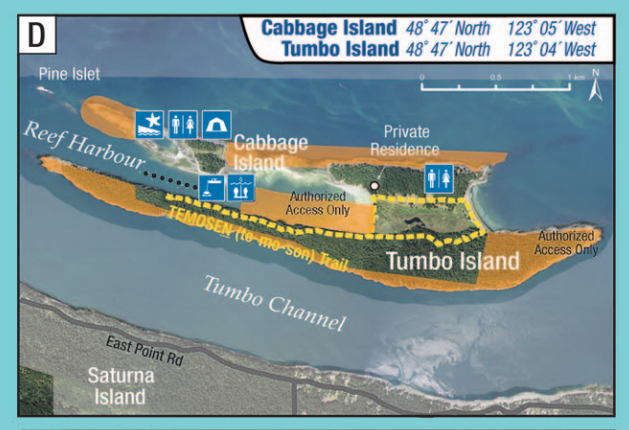
B Bennett Bay 48° 50′ North 123° 15′ West



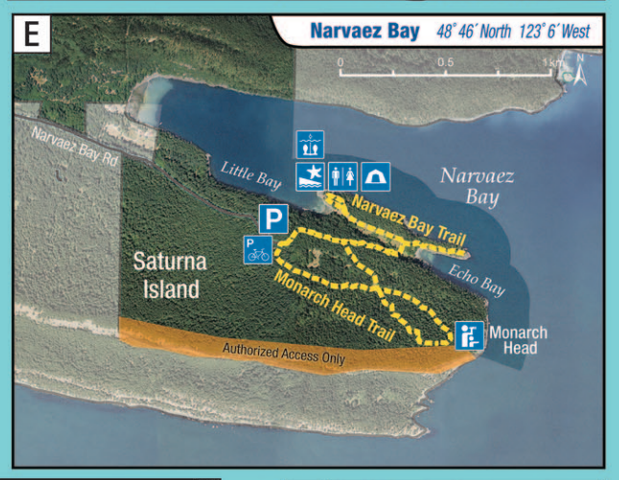
C Winter Cove 48° 48′ North 123° 11′ West



D Cabbage Island 48° 47′ North 123° 05′ West
Tumbo Island 48° 47′ North 123° 04′ West



E Narvaez Bay 48° 46′ North 123° 6′ West



O Russell Island 48° 44′ North 123° 24′ West



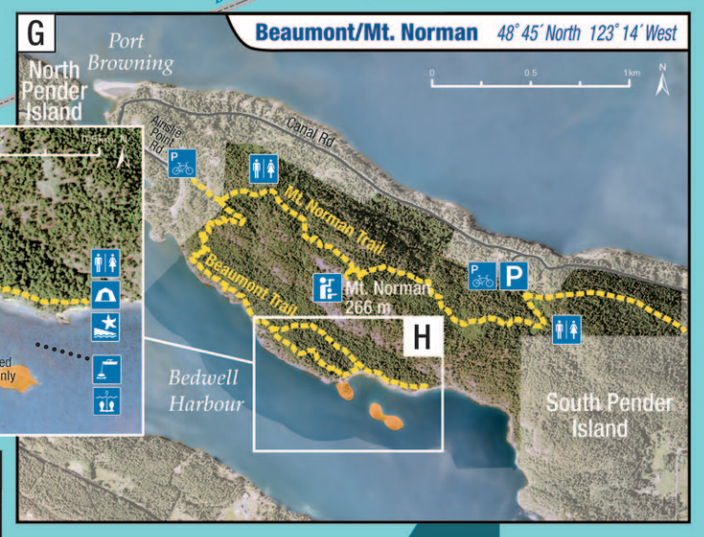
F Lyall Creek 48° 48′ North 123° 10′ West



N Princess Margaret 48° 43′ North 123° 22′ West



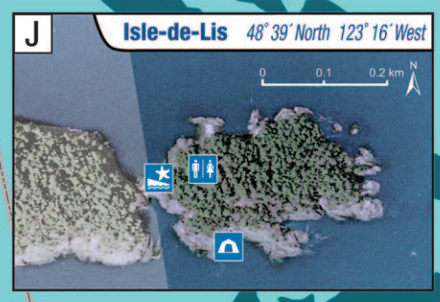
G Beaumont/Mt. Norman 48° 45′ North 123° 14′ West



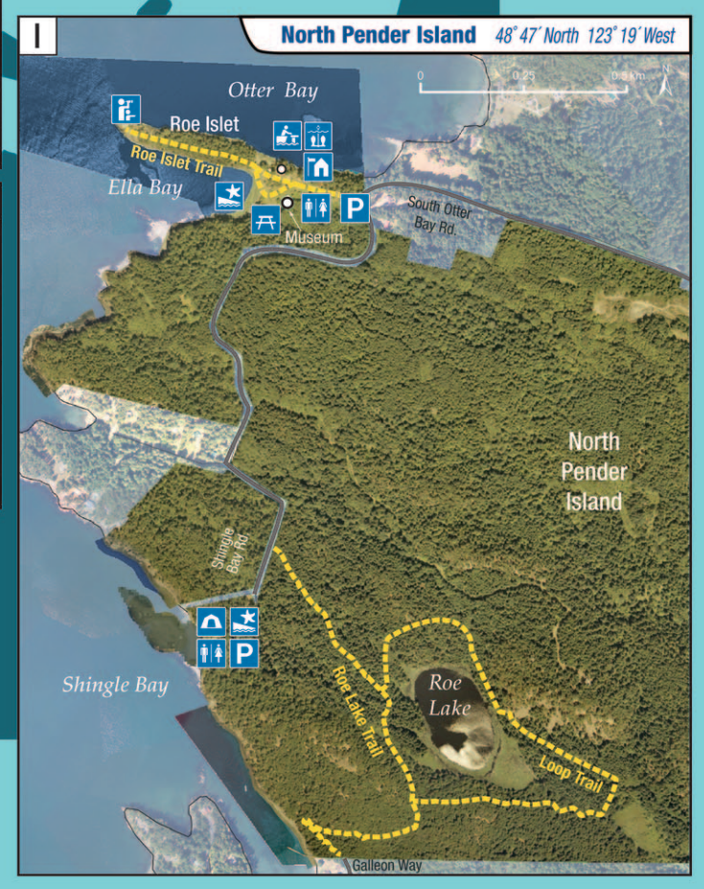
H



J Isle-de-Lis 48° 39′ North 123° 16′ West



I North Pender Island 48° 47′ North 123° 19′ West



K D'Arcy Island 48° 34′ North 123° 17′ West



M Sidney Spit 48° 38′ North 123° 19′ West



L



LEGEND

- Anchoring Area
- Moorage
- Beach Access
- Dinghy Dock
- Mooring Buoys
- Potable Water
- Viewpoint
- Hiking
- Camping
- Group Camping
- Drive-in Campsite
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Washrooms
- Bike Rack
- Parking
- Office
- Administration
- Trails
- Roads
- Ferry Routes
- Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada
- Parks Canada Protected Marine Areas
- Authorized Access Only

Welcome to Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, a mosaic of lands and waters in the southern Strait of Georgia. The park reserve protects one of the most ecologically at risk natural regions in Canada.

Camping, Mooring and Docking

SITES	# OF SITES					ACCESS		
						Road	Marine	Trail
Vancouver Island								
McDonald ■	49	√	√	√	√	√		
Sidney Island (Accessible by a foot passenger ferry. For schedule and fees: 250-474-5145 or alpinegroup.ca)								
Sidney Spit ■	27	√	√				√	
Mooring Buoys	**15**						√	
Dock							√	
*Group camping or picnicking is available at Sidney Spit by reservation only – maximum group size of 30. Fee is charged per party** or $49 for youth group. For more information or reservation, call 1-877-944-1744.*								
D'Arcy Island								
D'Arcy Island	7	√					√	
Isle-de-Lis								
Isle-de-Lis	3	√					√	
Princess Margaret (Portland Island)								
Shell Beach	6	√					√	
Princess Bay	12	√					√	
Arbutus Point	6	√					√	
Pender Islands								
Prior Centennial ■	17	√	√	√		√		
Beaumont	13	√					√	√
Beaumont Mooring Buoys	15						√	
Shingle Bay ▬	10	√				√	√	√
Prevost Island								
James Bay	10	√					√	
Saturna Island								
Narvaez Bay	7	√					√	√
Cabbage Island								
Cabbage Island	5	√					√	
Mooring Buoys	10						√	

■ RESERVATIONS: reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca or at 1-877-737-3783
* MAXIMUM PERSONS PER SITE: 6 people (exception: 2 adults with 5 dependent children).
** FEES: Please visit the website for all current park reserve fees. **parkscanada.gc.ca/gulfislands**

A public safety closure is in effect at Sidney Spit from November 1 to the end of February to facilitate hunting by Coast Salish First Nations.

Traditional hunting by First Nations occurs in the park reserve. Consider wearing bright colours, particularly in the winter. For public safety reasons, if you observe people hunting in the park, please contact Parks Canada at 1-877-852-3100.

Things you need to know about camping

- You must be at least 19 years of age to obtain a camping permit.
- You must have a valid permit at all times. Backcountry payment is cash only — exact change is required. For frontcountry sites you can make a reservation and pre-pay with a credit card at reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca.
- Bring plenty of drinking water with you.
  Although potable water is available at Sidney Spit, the sodium content is high and is not recommended for people with health conditions.
- Maximum length of stay is 14 days per calendar year.
- Consumption of alcohol is permitted only at your registered campsite or onboard your vessel.
- Visitors camping at Sidney Spit must be registered before the last ferry leaves the island for the day. Reservations are recommended for Sidney Spit.

Things you need to know about mooring and docking

- Fees apply after 3 p.m., please self-register.
- Rafting is prohibited. One vessel only per buoy.
- Vessel size guideline on mooring buoys:
  - Up to 15 m with winds under 30 knots
  - Up to 12 m with winds from 30-37 knots
- Mooring is prohibited when wind speeds exceed 37 knots.
- Docks at Sidney Spit and Princess Bay (Princess Margaret) are removed for the winter from October 1 to May 14.

Visiting during the off-season

- Gates are locked during the winter at McDonald and Prior Centennial, and camping is prohibited.
- Backcountry campsites are accessible year round. No fees are charged during the off-season and services are reduced.

LEAVE NO TRACE

leave no trace CANADA

In order for you to enjoy a safe and memorable experience and to protect this special place, please follow the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics when visiting the park reserve.

Hikes and Walks

L M Sidney Spit

SḴŦÁMEN (*sk-thay-men*) Trail (45 minutes)
Lagoon Trail 1.5 km (40 minutes)
Easy 2 km loop and 1.5 km spur to lagoon from main boat dock.

Take a leisurely walk on the beaches or wander the trails through the shady forest and sunny open fields. The distance from the main dock to the campground area is just short of a kilometre (0.8 km).

N Princess Margaret

Princess Margaret Perimeter Trail
Moderate 6.5 km (3-hour loop)
Royal Cove Trail (30 minutes to Royal Cove or Arbutus Point)
Kanaka Bluffs Trail (15 minutes)
Pellow Islets Trail (15 minutes)

A shoreline loop allows you to hike around the perimeter of the entire island and enjoy spectacular views from all points of the compass.

O Russell Island

Haumea Trail (30-minute loop)
Easy 1 km from boat access.

A spur off the main loop trail leads to one of the last surviving Hawaiian homesteads in the region. The historic house dates back over a century.

South Pender Island

H Beaumont

Beaumont Trail (60 minutes)
Advanced 1.6 km trail from Ainslie Point Road (2 hours if accessing via Mount Norman trail from Canal Road). Parking at Canal Rd. only.

Half a kilometre from the Ainslie Point trail access, the trail to Beaumont switches back steeply down through thick forest and boulder fields. It levels out about 30 metres above the shoreline to a fork in the trail: both forks lead to the camping area.

G Mt. Norman

Mt. Norman Trail (60 minutes one way)
Advanced 2.3 km trails from either Canal Road or Ainslie Point Road (30 minutes one way to the lookout, from either access). Parking at Canal Road only.

Get your heart pumping! It's an invigorating 244-metre (800-foot) shore-to-sky trek from the campsites at Beaumont to the summit of Mount Norman. Take the Beaumont Trail through salal and second growth forest to Mount Norman Trail (2.6 km) to access the viewing platform.

North Pender Island

I Roe Lake ▬

Roe Lake Trail (45 minutes one way)
Moderate 1.2 km from Shingle Bay Road.

Loop Trail (55 minutes)
1.7 km loop (0.5 km from Shingle Bay Road trail access or 0.4 km from Magic Lake Estates).

This trail leads into the uplands above Shingle Bay to Roe Lake, then steeply descends to the Magic Lake Estates subdivision. The loop trail allows you to hike around the lake where you can enjoy stunning views of tranquil Roe Lake.

I Roesland

Roe Islet Trail (15 minutes one way)
Easy 0.5 km from parking lot to viewpoint.

Quick access to a former cottage resort dating back to the early 1900s. To the north of Ella Bay, a short rustic trail on Roe Islet leads to a viewpoint. The islet access may be exposed to water at high tides. Please refer to tide tables at information kiosk.

Saturna Island

C Winter Cove

Xwiwxwyus (*kwik-wi-us*) Trail (25-minute loop)
Easy 1.5 km from Winter Cove day use area.

This pleasant loop takes you through a variety of vegetation zones—skunk cabbage wetland, spruce-salal upland, open meadows and salt marsh—and offers spectacular views across the Strait of Georgia.

E Narvaez Bay

Narvaez Bay Trail (30 minutes one way)
Moderate 1.7 km Trail head past parking lot/yellow gate at end of Narvaez Bay Road.

A moderately steep old road leads to one of the most serene locations on Saturna Island. At the headland, choose to go right to Echo Bay and enjoy a beautiful relaxing spot or turn left to the backcountry campsites near Little Bay.

E Monarch Head (Narvaez Bay)

Monarch Head Trail (90-minute loop)
Moderate 2.5 km Trail head on right just before parking lot at end of Narvaez Bay Road.

Rapidly rising 100 metres in elevation to the viewpoint, this trail branches off the Narvaez Bay trail and follows an old logging road up to an incredible view of Boundary Pass and the San Juan islands.

F Lyall Creek

Lyall Creek Trail (40 minutes one way)
Moderate-Advanced 2 km from either Narvaez Bay Road or the east end of Valley Road. Park at pull-off on Narvaez Bay Road.

Descending from Narvaez Bay Road, the initially steep trail passes by a mossy waterfall then levels off quickly. The hike continues through the forested heart of the island and follows the creek to end at East Point Road.

D Tumbo Island

TEMOSEN (*te-mo-son*) Trail (90-minute loop)
Easy 3.5 km around Tumbo Island.

This trail provides multiple ocean views of Cabbage Island across from Reef Harbour and the San Juan Islands, as it wanders through Garry oak, Arbutus and coastal Douglas Fir forest, and marshes. (Note: a life tenancy agreement is in place for the house. Please respect the resident's privacy).

Mayne Island

B Bennett Bay

Campbell Point Trail (15 minutes to the point)
Easy 1.5 km from Bennett Bay Road.

A wide and relatively flat trail brings you through old-growth forest to superb views from the point across to Georgeson Island.

Contact Information

Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, 2220 Harbour Road, Sidney, BC V8L 2P6

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Aussi disponible en français.