



World Indigenous Business Forum

# Indigenous Cultural Experiences

**OCT 5-7 2019**  
\$765 + tax

**PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR**  
**Northern Vancouver Island**

This northern tip of Vancouver Island excursion offers a combination of ocean-inspired wilderness tours along with hands on cultural experiences associated with the diverse Indigenous peoples of this region.



Northern Vancouver Island, BC

**OCT 11-12 2019**  
\$355 + tax

**POST-CONFERENCE TOUR**  
**Sea to Sky & Whistler**

Learn about local First Nations art and culture as you travel the Sea to Sky Corridor from Vancouver to Whistler. Includes the Bill Reid Gallery, the Museum of Anthropology and the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre.



Whistler, BC

# PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR: Northern Vancouver Island

**OCTOBER 4–7, 2019: Friday to Monday**

## Day 1

### Fly to Vancouver Island

Your trip starts with a flight on Pacific Coastal Airlines from Vancouver to Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island (flight time is 1 hour and 5 minutes). Upon arrival you will be shuttled to the Kwa'lilas Hotel, Port Hardy's premier First Nations destination hotel, offering a curated selection of authentic local Indigenous arts and culture. After settling in you will enjoy dinner at ha'me' Restaurant, serving local, Indigenous-inspired west coast cuisine.

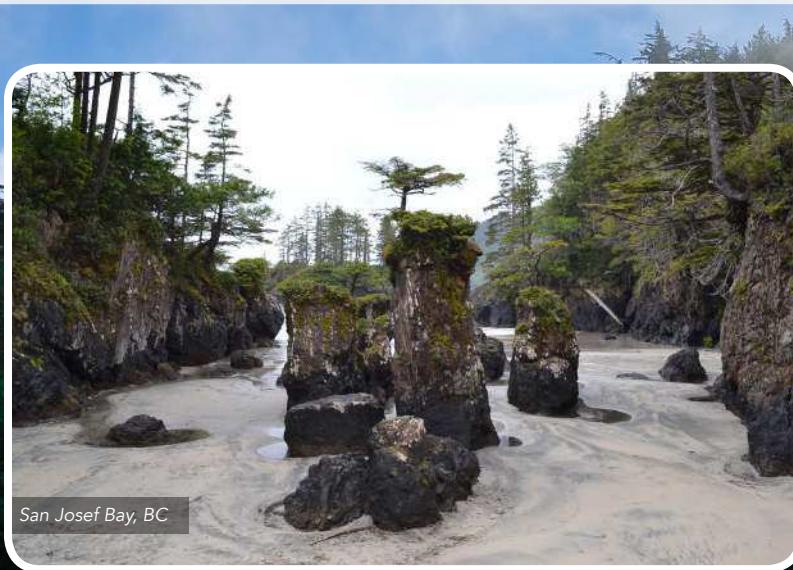
## Day 2

### Beaches, Forest & Wildlife

The next morning you will depart for a day trip to San Josef Bay in Cape Scott Provincial Park. The tour begins with a comfortable drive where there is a good chance of seeing black bears, black-tail deer, eagles and other wildlife (drive time is 1 hour and 45 minutes).

Upon reaching the Cape Scott trail head you will walk approximately 45–60 minutes on a well-maintained trail that goes through old-growth stands of forests and swamps. There is an outhouse at the trail head and the beach. In total, the day can end up being approximately 10–12 kilometers of walking depending on how much exploring the group would like to do. The area is loaded with local history and is on the traditional lands of the Tlatlasikwala First Nation. Your tour guides will have information on local flora, fauna, and history.

The beach at San Josef Bay is expansive and tranquil and offers guests a variety of west-coast activities. Follow your guides on an interpretive walk along the sandy beach, through the sea stacks, tidal pools and sea caves. Enjoy a picnic lunch from one of the local food retailers while sitting among the sea stacks. Keep an eye out for bald eagles, osprey, harbour seals, sea otters and the plethora of intertidal creatures. The views are vast and the photo opportunities are definitely endless!



# Nature, Wildlife, Culture & Cuisine

## Day 3

### Indigenous Culture

Sunday morning starts with breakfast at Kwa'lilas Hotel. After breakfast you depart for Port McNeill and the ferry to Alert Bay, home of the 'Namgis First Nation (50 minute ferry ride). Upon arrival in Alert Bay you take a guided tour of the U'mista Cultural Centre.

The U'mista Cultural Centre is one of the longest-operating and most successful First Nations cultural facilities in BC, founded in 1980 as a ground breaking project to house potlatch artifacts which had been seized by government during an earlier period of cultural repression. The collection at U'mista features masks and ceremonial objects treasured by the Kwakwaka'wakw people.

In the afternoon you will return to the Kwa'lilas Hotel for a cedar weaving workshop. For thousands of years the Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw and surrounding Coastal First Nations have weaved cedar fibres into goods that could be traded or used for personal use. From hats, jewelry, baskets and household mats; cedar weaving is a very effective and versatile method to create beautiful objects from nature. In the workshop you will learn the process of harvesting and preparing cedar to create your very own bracelet, small basket, medicine pouch or lighter case.

## Day 4

### Fly to Vancouver

The final day of the tour is an early morning flight back to Vancouver, getting you back to the city with plenty of time to get settled ahead of the World Indigenous Business Forum.

To book this tour, please contact The Travel Group:

**1-800-665-6345 | [mail@travelg.com](mailto:mail@travelg.com)**



# POST-CONFERENCE TOUR: **Sea to Sky & Whistler**

**OCTOBER 11–12, 2019: Friday to Saturday**

## Day 1

### Indigenous Art, Culture & History

Your tour starts at the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, named after the acclaimed Haida artist Bill Reid (1920 – 1998) who was a master goldsmith, carver, sculptor, writer, broadcaster and spokesman. Nestled in the heart of downtown Vancouver, the Gallery is home to the Simon Fraser University Bill Reid Collection and special exhibitions of contemporary Indigenous Art of the Northwest Coast of North America. It is Canada's only public gallery dedicated to contemporary Indigenous Art of the Northwest Coast.

Your next stop is the Urban Aboriginal Fair Trade Gallery at Skwachàys Lodge. Skwachàys is an extraordinary boutique hotel and Canada's first Indigenous arts hotel. The Gallery is a social enterprise created by Vancouver Native Housing Society to provide a community owned resource for Aboriginal artists. This site is a community driven initiative dedicated to sharing the artistic and cultural work of the urban Aboriginal community.

Next is the Museum of Anthropology, a place of world arts and cultures with a special emphasis on the First Nations peoples and other cultural communities of British Columbia. In the Museum's Great Hall, massive and magnificent First Nations sculptures stand against a soaring glass wall that opens onto a panorama of forested islands and snow-capped mountains bordering the Salish Sea. Outside, eagles glide and ravens caw under a sky whose subtle, constantly changing colours and tones form a backdrop for the stories and performances choreographed in MOA's exhibition galleries.

Your afternoon ends with a shuttle to Whistler along the picturesque Sea to Sky Corridor. Your final destination is the Aava Whistler Hotel where you will spend your night in Whistler. The evening is yours to explore the shops and restaurants of Whistler Village.



Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, Vancouver, BC



Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, BC

# Art & Culture from the Shore to the Mountains

## Day 2

### **The Culture of the Squamish & Lil'wat Nations**

You will spend your morning at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, a First Nations museum in Whistler. The Centre embodies the spirit of partnership between two unique Nations who wish to preserve, grow and share their traditional cultures. It stands as testimony to their proud heritage — from time immemorial to the present. Your guided tour is titled "What We Treasure" and is delivered by Cultural Ambassadors who share their own stories and first-hand cultural experiences. Throughout this tour your group will view artifacts and hear stories that give an overview of the past and present way of life of the Squamish and Lil'wat peoples.

You will depart Whistler at 2:00pm and return to Vancouver.

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These tour packages were created by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC), a membership-based organization representing Indigenous owned and controlled tourism businesses from across Canada. ITAC focuses on creating partnerships between associations, organizations, government departments and industry leaders from across Canada to support the growth of Indigenous tourism in Canada and to address the demand for development and marketing of authentic Indigenous experiences.

Learn more at [IndigenousTourism.ca/corporate](http://IndigenousTourism.ca/corporate)