

Kayak Destinations

Hakai Recreation Area

Central Coast, BC

Paddling Notes

- General**
 - This is a huge area so be careful with your dreams. Distances are great and be prepared to be in your kayak for up to 6 hours as cliffs drop into the water. Places to get out can be rough (no beaches and barnacle covered boulders)
 - Treat the whole trip as if you were out in the Pacific without cover to run to. When the wind changes, seas become very confused and very 'pushy'.
 - Minke whale stayed with us all the way up Fisher channel and Lama Passage to Bella Bella – about 10 hours
- Camping**
 - True Wilderness Camping except for a very few spots – rough, wild and numerous bears and wolves.
 - Do NOT rely on published maps and guide books identifying camp spots – they verge on dangerous!!
 - Goose Island is great for a few days with a magic beach on the north.
 - Some campsites are really wet. Take a poly tarp as a tent pad
- Locations**
 - Mostly Exposed water, esp. Spider I. and to Goose Group (5 nm channel, variable weather)
 - West side of Goose Island is very rough and extensive kelp beds make 'poking around' very hairy as Pacific swell lifts very quickly up a steep shelf - breaking waves in the kelp beds
 - Watch for serious boomers around Goose Group and on the outer islands
- Skills**
 - Comfort in a heavy boat is important as is competence in paddle strokes. Build up long-haul stamina for those extra long days. One group we came across had to do two 40 mile days because of planning and weather change.
 - Plan for 'weather days' and use them when needed.
 - Seasickness is a real possibility if you tend toward motion distress.
 - Good skill at dead reckoning and chart feature recognition is important as sea mist can develop at very short notice.

Trip Basics

No. of Days	7 – 15 days .. it takes a minor mission to get there so you want to maximise time there
Paddle Distance	50 - 100 nm; 15 to 25 nm each day –it's big country and big water
SKGABC Water Class. Map: I-IV	Outside the islands: Class IV; Goose Group: Class IV; Inside passes: Class III Deep inlets: Class IV (strong currents with standing waves in places)
Recommended Launch Site:	Bella-Bella (Macloughlan Bay ferry stop) See Map (below)

Getting There

Driving Directions	Google Maps: Museum of Vancouver-Port Hardy-Shearwater-Bella Bella . Park in Port Hardy. Walk kayaks on the Ferry. No parking in Bella Bella or Shearwater
Travel Distance - Total	666 km 17 h 04 min
- Ferry	19 km 1 h 18 min Horseshoe Bay, BC - Departure Bay, BC
	185 km 8 h 34 min Port Hardy - Bella Bella
Ferry Info	BC Ferries-Inside Passage Summer Day Cruise Only days that stop in Bella Bella.
Paddle to nearest campsite	10nm, Min of 4 hours

NOTE: All information must be confirmed by kayakers before departing, and is provided without warrantee

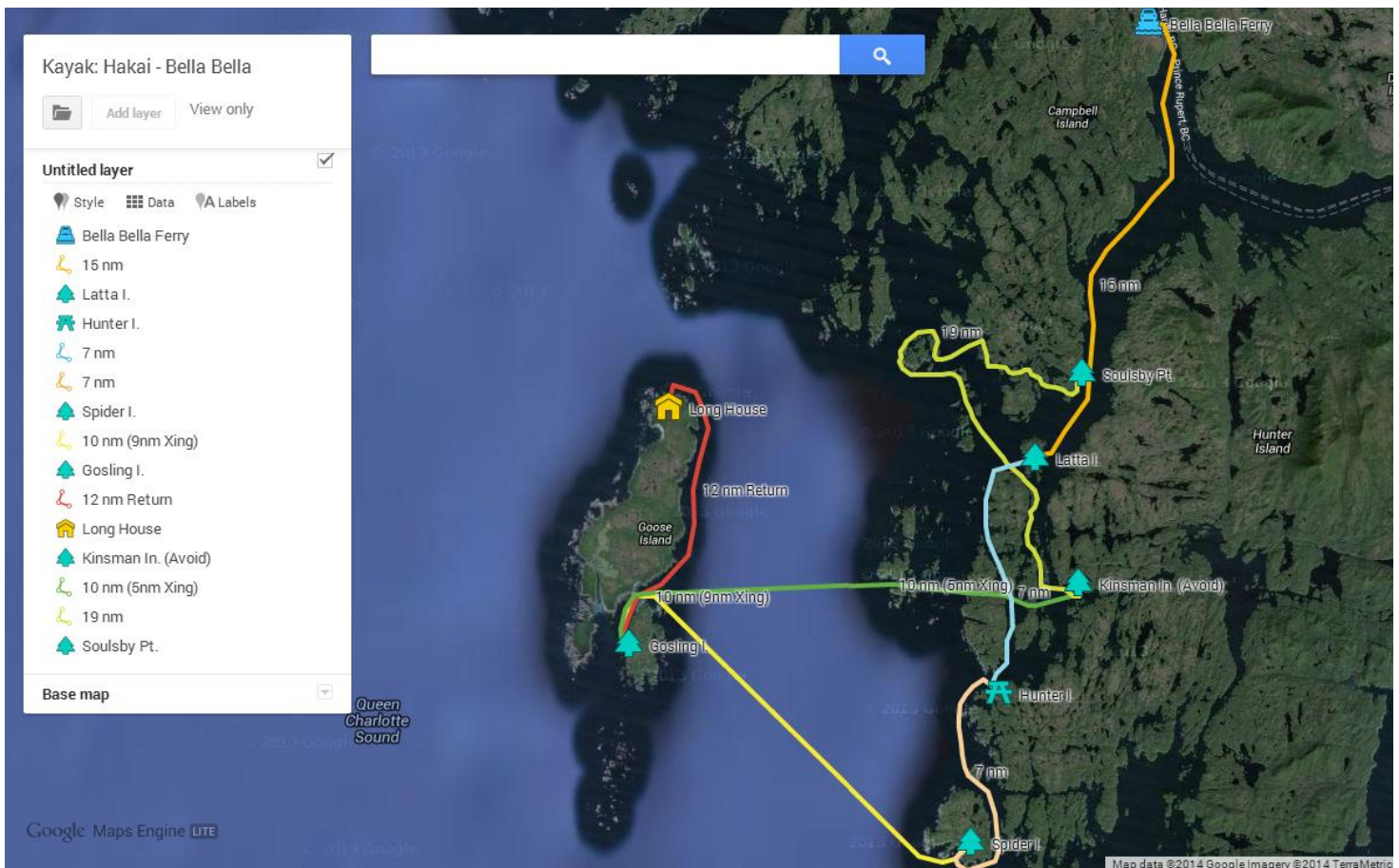
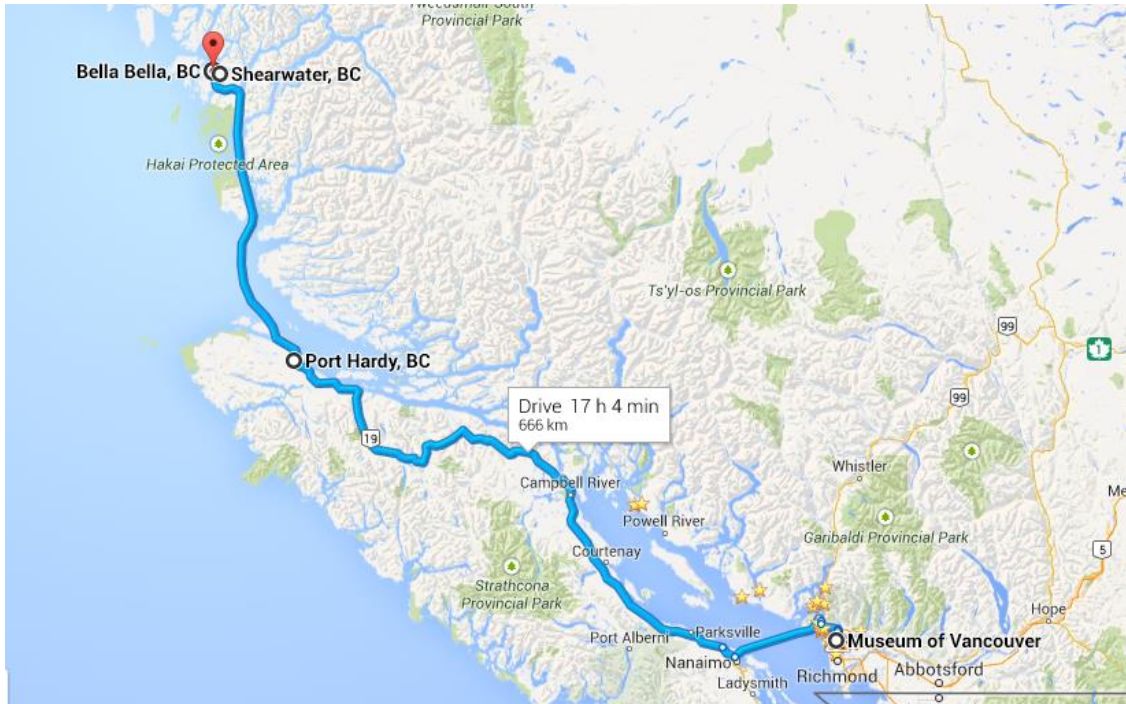
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Planning

Nautical Charts	3936 1:40,000 Fitzhugh Sound 3937 1:40,000 Queens Sound (2) & Goose Group 3938 1:40,000 Queens Sound (1) 3784 1:40,000 Kwakshua Channel
Marine Trail	NA; See Map (below)
Trip Planning Maps	NA; See Map (below)
Suggested Guide Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coast and Kayak Spring 2014 "Navigating the Island Maze"• Kayak Routes of the Pacific North West by Peter McGee• Coast and Kayak Magazine: "Kayak BC's Central Coast"• Great Wild Spaces: Hakai Protected Area• The Hakai Program
Park & Camping Info.	See Map (below). Emergency at Shearwater Resort , a fishing lodge
Tide Station	Spider Island (#8912) and Gosling Island (#8906)
Marine Weather	VHF Central Coast from McInnes Island to Pine Island
Radio Contact	VHF radio with Fishing boats, charters and lodges in the area, who may respond or relay messages. Use 5 watts when transmitting. Shearwater Resort base and water taxis monitor & communicate on VHF channel 6 and its marina monitors VHF 66A.
Water Taxi	Shearwater Resort offers pre-booked Water Taxi Service between the resort and Hakai for up to 12 Kayakers and 6-8 Kayaks. Shearwater freight company can ship kayaks and equipment to the central coast with departure points of either Richmond or Port Hardy.

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