

## Welcome

Gulf Islands National Park Reserve protects a portion of the Strait of Georgia lowlands natural region and is part of the homeland of the Coast Salish First Nations, who have cared for the land and sea since time immemorial.

Breathe in the fresh ocean air. Feel the warm, west coast sun on your face. Feast your eyes on the beautiful islands surrounding you. Spot a whale. Fall asleep to the sound of the waves. Learn about nature with a park interpreter. Experience firsthand the distinct culture and lifestyle of each Gulf Island!

Mount Norman Trail, Pender Island



## Boating + Kayaking

Float your boat at one of Canada's premier boating destinations. Dig in your paddle as eagles soar overhead. Drop anchor at Russell Island and hike to a historic Hawaiian Homestead. You'll be greeted by sheltered waters, sandy coves, and unbelievable views.

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 killer whales.



**Pacific Rim National Park Reserve**  
**National Historic Sites**  
1 Fort Rodd Hill & Fisgard Lighthouse  
2 Gulf of Georgia Cannery  
3 Fort Langley



## MORE INFORMATION

WEBSITE: [parks.canada.gc.ca/gulfislands](https://parks.canada.gc.ca/gulfislands)

TELEPHONE: 250-654-4000

TOLL FREE: 1-866-944-1744

PARK EMERGENCY CONTACT: 1-877-852-3100

EMAIL: [gulfinfo@pc.gc.ca](mailto:gulfinfo@pc.gc.ca)

FOLLOW US ON X! @GulfIslandsNPR

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! [facebook.com/GulfIslandsNPR](https://facebook.com/GulfIslandsNPR)

Aussi disponible en français.

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



## 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 the sandy beaches for hours. Let your feet carry you to mossy waterfalls, salt marshes and jaw-dropping ocean views. Along the way, happen upon history: ancient sea gardens being actively tended, heritage orchards, former cottages, and Hawaiian homesteads.

Open this guide to see the full park map and detailed trail maps!

Paddling off Pender Island



## Frontcountry Campgrounds

SMONEĆTEN, Prior Centennial and Sidney Spit

Easy access, spectacular scenery, and the ability to book your campsite in advance make a vacation to one of our frontcountry campgrounds a dream come true. Detailed descriptions of each location accompany the park map inside this brochure. When planning a trip please note that SMONEĆTEN and Prior Centennial campgrounds offer potable water, garbage disposal, and fire rings. Sidney Spit Campground has no water, no garbage facilities (pack-in pack-out), and does not allow campfires at any time of year.

SMONEĆTEN Campground, Saanich Peninsula



## Campground Information

- Camping permit holders must be 19+ years of age.
- Pets must be kept on leash at all times and their waste removed.
- Alcohol consumption is only permitted on a registered campsite.
- Cannabis consumption is prohibited in all frontcountry campground common areas (washrooms, kitchen shelters, campsite trails, and roads).
- Fire restrictions: campfires, briquette-fueled barbecues and portable campfire apparatuses are prohibited at Sidney Spit, at all backcountry campgrounds, and at all day use areas (including below the high tide mark).
- Maximum length of stay is 14 days per year.
- Maximum group size per campsite:
  - **Frontcountry** 6 adults (or 7 people including children);
  - **Backcountry** 5 people.

## Explore

Gulf Islands National Park Reserve promises amazing exploration year-round. In the summer enjoy cozy campfire programs, interactive activities, and cultural presentations. In July and August, park interpreters will guide you through a treasure trove of experiences. Whenever you visit, be inspired by breathtaking views, rare ecosystems, and island charm.

Whether you're participating in a scheduled activity or exploring on your own, remember to be mindful of the wildlife, plants, and people who live here. Explore with care.



## Connect

Connect with Parks Canada interpreters in the communities of Greater Victoria and the Gulf Islands. Enjoy conversations and short presentations on the local wildlife, culture, history, and breathtaking landscapes.

Join us this summer at markets, community events, and the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea in Sidney.

Plan your visit today! Visit our website for programs and events.

Sidney Spit Campground, Sidney Island



## Backcountry Campgrounds

D'Arcy, Isle-de-Lis (Rum), Princess Margaret (Portland), Pender, Prevost, and Saturna Islands.

Hike, bike, or paddle your way to one of our rejuvenating backcountry getaways. These rustic locations require you to bring your own drinking water, and to pack-in pack-out (no garbage facilities available).

Reservations are recommended at:

- Shingle Bay Campground, North Pender Island
- Narvaez Bay Campground, Saturna Island

All other backcountry campgrounds are first-come first-served. Consult the kiosk upon arrival for registration info.

Shingle Bay Campground, North Pender Island



Winter Cove, Saturna Island



## Learn

WSÁNEĆ and Quw'utsun people have been stewarding these islands since time immemorial. Listen and learn from knowledge holders and Elders by joining a Coast Salish Traditions program.

SENĆOTĒN is the language of the WSÁNEĆ People. JIET SW TTE SJISEN's ŠWELOKE LTE means "meet our plant relatives" in English. During your visit to SMONEĆTEN Campground, you can get acquainted with some of the WSÁNEĆ people's plant relatives. Look for the plant signs.

Indigenous Interpretation Program, Sidney Island



## CAMPGROUNDS, DOCKS AND MOORAGE

PLACES	Outhouses available at all locations	NUMBER OF SITES	ACCESS
<b>Vancouver Island</b>			
SMONEĆTEN		49	
<b>Sidney Island</b> (Accessible by foot passenger ferry, visit our website for details)			
Sidney Spit		29	
Mooring Buoys		10	
Dock			
Group campground. Reservations required. For more information or bookings, phone 1-866-944-1744.			

### Pender Islands

Prior Centennial		17	
Beaumont <b>CLOSED TO CAMPING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE</b>			
Beaumont Mooring Buoys		16	
Shingle Bay		10	

### D'Arcy Island

D'Arcy Island		7	
Mooring Buoys		2	

### Isle-de-Lis (Rum Island)

Isle-de-Lis		3	
-------------	--	---	--

### Princess Margaret (Portland Island)

Shell Beach		6	
Princess Bay		12	
Arbutus Point		6	

### Prevost Island

James Bay		10	
-----------	--	----	--

### Saturna Island

Narvaez Bay		7	
-------------	--	---	--

### Cabbage Island

**CLOSED TO CAMPING AND DAY USE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Mooring Buoys		10	
---------------	--	----	--

**To make a reservation visit:** [reservation.pc.gc.ca](https://reservation.pc.gc.ca) **or call** 1-877-737-3783.  
**List of fees:** [www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/bc/gulf/visit/tarifs-fees](https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/bc/gulf/visit/tarifs-fees)

Drive-in Campsite	Boat Tie-up	Hike	Campfires
Camping	Accessible	Boat	Reservable
Mooring Buoys	Potable Water	Car	

## Wildlife

Pinch me—this can't be real! An amazing variety of wildlife awaits as you discover the Gulf Islands. Killer whales, porpoises, sea lions, seals and otters call the waters surrounding the park reserve home; eagles, falcons and turkey vultures fly overhead. Many species of seabirds, shorebirds and waterfowl live here or stop over on their annual migrations.

For a chance to spot whales, sea lions and seals from land check out the new KĒNES SOL (kwun-us-saw-lh) Whale Trail at East Point, Saturna Island!

Looking across Tumbo Channel from East Point, Saturna Island



## Camping

Whether you are new to camping or a seasoned pro, you'll love it here. We offer outdoor overnight experiences for everyone. Book your favorite campsite, pack the car and take the family for a relaxing 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 you've got the perfect evening!

Please refer to the campgrounds section to get more information.

## Important reminders for visitors to Gulf Islands National Park Reserve:

The southern Gulf Islands are home to many rare and sensitive ecosystems which can be impacted by human use. When visiting Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, please do your part to protect these special places.

**Fires are prohibited**  
with the exception of the designated fire rings at Prior Centennial and SMONEĆTEN campgrounds. Seasonal fire bans may be in place at these locations.

**Bring your own drinking water**  
Potable water is available only at Prior Centennial and SMONEĆTEN campgrounds.

**Pack in, pack out**  
Do not leave any garbage within the national park reserve, or at local businesses.

**Dogs must be on a leash at all times**

**Camp in designated areas only**

**Stay on designated trails when hiking**

**Do not remove, collect, or damage any natural or cultural objects**

**No drones**  
Recreational use of drones within the national park reserve is prohibited, and commercial drone use requires a permit from Parks Canada.

**Cycling is not permitted on national park reserve trails**  
with the exception of the trail connecting the parking area and the campground at Narvaez Bay (Saturna Island).



## Plan Your Visit

**GETTING HERE:** Set sail aboard BC Ferries to reach Pender, Saturna, Mayne, and Vancouver islands. Hop aboard the seasonal walk-on ferry 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

**CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS:** [reservation.pc.gc.ca](https://reservation.pc.gc.ca) or by phone 1-877-737-3783.  
Some backcountry campgrounds are first-come first-served.

**PROGRAMS & EVENTS:** Check our online event calendar for details.



Parks Canada

Canada



# Hiking, Camping and Boating Guide

## A Prevost Island

**James Bay Campground** is only accessible by water, and is popular with kayakers. There are no tent pads in this open field style camping area. 10 backcountry campsites.

## B Russell Island

**Haumea Trail** Easy 1.2 km 30-minute loop. This island is steeped in rich history. Coast Salish clam gardens have been used here for at least 1000 years. A spur off the main loop trail leads to one of the last surviving Hawaiian homesteads in the region. The historic Mahoi house dates back over a century.

## C Princess Margaret (Portland Island)

**Arbutus Point Campground** 6 backcountry sites, **Shell Beach Campground** 6 backcountry sites, and **Princess Bay Campground** 12 backcountry sites (ideal for groups), offer opportunities to camp on all sides of Portland Island.

A shoreline loop allows you to hike around the entire island and enjoy spectacular views. Shorter trails cut across the interior of the island.

**Princess Margaret Perimeter Trail** Moderate 7 km three hour loop.

**Royal Cove Trail** Moderate 1.7 km

**Kanaka Bluffs Trail** Moderate 0.8 km

**Pellow Islets Trail** Moderate 0.7 km

## D SMOŃEĆTEN (smaw-nitch tun) Campground

**SMOŃEĆTEN Campground** Park your RV or pitch your tent in a campsite surrounded by tall cedars. Only 25 minutes from Victoria, SMOŃEĆTEN Campground makes a perfect basecamp for exploring the Gulf Islands and the Greater Victoria area. 49 sites, with a mix of RV, tent, and walk-in sites. Reservations recommended.

**Cycling** There is easy access to beautiful walk-in campsites and the Lochside Regional cycling trail which connects the campground to Victoria and the Swartz Bay ferry terminal.

## E Sidney Spit

Escape to Sidney Island, where Douglas-fir forests intertwine with coastal sand ecosystems, creating a haven for nature enthusiasts. This car-free oasis is just a swift 20-minute boat ride from the bustling town of Sidney and offers campsites, mooring buoys, and a welcoming dock for visitors seeking tranquility by the sea. You can find more information about the seasonal passenger ferry on our website.

**Sidney Spit Campground** 29 tent sites. Reservations recommended. No water available. Pack in water.

**Boating Facilities** First-come first-served mooring buoys and dock space. Fees apply daily after 3 p.m.

**SKŤAMEN (sk-thay-men) Trail** Easy 3.5 km loop from the main dock to the campground and then returning along the eastern coast.

**Lagoon Trail** Easy 1.8 km spur off SKŤAMEN Trail to lagoon (3.6 km total).

## F Isle-de-Lis (Rum Island)

**Isle-de-Lis Campground** This small island features coastal bluffs, a Douglas fir and arbutus forest, and vegetation that reflects the warm Mediterranean-like climate of the southern Gulf Islands. 3 backcountry campsites.

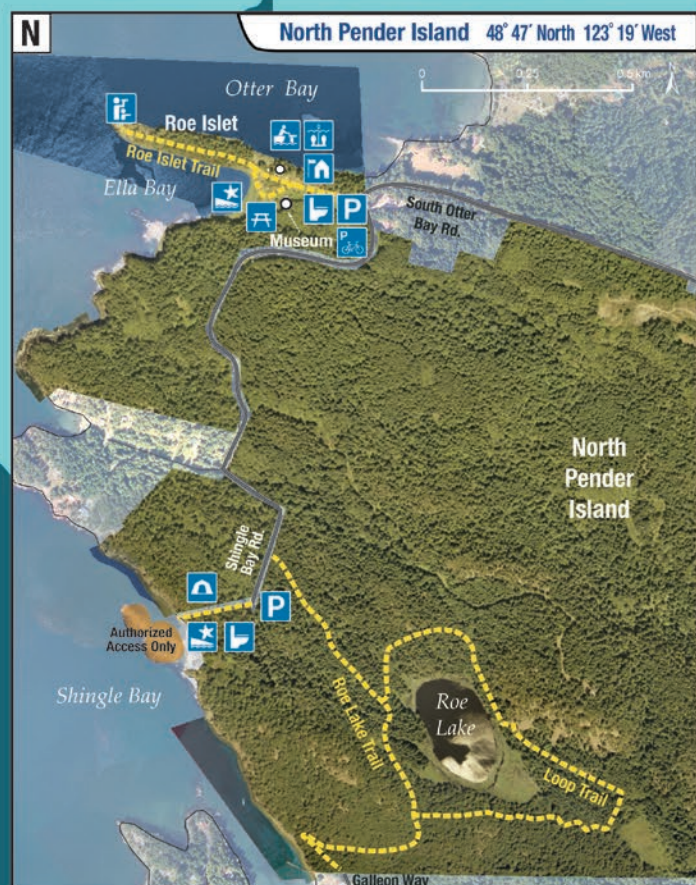
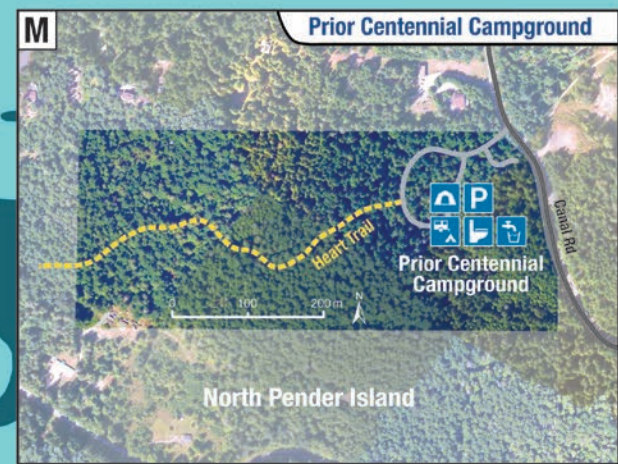
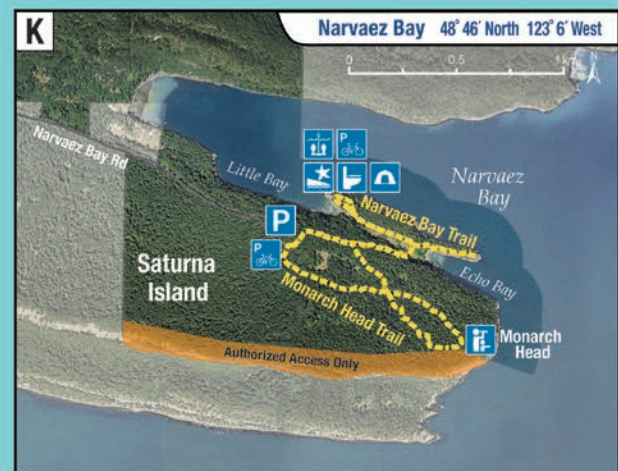
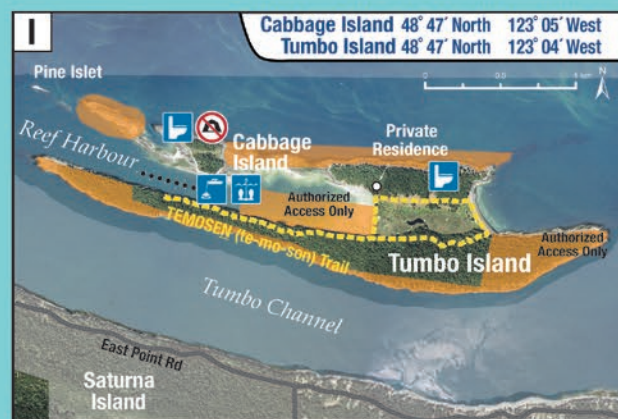
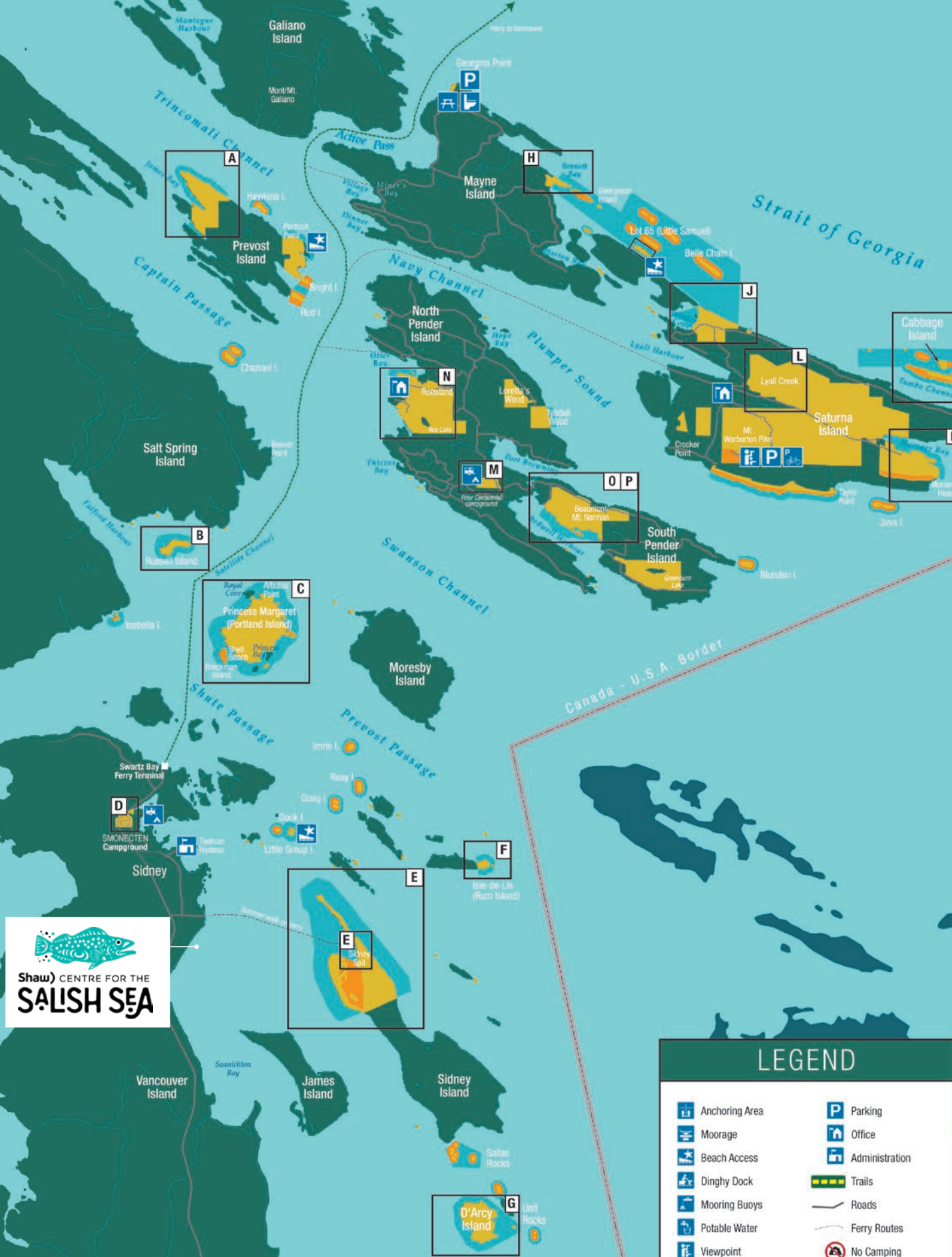
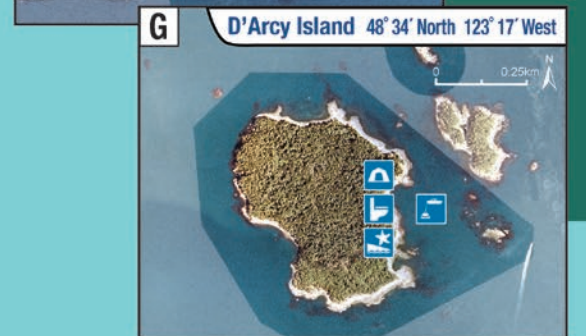
## G D'Arcy Island

**D'Arcy Island Campground** With numerous coves, cobble beaches and a forest of arbutus and Douglas fir, D'Arcy Island's beauty belies its past history as a leper colony for Chinese immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s. 7 backcountry campsites.

## H Mayne Island

Brush up on your birding skills at Georgina Point — an Important Bird Area overlooking Active Pass. Bring your binoculars to get a closer look at harlequin ducks and black oystercatchers.

**Campbell Point Trail** Easy 800 m each way. Campbell Point features remnant old-growth forest. A wide and relatively flat trail brings you to superb views from the point across to Georgeson Island.



This brochure is for general information only. It may not represent the most recent legal boundaries and should not be used for navigation. Please visit <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/gulf> for the latest bulletins, updates and closures.