

BC PROVINCIAL PARK

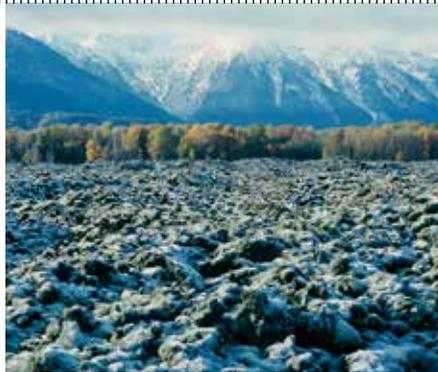
# Visitor Centre

Anhluut'ukwsim Lax-mihl Angwinga'asa'anskwahl  
Nisga'a / Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park

Canada's last volcanic eruption occurred in the Nass Valley over 266 years ago. The vast lava beds serve as a memorial to the 2,000 Nisga'a people who lost their lives and as a reminder of the importance of respect – for both the natural world and the wisdom of the elders.

The park is jointly managed by Nisga'a Nation and BC Parks – the first of its kind in BC.

**Auto Tour** /// The tour showcases stunning natural features – revealing the rich depth of Nisga'a culture.



### THINGS TO DO / SEE

- + Guided tours of the valley, lava bed and lava cone / Nass Valley Tours **250 633 2733**
- + Experience the exhibit at the park Visitor Centre
- + 16-site vehicle campground (first come first serve)
- + Explore lava features on designated trails
- + Visit our villages – Gitlaxt'aamiks, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts'ap and Gingolx

...explore the park and the nation

# Nisga'a Nuum – Hli gadihl K'alii-Aksim Lisims / Nisga'a – People of the Nass River

*Visit us in the beautiful Nass Valley.*

*Meet our people, experience our culture  
and discover our four Nisga'a villages.*



*Explore the Nisga'a Museum ///  
Our gift to each other and the world.*



### THE NISGA'A TREATY

After a 113-year journey, the Nisga'a Final Agreement came into effect on May 11, 2000. The collected wisdom, struggles and dreams of our Ancestors were realized.

Unique among Canada's Aboriginal peoples, we are self-governing – our modern treaty with Canada and British Columbia has allowed us to assume control over the governance of ourselves and our own lands.

**Sayt-K'ilim-Goot** / one heart, one path, one nation.  
Our Ayuuk (ancient code), language and culture are the foundation of our identity.



**Nisga'a Lisims Government**

**Sayt-K'ilim-Goot**  
one heart, one path, one nation

[www.nisgaanation.ca](http://www.nisgaanation.ca)

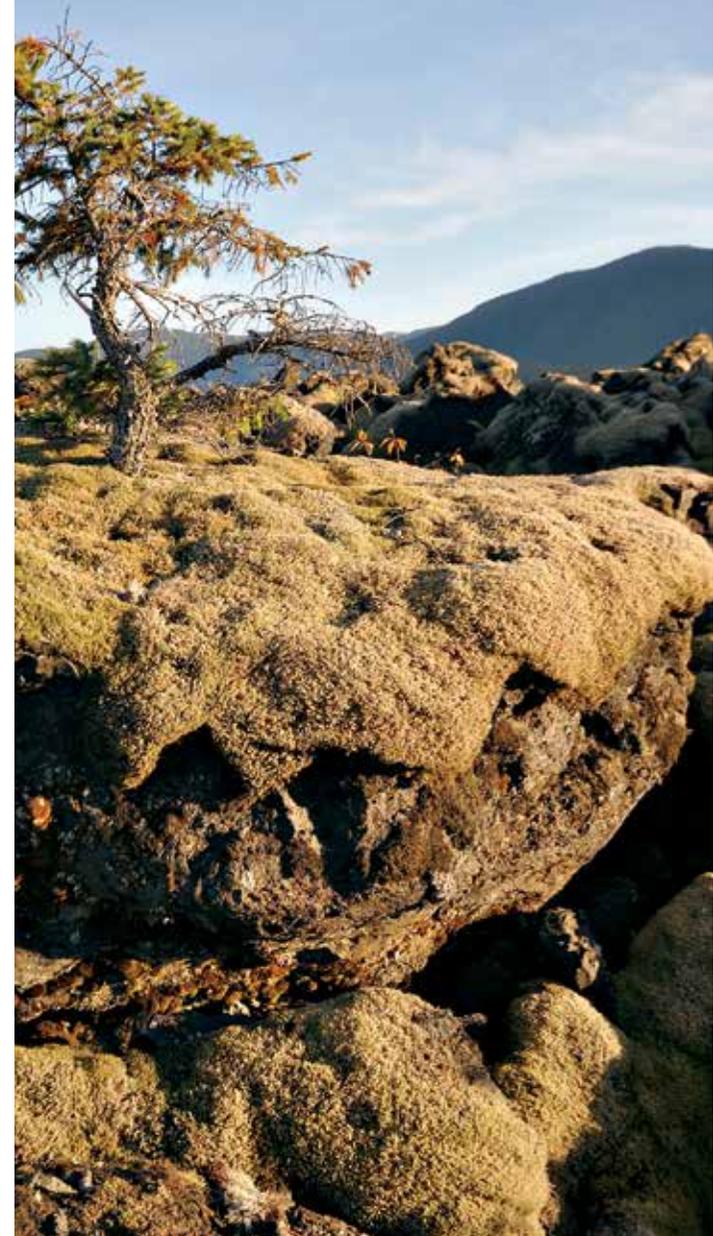
PO Box 231 / 2000 Lisims Dr / New Aiyansh BC / Canada V0J 1A0



Funding support provided by Nisga'a Lisims Government, Coast Opportunity Funds, Coast Sustainability Trust and Destination BC.

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# AUTO TOUR Nisga'a Nation T'ooyaksim'niin / WE WELCOME YOU



NISGA'A VILLAGE OF

# Gitlaxt'aamiks

Gitlaxt'aamiks offers a rich cultural history, natural beauty and central location for exploring Nisga'a Lands. Situated on the edge of the Memorial Lava Bed Park, Gitlaxt'aamiks is the home of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (Nisga'a House of Laws) – the legislative assembly of Nisga'a Lisims Government.

NISGA'A VILLAGE OF

# Gitwinksihlkw

Gitwinksihlkw is located along the north bank of the Nass River – one of British Columbia's most dramatic natural settings. For years, the village was accessible only by suspension footbridge – today, a modern vehicle bridge provides direct access. Four totem poles (Eagle, Wolf, Raven and Killer Whale) flank the bridge.

NISGA'A VILLAGE OF

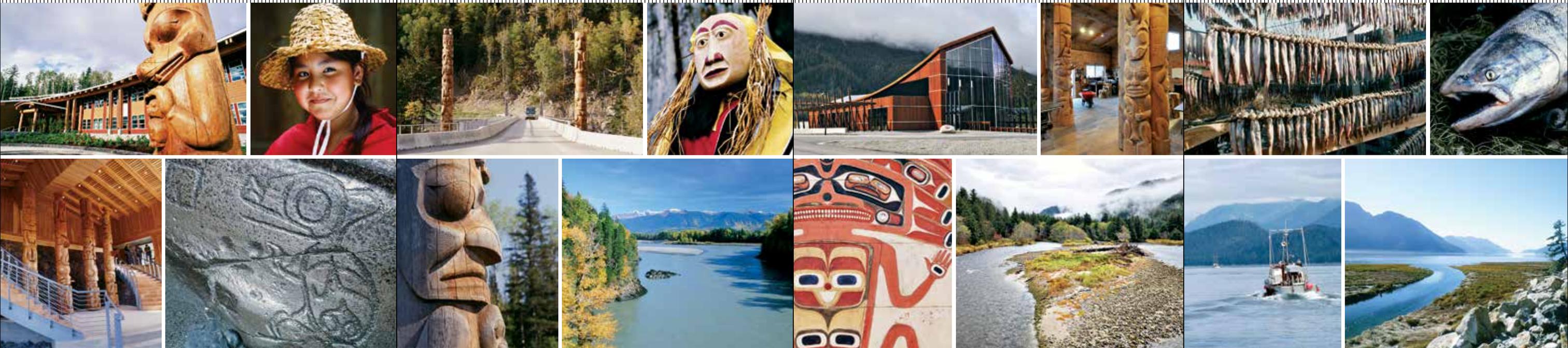
# Laxgalts'ap

Laxgalts'ap is located in the Nass River Estuary – a world-class fishing destination. It is also home to Hli Goothl Wilp-Adokshl Nisga'a (Nisga'a Museum) housing Anhooya'ahl C'aniye'etgur' (the Ancestors' Collection) over 300 priceless artifacts – one of the finest collections in the Northwest Coast and the world.

NISGA'A VILLAGE OF

# Gingolx

Gingolx is referred to as the seafood capital of the Nass and is located on the spectacular northwest coast of British Columbia on Portland Inlet. It offers rich cultural history, natural beauty and some of North America's finest seafood – salmon, crab, halibut, snapper and shellfish. A dramatic coastal setting.



**THINGS TO DO / SEE**

- + Nisga'a Lisims Government Legislature – info + tours
- + Unity Pts'aan (60' totem pole) – first pts'aan raised in the Nass Valley in a century
- + Village Government offices – info + tours + four 25' pts'aan
- + Recreation Centre – four 25' pts'aan
- + Village smokehouses
- + Holy Trinity Church
- + Hiking – viewpoints, natural trails – not monitored

**THINGS TO DO / SEE**

- + Ukws-Ts'agat – 400' suspension foot bridge
- + Village entrance bridge – four 25' pts'aan
- + 55' Bears' Den pts'aan + 60' Education pts'aan
- + Village Government offices – info + tours
- + Salvation Army Church
- + Fish Wheels
- + Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute – Nisga'a University
- + Hiking – viewpoints, natural trails – not monitored

**THINGS TO DO / SEE**

- + Nisga'a Museum – home to the Ancestors' Collection – over 300 cultural artifacts/treasures
- + World class carving shed – observe Nisga'a carvers
- + Village Government offices – info + tours
- + Nisga'a Valley Health Centre – four 25' pts'aan
- + Laxgalts'ap Community Centre
- + St. Andrews Anglican Church
- + Hiking – viewpoints, natural trails – not monitored

**THINGS TO DO / SEE**

- + Sea walk – panoramic ocean, mountain, eagle views
- + Cultural longhouse
- + Gingolx Government longhouse – two 25' pts'aan
- + Tribal smokehouses
- + Village Government offices – info + tours
- + Gingolx Christ Church
- + Gingolx Memorial Recreation Centre – 25' pts'aan
- + Hiking – viewpoints, natural trails – not monitored

*...people of the ponds*

*...place of the lizards*

*...village on village*

*...place of skulls*

# NISGA'A NATION /// AUTO TOUR / LAVA BED PARK / FOUR VILLAGES

## LEGEND

- Auto Tour
- Nisga'a Villages
- Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park
- Nisga'a Lands
- British Columbia
- Waterbody
- Highway 113



**NOTE** / Map is simplified for general information purposes only. Km and driving times are approximate. Map is property of Nisga'a Lisims Government.

## TRAVELLERS

There is a **full-service gas bar / grocery** outlet in Gitlaxt'aamiks.

For day trips, fuel up fully and leave Terrace early to maximize visit. It is advisable to bring your own food and bottled water. For overnight stays, arrange B&B / lodging in advance.

**RV Sani-dump** only authorized location is at Nass Camp.

## EMERGENCY

RCMP (Police) **250 633 2222**

Nisga'a Valley Health **250 633 2298**

Report a Wildfire **1 800 663 5555**

Road Hazard Emergency **1 800 665 5051**

DRIVING DISTANCES (APPROX)	KM	TIME
TERRACE ➔ GITLAḲT'AAMIKS	100	1.3 HR
TERRACE ➔ GITWINKSIHLKW	105	1.5 HR
TERRACE ➔ LAḲḲALTS'AP	140	2.0 HR
TERRACE ➔ GINḲOLX	170	2.5 HR
GITLAḲT'AAMIKS ➔ GITWINKSIHLKW	12	15 MIN
GITWINKSIHLKW ➔ LAḲḲALTS'AP	39	40 MIN
LAḲḲALTS'AP ➔ GINḲOLX	28	30 MIN



## AUTO TOUR ROUTE / POINTS OF INTEREST



### < AUTO TOUR SIGN

The Auto Tour is self-guided and can be driven in any order.

As you drive through the park and the Nisga'a Nation, you will see blue and white Auto Tour signs – match their titles up to the numbers below.

**70 KM / 1 HR FROM TERRACE TO STOP 1 – WELCOME**  
(km and driving times are approximate)

### 1 T'ooyaḳsiḡm̄ ḡiḡn / Welcome

Welcome to the Nisga'a Nation and Anhlut'ukwsim LaḲ-mihl Angwinga'asa'anskw̄hl Nisga'a (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park). This is the first provincial park in BC combining interpretation of natural features with native culture. The park is included in the landmark treaty, the "Nisga'a Final Agreement," between the Government of Canada and the Nisga'a Nation. It is the first provincial park jointly managed by a First Nation and BC Parks.

**25 KM / 20 MIN TO PARK VISITOR CENTRE**



### 2 Sii T'aḳ / Lava Lake

Thousands of years ago a glacier moved through this valley gouging the depression that holds Sii T'aḳ (New Lake). During the eruption, molten lava flowed west down the creek bed to the north, damming the stream flowing from this lake, raising the level of water by about 30 m, enlarging the lake.



Facilities are on west side of road and include tables, pit toilets and park information.

### 3 Ksi Wil Ksi-Baḳhl Mihl / Crater Creek

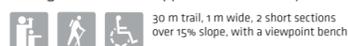
This petrified landscape bears witness to the explosive violent force and speed of the fiery, flowing lava – lava bombs from the volcano's cone flew 5 km through the air. A 600 m, loose, rocky trail leads you from the info shelter to a lookout. Approximately 4 km east, several volcanic eruptions have occurred since glaciers filled these valleys thousands of years ago.



Stay on designated trail to prevent damage to the fragile plant community covering the lava flow.

### 4 Dihlaa Nii-Baḳhl Aks Sbayt-Ḳan / Drowned Forest

When water levels are high, the Tseax River flows over the land through the forest here. The rock formations are very porous and are constantly being reshaped by the ebb and flow of the water – taking on the visual appearance of honeycomb.



30 m trail, 1 m wide, 2 short sections over 15% slope, with a viewpoint bench.

### 5 Ts'itksim Aks / Beaupre Falls

A 5 minute walk brings you to a lookout with a beautiful view of the falls, Ts'itksim Aks, and the small mountain Ḳenuu-Axwt (trap for porcupine). This is the southern boundary of Nisga'a Lands.



Trail is accessible except 20 m of 25% slope.

### 6 Ts'itksim Aks / Vetter Falls

The water that flows over these falls into Ksi-luuyim Angiiy (Vetter Creek) is overflow from Ksi Sii Aks (Tseax River). The stream disappears back under the lava 5 km downstream trapping fish. Steelhead, confined to this short stream, develop snake-like bodies with large heads. Locals call them "Phantom Fish" – they can be seen in the clear pools here.



300 m trail, 1.5 m wide, smooth except for small bumps and 2 sections of 15% slope.

### 7 Wilp T'aam LaḲ Sankw'aḳ / Visitor Centre

Built in the style of a traditional Nisga'a Longhouse, Wilp T'aam LaḲ Sankw'aḳ (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park Visitor Centre) is a must see. Inside, find interpretive displays about the Nisga'a people, culture and history. Staff are happy to offer information about park features/facilities/villages. Local crafts and park-related souvenirs can be purchased.

**5 KM / 7 MIN TO NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GITLAḲT'AAMIKS**



Guided tours of valley, lava bed and lava cone: Nass Valley Tours 250 633 2733.

### 8 Ksi Sii Aks / Tseax River

The Tseax River provides an important gravel stream bottom habitat to salmon and steelhead spawning. This is a perfect place to observe salmon in their natural habitat. Beware of both grizzly and black bears here and always clean up your garbage.



Use caution when hiking. Check fishing regulations. Throw fish entrails into fast flowing water.

### 9 Gitlaxt'aamiks / Nisga'a Village

Home of "people of the ponds." The 4 pts'aan (totem poles) at the entrance to the Community Centre represent the 4 Pdeek (tribes) of the Nisga'a Nation: Ḳanada (Raven), Laḳgibuu (Wolf), Gisk'aast

(Killer Whale) and Laḳsgiiik (Eagle). Across the Nass River, the few remaining houses of the original village remind us of a time when our lives were more closely tied to the river.

**12 KM / 15 MIN TO NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GITWINKSIHLKW**



Pop approx: 1,800

### 10 Haḡii-ḡaga-ba'ansgum Boot / Boat Launch

When lava flowed into K'alii-Aksim Lisims (Nass River), it pushed the river from the south side to the north side of the valley. Breaks in the front allowed lava to flow into the water, rapidly cooling and forming what looks like an "elephant trunk."



Please reduce congestion and park vehicles in the designated lot only. Check fishing regulations. Throw fish entrails into fast flowing water.

### 11 Wil Luu-galksi-mihl Ḳan / Tree Cast

A 5 minute walk leads to a unique special feature called Wil Luu-galksi-mihl Ḳan (tree cast). During the eruption, molten lava solidified around trees which created hollow tubes after the trees burned or rotted away.



Trail has several stairs and gaps in the lava to step over. Please help protect the park by staying on designated trails.

### 12 Gitwinksihlkw / Nisga'a Village

Known as "place of the lizards." According to oral tradition, large lizards lived here before the volcanic eruption. Survivors resettled Gitwinksihlkw when the lava flow finally cooled. Home to the famous Bears' Den pts'aan (totem pole), other majestic pts'aan and Ukws-Ts'agat (the old suspension bridge).

**39 KM / 40 MIN TO NISGA'A VILLAGE OF LAḲḲALTS'AP**



Pop approx: 250

### 13 Anhlut'ukwsim LaḲ-mihl / Dedication Site

Anhlut'ukwsim LaḲ-mihl Angwinga'asa'anskw̄hl Nisga'a (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Provincial Park) is jointly managed by Nisga'a Nation and British Columbia Provincial Parks. Protecting a significant geological event – the park was dedicated on April 30, 1992. Walking on the smooth pahoehoe lava is permitted here.



### 14 Hlgu Isgwit / Hot Springs

The dwelling place of Sbi Naḳnoḳ (supernatural being/spirit). The sulfur smell of the hot springs is said to be the smell of the spirit. Please respect this site, it is culturally significant and a designated heritage site.



### 15 LaḲḲalTS'ap / Nisga'a Village

Means "village on village." LaḲḲalTS'ap was built on a series of Nisga'a communities that occupied this site for millennia. It is located in the Nass River estuary, the spawning grounds of 5 species of wild Pacific salmon and oolichan. Generations have relied on the harvest of seafood – traditional smokehouses and drying racks are still in use today.

**28 KM / 30 MIN TO NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GINḲOLX**



Pop approx: 520

### 16 Wilp-Adoḳshl Nisga'a / Nisga'a Museum

Hli Ḳoothl Wilp-Adoḳshl Nisga'a (Nisga'a Museum) is a "Class A" museum – with a design inspired by traditional Nisga'a feast dishes, longhouses and canoes. The museum houses cultural treasures acquired in the 19th and early 20th centuries – our gift to each other and the world.



### 17 LaḲ Da'oots'ip / Fishery Bay

Our main Nisga'a harvesting centre for oolichan (a small ocean smelt fish). Each year, tons of oolichan return to K'alii-Aksim Lisims (Nass River) to spawn, are harvested in Fishery Bay and rendered into precious oil – a historic staple of Nisga'a trade that supplied the Northwest Coast's famous "Grease Trail."



### 18 Gingolx / Nisga'a Village

Referred to as "place of skulls," invaders were met by Nisga'a defenders determined to protect and preserve our land, resources and traditional way of life. Today Gingolx is famous for its hospitality – welcoming visitors from around the world – offering some of the best kayaking, boating and sport fishing in North America.

**170 KM / 2.5 HRS TO TERRACE**



Pop approx: 500

The ongoing story of the Nisga'a Nation is written on the land – enjoy your visit through the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park and our four Nisga'a Villages.

**NOTICE** / Lava in the park is sharp and unstable, walk only on designated trails. The lava is culturally significant – it is illegal to remove lava from the park. You are in grizzly and black bear territory. If you see bears, do not disturb – return to your vehicle.