

NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND

Respectful Behaviour

North Vancouver Island is home to many First Nations communities that have been here since time immemorial. There are important archaeological and cultural sites throughout the area and the Provincial government and First Nations are working collaboratively to better protect these sites for future generation to enjoy and appreciate.

Visitors to North Vancouver Island are visitors on sensitive lands and waters that are rich in First Nations cultural and archaeological sites. Visitors are asked to behave respectfully. Before you visit, you are encouraged to research the Nation whose territory you're visiting and respect their protocols and guidelines.

Visitors can help protect cultural and archaeological sites by avoiding behaviour that may not seem damaging but can have a devastating effect on these important sites. For example, you may see culturally modified trees during your visit; these trees and many other cultural and archaeological sites are protected by law. Common activities associated with camping can damage those trees and other valuable cultural and archaeological sites.

North Vancouver Island: Respectful Behaviour

Behaviours that can cause damage to archaeological sites include:

- Fires
- Dragging kayaks up embankments
- Digging in shell middens
- Cutting trees
- Excessive boat wake

To ensure you are being respectful, make sure to follow the do's and don'ts of appropriate behaviour at all times while on the land.

Guidelines for a Respectful Visit

Respect Site Integrity
Leave no physical trace of your visit. Leave sites as you found them.
Do not tag locations on social media. Allow others to discover these sites.
Leave Sites Intact
Do not dig holes, or move or damage rocks, plants, trees, or driftwood on the land, beach or intertidal zone.
Stay in designated campsites and on established trails to protect sensitive ecosystems.
Best practice is to not have campfires. Fires below high tide line only. Do not forage for firewood. Leave no evidence of fires. Adhere to fire bans.
Respect the Cultural History of the First Nation whose Territory You are Visiting
Do not touch or otherwise disturb any First Nation cultural material. Treat land and cultural sites with respect. Disturb nothing, take nothing.
Respect any First Nation protocols identified in signage. Consult websites before trips.
First Nation stories are the property of the Nation – do not share that history without permission.
Respect Provincial and Federal Government Regulations and Legislation
The law protects archaeological and cultural sites. Do not disturb them.

Archaeological and cultural sites are sensitive to human activities, some of which can have severe negative impacts. Thank you for doing your part to protect them.

For more information:

Visit the MaPP website

www.mappocean.org/nvi-culture



MaPPocean.org/nvi-culture