

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

in North Vancouver Island

What is an archaeological site?

North Vancouver Island is rich in cultural and natural features found in its diverse landscapes and marine waters. It is home to many First Nations cultural sites including archaeological sites. Archaeological sites, places, and belongings are direct links between communities and their ancestors. These sites and places also strengthen ancient connections to the land, water, and resources and provide a snapshot into how past generations lived during seasons of the year.



Archaeological Sites in North Vancouver Island

Examples

Evidence of ancient communities like shell middens, village sites and burial sites.

Harvesting devices like fishing traps, clam gardens and weirs.

Rock art, including petroglyphs and pictographs, as well as culturally modified trees.

What you may see

Picture yourself out on the water next to an island. Have a look out for some common sites:

- Trees that contain carvings or have strips taken off

- Piles of shells with tools and animal bones mixed in

- Rock faces with intricately etched, but faint, designs

Remember! While it is fun to spot these sites, they contain enormous value for the First Nations who have lived here since time immemorial. Please enjoy these sites through your binoculars and camera lenses, but do not touch or disturb them in any way.

The Importance of Cultural and Archaeological Sites

First Nations history, culture and traditions are rooted here. Protecting these places protects First Nations culture.

Archaeological sites help First Nations communities and archaeologists understand how past generations lived. Village sites, for example, are often seen by the presence of nearby shell middens and show where people lived, who they interacted with,

what they harvested and what they ate.

First Nations culture is place-based and deeply connected to the land, water, sky and all the things that dwelled in those domains. Protecting those cultural places and spaces means that culture can be passed along to future generations, as it was for previous generations.

For more information:

Visit the MaPP website
www.mappocean.org/nvi-culture



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