

FAQ

What do I do if I see a cultural or archaeological site?

How exciting! Please enjoy these sites through your binoculars and camera lenses, but do not touch or disturb them in any way.

What can I do to help protect cultural and archaeological sites?

Visitors are welcome guests to First Nations traditional homelands. Act respectfully and leave the area as you found it. Pack out what you pack in.

What do I do if I see someone disturbing the sites?

Sites are protected by law. If you see a violation call 1-877-952-7277 or #7277 on the TELUS Mobility Network.

Who do I contact for more information?

Visit the MaPP website:
www.mappecean.org/nvi-culture/

Visit the BC Archaeology Branch website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/archaeology>

NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND

CULTURAL and ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

CONTACT US

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ABOUT CULTURAL and ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Welcome to North Vancouver Island. We are a region rich in cultural and natural beauty that can be seen in the wildlife, trees and waters all around us.

As First Nations traditional territory, this area is equally rich in First Nations culture and heritage. Protecting this area preserves a record of the past for future generations.

Archaeological features can be found throughout this landscape, within the natural beauty of this region.

First Nations culture is connected to the land and waters all across this area and those features are irreplaceable.

LINKS BETWEEN PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE

Culture and heritage are more than just physical items or locations – they tie deeply to people’s identity. This entire area is part of our history and needs to be protected for our collective future.

Cultural sites such as archaeological sites help First Nations communities and archaeologists understand how past generations lived. Paired with Indigenous knowledge, they provide irreplaceable information that show where people lived, what they ate, and their relationships with other communities, the environment, and the supernatural world.

Examples of cultural sites include:

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Petroglyphs (rock art) | Fishing trap and weirs |
| Culturally modified trees | Village and burial sites |
| Shell middens | Clam gardens |

VISITOR GUIDELINES

To help protect these irreplaceable sites, there are some easy guidelines to follow.

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.



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