



Travel for good



Sustainable Luxury at Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge

Located at the heart of Vancouver Island's natural wild-west playground, Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge sits in the pristine UNESCO-designated Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve. Guests have direct access to 600-acres of gloriously wild nature reserve and abundant opportunities for adventure, education, natural enrichment and personal connection.

The broader Baillie Lodges' commitment to sustainable luxury travel is best expressed by the lodges' interactions with their natural environment, the local community and its culture. The protection and preservation of each lodge's natural and cultural surroundings is a firm priority. The Baillie Lodges' approach to sustainability is essential to lodge operations both to ensure the well-being of the destinations it operates in and to enhance the guest experience.

Natural Environment

Dynamic environmental management plans for each property embrace advanced and emerging technology and work alongside local organizations including government agencies, national parks and conservation sanctuaries, ensuring all activities are in line with each region's broader conservation goals.

Local Community

Active engagement with local communities includes establishing supportive supplier relationships with food and drink producers, Indigenous artists and designers as well as supporting local charities, education initiatives, community events and work experience programs.

Culture & Heritage

Baillie Lodges provides guests with a chance to connect with the destination's culture and heritage in which each lodge is located. This encompasses all aspects of the lodge experience, from the design to food and drinks and signature guest tours.

People

Baillie Lodges' own team of people is its greatest asset, and the company carries a 'family' style culture with a commitment to the long-term development, retention and wellbeing of every member of its team.



Commitment to the Natural Environment

An energetic and invested approach to best managing the natural environment is essential to the Baillie Lodges guest experience, to the ongoing appeal of the destination and to conducting sustainable business in experiential tourism. A comprehensive Environment Management Plan is in place at Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge and steers all operations with underlying strategies relating to the conservation of the marine and rainforest ecosystems.

- Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge has established an Environmental Legacy Program, funded privately by the lodge and by lodge guests through a 3% environmental surcharge to support sustainability initiatives.
- Since 2001, Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge has been working with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the First Nations people of Ahousaht to enhance the natural environment around the the Bedwell River Watershed. The lodge team has focused on creating new salmon spawning habitat channels and restoring native stocks to river systems on and around the property with the help of organizations like the Tofino Salmon Enhancement Society, Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society and Central Westcoast Forest Society. In efforts to support the sustainability of fishing practices of the Pacific Northwest and the world, Clayoquot exclusively purchases and serves seafood which carry the approval of the Ocean Wise sustainable seafood program.
- Two small mill operations on property utilize naturally fallen trees for furniture, firewood, boardwalks and as building materials. Barns and horse fencing are made from homegrown timbers. The new deck surrounding The Cookhouse restaurant and Ivanhoe Lounge is made from reclaimed, locally milled cedar.
- Recycling is routinely undertaken at Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge, with recycling of any materials that can feasibly be returned to Westcoast Recycling on the mainland for further processing. A stay on single-use plastic is in place across the property, and wherever possible the preference is to opt for glass, stainless-steel, biodegradable and canvas packaging. Drinking straws are not used at all.
- Clayoquot uses a BIOvator, an all-steel in-vessel composter to manage the property's organic waste, using naturally occurring heat to produce highly viable compost in just thirty days. The heat kills pathogens and bacteria and ensures that non-resident biologicals are not introduced into the eco-system. The soil is then used in the kitchen garden to grow food onsite. Additionally, a worm farm helps break down organic waste which is in turn added to the BIOvator.
- An extensive kitchen garden and greenhouse is maintained on the property where the team grow and harvest organic fresh greens, vegetables and herbs. An onsite beekeeping program is in the initial stages with two successful self-sustaining hives expected to produce honey by 2022.
- Due to Clayoquot's remote location, lodge facilities are powered by two diesel generators (380KW and 125KW units). A mechanism has recently been installed that automatically switches between the two when power demands are reduced, resulting in a 50% decrease in fuel consumption. Energy demand has been further reduced with a switch to LED light fixtures. Daily logs of fuel consumption are maintained to ensure that preventative maintenance is enhanced, maximizing fuel efficiency.



- Guest amenities (shampoo, conditioner, liquid soap and hand cream) are all presented in guest suites in stylish, refillable vessels, which are refilled as needed as part of the daily housekeeping service.

‘Living off-grid in such pristine wilderness, it’s essential that we do all that we can to minimise our imprint and be less disruptive to our surrounding natural environment. We’re proud of the initiatives that the team continue to embrace as stewards of the land.’

Phil Maltais & Joel Macmillan, Experiences Managers

Commitment to Local Community

Clayoquot derives from ‘Tla-o-qui-aht,’ the largest community of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations peoples who have lived around the sound for more than 2000 years. Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge is located in the First Nations territory of Ahousaht where guests can visit the ancestral village. Since 1995, Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge and the Nuu-chah-nulth people have fostered a friendship-based partnership built on a mutual desire to honour, celebrate, protect the First Nations culture and educate guests about the region’s natural and cultural heritage.

- At Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge, the food and beverage program utilizes as many locally produced organic ingredients as possible, all of which are sourced from British Columbia (always Clayoquot Sound and Vancouver Island if available). The culinary team use proteins, vegetables and cheeses produced in the Cowichan Valley, produce from local foragers from the Tofino Ucluelet Culinary Guild, while the Tofino Coffee Roasters and Tofino Brewing Company supply the lodge’s coffee and draft beer respectively.
- The Healing Grounds Spa features Beauty Through Balance spa care products. Made in British Columbia, the range embraces the wisdom of the region’s Indigenous healers and harnesses the healing properties of both local Pacific seaweed and Canadian glacial clay as natural hero ingredients. Clayoquot has also partnered with the Tofino Soap Company to provide all-natural bath, body and skin care products for in-suite guest amenities.
- Clayoquot’s aesthetic showcases Canadian design and a commitment to supporting local artisans and designers is essential to creating a strong sense of place for guests. Accommodation features hand-made coat racks and coffee tables by British Columbia-based Barter Design, along with organic linen and wool cushions by Cloth Tone using fleece produced on Vancouver Island. Clayoquot’s boutique features a range of handmade mementos by local makers including bentwood boxes by Indigenous artist Moy Sutherland, sustainably produced wearables by Anian and home décor items by Vancouver-based fashion designer Chloe Angus.

‘James and I have always taken a very hands-on approach to the design and operation of the lodges – researching and finding local designers and artists to really bring the feel of the place to the lodge experience - all the while supporting local businesses and the community.’

Hayley Baillie, Founder & Creative Director



Commitment to Culture & Heritage

A key philosophy that underpins the guest experience at Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge is the connection with the landscape, heritage and wildlife as well as the region's community and its culture. It's a sensory experience, a union of sights, scents and tastes that allow guests to fully immerse themselves in the natural and cultural significance of the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve. All aspects of the lodge from the accommodation to the dining and touring experiences embrace these connections.

Some examples include:

- The team at Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge are working with the Ahousaht First Nations community to develop an educational program for young Ahousaht community members to visit the property and offer guests a chance to learn about their traditional heritage. The program will focus on the habitat protection and development of the salmon spawning channel project, along with traditional cooking practises and equine therapy programs.
- Moy Sutherland is a Tlaocquiaht artist from the village of Masayaht in Tofino, British Columbia. Made from timber salvaged from Clayoquot Sound, Moy's traditional bentwood boxes and bowls feature in guest tents, in The Cookhouse restaurant and Ivanhoe Lounge.
- Clayoquot's culinary team strive to incorporate traditional First Nations cooking methodology, ingredients, and ancient harvesting techniques to create a sense of place and a link to the Traditional Owners of the region.
- The Bedwell Valley has a rich history of mining, with the first gold rush dating to the 1860s. Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge's hiking and biking trails meander throughout the valley, viewing old mining equipment, haulage lines and disused gold mines. Our guides tell the stories of the characters of the time, such as Walter Guppy and Cougar Annie.

'For me, the main allure of working here is the knowledge that I am living and working in an area that the Nuu-chah-nulth thrived in for thousands of years – and continue to do so. Their connection to the natural environment and ability to live in harmony with it, is something I find so inspiring, and I feel a deep sense of honor in acting as a steward for the land and their culture.'

Amanda Warren, Senior Guide

Commitment to People

Baillie Lodges recognises its people are its greatest asset and is committed to the long-term development and wellbeing of its staff. Baillie Lodges encourages all team members to personally engage in the business and empowers them to take ownership of the delivery of exceptional service.

Baillie Lodges encourages team member development and growth and team members often transfer between lodges to advance their personal and professional development and enjoy a new destination.



The Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge team is small and close-knit, attracting hospitality professionals from far and wide to create a remote family. Some of the ways that Baillie Lodges embraces, develops and care for its people include:

- Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge supports the Canadian tourism industry by offering summer internship positions to students studying in the fields of culinary, hospitality and tourism.
- The Bedwell Wellness Program offers staff members the chance to experience the range of lodge activities outside of work and extra-curricular social events are scheduled throughout the season. The team is encouraged to sow personal plots in 'The Plantwell' Community Garden and there's option to join the culinary team on foraging expeditions to foster an even greater connection with their surrounds.
- The Baillie Lodges team is an integral part of the lodge experience and is encouraged to establish a warm rapport with guests. This is one reason the team doesn't wear name badges, as they introduce themselves personally to each guest.
- Baillie Lodges ensures the team is regularly recognised for its dedication, with feedback including shared guest comments and monthly awards for outstanding team members, showcasing team success stories in marketing materials and bonuses on the anniversary of employment.

Creating Connections

Getting involved in sustainable initiatives at Baillie Lodges is a wonderful way for guests to positively contribute to each lodge's local environment and community, offering a personal connection and creating lasting memories. Guests visiting Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge - and other Baillie Lodges properties - actively support locally owned businesses and other services and thereby have a positive impact. Guests can get more involved by:

- Acquiring as much information as possible before leaving home about the natural environments on the itinerary: the National Parks, conservation sanctuaries, culture, local standards and values.
- Considering supporting programs and organizations that are working to protect the welfare, culture and environment and protect it for future generations.
- Remembering to leave only footprints...

