





Oolichan fishing, a staple of our diet.



a camp site and boat launch Dragon Lake Recreation Site boasts a large lake with

The Nisga'a people have lived in the Nass River Valley since time

immemorial. In the late 1800s, when much of Nisga'a traditional

territory was declared Crown land, the Nisga'a people began

petitioning government to recognize our connection to and

Final Agreement, British Columbia's first modern treaty.

ownership of Nisga'a territory. In 1998, a signing ceremony at

Gitlaxt'aamiks (formerly New Aiyansh) signalled the completion

of a quarter century of negotiations and the birth of the Nisga'a

May 11, 2000, the Effective Date of the treaty, was a historic and

triumphant day for the Nisga'a people. It marked the end of a

113-year journey-and the first steps in a new direction. On that

for the purpose of Indian registration) and, for the first time in

modern history, the Nisga'a people had the legal authority to

conduct our own affairs. The treaty ended the uncertainty

regarding land ownership and has opened the door for joint

economic initiatives in the development of the Nisga'a Nation's

natural resources. It benefits all Canadians. News of the Nisga'a

Final Agreement has traveled far beyond the Nass Valley-across

British Columbia, Canada, and around the world. Governments

and Aboriginal peoples are all watching the implementation of

demonstrates that governments and First Nations can, in good

faith, work together to forge a more secure future for everyone.

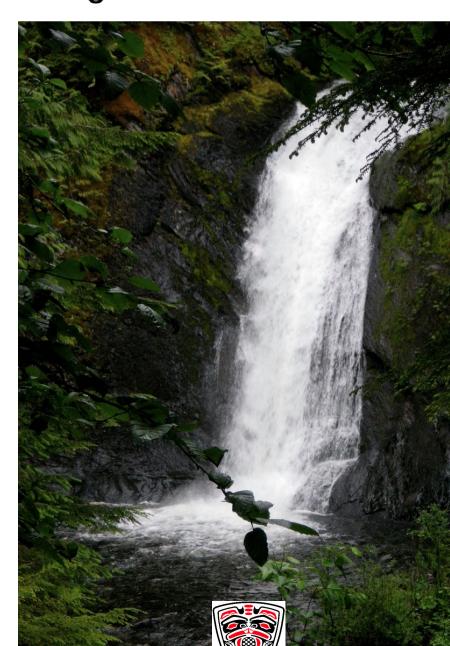
The Nisga'a Final Agreement serves as an example. It

the treaty with keen interest.

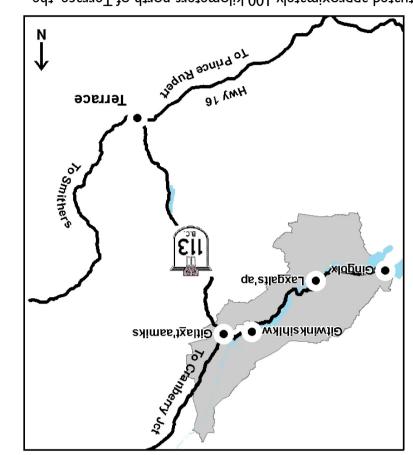
day, the Indian Act ceased to apply to the Nisga'a people (except



# Nisga'a Final Agreement

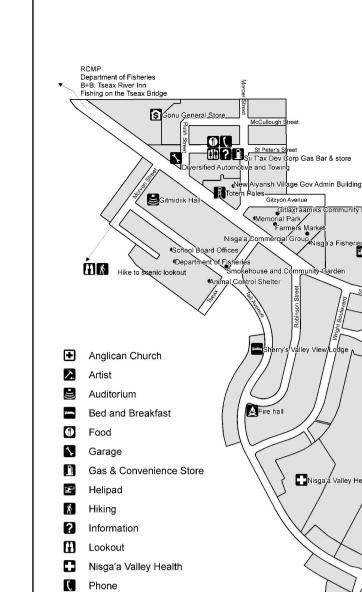


you to our ancestral home. behalf of the Nisga'a Nation, Nisga'a Lisims Government welcomes Lava Bed Park Centre to learn features on the landscape. On La<u>xg</u>alts'ap to view exhibits on Nisga'a culture and the Memorial since time immemorial. Feel free to visit our museum in about the culture and legends of the Nisga'a who have lived here explore and experience a truly unique landscape while learning rich in its diversity and will regard all who visit with a chance to traditional north coast native cultural experiences, the region is mountain vistas, to unique geological landscape features and From world class fishing and hiking, to wildlife viewing and Mass Valley offers tourists a wide variety of tourism opportunities. Situated approximately 100 kilometers north of Terrace, the



## **Tourist Attractions and Information** in Nisga'a Lands





Totem Pole

✓ Volunteer Fire Hall

Administration Offices include

- Greenville Enterprises Inc. - La<u>xq</u>alts'ap Forest Co. Ltd.

Greenville Cedar Products Ltd.

- Greenville Tourism Services Ltd

## Gitlaxt'aamiks: Capital of the Nisga'a Nation

Bed and Breakfast

Nisga'a Valley Health

Church

Fire Hall

S Gift Shop

1 Lookout

Totem Pole

Village Government: (toll free) 1-877-588-2388
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority: 1-888-233-2212
School District #92: 250-633-2228
One of four Nisga'a communities, Gitlaxt'aamiks is located 97 kilometres northwest of Terrace, British Columbia. Home to approximately 1,800 residents, Gitlaxt'aamiks offers rich cultural history, natural beauty, and central location for exploring Nisga'a Sherry's Valley View Lodge: 250-633-2458 Lorene's Lava Lodge: 250-633-2522

Alver Tait, Master Carver: 250-633-26

Eric Clayton, Carver: 250-633-2097 Warren Tait, Jeweller: 250-633-2073

Gonu General Store: 250-633-2476 Nass Valley Gifts: 250-633-2522

Sil T'ax Dev Corp Gas Bar: 250-633-2918

Gitlaxt'aamiks was a large and ancient village on the north bank of the Nass River on the edge of the historic Grease Trail. In 1883, a missionary established a Christian village about six kilometers downriver. There, Nisga'a craftsmen built a large village complete with Victorian style houses, a church, community hall, school, sawmill, and its own printing press. They called this new village Aiyansh (Fertile Valley). After a series of floods, the people of Aivansh finally moved to higher ground on the other side of the river and established New Aiyansh. It was here-after seeking a settlement for 113 years-Nisga'a negotiators signed British Columbia's first modern treaty, the Nisga'a Final Agreement

In the spring of 2010 the village government voted to rename the village of New Aiyansh Gitlaxt'aamiks.

Gitlaxt'aamiks offers an ideal launching point for discovery of Nisga'a Lands and culture. In 1977, the "Unity Pole" was raised here-the first new pts'aan (totem pole) in the Nass Valley in a century. It signaled a rebirth of Nisga'a art, culture, and language, as well as a renewed commitment to securing a fair and equitable treaty. Today, the Nisga'a Final Agreement is secure and signs of renewal reverberate throughout the Nisga'a Lands.

Gitlaxt'aamiks is situated on the edge of Anhluut'ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga'asanskwhl (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park), the site of Canada's last volcanic eruption. Sport fishing, back country recreation, and cultural tours are available (in season). Visitors from around the world come to experience Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a, the legislative assembly of Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Local stores serve the community and Bed Breakfast accomodation is available in Gitlaxt'aamiks and other Nisga'a villages. Nisga'a Highway 113 paves the way for ease of access to Gitlaxt'aamiks and the rest of the Nass Valley

http://www.nisgaalisims.ca/gitlaxtaamiks-capital-nisgaa-nation

Annual Village activities Tour de Nass bike race: May Aboriginal Day: 21st June Canoe Races at Lava Lake: July Canoe Journey: August

The Gitmiidik Hall is open weekly for bingo  $\widetilde{\mathbf{z}}$ 

### Contact Information Village Government: 250-633-2294 Nisga'a Valley Health Authority: 250-633-2611 WWNI Community College: 250-633-2292 Daycare: 250-633-2525 Youth Centre: 250-633-285 Recreation Centre: 250-633-2560 alvation Army: 250-633-2488 T'ihlksi's Transport: 250-633-2325 Little Foot Contracting: 250-633-2584 Bed and Breakfast: Nisga'a Salmon Lodge: 250-633-2965 Bear's Den: 250-633-2470

Ts' oohl Ts'ap Memorial Centre Recreation Centre

to oral tradition, large lizards lived here before the eruption. Today, the large lizards are gone but the vast lava beds still dominate the valley They serve as a memorial to those who lost their lives and as a Nyce Gifts and Creations: 250-633-2117 reminder of the importance of respect-for both the natural world and the wisdom of the elders. Situated at the edge of the Nass River and Anhluut'ukwsim Laxmihl

Gitwinksihlkw: At Home on the Nass River

One of four Nisga'a communities, Gitwinksihlkw is located on the

British Columbia, Home to 250 residents, Gitwinksihlkw offers

Canada's last volcanic eruption occurred in Nisga'a territory

north bank of the Nass River 100 kilometres northwest of Terrace,

cultural rich history, natural beauty, and access to Canada's newest

approximately 250 years ago. The lava destroyed everything in its

eventually resettled at Gitwinksihlkw (Place of the Lizards). According

path, sparked fires in the surrounding forests, and covered two

Nisga'a villages. More than 2,000 people perished. Survivors

Angwinga'asanskwhl (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park), Gitwinksihlkw enjoys one of British Columbia's most dramatic natural settings. Nisga'a Highway 113 paves the way for ease of access to our village and each year, the number of visitors continues to grow Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park is a popular destination with a 16

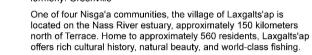
site campground and a Visitors Centre displaying Nisga'a artifacts (open July and August). Join us for guided tours of the lava beds, on a 400-foot long extension bridge, or simply stop and admire our majestic pts'aan (totem poles) that tell of Nisga'a history, culture, and Bed & Breakfast accommodation is available in Gitwinksihlkw

Formerly: Canyon City

http://www.nisgaalisims.ca/gitwinksihlkw-home-nass-river

Wilp Saasoo Youth Centre

### Laxgalts'ap: Where River Meets Sea formerly: Greenville



Laxgalts'ap means "village on village," an acknowledgement that the current village is built on a series of Nisga'a communities that have occupied this site for millennia. Laxgalts'ap is located in the Nass River estuary, the spawning grounds of five species of wild family. Each year, tons of oolichan are harvested in Fishery Bay and rendered into precious oil-a historic staple of Nisga'a trade and a valuable commodity that supplied the Northwest Coast's amous "Grease Trail." For countless generations, we have relied on the harvest of fish and seafood and most of our homes have a traditional smoke house and/or drying racks to preserve and the

Laxgalts'ap is located in a temperate coastal rainforest in the scenic Nass Valley. The region abounds with wildlife, including: bald eagles, moose, grizzly and black bears, and even the elusive Kermode or "spirit" bear (white color subspecies of black bear). Nisga'a Highway 113 paves the way for ease of access to Laxgalts'ap and each year, the number of visitors continues to

oolichan return, or anytime during our mild summers or falls. Laxgalts'ap offers a public boat launch that leads to some of the best sport fishing in North America. Four local stores serve the community and Bed & Breakfast accommodation is available in Laxgalts'ap and other Nisga'a villages

1:4,500

ocation includes: Greenville Industrial Park

Cedar Shingle Mill.

Greenville Cedar Products Ltd

axgalts'ap Forest Co. Ltd.

Village Government: 250-621-3212 http://laxgaltsap.com/ Nisga'a Museum: 250-633-3050 www.nisgaamuseum.ca CJ's Bed and Breakfast: 250-621-3351

Artist Bed and Breakfast

Nisga'a Valley Health

Store

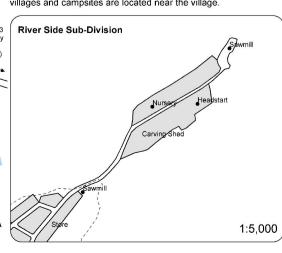
## Gingolx: Seafood Capital of the Nass

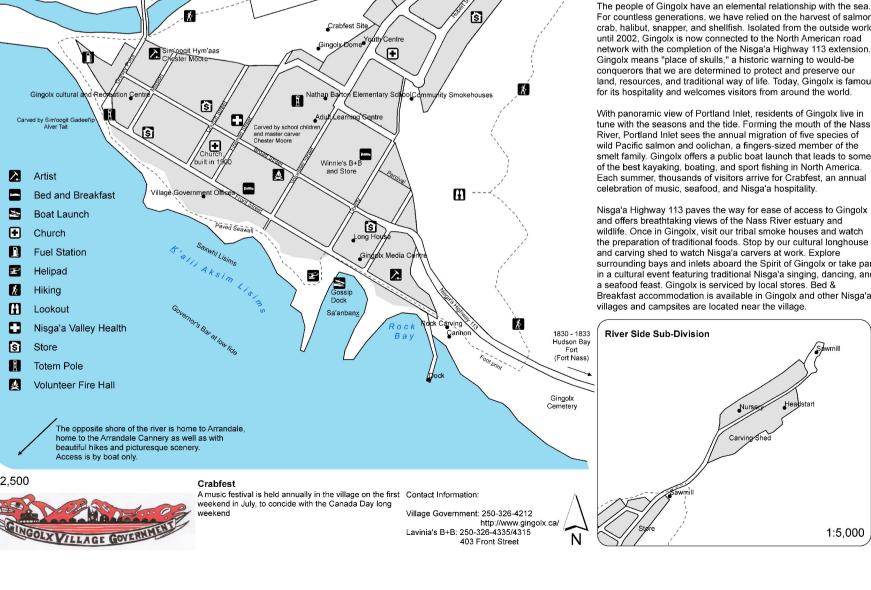
One of four Nisga'a communities, the seaside village of Gingolx is located on the northwest coast of British Columbia on Portland Inlet, approximately 170 kilometers northwest of Terrace. Home to approximately 500 residents, Gingolx offers rich cultural history, natural beauty, and some of North America's finest seafood.

For countless generations, we have relied on the harvest of salmon, crab, halibut, snapper, and shellfish. Isolated from the outside world until 2002, Gingolx is now connected to the North American road network with the completion of the Nisga'a Highway 113 extension Gingolx means "place of skulls," a historic warning to would-be conquerors that we are determined to protect and preserve our land, resources, and traditional way of life. Today, Gingolx is famous for its hospitality and welcomes visitors from around the world.

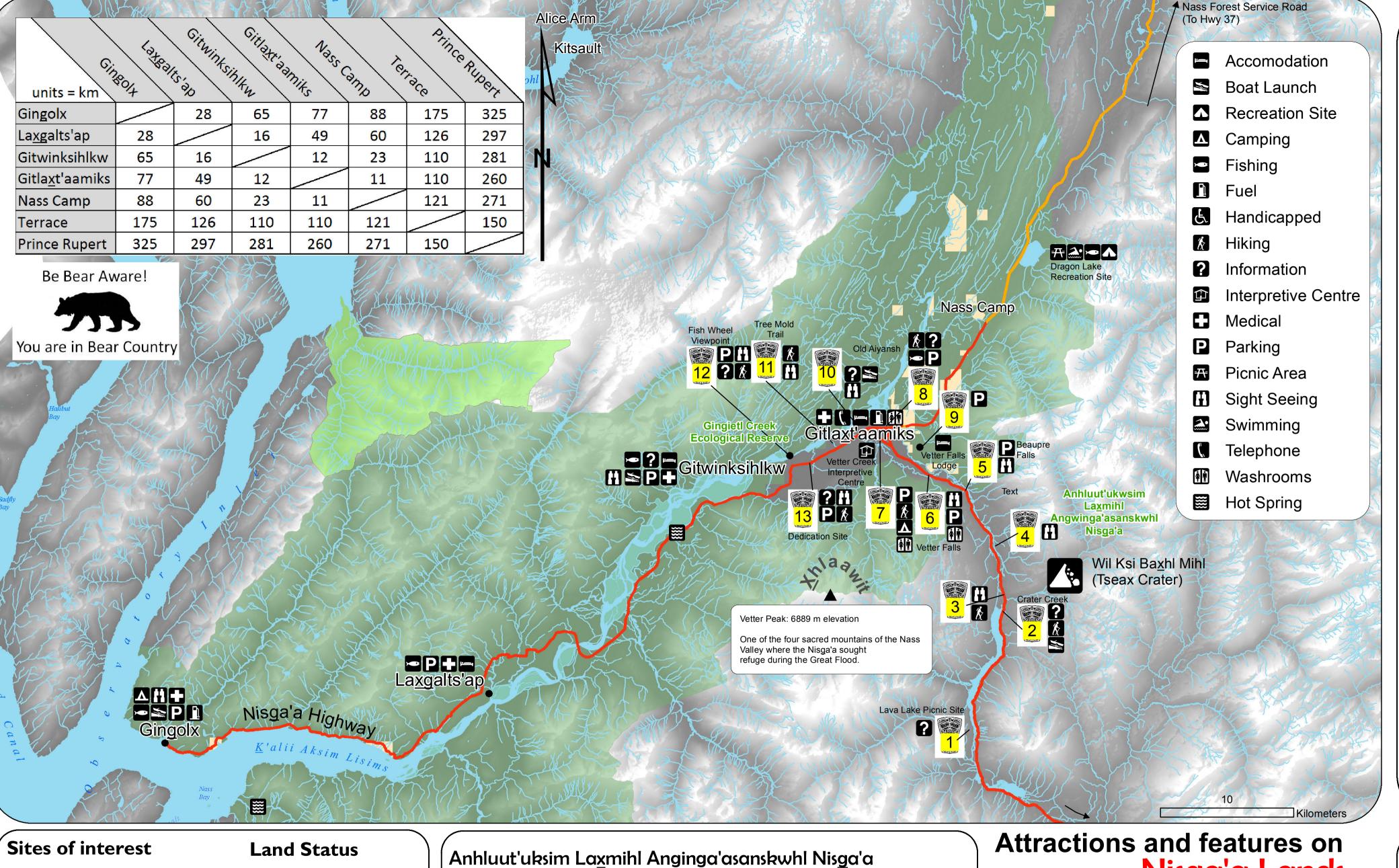
tune with the seasons and the tide. Forming the mouth of the Nass River, Portland Inlet sees the annual migration of five species of wild Pacific salmon and oolichan, a fingers-sized member of the smelt family. Gingolx offers a public boat launch that leads to some of the best kayaking, boating, and sport fishing in North America. Each summer, thousands of visitors arrive for Crabfest, an annual celebration of music, seafood, and Nisga'a hospitality.

wildlife. Once in Gingolx, visit our tribal smoke houses and watch the preparation of traditional foods. Stop by our cultural longhouse and carving shed to watch Nisga'a carvers at work. Explore surrounding bays and inlets aboard the Spirit of Gingolx or take part in a cultural event featuring traditional Nisga'a singing, dancing, and a seafood feast. Gingolx is serviced by local stores. Bed & Breakfast accommodation is available in Gingolx and other Nisga'a









## **Autotour Information**

The Autotour is self-guided, as you drive the park road you'll see yellow posts with black numbers (the same as provided on the map to the left). Match the numbers with the parapgraphs below to discover Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Provincial Park. Approximate distances of each point of interest are provided from the south park entrance, however, you can start the tour at any point on the road.

We the Nisga'a, welcome you to a journey through our homeland. For thousands of years our villages on the banks of Ayns Lisims (Nass River), "murky river," were home and port for our fishing, gathering, and hunting. Over two centuries ago, the

eruption of Wil Ksi Baxhl Mihl, "where the fire ran out," changed our landscape, killed many of our people, forced relocation of some of our villages, and became a part of our heritage.

2. Sii T'ax (Lava Lake Picnic site). 10 km., 6.2 mi

Thousands of years ago a glacier moving through this valley gouged the depression that holds Sii T'ax, "New Lake."

The lake was much lower and smaller then. Molten lava flowing west down the creek bed just to the north of here dammed the stream flowing from this lake It raised the level of the water. about 100 feet and enlarged the lake-like an ice jam blocking the river. The picnic site facilities include tables, pit toilets, and park information.

3. Lax Mihl (Crater Creek).

10.5 km., 6.5 mi This petrified landscape bears witness to the violent force and speed of the fiery, flowing lava. A short trail leaves from the covered sign and leads you over Crater Creek, "on top of fire." This map will

help you see how the once raging flow of lava shaped what we see

"Staving on the trail will prevent damage to the fragile plant community covering the lava flow"

Four kilometres to the east, several volcanic eruptions have occurred since glaciers filled these valleys thousands of years ago. Imagine the most recent eruption, raining ash throughout the valley and sending a fiery tongue of lava to spread across the Ayns Lisims (Nass River) Valley, over 20 kilometres north. It's hard to imagine a lava flow that covered whole villages and moved a major river across a large valley came from such a seemingly insignificant cone, less than 70 metres high. Acrid gasses from the eruption may have caused the deaths of about 2,000 Nisga'a.

4. Sii Aks (Tseax River)

12 km., 7.5 mi. As the surface of the lava flow cooled and solidified, the liquid core continued to flow. Beneath you today, the lava flow is like a honeycomb, carrying the Sii Aks or "New Water," for much of its journey to the Nass. Where this lava honeycomb has collapsed or filled in, the creek may emerge as an emerald pool when water levels are high. Can you create your own legend that might explain

Be extremely careful if you walk in this area. You may break through a thin lava crust or fall on the sharp uneven surface. Think of lava as black glass. Avoid the edges of ponds.

5. Beaupre Falls

A short five minute walk brings you to a viewpoint with a pleasant

the presence and disappearance of these ponds?

6. Ksiluuyim Agiiy (Vetter Falls)

23 km., 14.4 mi, Here at "Out of Alder This Way," springs from the lava honeycomb give rise to Vetter Creek. During summer runoff when the honeycomb is full, water flows over the falls, bringing migrating fish from the Tseax River. This phantom stream disappears into the lava five kilometers downstream, trapping a population of steelhead

7. Nisga'a Park Visitor Centre (Park Headquarters Office)

Built in traditional Nisga'a Longhouse design, the Park Visitor Centre is a must see. Inside you will find interpretive displays and information about the Nisga'a, people of the Nass Valley, and their rich culture and history

Helpful staff will provide you with information and answer questions about Park features and facilities, and services within the local communities. Local crafts and park related souvenirs can be purchased at the Centre.

The Tseax River provides a gravel stream bottom habitat to salmon and steelhead spawning. Fish are the mainstay of our diet. The legend of the lava flow is only one indication of the importance of the salmon to our culture.

Good land management leads to strong salmon populations. Leaving forested stream corridors like the Tseax helps prevent silt-laden run-off from choking spawning beds. This is only one piece of the puzzle of the salmon's survival, but it is one we can and will pursue by maintaining this park as a protected area.

Challenge yourself to see how many of the four species of salmon you can find. Their pictures are on the sign in the parking area. Remember bears may also be watching for salmon.

### 9. Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh)

30.4 km., 19 mi. We welcome you into the home of "People of the Ponds" where you'll find a store, gas station, and other services. The front of the community hall reminds us of the heritage of our four Nisga'a clans (Raven, Killer Whale, Eagle, and Wolf). Can you identify each of the clans' symbols?

Across the Nass River, the few remaining houses of Old Aiyansh remind us of a time when our lives were more closely tied to the

### 10. Lava Front (Boat Launch) 35 km., 21.9 mi.

As the lava flowed into Ayns Lisims (Nass River), it began pushing the river from its location on the south side of the valley to the north side of the valley. The lava plain you have just crossed covers the original course of the river. The river cooled the front of the lava flow. Occasional breaks in the front allowed lava to flow out into the water, rapidly cooling and forming what looks like an "elephant trunk." Can you find one here?

The lava flow finally stopped its northward thrust here allowing the Nisga'a to relocate on the north side of the Nass at Gitwinksihlkw and Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh).

11. Tree Mould

38 km., 23.6 mi.

A short five minute walk leads to a unique special feature called a tree mould. During the eruption, molten lava often solidified around trees which created hollow tubes after the trees burned or rotted

12. Gitwinksihlkw (Canyon City)

42 km., 26 mi.

Gitwinksihlkw is a village symbolic of the uniqueness of Nisga'a existence. A new vehicle bridge replaces an existing suspension foot bridge which previously provided the main access to the village. We're especially proud of six recently constructed totem poles, four of which are mounted at either end of the vehicle bridge and represent the Eagle, Wolf, Raven and Killer Whale Tribes living in the Nass Valley. We welcome you to our village and invite you to make use of our facilities and services.

13. Dedication Site

44 km., 27.3 mi.

Anhluut'ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga'aasankwhl Nisga'a (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Provincial Park) is managed by a joint committee made up of Nisga'a Nation and British Columbia Provincial Parks representatives. The protected area not only preserves a significant geological event, it presents the Nisga'a culture and how it was influenced by the volcanic eruption and lava flow.

The park was dedicated on April 30, 1992.



Self-Guided Autotour Sites

Further details and contact information can be found on the Village Maps of this brochure



Nisga'a Lands

## Roads

Gravel

Paved

# (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park)

The spectacular Tseax Lava Flow, Canada's most recent, occurred some 300 years ago. Approximately 20-km long and 3-km wide, the flow buried two Nisga'a villages, changed the course of the Nass River, and created Lava Lake. The park is owned by the province of British Columbia. The Nisga'a Nation and British Columbia jointly manage the park, which includes a visitor centre, campground, and guided trail to the volcano crater.

For more information about this natural wonder and cultural heritage site: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/nisgaa/ For campground reservations contact Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park at 1-800-689-9025.

# Nisga'a Lands



North American Datum NAD 83 Universal Transversal Mercator Zone 9

June 1, 2011

Nisga'a Lisims Government Directorate of Lands and Resources By: S Coggins www.nisgaalisims.ca 1 250 663 3000

## What do you need to know?

Lava flows are very dangerous. The lava rock is sharp and unstable. Solid appearing surfaces can be very thin and can collapse into underground tubes or caverns with your weight. Walk only on marked trails.

Some lava flow features are very delicate and need protection. Other possess cultural significance and are not open to the public. Lichens cover most of the lava flow. A single footprint can set back hundreds of years of growth. Please stay on trails.

The park is gradually developing but present conditions are primitive. Gasoline and auto service is available in Gitlaxt'aamiks. Camping is available near Vetter Creek and at Dragon Lake.

The park is home to grizzly and black bears. The bears share your interest in salmon and steelhead. If you see a bear, do not disturb it. Return to your vehicle.