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 ownership of Nisga’a territory. In 1998, a signing ceremony at Gitla’xxt’aamiks (formerly New Aiyansh) signalled the completion of a quarter century of negotiations and the birth of the Nisga’a Final Agreement, British Columbia’s first modern treaty. 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 day, the Indian Act ceased to apply to the Nisga’a people (except 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 the treaty with keen interest. The Nisga’a Final Agreement serves as an example. It demonstrates that governments and First Nations can, in good faith, work together to forge a more secure future for everyone.

Tourist Attractions and Information in Nisga’a Lands

Situated approximately 100 kilometers north of Terrace, the Nass Valley offers tourists a wide variety of tourism opportunities. From world class fishing and hiking, to wildlife viewing and mountain vistas, to unique geological landscape features and traditional north coast native cultural experiences, the region is rich in its diversity and will regard all who visit with a chance to explore and experience a truly unique landscape while learning about the culture and legends of the Nisga’a who have lived here since time immemorial. Feel free to visit our museum in Laxgala’xtap to view exhibits on Nisga’a culture and the Memorial Lava Bed Park Centre to learn features on the landscape. On behalf of the Nisga’a Nation, Nisga’a Lisims Government welcomes you to our ancestral home.
The spectacular Tseax Lava Flow, Canada’s most recent, occurred some 300 years ago. The spectacular Tseax Lava Flow, Canada’s most recent, occurred some 300 years ago.

What do you need to know?

Lava flows are very dangerous. The lava is hot and very mobile. Solid appearing lava can be hot and unstable. Risks appear to be confined to the path of the lava. Lava can cover your skin and burn. Wherever you are, take care to avoid rolling lava, which can be easily broken on your shoulders.

What do you need to know?

The park is gradually developing but present conditions are primitive. Gasoline and auto service is available in Kitwanga. Gasoline and auto service is available in Kitwanga.

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