



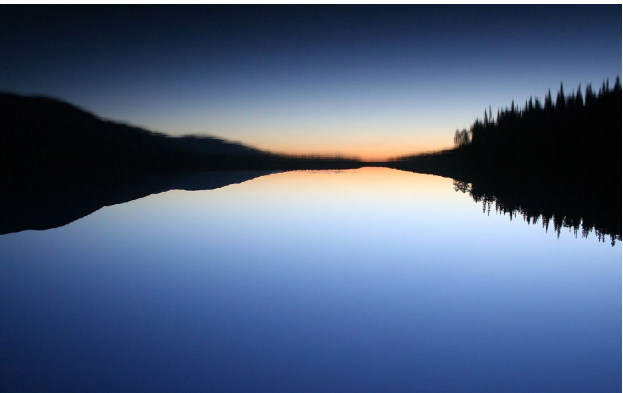
Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Provincial Park



Oolichan fishing, a staple of our diet



a camp site and boat launch



Nisga'a Final Agreement

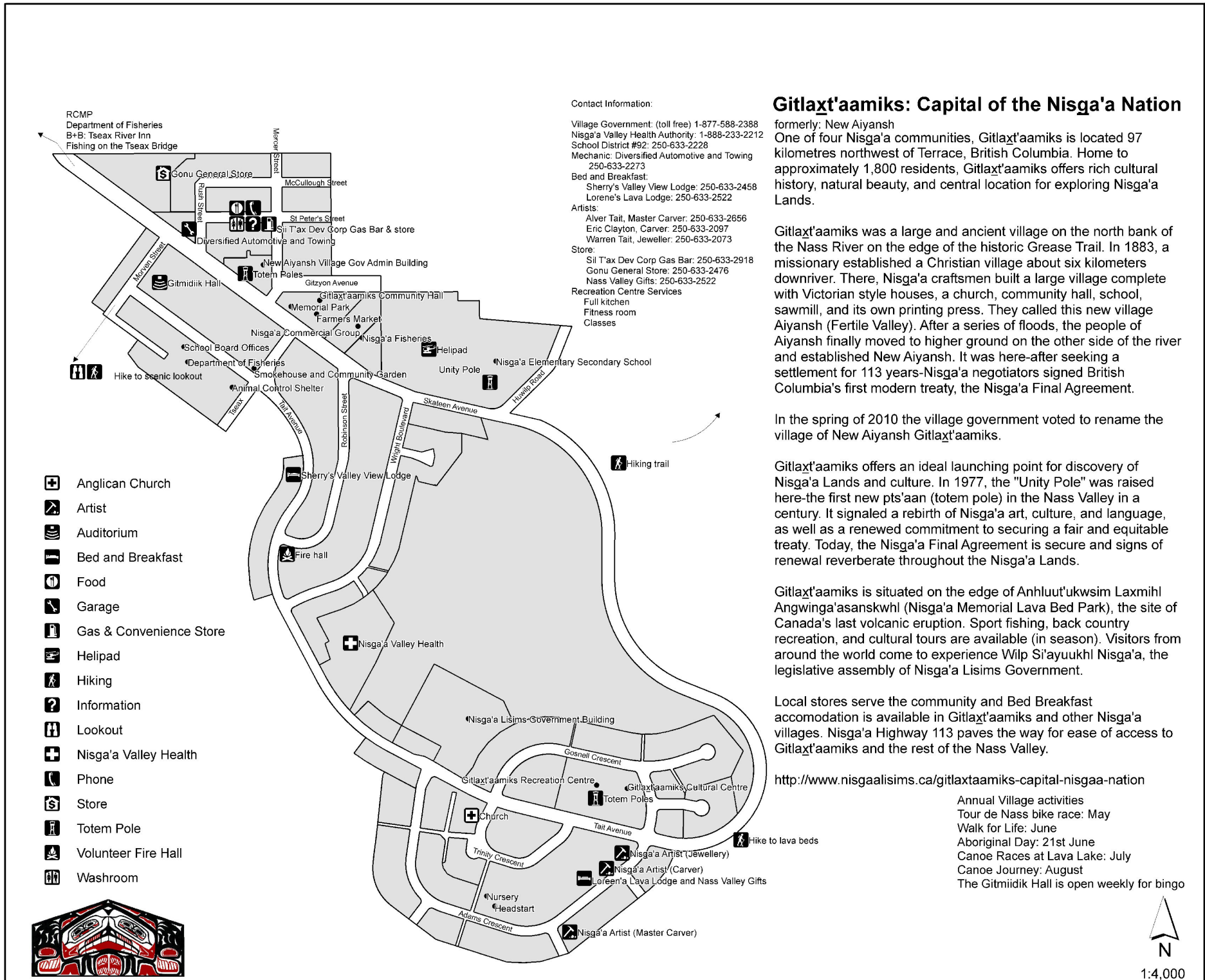
The Nisga'a people have lived in the Nass River Valley since time immemorial. In the late 1800s, when much of Nisga'a traditional territory was declared Crown land, the Nisga'a people began petitioning government to recognize our connection to and ownership of Nisga'a territory. In 1998, a signing ceremony at Gitlaxt'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



Gitlaxt'aamiks: Capital of the Nisga'a Nation

formerly: New Aiyansh
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 Lands.

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 Aiyansh 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.

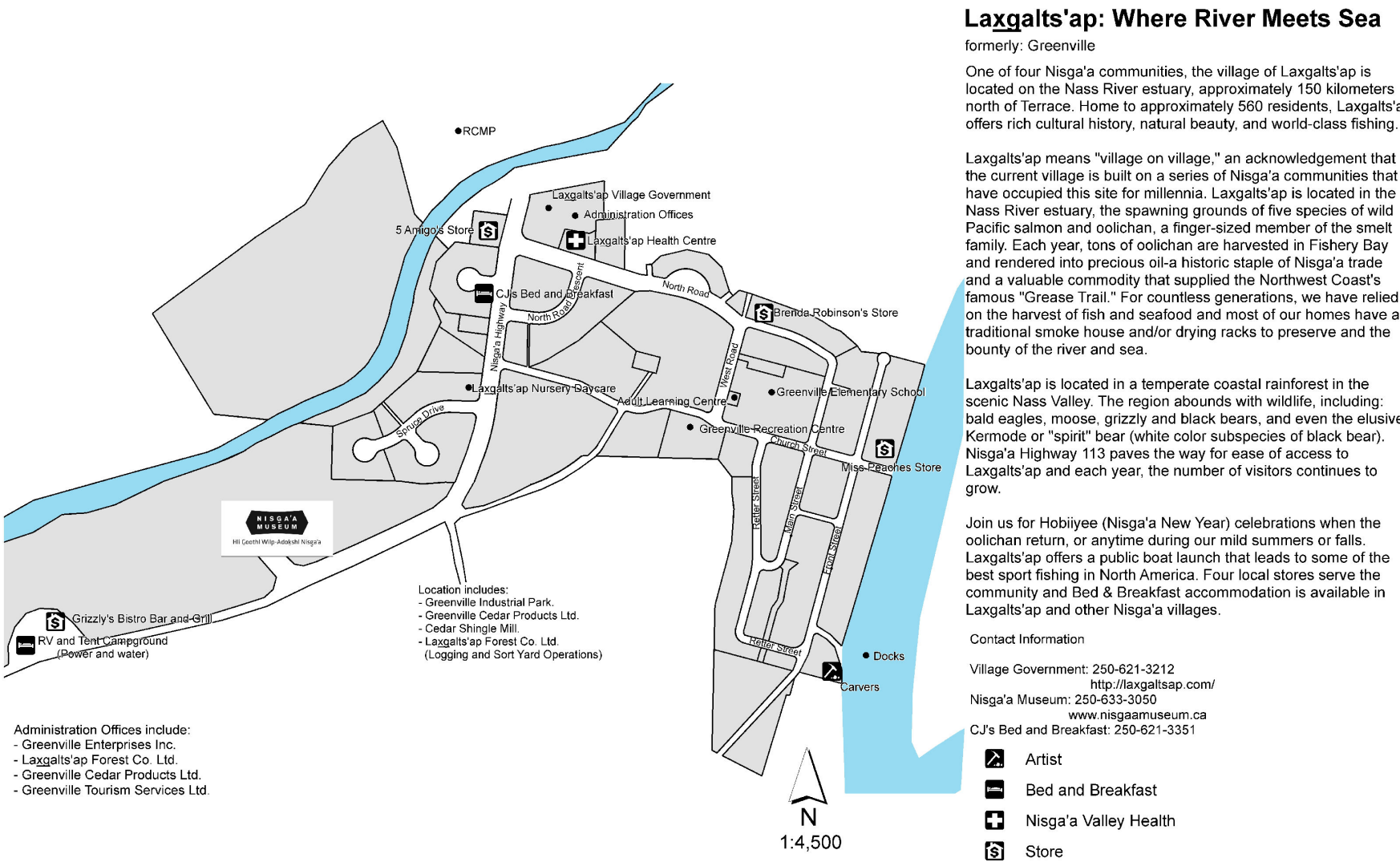
In the spring of 2010 the village government voted to rename the village of New Aiyansh Gitlaxt'aamiks.

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.

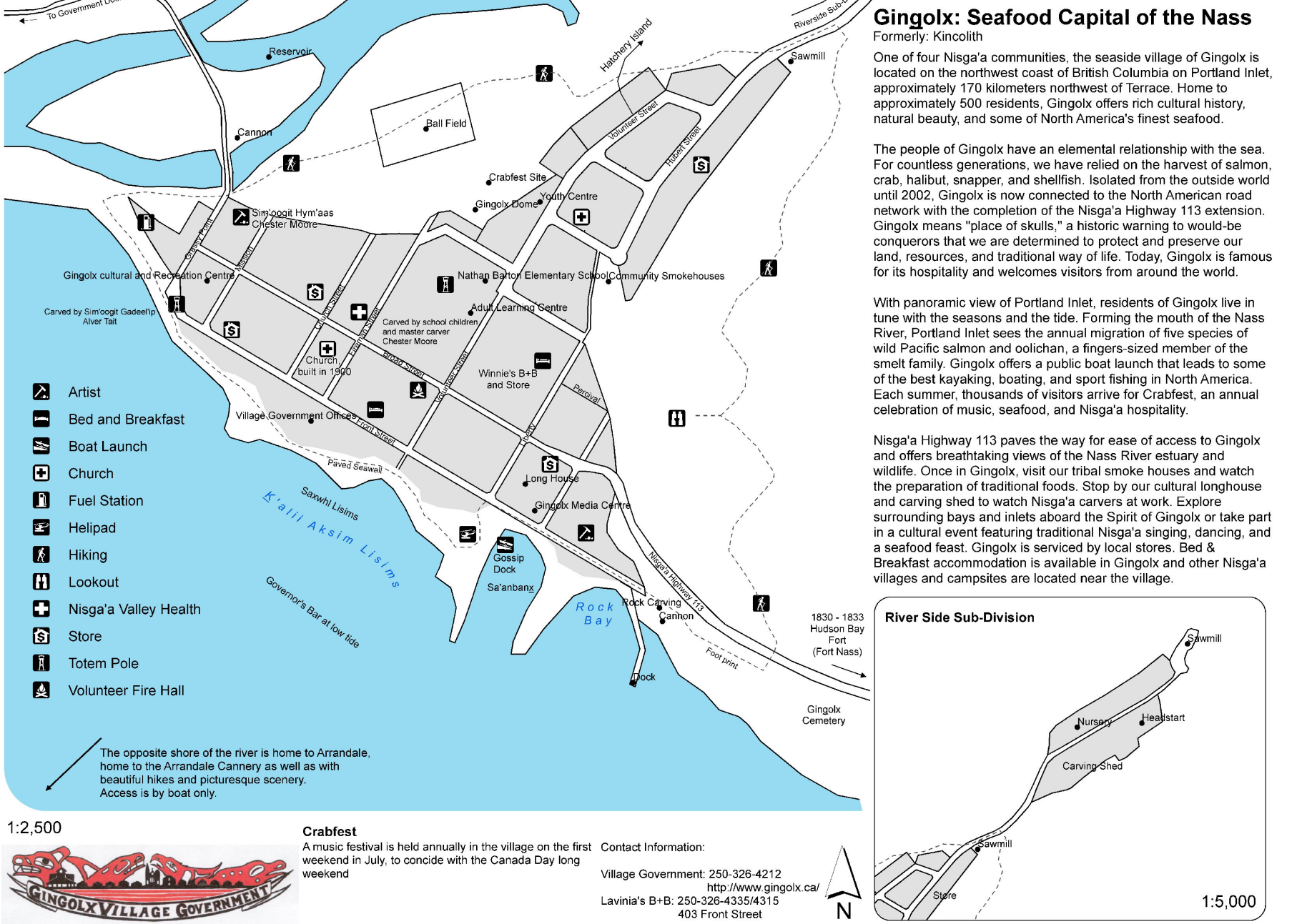
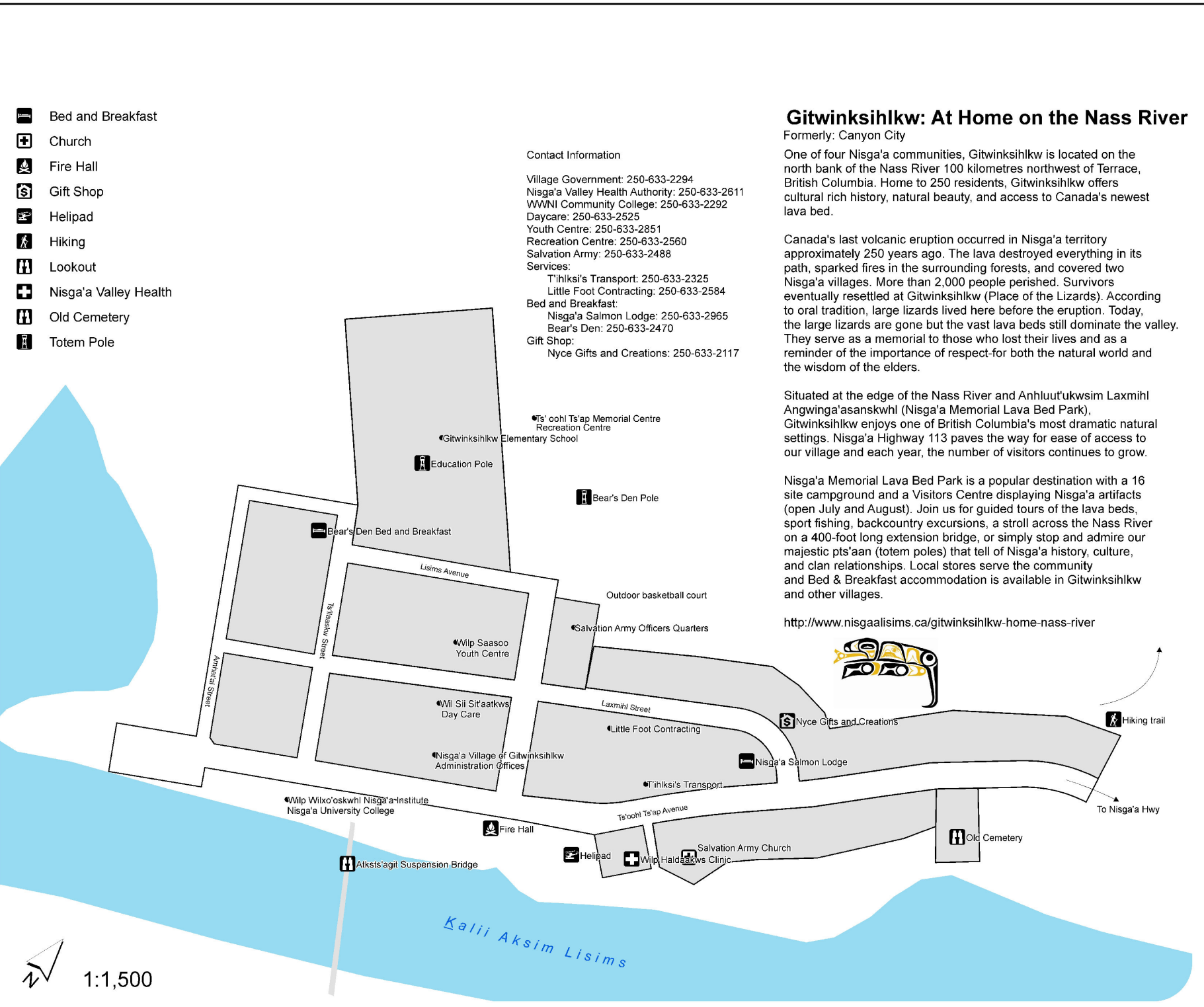
Gitlaxt'aamiks is situated on the edge of Ahnluut'ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga'asanskwhl (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park), the site of Canada's last volcanic eruption. Sport fishing, back country recreation, and cultural tours are available (in season). Visitors from around the world come to experience Wilp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

Local stores serve the community and Bed Breakfast accommodation 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-nisgaag-nation>
Annual Village activities
Tour de Nass bike race: May
Walk for Life: June
Aboriginal Day: 21st June
Canoe Races at Lava Lake: July
Canoe Journey: August
The Gitlaxt'aamiks is open weekly for bingo

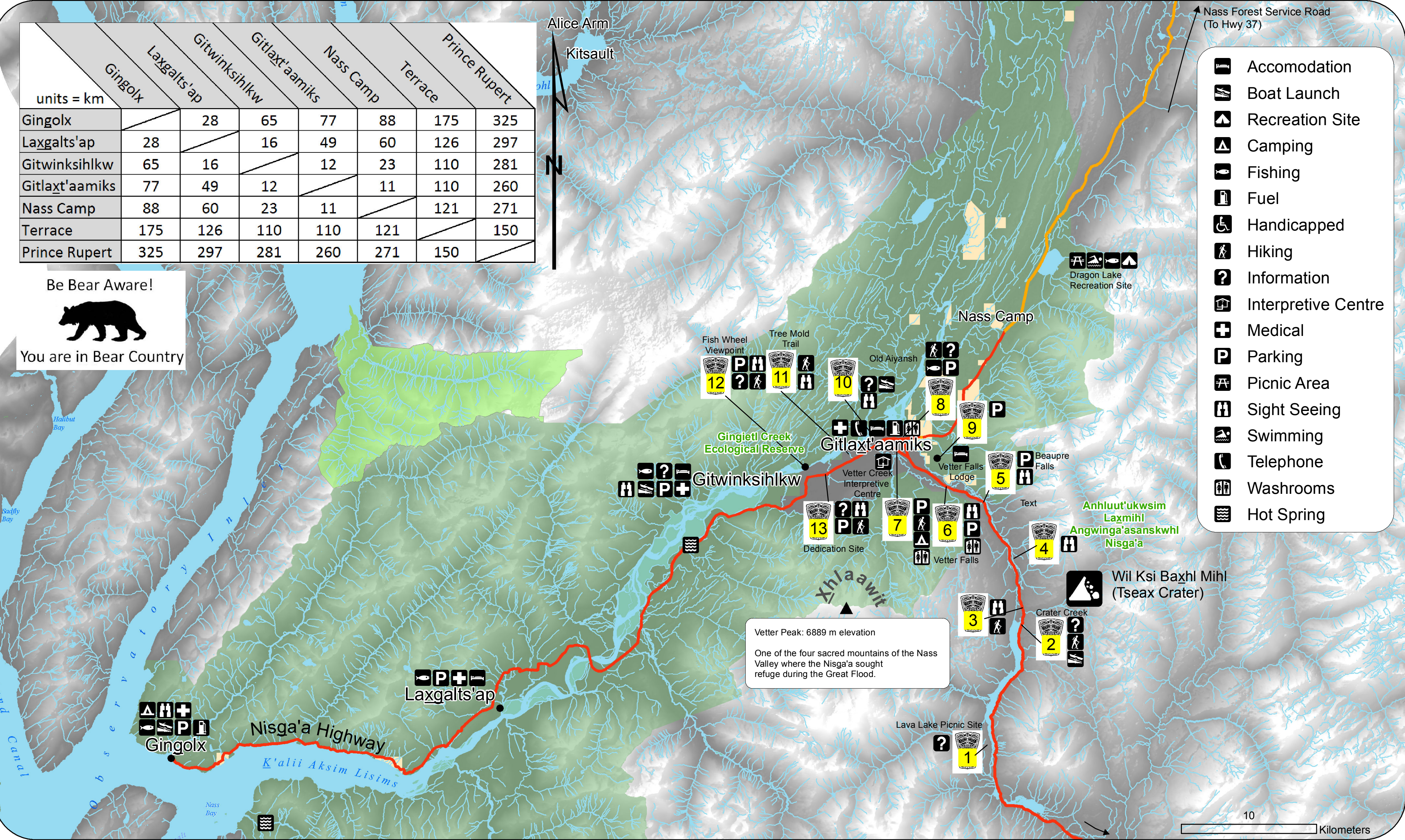


Artist
Bed and Breakfast
Nisga'a Valley Health
Store



Artist
Bed and Breakfast
Boat Launch
Church
Fuel Station
Helipad
Hiking
Lookout
Nisga'a Valley Health
Store
Totem Pole
Volunteer Fire Hall

Crabfest
A music festival is held annually in the village on the first weekend in July, to coincide with the Canada Day long weekend
Contact Information:
Village Government: 250-326-4212
<http://www.gingko.ca/>
Lavinia's B+B: 250-326-4335/4315
403 Front Street



units = km	Gingolx	Laxgalts'ap	Gitwinksihlkw	Gitlaxt'aamiks	Nass Camp	Terrace	Prince Rupert
Gingolx		28	65	77	88	175	325
Laxgalts'ap	28		16	49	60	126	297
Gitwinksihlkw	65	16		12	23	110	281
Gitlaxt'aamiks	77	49	12		11	110	260
Nass Camp	88	60	23	11		121	271
Terrace	175	126	110	110	121		150
Prince Rupert	325	297	281	260	271	150	

Be Bear Aware!



You are in Bear Country

- Accommodation
- Boat Launch
- Recreation Site
- Camping
- Fishing
- Fuel
- Handicapped
- Hiking
- Information
- Interpretive Centre
- Medical
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Sight Seeing
- Swimming
- Telephone
- Washrooms
- Hot Spring

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 paragraphs 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.

- Tour start.**
0 km., 0 mi.
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 Mhl, "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.
- Sii Tax (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 Tax, "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.
- Lax Mhl (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 today.

"Staying on the trail will prevent damage to the fragile plant community covering the lava flow"
- 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 the presence and disappearance of these ponds?
- Beaupre Falls**
19.8 km., 12.4 mi.
A short five minute walk brings you to a viewpoint with a pleasant surprise.
- Ksiluuyim Agiyi (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 trout.
- Nisga'a Park Visitor Centre (Park Headquarters Office)**
26.5 km., 16.7 mi.
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.

To contact the Centre by phone, call 1-250-638-9589
- Salmon Viewing Area**
28.5 km., 17.8 mi.
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.
- 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?
- 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 into the water, rapidly cooling and forming what looks like an "elephant trunk." Can you find one here?
- 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 away.
- 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.
- Dedication Site**
44 km., 27.3 mi.
Anhluut'ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga'asanskwhl 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.

Sites of interest

- 1 Self-Guided Autotour Sites

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

Land Status

- Protected Areas
- Excluded Lands
- Nisga'a Lands

Roads

- Gravel
- Paved

Anhluut'ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga'asanskwhl Nisga'a (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.

Attractions and features on 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.