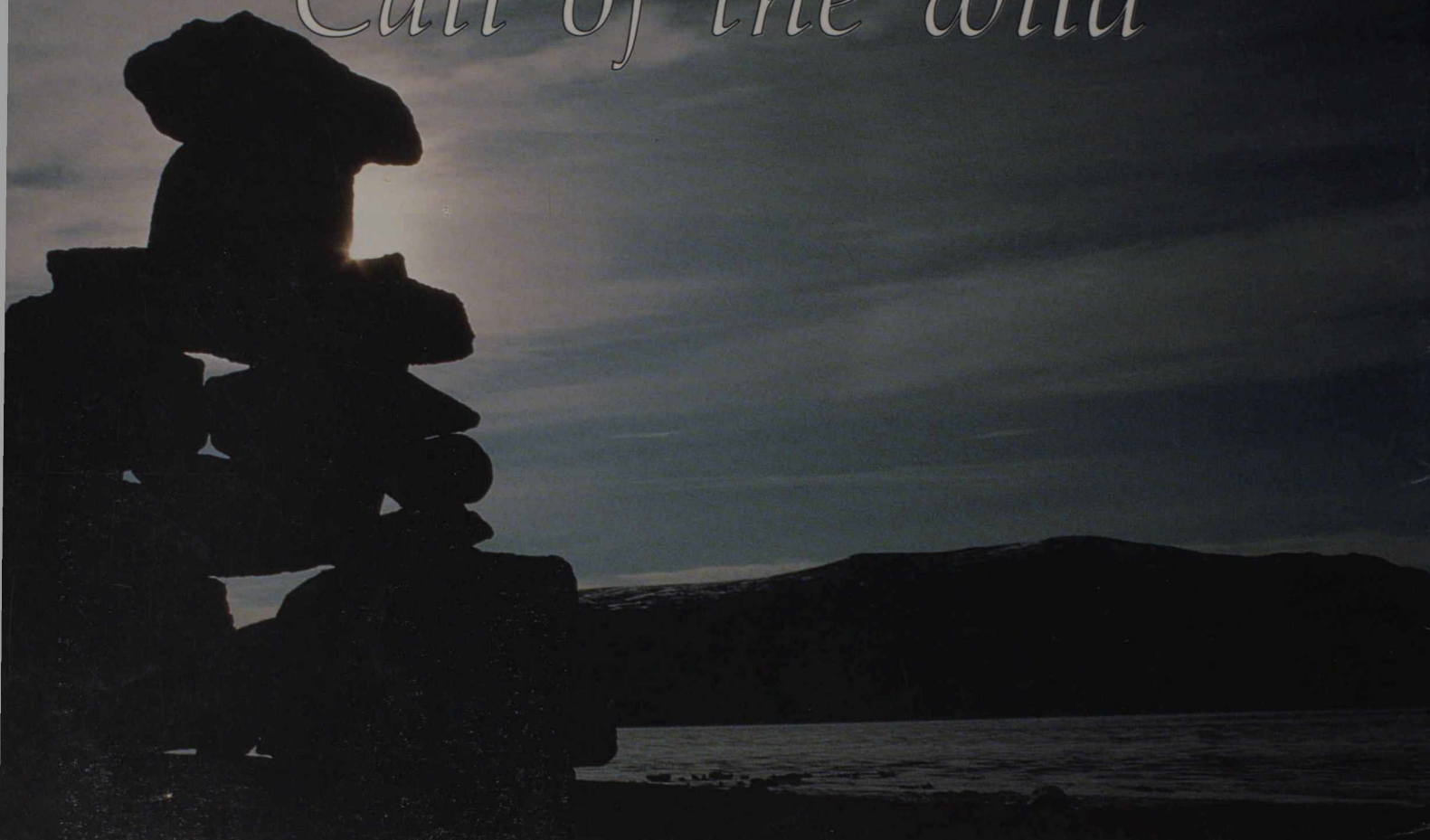


Call of the wild



Inukshuk, Frobisher Bay, Northwest Territories. These strange formations were built by Inuit travellers to guide them through the arctic wilderness.

Totem pole, Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia.



continued

Stoney Creek is a favourite haunt for Mountain Bighorn sheep as well as other wildlife. It is also the place where the local Stoney Indians were among the first native Canadians to offer guided trail rides of their reservation and surrounding countryside. From here riders pack up the duffle and head to Flint's Park Camp, located amongst open grassy ridges topped with rugged mountain peaks. Some excellent fishing and hiking can be found here. The final camp is scenic Mystic Valley. It is a tradition to end the trail ride with a real western dinner, where guides really impress you with their culinary skills!

Undoubtedly the most instantly recognisable native culture in Canada is represented by the vast collection of totem poles found in British Columbia. These were first noticed by Captain Cook over 200 years ago during his voyages in the Pacific. Nowhere were they more impressive than on the off-shore islands of Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands. One particular site occupied by the Haida Indians, Anthony Island, has now been included on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Though it is not known how long the island and its village, Ninstints, has been the home of the Kung'it Haida, archeological deposits indicate it has been occupied for about 2000 years. Skung'wai, Haida for 'red cod island', once supported approximately 300 people who occupied the village during winter. During the rest of the year, the tribe roamed throughout the area to fish, hunt and gather subsistence materials. Due to disease, the population dwindled to about 25 in the 1800s, and the village was later abandoned. Today Ninstints stands as a unique example of the richness of the coastal Indian cultural heritage. The decaying remains of Ninstints, which are now

being conserved, include 32 totem poles and mortuary columns and the structural remains of 10 longhouses. There are six other heritage sites on the island, including two cave sites.

Vanished Culture

Anthony Island was placed on the World Heritage List because Ninstints village is the most impressive and remarkable coastal Indian site in the Pacific Northwest. It represents a vanished culture of great richness and significance, however, you do not have to go all the way to Anthony Island to see it. A visit to Stanley Park in Vancouver, followed by a more serious study of the enormous collection of Northwest Coast artifacts at the Museum of Anthropology will convey the depth and significance of this culture to the region. If you have time, it is worth comparing this collection with that of the British Columbia Provincial Museum in Victoria on Vancouver Island.

More information on holidays mentioned in this article can be obtained from our Tourism Office at

Canada House, Trafalgar Square,
London SW1Y 5BJ
(071 629 9492)

U.K Operators featuring the 'Native' experience are:

Accessible Isolation Holidays (0730 812535)
Arctic Experience (0737 362321)
EcoSafaris (UK) Ltd (071 244 7783)
Escape Activities (0754 2382)
Experience the Mountains Ltd (081 685 1568)
Society Expeditions (071 436 6684)
Twickers World Ltd (081 892 7606)
Hickie Borman Holidays (081 393 0127)
Suntrek (0793 881882)
Ramblers Holidays (0707 331133)