

TÉESH KWAAN XAGU CITY OF SAXMAN



Since Time Immemorial

Neixadi-Kiksadi-Teikweidi

The heart of Téesh Kwaan Xagu

Discover the rich cultural heritage of the City of Saxman, home to the proud Neixadi, Kiksadi, and Teikweidi clans. These three distinct clans relocated to Teesh Kwaan Xagu from their ancestral villages, establishing a vibrant community rooted in tradition.

Cultural Heritage & History

Upon relocating, the clans gathered in Teesh Kwaan Xagu, or currently known as Saxman, where they built lasting symbols of unity and cultural identity. One of the most significant landmarks is the historic School House, the oldest building in Saxman, where generations of children from all three clans attended school.

The City of Saxman is a Tlingit Village with a population of 382 residents, with a 93 percent Indigenous population who thrive off of their subsistence lifestyle. Teesh Kwaan Xagu has been harvesting grounds since time immemorial but was founded as a city in 1984. The Tlingit of Saxman hold their traditional values very close; the Tlingit are rich in culture and traditions, they are resilient. As the Tlingit have adapted to modern-day lifestyles, their diets and village ways of life keep them ahead of today's society. Located in Southeast Alaska, their diets consist of Salmon, Seal Meat, Deer, Berries, and one of the famous sayings of the Tlingit is "when the tide is low, the table is set."



Kooteeya (Totem Pole Central)

The legacy of totem poles (kooteeya) in Saxman is truly remarkable. Teesh Kwaan Xagu contains the largest amount of standing Totem Poles in the world. Many of the totem poles you will see around the city are carved at the Edwin Dewitt Carving Center, where local carvers apprentice under the guidance of our esteemed Master Carver, Nathan Jackson. Visitors can witness the intricate process of totem pole carving, a skill passed down through generations. Not only totem poles are carved in the Carving Center but as well Halibut Hooks, Canoes and even Canoe Paddles are brought to life. The Tlingit are coastal people for many moons the Tlingit have travel and traded via canoes.

Beaver Clan House

A central gathering place for the Neixadi, Kiksadi, and Teikweidi clans, the Beaver Clan House stands as a testament to their shared history and cultural pride. Many stories and songs are shared within the clan house and many guests are welcomed in, in 2024 the Hokulea from Hawaii came back to visit after 30 years. The traditional Polynesian voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a is making its way through Southeast Alaska as the first part of its years-long global journey called Moananuiākea. It's an adventure all about spreading a sense of care for the ocean and Indigenous knowledge.

