

New Great Bear Rainforest 8- Day Itinerary

This natural history voyage explores the protected waters of the Central Coast in British Columbia – an area known as the ‘Great Bear Rainforest’. Conservationists have been working hard to protect this area because it holds the largest remaining area of virgin coastal rainforest left on the Pacific Coast. It is home to grizzly bears, wolves, humpback whales, and the elusive, all-white Spirit Bear. In 2006, the British Columbia government announced the protection of an additional 20% of the Great Bear Rainforest. We will explore this wilderness for wildlife ashore and keep a sharp eye out for whales as we travel up the fiords below towering mountains and waterfalls. The Tshimshian and Heiltsuk First Nations people have lived here for thousands of years and we will learn about their culture and art. Combine incredible wildlife and cultural experiences into one week... and you have an amazing trip!

Bella Bella to Prince Rupert - Sample Itinerary

On all our voyages we intentionally keep our itineraries flexible to take advantage of wildlife sightings, weather and tides, and the interests of the group. This sample itinerary describes a typical 8-day trip, however, activities may occur in a different order or be substituted by suitable alternatives. Wildlife are wild life and do not necessarily conform to our schedules.

Day 1 – The trip starts in Bella Bella, BC. Participants will meet at the top of the Municipal Dock on the Bella Bella waterfront. Upon boarding the ship, cabins will be assigned, an introductory safety briefing completed and then we depart to explore the Great Bear Rainforest. Each night we anchor in a different, secluded anchorage.

Day 2 –3 We now head deep into the coastal mountains and will focus the next two days on the Fiordland Conservancy Area. Beneath towering rock bluffs and waterfalls, we will explore remote estuaries and expect to see grizzly bears feeding on spawning salmon.

Day 4 – We plan to visit the First Nations village of Klemtu and tour the incredible, ceremonial Big House with a native guide. Then we travel along the shore of the Princess Royal Island, the best known area for seeing the rare Spirit or Kermode bears. These bears are actually black bears with a recessive gene that makes about ten percent of the bears in this area all-white. We plan to go ashore in the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy.

Day 5 – Campania Sound and Whale Channel are excellent areas for humpback whales and Steller sea lions. Stop ashore in the Gitga’at (Princess Royal Island) Conservancy.

Day 6 – Wright Sound / MacKay Reach we search for bears along the shore and whales feeding. Soak that evening at the Bishop Bay hot springs.

Day 7 – We spend the entire day with a Gitga'at native guide taking us to his favourite bear viewing areas. Patience will be required but with good luck we will spot both black bears and the elusive all-white Spirit Bear.

Day 8 – Complete our voyage in the native community of Hartley Bay. Before departure by floatplane to Prince Rupert, there will be time to walk the boardwalk trail up to the lake or visit the community big house. Arriving in Prince Rupert, guests can either stay to explore this coastal town, or connect with scheduled air service back to Vancouver.