

North Coast & Khutzeymateen Valley 7-day Itinerary

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 7-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 – Meet at the Prince Rupert Rowing and Yacht Club at 11:30am. After cabin assignments, and a safety orientation we depart busy Prince Rupert harbour for the beauty of Chatham Sound and its myriad islands.

Day 2-3 – We explore the islands of Chatham Sound, including Porcher, Stephens and Dundas Islands. We will walk remote beaches, hike up to a view point and search for sea lions, orcas and humpback whales. There are some lovely areas to explore by kayak or zodiac.

Day 4-5 – Khutzeymateen Inlet. We tie up Island Odyssey at a remote floating camp, and proceed by zodiac to see the famed grizzly bears of the Khutzeymateen Valley. This area is Canada's only Grizzly Bear Sanctuary. Covering an area of 45,000 hectares, scientists estimate there are about 50 grizzlies protected by the sanctuary. The Khutzeymateen is jointly managed by BC Parks and the Tshimshian First Nation and the protected area has recently been expanded to include the entire Inlet. Our local guide, Greg Palmer has been leading grizzly bear viewing trips in the Khutzeymateen for over 10 years and knows the bears intimately.

Day 6 - From fiord-like Portland Canal, we now return to the outer islands and lower topography of Chatham Sound. Tshimshian First Nations have lived in this area for thousands of years. There are two villages along our route. Lax Kw'alaams was once a Hudson Bay Company trading post called Fort Simpson. Metlakatla became a model Christian community under Reverend Duncan during late 1800's and avoided the smallpox ravaging native communities. Remote Green Island still has lightkeepers manning the lighthouse and living on the tiny island. If the weather allows, we may go ashore for a visit.

Day 7 – We return through narrow Venn Passage to Prince Rupert. Venn Passage has an incredible collection of petroglyphs – native rock carvings – including the famous 'Man who fell from heaven'. We will tie up at the Prince Rupert Rowing and Yacht Club by midday.