



GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

Sample Itinerary

Start: Bella Bella, BC

Finish: Terrace, BC

Vessel: Island Solitude / Island Roamer

8 Days

Note: This is intended as a Sample Itinerary. Please do not book flights based on information listed in this document as changes are possible. You will be provided with an Arrivals and Departures Itinerary once all details have been confirmed. Please contact us with any questions.

Join Bluewater Adventures on this spectacular journey into the protected waters of the north central coast of British Columbia – an area known as the ‘Great Bear Rainforest’. This stretch of coastline is a rich and unique ecosystem of impressive biodiversity – from the herring, salmon and large marine mammals in the sea; to carnivores, birds, and massive cedar and hemlocks trees on land. It is home to grizzly bears, wolves, humpback whales, eagles, and the elusive, all-white Spirit Bear.

This natural history voyage will explore the famed Inside Passage, stretching along the reaches of the Great Bear Rainforest, with the anticipation of seeing some amazing wildlife while enjoying the peace and tranquility of the central BC Coast. Each day, we leave the vessel for small boat excursions or to explore ashore: visiting various estuaries, bear viewing sites, beaches, and first nations villages. At sea, we keep a sharp eye out for whales and other marine mammals as we travel remote waterways shrouded by old growth temperate rainforests and through the fiords below towering rock faces and rushing waterfalls.

The Tshimshian, Haisla, and Heiltsuk First Nations people have lived in the area for tens of thousands of years. We will learn about their culture and how important this remote and pristine wilderness is to them and their future generations. Conservationists and First Nations have been actively working to protect this area as it contains the largest remaining untouched temperate rainforest on the Pacific Coast. In 2006, following the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement between the British Columbia government, Coastal First Nations, the forestry industry and environmental groups, 10% of the Great Bear Rainforest was set aside for protection as Conservancies. First Nations received support to shift from resource-based revenue to developing ecotourism and any logging must now meet sustainable ecosystem-based management guidelines. Just in 2016, the British Columbia government and Coastal First Nations announced that 85% of the land area will now be protected under the Great Bear Rainforest Act.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

On all voyages we intentionally keep our itineraries flexible to take advantage of wildlife sightings, weather and tides, and the interests of the group.

Arrival Day into Bella Bella

Our trip starts in the small First Nations coastal town of Bella Bella. Located on remote Campbell Island, Bella Bella - also known as Waglisla - is the home of the Heiltsuk First Nation. Their traditional territory is spread out over an area of 16,658 square kilometres. Bella Bella is located 181km north of Vancouver Island and 144km west of Bella Coola and counts 1450 residents.

As unforeseen weather delays are common when travelling in coastal regions – to ensure that the group can set sail on time – we advise you to arrive in Bella Bella the day prior to the trip and spend the night at an accommodation of your choice.

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES SAMPLE ITINERARY – GBR

There are limited accommodation options. Most people will stay at the Shearwater Resort located on Denny Island, a short water taxi ride from Bella Bella. Denny Island offers the most facilities for tourists visiting the area, such as lodging, a restaurant/ pub, and 2 small shops. The other options are to stay at Annette's Beach House or Bella Guest Cabins, both located in Bella Bella, and experience life in a First Nations coastal town. These two options will require you to do your own provisioning and cooking. Please inquire with Starr Shuttle about transport to the Municipal Dock the following morning. For large travel parties, we suggest the Shearwater Resort for your group.

Upon arriving at the Bella Bella Airport, collect your luggage outside and look for Star Shuttle driving a large white passenger van. They will be notified of your arrival and a driver will meet your flight to transport you either to the Municipal Dock for the water taxi to Denny Island or to your accommodation in Bella Bella. **Please note that Star Shuttle requires a cash payment of CAD \$15 per person at time of travel.**

Once at the Municipal Dock proceed down the ramp to where you will catch your water taxi for the 10-minute crossing to the Shearwater Marine Resort. The water taxi crossing to Denny Island costs \$5.00 per person; unless you are staying at Shearwater Resort, in which case it is included in your hotel fees. Once on Denny Island, it is a short walk up the dock to Shearwater Resort.

Day 1 – Trip Start

Guests staying in *Shearwater*: meet the vessel and crew at the Shearwater Marine Resort Dock.

Guests staying in *Bella Bella*: meet the vessel and crew at the top of the Bella Bella Municipal Dock.

Upon boarding the vessel, cabins will be assigned and following a brief introduction and safety orientation we will set sail for the Great Bear Rainforest where each night we anchor in a different, secluded anchorage.

As we depart Bella Bella and approach the waters of Milbanke Sound keep watch for sea otters. With the nuclear testing at Amchitka between 1968 and 1972, 89 sea otters were transplanted to Vancouver Island. Some found their way to the Central Coast and occasionally we spot them in the kelp beds wrapped in the fronds of kelp to anchor themselves against the currents.

We will spend each evening in different and remote anchorages with wonderful views. During our daily shore or small boat excursions, our onboard naturalist will help identify different coastal plants, animals, birds and marine life. Interested participants can help keep a species list for the trip. There will be time to explore the protected waters using our stable sea-kayaks.

Days 2 – 4

Heading north, we explore Mathieson Channel and Finlayson Channel; keep your eyes trained on the shoreline for foraging bears while underway. We see a variety of birdlife throughout the region including bald eagles and the “trickster” ravens. If weather and tides permit, a wander along remote beaches and wildlife trails will show evidence of bears and possibly wolves in the area.

We will voyage deep into the coastal mountains to explore a large marine park called the *Fiordland Conservancy*. Beneath towering granite cliff faces and impressive waterfalls, we will search remote estuaries with the expectation of seeing grizzly bears attracted by the spawning salmon – hopefully some have cubs of the year. Time permitting, we may visit the Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nations village of Klemtu to see the ceremonial Big House that was recently built by the local community.

We keep watch for bears and coastal wolves along the shoreline to Khutze Inlet. Its beautiful river valley provides a rich estuary and we hope for some good grizzly viewing at the water's edge. Spawning salmon also attract a wide variety of sea birds, such as American dippers, Bonaparte gulls, common mergansers, and bald eagles.

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES SAMPLE ITINERARY – GBR

Days 5 – 6

As we explore the waters of southern Douglas Channel, Squally Channel, and Whale Channel (and at various other places along our journey) we expect to see humpback whales. We keep an eye out for large spouts and hope to witness very interesting behaviours like breaches, pectoral slaps, spy-hopping and possibly bubble-net feeding. We will take the time to observe these amazing, 15-metre-long creatures whenever the opportunity arises.

Fin whales have also been spotted more often in recent years and we hope to have luck in spotting these massive and speedy cetaceans. We also keep watch for other marine mammals like orca, porpoise, and Steller sea lions – an inquisitive species that are expert, deep-water predators who dine a variety of fish, octopus and halibut. If time permits, we will make a stop at Cetacea Lab to learn about their fascinating work in whale research.

In open Principe Channel or Campania Sound, we hope for a good wind to set the sails and have one of our best sails of the voyage! There may be an opportunity to visit Hartley Bay, a water access only First Nations community and to visit Bishop Bay hot springs for a soothing soak.

Day 7

As we travel along Princess Royal Island, we keep a close watch on the shoreline, since this is the best-known area for seeing the rare Spirit (also known as Kermodé) bear. We are fortunate to spend a day with local Gitga'at First Nation guides, who will take us to their favourite bear viewing areas. With a little patience we hope to be lucky enough to see black bears and the elusive, all-white Spirit Bear fishing for salmon at a quiet spawning stream hidden in the forest. These white bears are actually black bears expressing a genetic variation resulting in about ten percent of the area's population being all white.

Day 8 – Trip Finish

We will arrive in Kitimat around noon. Travel time to the airport is approximately 1 hour. Bluewater Adventures will provide transportation for you and your luggage to the Terrace Airport for a **mid/late-afternoon flight**. Alternatively, you can decide to spend an extra day in Terrace and either depart on the evening flight or the next day.

Shuttle fees from the Kitimat Marina to the Terrace Airport are included in your trip fees. Any transportation beyond this service is the responsibility of the guest.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Booking Your Flights

Our designated Travel Agency is "UNIGLOBE DIRECT TRAVEL LTD". If you need further accommodation or help with your airfare and insurance please call Elaine Ross at 604-538-2111 ext. 6614 or email at elaine@uniglobedirect.com

BELLA BELLA, BC

Pacific Coastal Airlines provides daily service between Bella Bella and Vancouver International Airport South Terminal.

Allow for adequate layover time when transferring between the YVR main and south terminals to accommodate potential shuttle or flight delays. Please check with your airline for further details regarding required check in times and baggage information. For shuttle schedule and further information see <http://www.yvr.ca/en/passengers/transportation/airport-south>.

Please book afternoon flights for your departure from Bella Bella

Pacific Coastal	1 800-663-2872	www.pacificcoastal.com
------------------------	----------------	--

TERRACE, BC

Air Canada and WestJet provide multiple flights a day between Vancouver International Airport and Terrace.

Air Canada	1 888-247-2262	www.aircanada.ca
WestJet	1 888-937-8538	www.westjet.com

ACCOMMODATION

The following selected accommodation contacts may be useful in helping to plan your trip around your Bluewater Adventure.

BELLA BELLA, BC

Denny Island/Shearwater

Shearwater Resort	(250) 957-2666 1 800-663 2370	shearwater.ca/accommodations/ hotel@shearwater.ca
--------------------------	----------------------------------	--

Bella Bella

Annette's Beach House	(250) 957-2206 (250) 957-7423	www.annettesbeachhouse.com annettetstarr@gmail.com
Bella Guest Cabins	(250) 957 8019	www.bellaguestcabins.com bellaguestcabins@gmail.com

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES SAMPLE ITINERARY – GBR

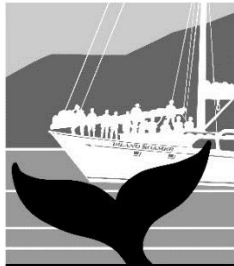
TERRACE, BC

Yellow Cedar Lodge (shuttle pick up location)	(250) 638-7874	yellowcedarlodge.ca
Best Western Terrace Inn (shuttle pick up location)	(250) 635-0083	www.bestwestern.com
Holiday Inn Express & Suites (shuttle pick up location)	(778) 634-3977 1 877-660-8550	www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/terrace/yxt/es/hoteldetail gm@hieterrace.com

TOURIST INFORMATION

For information on activities you can do in Terrace before your trip starts, visit www.visitterrace.com or call 250 635 4944.

To learn more about the Great Bear Rainforest and general information on British Columbia's attractions, travel, restaurants, shopping, transportation and accommodation contact Destination British Columbia: 1 800-435-5622 or visit the Destination BC website at www.hellobc.com



**BLUEWATER
ADVENTURES**

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES

3 - 252 East First Street
North Vancouver, BC
Canada, V7L 1B3

Telephone: (604) 980-3800

Fax: (604) 980-180

Toll Free: 1 (888) 877-1770

www.bluewateradventures.ca

explore@bluewateradventures.ca