



**BLUEWATER
ADVENTURES**

NORTHERN GREAT BEAR / KHUTZEYMATEEN GRIZZLY SANCTUARY

Sample Itinerary

Vessel: SV Island Roamer

Start & Finish: Prince Rupert, BC

7 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.

This voyage will explore the northernmost reaches of the Great Bear Rainforest region: the Khutzeymateen Valley, with the anticipation of seeing some amazing wildlife while enjoying the peace and tranquility of the northern BC Coast. This amazing expedition combines bear viewing in one of the most remote and well-known grizzly bear viewing areas in Canada, searching for orcas and humpback whales, and exploring beautiful outer islands and mountain fiords. We never know what wonderful wildlife sightings and experiences we will encounter each day.

The Khutzeymateen Valley holds Canada's first grizzly bear sanctuary and is home to one of British Columbia's most important coastal bear populations. Khutzeymateen (or K'tzim-a-deen) is a native Tsimshian word meaning "a confined space for salmon and bears", a suitable description – as you will soon see. We explore along the fjordic Inlet's winding shores and expect some breathtaking bear viewing in the new Khutzeymateen Conservancy as grizzly bears feed on lush sedge grasses. Bluewater Adventures is one of the few operators permitted to bring guests into the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary at the head of the inlet – a wonderful opportunity for all of our guests!

Located on the northwest coast of BC, this is a beautiful land of dense Sitka spruce rainforest, winding fiords, and high rugged mountains. Glaciers tower above beautiful old growth rain forests and fabulous beaches entice us to explore the outer islands. River estuaries provide important spawning grounds for many species of salmon, upon which the area's many grizzlies depend.

During our daily shore or small boat excursions our onboard naturalist will help identify different coastal plants, marine mammals, terrestrial animals, birds, and intertidal life. Interested participants can help keep a species list for the trip.

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.

Arrival Day into Prince Rupert

We highly recommend arriving in Prince Rupert the day prior to the trip start and staying overnight. This ensures the group departs on time as there can be unforeseen weather delays when travelling in coastal regions. Prince Rupert's Historic Downtown and Cow Bay shopping districts both offer many shops, galleries, restaurants and cafes, and there is also the wonderfully informative Museum of Northern British Columbia that you can visit.

Day 1: Trip Start

Meet the Bluewater Adventures crew at the top of the dock at the Cow Bay Marina in the late morning. Upon boarding the vessel, cabins will be assigned and following introductions and safety

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES SAMPLE ITINERARY – NORTH COAST KHUTZEYMATEEN 7 DAY

orientation we will depart Prince Rupert harbour for the beauty of Portland Inlet and Chatham Sound with its myriad of islands.

Day 2 - 3

We explore the islands of Chatham Sound; Porcher, Stephens and Dundas Islands are the largest in the area with remote beaches for us to explore. In the waters of Chatham Sound, we will be on the search for sea lions, orcas and humpback whales.

There will be time to explore the protected waters using our stable sea kayaks. Evenings after we anchor, or mornings before we set off will be the best times to enjoy the calm waters and solitude of the fantastic landscapes.

Day 4 - 6

We now change course and sail inland to spend these next days in the Khutzeymateen Inlet and the Kwinamaas area. The Khutzeymateen Inlet is a protected area and is jointly managed by BC Parks, Coast Tsimshian First Nations, and the Gitsi's Tribe collaboratively. At its head is Khutzeymateen Provincial Park, also known as Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary, which adjoins the more recently declared Conservancy lands along the inlet's length. These landscapes are collectively among the most beautiful and inspiring anywhere! Covering an area of 45,000 hectares, scientists estimate there is an important population of about 50 grizzlies protected by the restrictions of the Sanctuary.

Our trip focuses on bear viewing in the Conservancy, along the shores of the Inlet, and into the Sanctuary where only a few operators are permitted. After anchoring, we'll proceed by zodiac as we take care to spot the bears. The bear population here is not hunted and the bears display a general indifference to our presence. Still, in order to minimize our impact, we will maintain a respectful distance that allows them to engage in their natural behaviours. Bluewater Adventures is one of the few operators permitted to bring guests into the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary at the head of the inlet – a wonderful opportunity for all our guests!

The spring and early summer months of May and June are peak season for grizzly viewing in the Khutzeymateen. Bears are attracted to the intertidal zone for its abundance of protein rich Lyngby Sedge which is an important spring food source. As this is also mating season, large, more reticent male grizzlies may also be seen searching for females in the estuary.

From fiord-like Portland Canal, we now return to the outer islands and lower topography of Chatham Sound. Tsimshian 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 and Metlakatla, which became a model Christian community under Reverend Duncan during late 1800's. They were fortunate to have avoided the smallpox that ravaged many native communities along the Coast. Remote Green Island Lighthouse is now a National Historic Site and still has light keepers manning the lighthouse and living on the tiny island. If the weather allows, we may go ashore for a visit.

Day 7: Trip Finish

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'. Accompanied by a local Tsimshian Guide, we plan to see these ancient carvings and learn of their history.

We return to Prince Rupert and will tie up at Cow Bay Marina by noon. You will have enough time for lunch and a wander through Prince Rupert before catching the **late afternoon** flight to Vancouver. The airport shuttle leaves from the Prince Rupert Prestige Hotel downtown about two hours prior to the flight. Please make sure to get food before heading out to the airport, as it does not have any food services.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Do you require assistance with flights or Travel Insurance?

Our designated travel agent is [Ellison Travel & Tours](#), a member of CWT Vacations. CWT is a full-service travel agency with offices across Canada and they can assist you with flight arrangements, travel/medical insurance, pre-post hotel stays, and more. Bluewater guests will receive the benefit of their local knowledge, contacts and pricing.

You can reach Ellison Travel and Tours directly by completing the [Bluewater Guest Inquiry Form](#).
By telephone: 1-800-265-7022 / 604-983-2470
Or by email: bluewater@ellisontravel.com

PRINCE RUPERT, BC

Air Canada provides daily flights between Vancouver International Airport and Prince Rupert.

Air Canada	1 888-247-2262	www.aircanada.ca
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Please note: The Prince Rupert Airport is located on Digby Island and is accessible only by ferry and shuttle bus between the airport and downtown (Prince Rupert Prestige Hotel). The shuttle service and airport ferry take at least 45 minutes and is included in your airline ticket price. The shuttle departs approximately 2 hours prior to flight departure; please allow plenty of time for airport transfer. Please note that the airport does not have any food services.

Call the Prince Rupert Airport or visit their website to confirm the shuttle bus schedule.

Prince Rupert Airport	(250) 624-6274	www.ypr.ca
Shuttle Information	(250) 622 2222	

BC Ferry Services

BC Ferries offers service from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island and travels north up the coast to Prince Rupert, BC along “Inside Passage” route. The “Inside Passage” is very scenic but will add 2 days to your trip in each direction. Reservations are required for both vehicles and passengers.

Be advised that adverse weather and sea conditions can often create delays and disrupt ferry schedules.

BC Ferries	1 888-223-3779	www.bcferries.com
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LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Skeena Taxi services the Prince Rupert area. Taxis are readily available to flag down, or they can be reached by phone at (250) 624-2185.

Public transportation is available in Prince Rupert. Visit www.bctransit.com/prince-rupert/home for schedules, pricing, and further information.

ACCOMMODATION

Prince Rupert has a range of accommodations to serve the needs of visitors. The following selected accommodation contacts may be useful in helping to plan your trip around your Bluewater adventure.

PRINCE RUPERT, BC

Eagle Bluff B&B	(250) 627-4955 1 800-833-1550	www.eaglebluff.ca eaglebed@citytel.net
Pacific Inn	(250) 627-1711 1 888-663-1999	www.pacificinn.bc.ca info@pacificinn.bc.ca
Prestige Prince Rupert Hotel	(250) 624-6711 1 855-737 8443	http://princerupert hotel.com princerupert@prestige hotels.ca
Tall Trees B&B	(250) 624-3664 1 877-624-3664	www.talltreesbedbreakfast.com talltreesbedbreakfast@gmail.com
Crest Hotel	(250) 624-6771 1 800-663-8150	www.cresthotel.bc.ca info@cresthotel.bc.ca

TOURIST INFORMATION

For information on Prince Rupert visit Tourism Prince Rupert's website www.visitprincerupert.com or call (250) 624 5637, or Toll Free: 1 800 667 1994.

For 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
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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