



## GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

### Sample Itinerary

Vessel: SV Island Odyssey or SV Island Roamer

Start/ Finish: Terrace, BC

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, and beaches. 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 Tsimshian and Haisla 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. 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 of 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 Terrace

To ensure that the group can set sail on time as there can sometime be unforeseen weather delays when travelling in coastal regions, we advise you to arrive in Terrace the day prior to the trip and spend the night at an accommodation of your choice. You can refer to the accommodation suggestions listed in this itinerary. Please note that we will be picking guests up from select hotels the next morning – see “Day 1” for locations.

Terrace has many remnants of its industrious past, such as the Heritage Park Museum, the “Old Bridge” (National Historic Site of Canada), and the George Little House - the original founder of Terrace. You can view local art at the Terrace Art Gallery and purchase indigenous art and gifts at the House of Sim-oi-Ghets. There are plenty of cafes, bars, and restaurants to sit down and eat at as well.

## BLUEWATER ADVENTURES SAMPLE ITINERARY – GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

***Shuttle from select hotels in Terrace to the MK Bay Marina in Kitimat are included in your trip fees. Any transportation beyond this service is the responsibility of the guest.***

### **Day 1 - Trip Start**

Following breakfast, you will meet the rest of the group and shuttle driver from Kalum Kabs at one of the two properties for transport to the boat:

- **Best Western Terrace Inn**
- **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**

Expect the transfer to MK Bay Marina in Kitimat to take about 50 minutes. Once at the Marina you will be met by a Bluewater Crew member at the top of the ramp to the docks. Upon boarding the vessel, cabins will be assigned and following introductions and safety orientation we will set sail for the Great Bear Rainforest.

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 south down Douglas 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.

As we explore the waters of southern Douglas Channel (Wright Sound, 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 to visit local whale researchers to learn about their fascinating work.

We hope for a good wind in order to set the sails and enjoy the silence and serenity of nature. There may be an opportunity to visit Bishop Bay hot springs for a soothing soak.

### **Days 5 – 6**

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 dipper, Bonaparte gulls, common mergansers, and bald eagles.

### **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 Kermode) 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.

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### 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 at the end of the trip are included in your trip fees. Any transportation beyond this service is the responsibility of the guest.***



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