



GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

Sample Itinerary

Vessel: Island Odyssey or Island Roamer

Start & Finish: Bella Bella

This natural history voyage explores the protected waters of the north central coast of British Columbia – an area known as the ‘Great Bear Rainforest’. Conservationists have been actively working to protect this area as it contains the largest remaining, intact temperate rainforest on the Pacific Coast. It is home to many animals such as grizzly bears, wolves, humpback whales, and the elusive, all-white Spirit Bear.

We go ashore to explore each day - on the lookout for wildlife. At sea, we keep a sharp eye out for whales and other marine mammals as we travel the fiords below towering rock faces and rushing waterfalls. The Tshimshian and Heiltsuk First Nations people have lived in the area for thousands of years and we will learn about their culture and how important this remote and pristine wilderness is to them and their future generations. Some visitation rights are dependent on obtaining permits.

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 Bella Bella

We recommend arriving in Bella Bella the day prior to the trip start and staying overnight. This is to ensure the group can set sail on time without delays. When travelling in coastal regions unforeseen delays due to weather are common.

Upon arriving at the Bella Bella Airport, collect your luggage and look for **Starr Shuttle**. They will be notified of your arrival and a driver will be there to meet your flight to transport you to your accommodation of choice or the Municipal Dock in Bella Bella. For transportation to Shearwater, once at Municipal Dock proceed down the ramp to the where you will catch your water taxi for the 10 minute crossing to Shearwater Resort and Whiskey Cove.

Shuttle fees to and from the Bella Bella Municipal Dock are included in your trip fees. Any transportation beyond this service is the responsibility of the guest. Please remember to mention to the driver that you are a Bluewater guest.

Whiskey Cove: If you are staying at the Whiskey Cove B&B, upon booking, provide them with your arrival information into Bella Bella and they will arrange transportation to their B&B on Denny Island. Please take the Shearwater “Sea Bus” to the Shearwater Marine Resort and wait for transfer by your hosts at Whiskey Cove near the main building.

Shearwater Marine Resort: Shearwater Resort guests will enjoy transport by a regularly scheduled “Sea Bus”. Please do not forget to mention that you are guests of the resort – your fare is included in your room fees.

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES – GBR SAMPLE ITINERARY

Trip Start - Day 1

If you are staying at the **Shearwater Resort** or the **Whiskey Cove B&B**, you can meet the **Island Odyssey** on the dock at **10:00AM**. The Whiskey Cove B&B will transport you to the Shearwater Dock in the morning following breakfast. Guests opting to stay at a B&B in Bella Bella will meet at the top of the Municipal Dock at **11:00am** on the Bella Bella waterfront to board the Island Odyssey there.

Upon boarding, 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.

There will be time to explore the protected waters using our stable sea-kayaks that we have available. During our daily shore excursions, our onboard naturalist will help identify different coastal plants, animals, birds and marine life and interested participants can help keep a species list for the trip.

Days 2-3:

We now head deep into the coastal mountains and will focus the next two days on a large marine park called the Fiordland Conservancy. Here you will see has some spectacular rock faces and impressive waterfalls. We will explore remote estuaries and expect to see bears attracted by the spawning salmon. We may visit the native village of Klemtu to see the new longhouse that was recently built by the local community.

Days 4-7:

We travel along the shore of *Princess Royal Island* – the best known area for seeing the rare Spirit or Kermode bear. These bears are black bears expressing a genetic variation that results in about ten percent of the population in this area being all white. We will visit creeks and river estuaries and keep an eye out along the shore as we travel. *Khutze Inlet* has a beautiful river valley, an abundance of birdlife and we may see bears along the shore.

We are fortunate to spend a day with local Tsimshian Native guides who will take us to their favourite wildlife viewing areas where we will get one of our best chances to spot the elusive Spirit bear.

In *Whale Channel* we expect to see humpback whales and will take the time to observe these amazing, 15 metre-long creatures, whenever the opportunity arises. In open Principe Channel, we hope for a good wind to set the sails and have one of our best sails of the voyage!

On our return, as we approach the waters of Milbanke Sound keep watch for sea otters. These mammals were decimated in the early 20th century by over hunting for their luxurious pelts. 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 it is here you will spot them in the kelp beds wrapped in the leaves of kelp to anchor themselves against the currents.

Trip Finish - Day 8

We will arrive back in Bella Bella around 11:30AM in time to catch the Pacific Coastal flight departing in the afternoon. A shuttle will meet you and the group at the Municipal Dock for transport to the Airport.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Booking Your Flights:

Any reputable travel agent can assist with your travel arrangements. Bluewater Adventures uses **Uniglobe Direct** services. As a travel agency, they can provide competitive fares and can also provide cancellation insurance.

At Uniglobe Travelex we work with 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 elaine@uniglobedirect.com.

From overseas, call collect on the weekdays during office hours and advise her that you are a Bluewater guest.

Pacific Coastal provides service between Vancouver and Bella Bella

<http://www.pacificcoastal.com>

ACCOMMODATION

Bella Bella & Shearwater

Shearwater Resort	(250) 956-2666 (800) 663-2370	http://shearwater.ca	Shearwater
Whiskey Cove B&B	(250) 392-0237 (250) 957-4234	www.whiskeycovebedandbreakfast.com	Shearwater
Annette's Beach House	(250)-957-7423	www.annettesbeachhouse.com	Bella Bella