



# GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

## SAMPLE ITINERARY

Aboard S/V Island Odyssey

Bella Bella – Bella Bella

This natural history voyage explores the protected waters of the Central Coast in 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 untouched coastal rainforest on the Pacific Coast. It is home to grizzly bears, wolves, humpback whales, and the elusive, all-white Spirit Bear. In 2006, the British Columbia government announced the protection of an additional 20% of the Great Bear Rainforest. While ashore we will explore this pristine wilderness for wildlife and keep a sharp eye out for whales as we travel the fiords below towering mountains and rushing waterfalls. The Tsimshian and Heiltsuk First Nations people have lived in the area for thousands of years and we will learn about their culture and art. Combining incredible wildlife and unique cultural experiences into one week... and you have an unforgettable trip!

## INTENDED 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. Some visitation rights in this area are subject to obtaining permits*

### Day Prior to trip start: Arrival into Bella Bella

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.

***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.***

### Trip Start - Day 1

Participants will meet at the top of the Municipal Dock in the Bella Bella waterfront. Upon boarding the ship you will meet the crew, cabins will be assigned, and everyone will participate in an introductory & safety orientation. Once these few details have been looked after, we set sail into the Great Bear Rainforest. Each night we will anchor in a different, secluded anchorage.

### 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 the day with our 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 and during the spring months they will show us their ancient village sites and traditional artwork.

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!

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.

### **Trip Finish - Day 8**

We arrive mid morning in Bella Bella in time to catch the Pacific Coastal flight departing in the afternoon from Bella Bella.

## ***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 at 604-538-2111 ext. 6614 or email [elaine@uniglobedirect.com](mailto:elaine@uniglobedirect.com).

### **Pacific Coastal flies between Vancouver and Bella Bella**

<http://www.pacificcoastal.com>

**Reservations 1.800.663.2872**

## ***ACCOMMODATION***

### **Bella Bella - Shearwater**

Shearwater Resort	(800) 663-2370	<a href="http://www.hotel@shearwater.ca">www.hotel@shearwater.ca</a>
Whiskey Cove B&B	(250) 957-4234	<a href="http://www.whiskeycovebedandbreakfast.com">www.whiskeycovebedandbreakfast.com</a>
Annette's Beach House	(250)-957-7423	<a href="http://www.annettesbeachhouse.com">www.annettesbeachhouse.com</a>

## **EMERGENCY**

Please note that the Great Bear Rainforest is a remote wilderness area. Radio communications is not dependable and it can take considerable time to make contact with the outside world. You may not have cellular coverage during periods of the trip. If someone back home needs to get in touch with you for an important message, instruct them to call the Bluewater Adventures office **(604) 980-3800 / Toll Free: 1-888-877-1770**. Office hours are Monday to Friday (9:00 am to 5:00 pm PST). If they are unable to speak with our office staff they should leave a detailed message which will be relayed at the first opportunity.

In the event of an **emergency** they should first call the Bluewater Adventures office and speak with our staff, or call the emergency telephone number provided through the recorded message. If time is of the essence and the situation is critical they may call **Prince Rupert Coast Guard Radio** at **(250) 627-3081**. Explain the situation and request assistance in contacting a passenger aboard Island Roamer sailing Great Bear Rainforest area. If Coast Guard deems the situation to be sufficiently urgent they will then issue a radio alert for Island Roamer to contact Coast Guard on Channel 16 for an urgent message. However, it still may take some time to establish contact.



