



## **NORTHERN GREAT BEAR EXPLORER**

### **Sample Itinerary**

Aboard S/V Island Odyssey

Start: Prince Rupert

Finish: Kitimat/ Terrace

9 days

This voyage will explore the northern reaches of the Great Bear Rainforest and the Khutzeymateen with the anticipation of seeing some amazing wildlife while enjoying the peace and tranquility of the central BC Coast.

We will start our trip exploring the Khutzeymateen Valley that holds Canada's only grizzly bear sanctuary and is home to one of British Columbia's most important coastal bear populations. Khutzeymateen 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 Inlet's winding shores and expect some breathtaking bear viewing in the new Khutzeymateen Conservancy.

Then we make our way over to the protected waters of the Great Bear Rainforest. This area is a rich and unique ecosystem of impressive biodiversity – from the herring and salmon in the sea, to large coastal carnivores to massive cedar trees and hemlocks. Conservationists and First Nations have been actively working to protect this area as it contains the largest remaining, intact temperate rainforest on the Pacific Coast. The British Columbia government and Coastal First Nations recently announced that 85% of the land area will now be protected.

We go ashore each day on the lookout for signs of bears, coastal wolves and pine martin amongst the old growth temperate rainforest. At sea, we keep a sharp eye out for humpback whales, orca and other marine mammals as we travel the fiords below towering rock faces and rushing waterfalls. The Tsimshian and Heiltsuk First Nations people have lived in the area for thousands of years. We will learn about and how important this remote and pristine wilderness is to them and their future generations.

### ***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 Prince Rupert**

We highly recommend arriving in Prince Rupert 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.

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

Meet the Bluewater Adventures crew at the top of the dock of the Cow Bay Marina in Prince Rupert. After meeting the rest of the Island Odyssey's crew, cabin assignments, and a safety orientation we will depart Prince Rupert harbour for the beauty of Portland Inlet.

#### **Days 2 - 4: Khutzeymateen and the Inner Waters**

We'll spend at least two days in the Khutzeymateen Inlet area. 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! It is along these shores that we will look for grizzly bears as they forage for salmon, which will begin spawning at this time of year. 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, we will maintain a respectful distance that allows them to engage in their natural behaviours.

We'll be on the lookout for other wildlife too, both here and in the outer islands. Steller sea lions will be an interesting sight (and sound) and we may also see a number of birds including bald eagles, also gathered for salmon.

There will be time to explore the protected waters on many days using our stable sea kayaks that we carry onboard. 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.

### **Days 5 - 8: Douglas Channel and Princess Royal Island**

We will depart the Kutzeymateen area and transit the Grenville Channel towards the mouth of the Douglas Channel near Princess Royal Island – the best area for seeing the rare Spirit or Kermode Bears within their range. These bears are actually Black Bears, but the high frequency of a recessive gene in the population makes about ten percent of the bears in this area all-white.

We'll visit creeks and river estuaries and keep an eye out along the shore as we spend time here over the next four days. We'll enlist the assistance of local Tsimshian guides who will take us to their favourite bear viewing areas. In Whale Channel we may expect to see humpback whales and will take the time to observe these amazing 15 metre-long creatures. Hopefully here they will engage in bubble-net feeding! We often see whales in the vicinity of Bishop Bay hot springs as well, where we may have the opportunity to take a dip too!

On our daily shore excursions, your naturalist will help identify different coastal plants and interested participants can help keep a species list for the trip. With a good low tide, we may explore the shoreline for different species of colourful sea stars, anemone, and algae. We should get some fantastic photos of some of these!

### **Day 9 - Trip Finish Kitimat/ Terrace**

We will arrive in Kitimat by mid morning. A Kalum Kabs shuttle will transport you and your luggage to the Terrace airport. The travel time to the airport is approximately 1 hour.

***Shuttle fees to and from the Kitimat Marina Dock 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 at 604-538-2111 ext. 6614 or email [elaine@uniglobedirect.com](mailto:elaine@uniglobedirect.com).

### PRINCE RUPERT

**Air Canada** provides daily flights between Vancouver, BC and Prince Rupert, BC.

<b>Air Canada</b>	1 (800) 247 2262	<a href="http://www.aircanada.ca">www.aircanada.ca</a>
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**Please note:** The Prince Rupert Airport is located on Digby Island accessible only by ferry and shuttle bus between the airport and downtown (Prince Rupert Hotel). The shuttle service and airport ferry take about one hour and is included in your airline ticket price. 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.*

<b>Prince Rupert Airport</b>	(250) 622 2222	<a href="http://www.ypr.ca">www.ypr.ca</a>
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### BC Ferry Services

BC Ferries offer 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.*

<b>BC Ferries</b>	1-888-223-3779	<a href="http://www.bcferrries.com">www.bcferrries.com</a>
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### TERRACE

**Air Canada and WestJet** provide daily flights between Vancouver, BC and Terrace, BC.

<b>Air Canada</b>	1 (800) 247 2262	<a href="http://www.aircanada.ca">www.aircanada.ca</a>
<b>WestJet</b>	1 (888) 937-8538	<a href="http://www.westjet.com">www.westjet.com</a>

## 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

<b>Eagle Bluff B&amp;B</b>	(250) 627 4955 (800) 833 1550	<a href="http://www.eaglebluff.ca">www.eaglebluff.ca</a> eaglebed@citytel.net	\$115.single \$155 double
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BLUEWATER ADVENTURES – SAMPLE ITINERARY

<b>Pacific Inn</b>	(250) 627 1711 (888) 663 1999	<a href="http://www.pacificinn.bc.ca">www.pacificinn.bc.ca</a> info@pacificinn.bc.ca	\$109 single \$129 double
<b>Prince Rupert Hotel</b>	250.624.6711 (855) 737 8774	<a href="http://princerupert hotel.com">http://princerupert hotel.com</a> rooms@princerupert hotel.com	\$114-\$139
<b>Tall Trees B&amp;B</b>	(250) 624 3664 (877) 624 3664	<a href="http://www.talltreesbedbreakfast.com">www.talltreesbedbreakfast.com</a> talltreesbedbreakfast@gmail.com	\$135-\$145
<b>Crest Hotel</b>	(250) 624 6771 (800) 663 8150	<a href="http://www.cresthotel.bc.ca">www.cresthotel.bc.ca</a> info@cresthotel.bc.ca	\$175-\$349

***TOURIST INFORMATION***

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

For information on activities you can do in Terrace when your trip ends, visit [www.visitterrace.com](http://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](http://www.hellobc.com)