



GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Start: Kitimat/ Terrace

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 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. It is home to an incredible variety of animals such as grizzly bears, wolves, humpback whales, and the elusive, all-white Spirit Bear.

We will see some incredible wildlife. 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. We will learn about their culture and how important this remote and pristine wilderness is to them and their future generations.

INTENDED 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

We recommend arriving in Terrace the day prior to the trip start and staying overnight. This is to ensure the group can set sail while avoiding delays due to inclement weather. Please contact us for suggested accommodation options.

Shuttle from 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.

Trip Start - Day 1 We will make our way to the MK Bay Marina in Kitimat to meet the vessel and her Crew. The estimated travel time is 50 minutes.

Once at the MK Bay Marina you will be met by a Bluewater Crew member at the front of the marina store. Upon boarding cabins will be assigned and following a brief introduction and safety orientation we will set sail for the Great Bear Rainforest. Each night we anchor in a different, secluded anchorage.

During our daily shore 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 whenever we are at anchor.

Days 2 - 7

Over the next 5 days, we will travel down Douglas Channel keeping a watchful eye on the shoreline for bears and wolves. In the Central Coast we will continue through Campania Sound and Whale Channel - excellent areas for spotting humpback whales and Steller sea lions. We may go ashore in the Gitga’at (Princess Royal Island) Conservancy and sail over to enjoy a relaxing dip in the Bishop Bay hot springs.

We will spend a day with our Gitga’at First Nations guide taking us to his favourite bear viewing areas. With a little patience we hope to be lucky enough to see grizzlies, black bears and the elusive, all-white Spirit Bear! These bears are actually black bears expressing a genetic variation resulting in about ten

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES – GBR SAMPLE ITINERARY

percent of the area's population being all white. We often visit the First Nation's village of Klemtu to see their ceremonial Big House.

We will voyage deep into the coastal mountains to explore the Fiordland Conservancy Area. Beneath towering rock bluffs and waterfalls, we will search remote estuaries with the expectation of seeing grizzly bears feeding on spawning salmon.

Day 8: Trip Finish

We will arrive at the Bella Bella Municipal Dock around 12:00 pm in time to catch the afternoon Pacific Coastal flight to Vancouver, BC. Here you will be met by Starr Taxi and transported to the airport. Again these shuttle fees are covered in your trip fares.