



## **NORTH COAST / KHUTZEYMATEEN INLET**

### **Sample Itinerary**

Aboard S/V

Start and finish in Prince Rupert, BC

This is an amazing expedition combines bear viewing in one of the most well-known bear viewing areas in Canada, keeping watch for orcas and humpback whales, and exploring beautiful outer islands and mountain fiords. We never know what wonderful wildlife sightings and experiences we will encounter each day.

The Khutzeymateen Valley 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.

Located on the northwest coast of BC, this is a beautiful land of dense Sitka spruce rainforest, winding fiords, and high rugged mountains. Glaciers tower above beautiful old growth rain forests and fabulous beaches entice us to explore. River estuaries provide important spawning grounds for many species of salmon, upon which the area's many grizzlies depend. ...ALL ABOARD!

### **SAMPLE 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.*

We recommend arriving into Prince Rupert and staying the night a day prior to your trip start date. This is to ensure that the group can set sail on time. There can sometime be unforeseen weather delays when travelling in coastal regions.

#### **Date: Trip Start - Day 1**

Meet at the top of the dock on the east side of the **Atlin Terminal** building - 5 minute taxi from the airport shuttle drop off location downtown. A Bluewater crew member will meet you at the top of the dock. After cabin assignments, and a safety orientation we will depart Prince Rupert harbour for the beauty of Chatham Sound and its myriad of islands.

**Day 2-3** – We explore the islands of Chatham Sound. Porcher, Stephens and Dundas Islands are the largest in the area. We will walk remote beaches, hike up to a view point and search for sea lions, orcas and humpback whales. There are some lovely areas to explore by kayak or zodiac.

**Day 4-5: Khutzeymateen Inlet** - The headwaters of the Inlet are Canada's only Grizzly Bear Sanctuary. Covering an area of 45,000 hectares, scientists estimate there are about 50 grizzlies protected by the no-hunting restrictions of the sanctuary. The protected area has recently been expanded to include the entire Inlet as the Khutzeymateen Conservancy. Our trip focuses on bear viewing in the Conservancy, along the shores of the Inlet and into the Sanctuary where only a few operators are permitted. In order to minimize our impact, we leave the Sanctuary at the head of the Inlet, to the bears and view only from our zodiacs. The Khutzeymateen is jointly managed by BC Parks and the Tsimshian First Nation.

**Day 6** - From fiord-like Portland Canal, we now return to the outer islands and lower topography of Chatham Sound. Tsimshian First Nations have lived in this area for thousands of years. There are two villages along our route; Lax Kw'alaams was once a Hudson Bay Company trading post called

Fort Simpson and Metlakatla, which became a model Christian community under Reverend Duncan during late 1800's. They were fortunate to have avoided the smallpox that ravaged many native communities along the Coast.

**Date: Trip Finish - Day 7** - We return through narrow Venn Passage to Prince Rupert. Venn Passage has an incredible collection of petroglyphs – native rock carvings – including the famous 'Man who fell from heaven'. Accompanied by a local Tsimshian Guide, we plan to see these ancient carvings and learn of their history. We will tie up at the Prince Rupert Port Authority by late morning.

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

**Please mention that you are a Bluewater Adventures passenger in order to receive our preferred rates.**

**Air Canada** and **Hawk Air** provide daily flights between Vancouver, BC and Prince Rupert, BC. Air Canada also provides service to Seattle and has connections to other cities.

<b>Air Canada</b>	1 (800) 247-2262	<a href="http://www.aircanada.ca">www.aircanada.ca</a>
<b>Hawk Air</b>	1 (800) 487-1216	<a href="http://www.hawkair.ca">www.hawkair.ca</a>

**Please note:** The Prince Rupert Airport is located on Digby Island. Access is only by ferry and shuttle bus between the airport and downtown locations. The shuttle service and airport ferry take about one hour. Please allow plenty of time for airport transfer. Check with your airline for specific instructions on check-in procedures and shuttle bus schedule for flights out of Prince Rupert. Also, the airport does not have any food services available.

Call (250) 622-2222 to confirm the shuttle bus schedule. The Prince Rupert Airport Website has useful information <http://www.ypr.ca/index.html> to help plan your trip.

### 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. For more information contact BC Ferries at 1-888-223-3779 or (250) 386-3431 or [www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com)

*\*Be advised that adverse weather and sea conditions can often create delays and disrupt ferry schedules.*

## ACCOMMODATION

### Prince Rupert

<b>Eagle Bluff B &amp; B</b>	(250)627-4955 (800) 833-1550	<a href="http://www.eaglebluff.ca">http://www.eaglebluff.ca</a> eaglebed@citytel.net	\$60-\$125CAD
<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	\$100-\$175CAD
<b>Crest Motor Hotel</b>	(250) 624-6771 (800) 663-8150	<a href="http://www.cresthotel.bc.ca">www.cresthotel.bc.ca</a> info@cresthotel.bc.ca	\$179+CAD
<b>The Highliner</b>	(250) 624-9060 (800) 668-3115	<a href="http://www.highlinerplaza.com/index.php">http://www.highlinerplaza.com/index.php</a>	\$85-\$115CAD