

**WORK**

# Cruise provides trip of a lifetime

**Manisha Krishnan**

*mkrishnan@nsnews.com*

Those looking for something more exciting than the average cruise can turn to Bluewater Adventures for what promises to be an unforgettable journey.

The North Vancouver based company provides coastal expeditions to remote locations along the Queen Charlotte Islands, Great Bear Rainforest, northern Vancouver Island, the Inside Passage, southeast Alaska and the Gulf Islands.

"It's not your typical cruise, it's more of an interactive small ship experience and these trips, we refer to them as learning journeys," says Leanne Carey, marketing coordinator for the company.

The seven- to 10-day trips usually consist of 12 guests, plus a skipper, deckhand, chef and a naturalist who can educate the guests about the culture of the area and the wildlife.

"We have inflatable zodiacs so we take people ashore either to look for wildlife, look at ancient villages or visit a neat spot," says Carey, adding clients leave the boat two to three times a day.

"We see lots of Grizzly, Black and Spirit bears, humpback whales and orcas and different species of whales. The places we go we see way more wildlife than people, that's for sure," she says.

It's enough to attract people from all over the world, and it's not surprising that National Geographic Adventure Magazine has recognized Bluewater Adventures as one of the world's best travel companies.

"(Our clients) are typically 50-plus, they still like adventure and travel and they want the exclusive trip, the trip of a lifetime experience. They like to go where a lot of people



photos submitted

**IN the photo above, guests aboard the Island Odyssey enjoy the spectacular waterfalls in the Great Bear Rainforest and are able to get up close and personal with wildlife such as the Kermode bear pictured below.**

don't go," says Carey.

Another part of the experience is the fine dining available on board.

"We always call our chefs gourmet. It's not your basic soup and sandwiches — all the chefs use local, organic food and it kind of has a flare to it."

Most expeditions are taken on one of two 70-foot sailing vessels, the Island Odyssey and the Island Roamer, and travel speeds are kept low to reduce fuel consumption.

"We offer carbon neutral trips. We're very eco-friendly and we do a lot onboard and in the office to offset our trips," says Carey, adding the use of sails, kayaks, local guides and the purchase of offsets all contribute to this endeavor.

Adventures are offered from May to October with the most popular trips being to the Queen Charlotte Islands and the Great Bear Rainforest. For more information go to [www.bluewateradventures.ca](http://www.bluewateradventures.ca).

