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Natural History Coastal Adventures

FALL 2008



Bluewater Adventures – Carbon Neutral

Bluewater Adventures is the first small-ship operator along the BC Coast to be Carbon Neutral! We are committed to protecting our environment and the wildlife of this spectacular coast. This spring we calculated our carbon footprint as part of the Pembina Institute and Ecotrust Canada's Carbon Smart process. In September, the company purchased carbon off-sets for a year of operations from Offsetters. We are mitigating our carbon emissions by investing in Offsetters projects that will reduce emissions by an equal amount. As Bluewater specializes in nature tours in the Pacific Northwest we wanted to invest in local projects making a difference here. Offsetters were chosen by the 2008 Eco-Tourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference as their choice for the purchase of offsets.

Make your holiday entirely carbon neutral and purchase offsets for your flight or travel arrangements from home. Click on the Offsetters

Celebrating Nature and Wisdom

I just celebrated my mother's 85th Birthday aboard "Island Roamer" with my family. It was so wonderful to enjoy nature and the camaraderie of a large yacht together.

Each of us was away from our busy lives and able to simply focus on each other. Surrounded by towering waterfalls, snowy peaks and the peacefulness of the wilderness, it truly was an uplifting, spiritual experience. We couldn't have asked for anything better.

When times seem tough, it is important to remember our family, our friends, good food, and the serenity that nature brings. These values and the support they bring, doesn't change.

- Randy Burke



Rudy Stein

Island Odyssey and Island Roamer under sail, side by side. Sailing saves fuel and provides another highlight to the adventure.

link on the Bluewater website – www.bluewateradventures.ca, or use another reputable carbon offset company. Help us protect the planet!

This is simply a first step of many for Bluewater as we seek to reduce our emissions and contribute to a more sustainable future on the coast. Becoming carbon neutral was a measurable company objective. We will continue to research sustainable tourism practices and hope other ecotour operators join us in acting to protect the environment. Now you have another reason to feel good when you book your Bluewater trip...



Patrick McCloskey

Departing from the sailboat, guests kayak into a river to explore.

New Look for Bluewater Website!

Bluewater now has a brand new website to better showcase our wonderful collection of trips. With more visuals, better access to information and more downloadable information, we hope you find this new website exciting and interactive. Now with online reservations, you can see which trips are currently available for you to join. Sign up for e-news, post to our BLOG, look for special trips,

watch videos, read magazine articles about us and explore all of our photo galleries.

Let us know what you think! We would like to hear your feedback, email us at explore@bluewateradventures.ca



Special Offer

Until December 31, you can book 2009 trips at 2008 prices. Call our office 1-888-877-1770 or email us at explore@bluewateradventures.ca to confirm your 2009 adventure now.

Tell a Friend

Telling friends about your Bluewater trip is the best acknowledgment possible. To demonstrate our appreciation for all of our 'Bluewater Ambassadors' we have a special offer. For every person who signs up after hearing about your trip, we are going to offer you a 5% discount off your next voyage. If six people sign up, you receive a 30% discount. Please ensure when they sign up they mention your name.

Bluewater Featured on Global TV

As a follow up to our selection by National Geographic Traveler as 'One of the World's 50 Best Trips', Bluewater was featured on Global TV – a major Canadian network. In a 4-part series called "World Class BC" reporter, Linda Aylesworth took viewers on an 8-day



Learne Carey

The beauty of being alone in a remote evening anchorage.

journey through the Queen Charlotte Islands aboard the Island Roamer in mid-May. They saw an abundance of wildlife – including hundreds of humpback whales, nesting sea birds, and Steller sea lions – and explored the rich, history and beauty of the islands. The series captures the Bluewater experience. You can see all 4 segments on our website – www.bluewateradventures.ca. If you would like a copy of the DVD mailed to you, please contact us.

Patrick McCloskey



Two guests taking the plunge on the bow as the sailboat noses into a waterfall.

2008 Haida Elders Voyage

For the second year in a row, Bluewater was chosen to host a group of Haida Elders for a 9-day sailing adventure through Gwaii Haanas. Working with the Ngystle Society, the focus was on Haida who had attended Indian residential schools. From the 1860's-1970's, native children were forced to leave home, travel hundreds of miles away to attend school and forbidden to speak their native language. Many of them returned home only once a year. Much has been written about the trials and



Sherry Kirkvold

An native elder stands beside a newly carved totem pole.

tribulations these young people experienced. This summer, the government of Canada finally offered an apology for the treatment they received. For native culture the residential schools created a generational wedge – stories could not be passed on, children could not understand their native language or speak with their grandparents. Most of the trip participants had never visited their old villages, never felt the pride in seeing totem poles carved by their ancestors. It was a very healing experience.

Northern Advancement Award

Bluewater Adventures just received the "Northern Advancement Award" from Northern BC Tourism. This award recognizes an exceptional person or company which has provided a significant contribution to the advancement of the Northern BC tourism industry. Bluewater's recent success creating media exposure on the Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii) led to this honor. From the National Geographic Traveler

magazine selection as 'One of the Worlds 50 Best Trips', CTV's award winning Valerie Pringle special, a TV broadcast of a Haida Elders trip in Gwaii Haanas, to the 4-part series on Global TV, the Islands have received tremendous media attention. The stories explained how unique the area is, how fragile the ecosystems are and how much history resides in Haida Gwaii. This not only raised Bluewater Adventures' profile, but



that of the Haida Nation, small local businesses, and the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve. We are honored to accept this award from Northern BC Tourism.

2009 Special Trips

Spring in the Gulf Islands – Yoga and Wellness Retreat

Join gourmet chef and yoga instructor, Annie Strucel in the Gulf Islands **May 2-6, 2009** for a Yoga and Wellness Retreat. With professional massage therapist Catherine Sutherland onboard, this trip is sure to be a hit. Expect 5 days of adventure, healthy eating, sailing and beach yoga – incorporated into our itinerary each day. In these beautiful islands you will see a diverse range of marine life and explore the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. Trip starts in Sidney, BC. \$1,675 CAD + GST

West Coast - Queen Charlotte Islands

Experience the west coast like few have ever done. In conjunction with the Burke Museum at the University



The spectacular west coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Learning Series

Bluewater is planning a series of trips next summer that will delve into some of the most fascinating aspects of this coast. With some very special resource people onboard, we will go beyond seeing wildlife and exploring the wilderness, to a deeper appreciation of what makes this coast inspiring.

- Great Bear Rainforest – June 1-8 join First Nations guide, Doug Neasloss as we explore the territory of the Kitasoo / Xaixais. Doug is the principal bear guide and cultural interpreter from Klemtu Tourism. See this area intimately through local eyes.
- Haida Gwaii Museum director, Nathalie Macfarlane returns aboard Island Roamer – June 2-10. After this summer's grand opening of the fabulous Haida Heritage Centre, Nathalie is once again able to share her in-depth knowledge of the Haida culture, past

The fabulous carved house posts in the Klemtu big house represent eagle, bear and killer whale - the main crests of the village.



Bruce Whittington

A humpback whale lunges to the surface feeding.

of Washington, join Island Odyssey and sail the famous west coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands. Starting in Masset and ending in Queen Charlotte, you will be the first Bluewater guests to ever explore the beauty of western Graham Island. See ancient Haida villages, fascinating totem poles, pristine wilderness and diverse wildlife. A more physically demanding trip and a trip for the true adventurer – **June 19-27** / \$4370 US + GST.

May Birding and Wildlife Trip

Explore the southern Great Bear Rainforest this May and discover a wonderful range of bird life and mammals. Moving from the outer coast's pelagic birds right into the forests and fiords of the mountains, this 10-day adventure will explore some amazing places. Port Hardy to Bella Bella / **May 22-31** / \$4275 + GST (With Eagle Eye Tours).



Bruce Whittington

Bald eagles soaring overhead are a regular sighting.

and present. Topics will range from oral history to genealogy and current issues.

- Dr. Rob Butler, coordinator of the British Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas and scientist with Bird Studies Canada joins us again next June in Gwaii Haanas. Guests will be able to contribute their sightings as we help determine the health of bird populations in this remote area.

Stay tuned for details on other Learning Voyages in our next e-newsletter and on our website.



Patrick McCloskey

Taking the Jump

No matter how people try to describe Bluewater trips you won't really know what it is like until you get there. I can tell you to try a fabulous dessert, but it isn't until it is in your mouth, that you will understand. You need to trust... whether it is trusting your friends ardent enthusiasm, Bluewater's 30+ year reputation, the experience of our professional crew, or simply your own intuition that this is the right thing to do. There will always be a point of decision, of commitment... a gap you must step or jump across to join a Bluewater 'adventure'. It is in the nature of traveling to new places, and into the unknown.

*Join the Adventure!
Join Us!*

Need More Info?

If you need more details about a particular trip please contact our office. Toll-free 1-888-877-1770. Charlene, Leanne and Randy are happy to answer your questions. Or contact us via email at explore@bluewateradventures.ca.





Bruce Whittington

The shape of the dorsal fin and 'saddle patch' just behind it are used to identify individual orcas.

Quotes from you...

"The good weather only gilded the gorgeous land and seascapes – waterfalls, flush with new rain... Seeing wildlife and marine life in all its diversity – especially hearing wolves howling and seeing the Spirit Bear. Spectacular!"

P.S. California

"This is the perfect way to experience Haida Gwaii. Don't go changing anything. The perfect balance of nature, culture and comfort."

A. N., British Columbia

"The most restful and exhilarating vacation I've ever had – tough job to be both!"

D. B, California

"Nutritious, tasty, beautifully presented and perfectly prepared – liked the emphasis on fresh food."

M.A. Iowa

"Our crew were basically the nicest people you could wish to meet. They were knowledgeable, fun and a privilege to be with – a brilliant week."

J.B. Wilts, UK

Endangered Killer Whales

Two distinct populations of killer whales (Orcinus orca), known as the northern and southern residents, occupy the waters off the west coast of British Columbia. In 2001, the southern resident killer whales were designated as 'endangered', and northern resident killer whales as 'threatened' under the Species at Risk Act. These two populations are acoustically, genetically and culturally distinct.

Resident killer whale populations in British Columbia are considered to be at risk because of their small population size, low reproductive rate, and the existence of a variety of human threats that have the potential to prevent recovery or to cause further declines. Principal among these threats are environmental contamination, reductions in the availability or quality of prey, and both physical and acoustic disturbance. Even under the most optimistic scenario (human activities do not increase mortality or decrease reproduction), the species' low intrinsic growth rate means that the time frame for recovery will be more than one generation (25 years).

Crew Reflections



Patrick McCloskey

I had many incredible experiences this summer, but a late afternoon at Cameron Cove on Princess Royal Island really stands out for me. As Marvin lead us into the moss-covered forest, the stunning stereophonic quawks and croons of ravens stopped us in our tracks. One guest whispered to me "this is like the Amazon, only better!" As we watched a black bear fishing for salmon, another bear silently tip-toed past behind us – to the surprise of many. Later, alone as I knelt in the grassy estuary waiting for the group, reflecting on the day's events and watching another bear fishing a short distance away, wolves began calling in the distance... thank you Great Bear!

Russ Markel – Captain

The Joys of Sailing

There is nothing like the feeling of sailing – being pushed over the sea by wind alone. The experience varies from gently bubbling along in lake-like calm, to the exhilaration of larger winds that make the ship hum with excitement. Sailing is an opportunity for guests to become involved in the operation of the ship. You are invited to take a turn steering, or help hauling on a line. The captain is a happy to explain the finer points of sailing. Or choose to just lie out on the bow and enjoy staring up at the sails.



Patrick McCloskey

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