



WATERWAYS

Natural History Coastal Adventures

SPRING 2008

Travel Values

Exploring new places, finding new adventures, and sharing moments are very special experiences. How people interpret a travel experience, and what that experience means to them, is directly related to their fundamental outlook on life, their personal values. Here are a few values that reflect a Bluewater guest.

- **Learning Travel** – Like to learn everything about a place, time, and culture
- **Enjoy Nature** – Enjoy vast natural settings and wonders; eco-conscious
- **Companion Experience** – Travel with like minded people
- **Adventure Travel** – Like to explore “off the beaten path” – up for a challenge
- **Cultural Immersion** – Prefer integration into local culture
- **Personal Growth/Development** – Seek self-improvement through understanding others
- **Constant Exploration** – Always thinking about their next adventure. A need for the exciting and exotic

We appreciate the openness and sense of adventure in all of our guests. It is these values that encompass Bluewater. They are what make our trips so special and what will help the company grow in the future.

Wildlife and Wilderness

The experience of wilderness is priceless. And experiencing amazing wildlife is surely sublime. We all want to know there are places where wildlife is thriving – not just the small birds in our backyards but the large animals, the ones that need hundreds of miles of healthy wilderness to survive. Bears and whales, each in their own way are mythic creatures that bring us in touch with the wildness of our planet, with the spiritual side of nature. When



Seeing a Spirit bear is magical. They are only found in a remote area of the BC coast.

we immerse ourselves in a journey, an adventure, we are choosing to reconnect with what is important in our lives... with the things that heal and bring balance to our busy lives. Join us for a journey to the legendary islands and animals of the British Columbia and Alaska coast.

We are looking forward to a summer of learning, shared adventure and discovery... and making friends from around the world. All of our crew are

returning this summer. If you have already booked a trip, we are really looking forward to having you aboard. And if you haven't yet, don't delay there are only a few trips with space available. Planning ahead? We now have 2009 dates available for booking.

Climate Change Update – Bluewater Adventures is assessing our “carbon footprint” – the amount of environmentally damaging gases our operations

contribute. The work is being conducted in conjunction with Ecotrust Canada and the Pembina Institute. Once we have a better understanding, we can then assess what we can do to reduce our emissions. For those of you who want to reduce your holiday carbon footprint, planetair.ca and nativeenergy.com are two reputable organizations where you can purchase carbon offsets.

– Randy Burke - Director

Why did National Geographic choose our Queen Charlotte Islands trip?

Last October, *National Geographic Traveler* magazine selected our Queen Charlotte Islands trip as one of the “50 of the Worlds Best Trips” in their 2nd Annual Tours Of A Lifetime issue. There were only 8 experiences in North America that reached the National Geographic list of 50 – Alaska, of course, Yellowstone sure, but who would have expected the remote Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve on the Queen Charlotte Islands. However, National Geographic was looking for unique, authentic, quality experiences that are “off the beaten path”.

The Experience – These trips provide a fascinating glimpse of the world-famous Haida culture. Stand in

awe before totem poles portraying mythical beings and family crests. If the coastal First Nations culture was based on stone, we would still be unearthing and discovering their marvelous artwork in the forest like the Maya and Aztec. Yet there are still places deep in this wilderness where haunting faces speak from hundreds of years ago. The Haida culture is just as fascinating, alive and proud as any in the world. Meet Haida Watchmen, chosen to present their stories and discuss life today.

Our guests are immersed in an intact wilderness – a

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Need More Info?

If you want to check availability or find out more details about a particular trip please contact the Bluewater office. Telephone 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

Tell a Friend

When you tell a friend about your Bluewater trip you are providing us with the best advertising possible. To demonstrate how appreciative we are of all of our 'Bluewater Ambassadors', we have a special offer. For every person who signs up after hearing about the trip from you, we are going to offer you a 5% discount off your next trip. If six people sign up, you receive a 30% discount. Please ensure when they sign up they mention your name.

National Geographic continued

biological feast. Day after day we enjoy an incredible diversity of experiences – giant old-growth forests covered in moss, spectacular intertidal creatures, a wonderful variety of whales and other marine mammals. Only 2,000 people can visit Gwaii Haanas a year. That amounts to an average of 16 visitors each day of the summer. Compare that to 950,000 people at South Africa's Kruger National Park. National Geographic already recognized Gwaii Haanas as the number one national park in North America in 2005.

Importance of Partners – REI Adventures (part of REI outdoor stores) promote our trips and have been very impressed with feedback from participants. Belinda Gardner, REI Adventures Coordinator said "As soon as National Geographic called, I thought of Bluewater Adventures". They recommended us

without our knowledge.

Our Reputation – Bluewater has been operating ecotours for nearly 35 years now; over 20 years in the Queen Charlotte Islands. We have a wonderful following of people who know they can count on us for insightful interpretation, warm "family like" welcome and the direct experience of nature that cannot be surpassed.



Ancient totem poles, hidden deep in the wilderness, tell of mythical beings and family crests.

Early summer is such a joy

It is so exciting to experience early summer along the coast. Life is blossoming! The whales and birds have returned, and all the animals are vigorously taking advantage of the long days. We focus on three areas:

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve in the Queen Charlotte Islands. In May and June, tens of thousands of seabirds gather to nest and feed their young from the near shore waters. We often experience amazing whale watching with humpback whales. Sea lions breed and pup in June bringing the largest numbers (and animals) to the colonies. One special event occurs in the latter half of May when tiny ancient murrelet chicks leave their underground nests, two days out of the egg, for a midnight scramble to the sea – an amazing event to experience.

Great Bear Rainforest.

Late May and June are wonderful times for bear viewing in the large coastal estuaries. After a long winter hibernation grizzly bears need protein. The sedge



An exciting look at a Rainforest wolf. Photo by passenger Judy Daniels.



grass in the estuaries is one of the few sources available, and amaz-

Each spring, coastal grizzly bears may graze on over 50lbs of sedge grass a day.



Sea kayaks allow participants to get away alone, and explore the shallows and shoreline quietly.

ingly, bears can graze on over 30kg a day. This is a great time to watch them out in the open before the berries ripen and they disperse inland. We commonly see orcas (killer whales) and get to experience First Nations culture directly with local guides as we tour a magnificent new longhouse.

Inside Passage / Coastal Explorers. These trips combine the highlights of some of our regular trips with the opportunity to get 'off the beaten path' to explore new areas. Frankly, there are places our professional crew dream of getting to (and these trips provide that opportunity). So share their excitement on a Coastal Explorer!

In May we sail north. The trip includes the grizzlies of Knight Inlet, the Heiltsuk native culture and their new Koeve River longhouse. The long days allow us to get ashore frequently – discovering remote beaches, towering coastal forests and beautiful estuaries full of wild flowers. This is the best time of year for birding. Transient orcas are following the sea lions as they return to summer colonies. These trips feel like two weeks of experiences in only 9-10 days. (In October we offer a similar trip down the coast.)

Special Trips

All of our trips are special, unique in their own way.

Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii

The Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve holds the totem poles of old Haida villages, the World Heritage Site at Nan Sdins, and the biological wonders of the 'Canadian Galapagos'.

Join the Vancouver Aquarium **June 19-27** and Captain Randy Burke as we celebrate the summer equinox in style. University of Washington and Burke Museum curator, Dr. Robin Wright returns for her 10th year to provide fascinating insights into Haida art and history – **August 9-18**. By **August 18-26** we expect to see returning salmon in the creeks and enjoy great whale-watching.



Giant spruce and cedar trees still stand in the remote Gwaii Haanas wilderness.



Passenger Val Shore caught this humpback whale breaching in mid-air in Frederick Sound, Alaska.



A river of ice flows into a beautiful fiord. Tracy Arm, Alaska.

Southeast Alaska

Discover the incredible humpback whales of Frederick Sound, the bears of Anan Creek and Admiralty Island, and magnificent glaciers cascading into the sea.

If you love bears and wildlife, join bear guide Tim Irvin for 11 days in Alaska – **June 19-29**. Mid-July you can experience our new 9-day itinerary aboard "Island Odyssey" with naturalist, Bruce Whittington. **July 24-August 2** aboard

"Snow Goose", Oceanic Society Expeditions returns with their focus on the acrobatic humpback whales, engaging killer whales and Dalls porpoise of Frederick Sound.



A remote beach that few ever get to walk and explore.

Northern Vancouver Island

The best place in the world to see orcas and the rich Kwakwaka'wakw native heritage. Enjoy a wide variety of marine mammals, remote beaches and summer sailing.

August 2-8 you can join Captain Russell Markel and naturalist Jill Christie exploring the islands of Queen Charlotte Strait. Looking for a shorter getaway? **August 23-27** we take a special kayaking focus exploring the area with guide Xander Oldaker. If you have never experienced the grizzly bears of Knight Inlet sign up for the **October 3-9** Orcas & Grizzlies trip.

Great Bear Rainforest

Seek the all-white 'Spirit Bear' and enjoy amazing grizzly bear viewing in this dramatic and remote area. See whales, waterfalls and remote native villages.

We have added an additional departure **September 8-15** to our schedule. Captain Ian Giles and naturalist Jen

Pukonen lead the trip. **September 14-21** you can enjoy the special opportunity of traveling with bear researcher and retired professor, Barrie Gilbert. If photography of Spirit bear is your aim, **Sept. 27-Oct. 4** we will have 2 days at the bear viewing platforms to increase our chance of great sightings.

Coastal Explorer

October 6-15 we again offer our 10-day voyage south from Bella Bella to Vancouver. Last year's trip received rave reviews from new and returning passengers alike.

Beautiful seastars at low tide. Dolomite Narrows, Gwaii Haanas.



A grizzly wrestles a salmon in a Great Bear Rainforest estuary. Photo by guest Andy Wright.



Quotes from you...

"We felt privileged to be aboard a ship with a knowledgeable crew that instilled respect and appreciation for all that we were seeing. They shared generously their time, enthusiasm and fun sense of humour.

S.K., California

"The Chef created amazing meals out of the galley. What a treat to wake up to the smell of cinnamon buns baking. Meals were plentiful, delicious, with fresh and innovative ingredients – real gourmet.

"B.K., California

"The whole trip was wonderful. The humpback whales diving and the grizzly bears were unforgettable. Most memorable... the whale blowing sound on the early misty morning."

W.W., Washington

"The entire trip was a highlight! Traveling on the Island Roamer, the magnificent scenery, animals, birds, trees, islands and waterways, and the interactions between the crew and other passengers."

P. M., Washington





Conservation News

Fish Farms Drive Wild Salmon Populations toward Extinction

A study in the prestigious journal Science shows for the first time, that parasitic sea lice infestations caused by salmon farms are driving entire local populations of wild salmon towards extinction. The results show that the affected pink salmon populations have been rapidly declining for four years. The scientists expect a 99% collapse in another four years, or two salmon generations, if the infestations continue. "The impact is so severe, that the viability of the wild salmon populations is threatened," says lead author Martin Krkosek, a fisheries ecologist from the University of Alberta. "If nothing changes, we are going to lose these fish." The multi-national owners of the salmon farms continue to say more research is needed. For more information: saveoursalmon.ca

A BC government committee concluded that following the salmon farms during the critical spring out-migration of salmon fry would make an enormous difference. The government has yet to act. Please contact BC Premier Gordon Campbell – email Gordon.Campbell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Crew News

All our crew are returning again this summer! This is the best example we can give to explain why Bluewater trips have exemplary leadership and quality. On average the crew have worked for over 5 years with Bluewater Adventures. One Bluewater policy in particular keeps bringing staff back. We rotate all the crew every 2-3 weeks to keep them enthusiastic, safe, and still enjoying a balanced life ashore. It adds considerably to our staffing costs, but helps ensure great trips from start of the season to the end.

In other news... Ever-popular chef, **Annie Strucel** is returning for her 7th season after enjoying amazing skiing this winter in the Kootenays of south-eastern BC. Naturalist, **Jen Pukonen** has just defended her Masters thesis on ethnobotany. Mate, **Tom McPherson** is getting married in April to his fiancée Jocelyn.

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A good Captain

A good Captain is like a great Chef. They have to have inspiration and good ingredients to create a sublime experience. This is how Bluewater trips operate... with inspirational leadership and great ingredients – motivated, often knowledgeable passengers and dependable, well-founded vessels.

We don't operate with a typical pre-set itinerary that limits where we go and when. Each and every one of our trips is different. Consider it the difference between a restaurant where the menu never changes, and one that highlights fresh, daily specials. However, our style of trip also requires a tremendous level of experience and skill in the Captain. It challenges and requires creativity. It is an atmosphere where true artists / exceptional Captains thrive. And we believe this is one of the key ingredients to creating a "trip of a lifetime".



Large inflatable tenders provide the flexibility to easily access remote wilderness estuaries, forests and beaches.



The comfort and camaraderie of the boats complements the adventure.

Quotes from you...

"The ancient villages, the fabulous old growth forests, the whales everyday, viewing the many underwater critters at Dolomite narrows and elsewhere, the utter lack of people in the area was incredible."

L.R., Ontario

"This has been the most wonderful experience. The rainforest is very spiritual and the spirit bear speaks of peace in its own way. Thank you for sharing your boat, life experiences and love with us."

S.G., Washington

"I couldn't imagine a more wonderful trip. The highlight of our lives!

L.A., Washington

"The crew was most generous, considerate, fun and hip. Very patient and admirable educators. All very passionate about sailing, culture, education and hospitality."

S.M., British Columbia



BLUEWATER ADVENTURES

E-Newsletters

Bluewater is now sending out our newsletters electronically as part of our environmental commitment to reduce the use of paper. Bluewater will never sell, share our guest's private information. To sign up please email: explore@bluewateradventures.ca