



# WATERWAYS

Natural History Coastal Adventures

SPRING 2009



*One of the Best Travel Companies on Earth!*

*Rated 93.6% by National Geographic Adventure Magazine*

In January 2009, Bluewater Adventures was among the top in the world once again. Rating 93.6% overall and 100% in customer satisfaction, Bluewater is considered by National Geographic Adventure Magazine as "One of the Best Travel Companies on Earth"

*"Conde Nast" readers rate our Islands at the top!*

Conde Nast Magazine, November 2008, Awards Vancouver Island "Number One Island in North America" (for seventh year in a row) and the Gulf Islands "Number Four Island in North America."

## What Are These Trips About?

What are people looking for in their choice of holiday or vacation? It is interesting to look at the root words, for they tell a story. Vacation: to empty. Looking to clear away the stress of modern life. Holiday: holy day. More than simply time off work, it is about inspiration and meaning. Recreation: to re-create. Seeking to grow from adventure and learning. Hospitality: to heal. Making the time for ourselves; being taken care of by experienced hands.

For Bluewater staff it is truly about sharing the magic of this coast. From years of experiences leading trips, the spirit of this coast has seeped into our hearts and inspired our minds. The magic is a synergy of the Native art and culture, spectacular

**The ancient totem poles at the UN World Heritage site of SGang Gwaay - Queen Charlotte Islands.**



One of our amazing experiences! Floating before an Alaskan glacier, with time to enjoy all the ice up close.

Debra Fontaine

coastal scenery, the bears, whales and ancient forests. It is amazing and we want to share it with you.

Now more than ever we need to appreciate the gifts nature gives us, the incredible wildlife sightings we have on these trips; and redouble our efforts to ensure conservation of wild places. Join us this summer and experience the magic.



Leanne Carey

## Nature vs. Economy

In this global economic situation, many of us are overwhelmed with constant doom and gloom through media, friends, family and even our places of work. We want to show you that no matter how much the world is economically suffering – the bears are still roaming, the whales are still frolicking, and

the birds are still singing. Here are some creative ways to get our message across about the adventure waiting for you on the coast.

**Experience the Real Bear Market** – Forget the stock market, the real haven for bears and bear viewing is the Great Bear Rainforest. See grizzlies, black bears and the all-white Spirit bear.

**Return on Investment** – Bluewater trips hold their value for years and provide a tremendous return on your energy investment. How can you measure a trip of a lifetime?

**Floating Interest Rates** – Floating rates go up and down. However, the interest people show in something



Patrick McCloskey

*continued on next page*

## 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.

## 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](mailto:explore@bluewateradventures.ca)

### Nature vs. Economy continued

big floating to the surface is amazing. How about a 65' fin whale or 40-ton humpback in the Queen Charlotte Islands to catch your attention?

**Profit Sharing** – Share the joy of these trips with friends, family and loved ones. Consider setting up a whole boat charter for 2010. Or simply book on one of our scheduled open trips. Tell a friend and receive 5% off your next trip. Tell two and receive 10%.

**Diminishing Returns** – The decrease in wild salmon stocks along the British Columbia and Southeast Alaska coast is distressing. Wild salmon are the cornerstone species required for orcas, bears and coastal communities - see [Adopt-a-Fry.org](http://Adopt-a-Fry.org)

**Full Disclosure** – Can you believe the British Columbia government allows trophy hunting in all the new Parks and Conservancies announced to save the Great Bear Rainforest? The same holds true in Alaska. Help Bluewater stop the trophy hunting of bears – see [PacificWild.org](http://PacificWild.org)!



Immersed in the green cathedral-like coastal rainforest.

Kitty Llyod



Patrick McCloskey

Having time for contemplation is one of the joys.



Volker Deecke

Island Roamer tracking a pair of orcas in Alaska.

**Humpback Whale & Co** – A Growth Stock. Humpback whales numbers are increasing in the North Pacific. We see them regularly now in areas they seldom were seen 10 years ago. Early in the summer we have been experiencing some amazing whale concentrations. Invest now for maximum return.

**Wildlife Index** – The wildlife index for British Columbia and Alaska is amazing. There are few places in the world with such an abundance and diversity of wildlife to see. Just give yourself enough time to experience the full majesty.

**Insider Trading** – When you join a Bluewater trip you benefit from the 'legal' sharing of coastal secrets. Our guides take you to places few know about - truly off the beaten path. In return we often get your friendship and shared enthusiasm.

## Why is September such a marvelous time to travel?

September is the end of the northern summer. While the days are starting to get shorter, the weather is often wonderful. Why choose this month to travel? Easy. Along the British Columbia coast it coincides



A female grizzly waits for salmon at the estuary mouth.

Andy Wright

with one of the greatest wildlife events of the year – the return of the salmon to their native streams and rivers, ready to spawn, and then die. It is an epic journey. Evading the killer whales and fishing boats in the ocean, the salmon must then head upstream and over waterfalls, in some cases hundreds of miles.

For the ecosystem, the return of the salmon is the largest annual injection of energy – it brings food for the animals, fertilizer for the forest. For the bears in particular, the protein feast sustains them for the long winter hibernation. It is

incredible to watch 8 bears waiting for salmon to literally swim by their feet. Eagles, ravens, gulls all congregate from miles around. A symphony of life!



A quiet, misty morning kayak in the Great Bear Rainforest.

Kitty Llyod



# 2009 Special Trips

## Queen Charlotte Islands

We are thrilled to have another full schedule of trips to the **Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve** in the Queen Charlotte Islands this summer. National Geographic described this as a "Trip of A Lifetime". Join us **July 4-11** when the weather is warming, and before visitation



The beautiful shape of a seastar exposed at low tide. We never know what we'll discover.

reaches a peak mid-summer. Later in August is also a great time to visit. Salmon are starting to head up the local streams; and it is often an excellent time to see fin whales – the second largest creature on the planet. We still have space **August 17-24**.

## Great Bear Rainforest

Spring and Fall are THE times to see bears along the **British Columbia coast**. After the first rains of the Fall, salmon start returning up the streams to spawn, congregating bears to feed. This is an essential part of the coastal bear's life cycle, and one they depend on to survive a winters hibernation. We expect to have excellent grizzly bear viewing in the larger estuaries, and join a native guide for a full day search for the



Gliding along under sail and colourful spinnaker on a lazy summer afternoon.

elusive all-white Spirit bear. With good luck, we will see all three colours of bears. **August 27-Sept. 3** is now open for booking. If you are particularly longing to see a Spirit Bear, book the **September 17-24** trip as we spend two days at the native viewing stands.



The incredible Spirit bear or Kermode fishing for salmon.

## Alaska

Mid-summer is the best time to visit **Southeast Alaska**. The weather is typically the best; there can be hundreds of humpback whales in the protected inner waters, and salmon start spawning locally at the beginning of July - so the bear viewing is excellent! Join us **July 20-28** aboard Island Odyssey. Or enjoy the vistas aboard Snow Goose **July 9-16** or **August 17-26**.

Lindsay James



Colourful, Tufted Puffins up close in the Queen Charlotte Islands.



Volker Deecke

A male orca's distinctive dorsal helps individual identification.

## Northern Vancouver Island

**August 1-7** join naturalist, Rob Lott discovering the orcas, bears and native history of **Northern Vancouver Island**. This is the best place in the world to observe these whales, and Rob has spent over 15 summers participating in orca research in the Johnstone Strait area. When not leading trips, he works for the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society. Come October, the summer crowds have gone but the orcas are still here feeding on the big Fall runs of salmon. **October 2-8** we also head up Knight Inlet to visit one of the most amazing grizzly bear viewing sites in North America – an incredible combination.

## 2010 Schedule Now Online

Planning Ahead? The Bluewater 2010 trip schedule is now available on our website. We have some special highlight trips already in planning.

Join famed **ethnobotanist, Nancy Turner**, author of *Plants of Haida Gwaii*, along with her good friend and Haida matriarch, Barb Wilson in Gwaii Haanas – Queen Charlotte Islands – June 10-18, 2010. This will be an amazing journey into the native use of plants, and the role these plants play in Haida culture.

[www.bluewateradventures.ca](http://www.bluewateradventures.ca)

# A Green Vacation to Canada Now 20% Less Expensive

The economic changes of the last few months have a silver lining. The US / CAD exchange rate has changed 20% since the Fall, benefiting US residents. Pay for your trip in US\$ to receive the savings.

## Quotes from you...

"A spectacular, life renewing trip around Gwaii Haanas. Can't imagine any better way to see such a magical part of our coast."

*R.B. British Columbia*

"People on this trip, were committed to 'protect and preserve' and all were well educated on environmental issues and concerns."

*D.P. California*



Leanne Carey

Patrick McCloskey



## Quotes from you...

"It was a wonderful experience. The crew obviously loves doing what they do and delighted in sharing this unique area. We met interesting people. Everyday we saw and experienced things we could not have expected."

*L.R British Columbia*

"A continual learning process. Each day complimented the other."

*C.O. Iowa*

"Our highlights - Whales, low tide sea life, sailing, crew, wonderful food, camaraderie from small group, the boat itself"

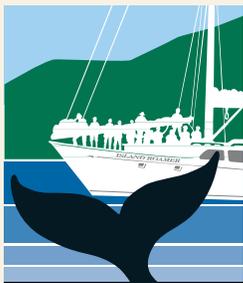
*J.K California*

"Solitude, spectacular scenery, amazing old growth forests. Learning about the Haida and seeing the old villages was great. Was just an incredible area all around!"

*B.S North Carolina*

"Loved the kayaking, being able to help put up the sails and help in the galley. It all makes the trip more personal."

*M.M California*



**BLUEWATER ADVENTURES**



## Stop the Hunt!

Source: [Pacificwild.org](http://Pacificwild.org)

All the guests and crew on Bluewater trips are excited and fascinated by the bears we see feeding in the rivers, wandering the shores or playing with their cubs on a bank. We develop a respect for these iconic animals and are humbled by their genuine co-existence with nature. What many Bluewater guests do not realize is that each year hundreds of these animals are killed by Trophy Hunters.

Those bears that you saw playing in a stream during your adventure may have already been killed by the time you returned home from your adventure.

"In 2007 a record 430 grizzly bears were killed in British Columbia, 363 of them by sport hunters. This alarming statistic raises serious questions about government policy towards these bears. The science used to estimate grizzly populations, and therefore set harvest quotas, is weak. Government grossly undervalues grizzly bear viewing as an economic generator while overestimating the importance of trophy hunting, revealing its bias toward the hunting sector. In addition, given the grizzly's vast habitat requirements, the health of this species will be a measure of our ability to make sound landscape-based decisions around forestry, mining and other extractive industries."

To get involved and to take action, please email Premier Gordon Campbell: [Gordon.Campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Gordon.Campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca) or visit [www.pacificwild.org](http://www.pacificwild.org) for more information.

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## Oil Tankers on the British Columbia Coast

The giant oil company, Enbridge has applied to build a double pipeline from the oil sands of Alberta, through the mountains to Kitamat, at the head of Douglas Channel. If approved, it will mean tankers carrying oil or chemical condensate traveling through the midst of the Great Bear Rainforest almost every day. There is a long-standing moratorium on tankers along the inner BC coast, but it isn't stopping government from supporting the planned pipeline. The Canadian tar sands project is already the largest green house gas emitter in the country. See - Dogwood Initiative [www.dogwoodinitiative.org](http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org)

## Bluewater Blog "The Rubber Boot Diaries"

Aboard the Island Roamer last May as I sailed through Gwaii Haanas, I was inspired by something so simple, yet very essential: "Rubber Boots." They are a symbol of the type of trip Bluewater represents. Our guests do not expect silk linens, margaritas or luxury 5-star experiences. The true explorer is looking for unique, wild and exciting journeys.

A common question that I am asked from a first time guest is "Do we really need Rubber Boots?" If someone has joined us before – The first comment is typically "I brought my rubber boots!" Whether they are pink, green, black or plaid, they are a part of these adventures.

Our New Blog – The Rubber Boot Diaries – will showcase trips through the eyes of the traveler. Please send your trip highlights (with photo) to [explore@bluewateradventures.ca](mailto:explore@bluewateradventures.ca) and we will post your experience online for others to see. [www.discover-bluewater.blogspot.com](http://www.discover-bluewater.blogspot.com) – you can sign up by entering your email address. You will receive weekly updates, guest experiences and updates on conservation issues. Also follow us on twitter! [www.twitter.com/Bluewater\\_BC](http://www.twitter.com/Bluewater_BC)

Leanne Carey – Blog Master & Marketing Coordinator, Bluewater Adventures

## Save Trees, Receive the Newsletter by Email

As part of our commitment to the environment and to reduce the use of paper, we are now using email as much as possible, including an email version of this newsletter. If you would prefer to receive "Waterways" by email please let us know. If your email address has changed please inform us. Guests with email also receive extra updates. Bluewater will never sell, share or abuse the private information of our guests.