



# WATERWAYS

Natural History Coastal Adventures

SPRING 2016

## Surprise – A New Yacht!

*Bluewater Adventures is thrilled to announce that we are building a new yacht!*

**What?** The new flagship of the Bluewater Adventures fleet will be 82' long and 30% larger than Island Roamer and Island Odyssey. We are committed to ecotourism, so the new yacht will carry the same number of guests – on average 12. But now there will be six larger cabins aft with two lower beds (no upper / lower bunks) and ensuite bathrooms. The wheelhouse on deck is expanded so that we will be able to have the entire group dine together – what a view! Environmentally, the engines will exceed EPA emission standards and the yacht has been designed for sailing performance to make it more efficient for us to travel under sail.

**Where?** Westcoast Custom Yachts is building the yacht in Richmond, BC. We are proud to be building in Canada and supporting local designers, suppliers, employees and businesses.

**Who?** Forbes Cooper built both Island Roamer and Island Odyssey in the 1980's. He has come out of retirement to take on building the new yacht. He brings with him a talented team of experienced, local

yacht builders. It is a privilege to have a “BC Yachting Legend” in charge of the process. Over his storied career Cooper has completed some 8500 yachts – ranging from 24' to a 120'.

**When?** Construction started last September and launch is scheduled for this coming Fall, 2016. The timing will allow us to test all systems this fall and ensure we are fully prepared for the 2017 operating season.



**Why?** For 40 years, Bluewater has set the standard for marine ecotourism along the British Columbia coast. With this significant investment, we are creating a yacht mindful of the environment, while exceeding the needs of our guests from around the world. We have the most incredible coastline in the world and Bluewater is committed to sharing its wonders and its conservation for decades to come.

## Travel Local, Travel Small

There are times when it just makes sense to travel local... whether it is because of currency exchange, a commitment to “responsible travel” or simply wanting to know one’s own backyard better.

**Travel local** also refers to a style of travel. It is about being off the beaten path, away from the main tourism routes and attractions – somewhere where the locals travel! The number one market for Bluewater Adventures is Canada... Canadians who know you



An intimate experience with a group of traveling transient orcas

don't have to go to Africa to have a wildlife safari or Asia to see fascinating ancient cultures thousands of years old, proud of how special their own country is. Haida Gwaii

is an iconic destination on many Canadians’ “bucket list”.

**Travel Small** refers to the value of small group ecotourism. It is the intimacy and impact one receives by experiencing things one on one – not out the bus window, or 10 stories up aboard a cruise ship. It is about travelling freely; open to new experience and adventure. A small group of like-minded individuals can truly feel, smell

**Searching for salmon along the shore, a grizzly bear smells for other bears upstream (Great Bear Rainforest)**

and taste nature up close. Come join the locals to see a Spirit bear, sail the mystical isles of Haida Gwaii or stand beneath a cathedral of giant, mossy trees. Travel is a door to new worlds, to understanding better where we live.



## Quotes from you...

"Both [naturalist and Captain] were extremely knowledgeable about flora and fauna, geography and geology, history and anthropology – even photography and music. Very good instructors, patient, interesting. Best crew I have ever experienced in 20 years of working on small boats."

Sue Flood –  
Photographer / Trip  
Leader – UK

"The scenery, the wildlife, the crew, the food, the boat, the format, the excursions – Everything. Absolutely exceeded my expectations. The days were packed with activities but also made time for relaxation and community – wouldn't change a thing. It was the perfect balance."

D.P. – British Columbia

"Far superior to what I expected owing to the high level of knowledge and communication skills of all trip crew members (not just the naturalist)."

S.C. – Brooklyn, NY

"Thanks for one of our top 5 holiday experiences ever!"

T & K.P. – Australia

# The Perfect Way to See Haida Gwaii

There are few roads on Haida Gwaii and none in the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve. So it is only by kayak or yacht that one can access this incredible Island wilderness. The vast majority of visitors go with licensed guides, like Bluewater Adventures – for safety and local knowledge. With only 2000 visitors a year to the Gwaii Haanas National Park



A killer whale crest on a mortuary totem at SGang Gwaay

Reserve one needs to be completely self-sufficient.

What is the best style of travel to truly experience all the many wonders? Is one kind of boat better than another? Bluewater Adventures' Island Roamer is a perfect means of transport.

Here is a list of qualities you want for a Haida Gwaii tour:

■ A large sailboat that can handle 'wind and waves' effortlessly (conditions that often keep kayakers stuck on the beach). Sailboats have a natural advantage over motorboats because the large keel acts as a stabilizer and as soon as the sails are raised the vessel moves in sync with the ocean instead of trying to force its way 'against' nature.

■ A modern yacht that provides private cabins and comfortable public spaces to get to know your fellow travelers. Our average group size is 12 passengers – not too small, not too large – perfect for creating a sense of community onboard.

■ An itinerary that visits several places each day so that you experience the full breadth of highlights Gwaii Haanas has to offer. We typically travel on the protected eastern side of the islands, accessing wonderfully intimate coves and forest walks. However, if the weather cooperates we have the flexibility to head offshore. Haida Gwaii is situated right on the edge of the continental shelf. It is a mecca for whales, marine mammals and rare seabirds. Many visitors never experience the reward just a few miles out... albatross soaring by, perhaps whales across the horizon and sightings of rare species.

■ Each morning a new vista. With the size of Bluewater yachts, we are able to anchor in remote, protected and picturesque bays every night providing guests with the perfect kayak exploration to start each day – great with a cup of coffee! A fleet of kayaks provides a wonderful intimacy, whether one wants to enjoy the peace and solitude of paddling along the shore, or some exercise to start the day.

After 30 seasons in Haida Gwaii we know the area as few do. National Geographic named our Haida Gwaii tour "One of 50 of the Worlds Best Tours".



A perfect way to start the day: the peace and quiet of a morning kayak around a beautiful bay

## New Southeast Alaska Departure Added

We are thrilled to announce that famed bear biologist and professor emeritus, Dr. Stephen Herrero and his wife, naturalist Linda Wiggins are joining this trip. See the bears, whales and glaciers of Southeast Alaska and enjoy a second to none educational experience.

July 28 – August 7, 2016

CAD \$6495 + \$100 sustainability fee

USD \$5000 + \$100 sustainability fee

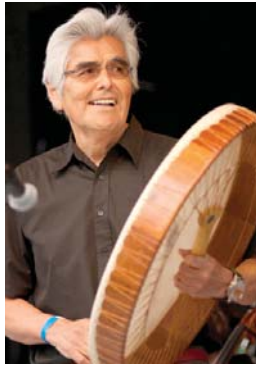


Island Odyssey dwarfed before the Dawes Glacier, Alaska

# Special Guides, Special Experiences

*We are delighted to welcome back some very special resource guides this coming summer.*

■ Haida artist and master carver, **Robert Davidson** and **Teri-Lynn Williams-Davidson** join us **August 3-10** in Haida Gwaii. Robert is an internationally recognized artist and has helped bring Haida art to the world stage. Teri-Lynn is a lawyer who has represented the Haida in landmark court campaigns and victories. Both are deeply involved in traditional Haida music.



**Robert Davidson**

■ **Dr. Robin Wright** just retired as curator of Native American Art at the Burke Museum / University of



**Dr. Robin Wright**

Washington. She returns again this year to lead our Westcoast of Haida Gwaii adventure **June 25-July 2**.

■ **Dr. Barrie Gilbert** is one of the best known bear researchers and advocates in North America. His work has saved the lives of thousands of bears. Join him to experience

Canada's only grizzly bear Sanctuary in the Kluane National Park – **June 5-9** at the height of the mating season.

■ Photographer and avid birder, **Bruce Whittington** joins us in Southeast Alaska **July 5-15**. These trips provide some incredible opportunities to photograph cavorting humpback whales, bears feeding on salmon in a rushing river, and the grandeur of glacier scenery.

■ **Rob Lott** from Whale & Dolphin Conservation leads our Orcas, Totems & Grizzlies voyage **August 13-19**. He has been intimately involved with whale research in the area for nearly 20 years.



**Rob Lott**

■ Haida elder, **Captain Gold** joins us again **June 19-27** to share his 35 years of experience in Gwaii Haanas as the original Watchman, Haida archeologist and elected member of the management board.



**Haida elder Captain Gold**

D Boyle

## On the Horizon - 2017

**Plan Ahead!**  
The Bluewater 2017 trip schedule is now available on our website. If you want to get aboard some of our most popular trips – the Great Bear Rainforest or Haida Gwaii – we highly recommend you plan ahead. They sell out early. Contact us for details.

## 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. Erin, Tessa and Randy are happy to answer your questions.

## Top 10 Reasons to Sail the Coast with Bluewater Adventures

- 1 The British Columbia and Alaska coast is one of the best cruising destinations in the World
- 2 Bluewater trips feature renowned naturalists and local resource people.
- 3 The BC Coast is remote and difficult to access on your own – traveling by boat is the best way to experience wild BC!
- 4 Off the beaten track – you get bragging rights that you have “been there” with incredible photos to prove it.
- 5 Our Haida Gwaii trip touted as the “Tour of a Lifetime” by National Geographic Traveler magazine.
- 6 Bluewater Adventures has developed close working relationships with First Nations communities on the BC coast.
- 7 Bluewater Crew are some of the most experienced guides leading expeditions on the BC and SE Alaska coast.
- 8 You make a difference by traveling with us! – Bluewater Adventures is a Gold Certified member of Green Tourism Canada, the recipient of the 2014 Gold Star Award, and is the first Carbon Neutral eco-tour operator in BC or Alaska. Your visit helps to conserve the areas we travel!
- 9 With access to legendary wildlife sites we see an incredible variety of animals
- 10 Bluewater cooks are famous for taking great care of our guests. Fresh, local and healthy food is one of the highlights of every trip.





## Quotes from you...

"Everything!!! We have had the best trip ever! Spirits bears, grizzlies up close. Whales – we could have touched them. The entire crew have been excellent. We have had spectacular viewings and the flexible approach has enabled us to get the best of every situation."

V & A.B. – UK

"This was not just a trip to view wildlife but a journey into a largely inaccessible part of North America and a chance to experience an ageless habitat full of varied life both large and small."

D.G. – UK

"Thanks for an informative, convivial, and shared experience of Haida Gwaii – an at times overwhelming, awesome discovery of mind, heart, and spirit."

D.N. – Ontario

"This is a hard core nature experience with hours of whale and bear watching."

KG – UK

## Join us – We're Social



**BLUEWATER ADVENTURES**

# Safety in Bear Country

Bluewater Adventures has privileged access to the best known bear viewing sites in Southeast Alaska and British Columbia. Our trips have increasingly focused on bear viewing as the world-wide popularity for bears has grown. From an operational point of view this has brought its own series of challenges. 15 years ago we saw bears opportunistically; we seldom went in search for them. Our bear-focused trips now take us deep into remote bear country and bring some wonderful sightings of grizzly, black and Spirit bears. The challenge for our guides is to make sure that our guests AND the bears are safe.

The first thing to do in bear country is to ensure there are no surprises. While it may seem strange when looking for wildlife to make noise announcing our arrival, instead of slipping silently through the forest, it is important to let bears know we are there.



**A black bear feasting on pink salmon (Anan Creek, Alaska)**

This gives them the choice whether to move on, or if they are comfortable to stay. Then upon seeing an animal, the first thing the guide does is assess the situation to determine how comfortable is the



**Bears are more comfortable with predictable human behaviour, staying in a group (Pack Creek, Alaska)**

bear and does it know we are there? Bears give off clear body signals that an experienced guide can read. At times the message is "give me space" – and it is important to respond accordingly. We want the animal to be comfortable and continue to engage in its natural behaviour – feeding, resting or socializing. Sustainable bear viewing is based on consistent behaviour.

To respond to the lack of bear viewing guidelines (everywhere in the world), in 2004 a group, including Bluewater Adventures, formed the Commercial Bear Viewing Association (CBVA). Captain Randy Burke continues to be one of the Directors. The Association was the first to develop bear guide standards and to offer annual bear guide training. Now, on every trip at least one of the Bluewater crew is a certified bear guide having completed a 2-3 day training with the Commercial Bear Viewing Association. Last year, 12 of our staff completed the course. We are fortunate to have renowned bear biologists – Barrie Gilbert, Stephen Herrero and Grant MacHutchon – lead some of our special trips.

## Why is seeing a Spirit Bear Special?

It is extraordinary... a black bear that has become all-white from a local, recessive genetic variation.

It is rare. There are only a few hundred in one remote area of the British Columbia coast.

It is a privilege to see one.

And the experience of seeing it in person is simply amazing... a white bear in a green forest!



Tom Stoeri

**A female Spirit bear chases spawning salmon in September (Great Bear Rainforest)**

Bluewater Adventures Ltd.  
#3 – 252 E. First Street  
North Vancouver, BC V7L 1B3  
Tel: (604) 980-3800  
Toll Free: 1-888-877-1770  
Fax: (604) 980-1800  
Email: [explore@bluewateradventures.ca](mailto:explore@bluewateradventures.ca)  
[www.bluewateradventures.ca](http://www.bluewateradventures.ca)

