



# W@T@Rw@Y@S

Natural History Coastal Adventures

FALL 2011

## Wildlife Magic!

Magic! It is the best word to describe the sense of wonder, of awe when something so incredible happens it is overwhelming. Magic is the best word to describe the list of wildlife highlights the Bluewater crew described at our recent Season Wrap. And gratitude is my best expression for having shared some of these experiences, and for the wonderful memories created this past summer. To the select group of friends and travelers who joined us, I say thank you!

We were pleased to host journalists from Australia, France and British Columbia. Upcoming articles on Bluewater Adventures will be featured in the Sydney Sun Herald, Terre Sauvage magazine, Badische Zeitung; and on Global TV in Canada and ARD German public television. We would love to see your photographs or video from your trip.

With the end of one season, we turn the page to introduce you to our 2012 Season.

Count on us for spectacular wildlife viewing, but more so, learn about these creatures and join them in their world. I invite you to seize the moment.

Join us to experience this spectacular coast and assist us in protecting it.

Owner – Randy Burke

## A Canadian "Signature Experience"

Bluewater Adventures has been selected by the Canadian Tourism Commission to be part of the "Signature Experience Collection". Our Great Bear Rainforest voyages are one of the original 50 experiences selected from across Canada, representing the best Canada has to offer the world. We appreciate the recognition of the 'Bluewater experience' and this special area, with its incredible wildlife.



Guests intimately experience the shoreline and the mirror calm waters of the Great Bear Rainforest

## Amazing Bear Viewing in Alaska

We are thrilled to announce the addition of "one of the most famous bear viewing sanctuaries in the world" to our Southeast Alaska voyages. Bluewater Adventures has been awarded access to Pack Creek on Admiralty Island. The native Tlingit people call Admiralty Island "Kootznoowoo," or "Fortress of the Bears." The island is home to an estimated 1,500 brown bears – more than all the Lower 48 US states combined. Pack Creek has been closed to hunting since the 1930's and is closely managed by the US Forest Service. These factors have resulted in bears that are comfortable with humans and superb bear viewing.

There are only two US Forest Service managed bear viewing sites in Southeast Alaska – Pack Creek and Anan Creek. Many of our Alaska voyages already visit Anan (and many past guests remember it as their Alaska highlight). Join us on our July 11-19

voyage and enjoy the incredible bear viewing at both Pack Creek and Anan Creek. \$5265 per person.

See Special Trips on our [website](#) for more information .



Pack Creek is considered the best brown bear viewing site in Southeast Alaska. We are excited to be adding it to our 2012 itineraries.

US Forest Service

## Bluewater's Great Bear Rainforest Featured on TV



Two years ago Global TV joined us onboard a trip in the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve. This September they returned to focus on the wonders and preservation of the Great Bear Rainforest along British Columbia's mid-coast.

This 4 part series featured Bluewater on the 6 o'clock news – with each night a different focus. To see the Global TV coverage on Bluewater's Great Bear Rainforest trip and learn about its fragile ecosystems, visit our [website](#).



Sherry Kirkvold



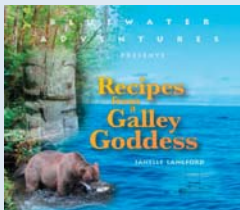
## Special Offer!

Until December 15th, you can book a 2012 trip at our 2011 prices. Call our office 1-888-877-1770 or email us at [explore@bluewateradventures.ca](mailto:explore@bluewateradventures.ca) to confirm details and book your 2012 adventure now.

## Need More Info?

If you want to find out more details about a particular trip please contact the Bluewater office. Call toll-free 1-888-877-1770 or email at [explore@bluewateradventures.ca](mailto:explore@bluewateradventures.ca).

Erin, Randy and Jaclyn are happy to answer your questions and share their experience.



Bluewater cook, Janelle Langford has published a Bluewater cookbook. It is a delectable compilation of recipes and photographs from our different trips. A fantastic present or keepsake from your trip. \$45 including postage.

# 2011 Wildlife Highlights

Every year, Bluewater guests and our crew are delighted by the wildlife in the areas we explore. Each Fall, the crew share amazing stories from their season of trips.

### Haida Gwaii:

- A visit from a “friendly” fin whale (as long as our ship) that spy hopped and ‘hung out’ right alongside Island Roamer for 15 minutes.
- Several sightings of the massive jelly fish-eating Mola Mola or sunfish.
- A black bear suddenly attacking and killing a deer at the water’s edge.
- A moonlit evening spent watching newly hatched ancient murrelet chicks skitter across the ocean to join their parents, leaving trails of bioluminescent sparkles.
- Sighting rare Risso’s dolphins.
- Sighting 4 species of whale in one day!



A “friendly” fin whale off the bow

Lindsay Jones

### Vancouver Island North:

- Transient orcas hunting porpoise
- Traveling in the middle of a super-pod of 500 Pacific white-sided dolphins – their infectious energy, bringing delight to all.
- An evening of Northern lights.

### North Coast / Khutzeymateen:

- Floating in the zodiac 75' from shore watching a grizzly mum and her 2 cubs feed on sedges and play – each of them reflected in the mirror calm waters.
- Two juvenile grizzlies wrestling in the estuary.
- Watching a steady stream of orcas slowly pass us by (while enjoying a beautiful sunset glass of wine)
- Exploring a wild, west coast beach, adding our footprints to the wolf prints.

### Grizzly mother and cubs in the Khutzeymateen



Randy Burke

### Southeast Alaska:

- Bubble-net feeding humpback whales.
- Amazing bears at Anan Creek – brown bears and cubs feeding on salmon, black bears casually sitting beside the Observatory, not 10’ away.
- Surrounded by over 35 whales in Frederick Sound, just “listening” as their sounds carried over the still ocean.
- Drifting amongst inquisitive sea lions on an evening zodiac expedition. Bioluminescence lighting them up far beneath the water’s surface – amazing!



Bruce Ainsworth

A black bear cub at Anan Creek waits while its mother fishes for salmon.

### Great Bear Rainforest:

- The amazing spectacle of salmon spawning
- Captain Tom had a close encounter with a curious humpback whale in Bishop Bay. After a swim, the whale surfaced with a blow not 50’ from shore – right where he had been treading water a minute before!
- Amazing bear viewing with our native Gitga’at guides (who were featured in National Geographic). Guests reported stunning images of the spirit bears and some bears too close to photograph.
- Listening to a pod of 13 humpbacks bubble net feeding over the hydrophone... unable to see them in the fog!
- Watching a grizzly stand up and rub its back, spreading its scent on the ‘mark tree’.
- Wolf encounters on the beach.



15’ tail flukes on a humpback whale

There is no taking for granted the incredible memories that we take away from our trips... They are what keeps us coming back for more.





# Special Trips for 2012

Our 2012 schedule of trips outlines various destinations and the best times of year to visit each area. We already know of 3 particularly special offerings:



The naturalist explains the details of a sunflower star

## North Coast / Khutzeymateen

We are thrilled to have Dr. Barrie Gilbert joining us again **June 16-22** for superb spring grizzly viewing and an exploration of the beautiful outer islands and marine life near Prince Rupert, BC. \$3850 + tax.

## Haida Gwaii

Join us **July 1-8** in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve to experience Haida culture and plant life with matriarch, Barb Wilson of the Cumshewa Eagle clan and University of Victoria ethnobotanist, Dr. Nancy Turner. Come and be intrigued by Haida

culture and learn about plants, sealife and how the Haida combined their uses. CAD\$4400 plus tax.

We were elated to have renowned Haida carvers, Bill Reid and Robert Davidson sail aboard Island Roamer in the past. Now, Chief Jim Hart will be joining us **July 23-30**. This is a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to learn about Haida art from an internationally acclaimed master carver. Share Haida culture with this hereditary chief and experience first hand these islands and their ancient villages in a way not otherwise possible. Jim is Chief 7idansuu (pronounced ‘ee-dan-soo’). The name was held by Charles Edenshaw (ca.1839-1924), the master carver from whom Jim is descended. When UBC thought to raise a totem pole in honour of Bill Reid, Jim Hart was asked to carve it. CAD\$4400 plus tax.

For more information on these specific trips or any other Special Trips, see “Special Trips” on our [website](#).



Discovering the ancient totem poles at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of SGang Gwaay



A “smack” of thousands of moon jellyfish, Gwaii Haanas

# Haida Gwaii - A Galapagos-Style Holiday

The islands of Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), separated 60 miles off the mainland coast, are called the Canadian Galapagos because of the unique species that have developed due to isolation. Bluewater trips are akin to visiting Ecuador’s Galapagos because we:

- Travel in small groups to preserve nature
- Live aboard a yacht going island to island
- View fascinating wildlife up close
- Visit an area protected as a world-class National Park

Of course, the northern wildlife is different – bears instead of tortoises, eagles instead of boobies. The amazing history and art of the Haida is a tremendous cultural addition to the Canadian Galapagos experience.



The forest is reclaiming the old Haida village of T’annu



A giant Western red cedar – the Haida “tree of life”

## Share the Adventure

Telling friends about your Bluewater trip is a wonderful way to share the adventure. For every person who books after hearing about your trip, we will extend to you a 5% discount off your next voyage. If six people sign up, you receive a 30% discount!

## Bluewater Website updated!

Bluewater has updated our website to better showcase our wonderful collection of trips. With more visuals, better access to information and more downloadable information, we hope you find it exciting and interactive.

Sign up for e-news, subscribe to our BLOG, look for special trips, watch videos, read magazine articles about us and explore all of our photo galleries. [www.bluewateradventures.ca](http://www.bluewateradventures.ca)



Sherry Kirkvold

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## Quotes from you...

"Wonderful! Can't imagine a better crew... completely knowledgeable, radiated a love of this special place – excellent at adapting to changing circumstances and the particular needs of our passengers. I hope to return and do it all again!"

CP - Washington

"Many, many thanks to Bluewater and the great Crew of the Island Roamer! This has been a trip of superlatives – words cannot describe the sensation of experiencing the wild here – the bears – spirit, grizzly and black – the whales – the pageant of life of the salmon run...and more..."

PK & AK – Ontario

"Very impressed with your attempts to keep your environmental footprint light with your clear and passionate commitment to preservation; not only of the world up there, but also of the human communities..."

KJ – British Columbia



**BLUEWATER ADVENTURES**



## The Story of a yacht

In the early 1980's, yacht builder Forbes Cooper had a dream. He wanted to build the largest production sailboat in Canada. His shipyard, Cooper Yachts, was already well-known for Maple Leaf sailboats – recognized for their comfortable offshore voyages and large interior spaces.

Working with designer Stan Huntingford, he prepared plans for a 68' ketch and launched the first boat in the Fall of 1983. Cooper realized a boat this size could be designed as either a charter boat or exclusive private yacht. He laid out the 59-ton proto-type with 8 private cabins, three bathrooms, twin diesel engines, and an enormous salon and dining area. Cooper named the boat "Island Roamer".

Bluewater Adventures founder Dan Culver heard about the new yacht and approached Cooper with a proposal. While Cooper wanted the yacht to be on display at Vancouver's Granville Island to attract purchasers, would he lease the boat during the quiet summers to have it do nature tours for Bluewater Adventures? As they say, the rest is history... Island Roamer is now recognized up and down the coast and nature lovers from around the world have enjoyed the comfort, intimacy, quality construction and design of this yacht. Soon after, Cooper stopped building sailboats completely; consumers increasingly sought speed and power, disregarding the cost of fuel. Perhaps it is time for more sailboats now...? Or at least a voyage aboard this famous west coast yacht...

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## Conservation News - Salmon

The Fraser River is the largest undammed river on the west coast of North America, and subsequently has had some of the largest salmon runs in the world. After the failure of the key sockeye



salmon runs in 2009, the Canadian government initiated an inquiry under Justice Cohen. Conservationists hope the downward spiral can be stopped before another collapse like the east coast cod stocks.

Alarming news is the discovery of the Infectious Salmon Anemia virus (ISA) in wild salmon this Fall. It was likely imported originally with salmon eggs from Europe and then spread from farmed salmon to wild stocks. This disease wiped out 70% of the Chilean salmon farm industry just 3 years ago. Wild salmon are not indigenous to Chile; therefore, we are unsure what effects the virus will have here on wild stocks. The Department of Fisheries & Oceans must act quickly to investigate and not ignore an obvious failure of their regulatory and reporting system.

[NY Times \(Oct 28, 2011\) "Virus in Pacific Salmon Raises Worries About Industry" – William Yardley.](#)

[Alexandra Morton blog.](#)

## A Moment In History

*[From a letter To Bluewater - Nov 14, 2007]*

"On behalf of the Gwaii Haanas Management Board we would like to congratulate you and your staff on having your Gwaii Haanas tour ranked by National Geographic Traveler as one of the 50 top Tours of a Lifetime. This recognition is a testament to your commitment to quality ecotourism. Such commitment facilitates opportunities for people from around the globe to experience Gwaii Haanas and understand how important it is to ensure this area's ongoing protection."

Ernie Gladstone, Superintendent

Gwaii Haanas

Cindy Boyko, Co-Chair Gwaii Haanas



## 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.