



WATERWAYS

Natural History Coastal Adventures

FALL 2013



Thanks!

Our 39th season has just finished leaving us with amazing memories of whales beside the boat, thousands of salmon, amazing summer weather, wolves, bears in all three colours (grizzly, black and the all-white Spirit bear) and charismatic native leaders sharing their culture. To each of you who joined us, let me say thank you. You brought your enthusiasm, a passion for nature, exploring and learning, and together we created 'trips of a lifetime'.

May the memories of your Bluewater Adventure still burn bright and bring you joy.

Owner – Randy Burke

One on One with Nature

Bluewater Adventures wants to give you the experience of being 'one on one' with nature. The feeling that it is just you and the whale; that you can be alone sitting in the moss beside a burbling, rainforest stream; that you are immersed in the wilderness with no one else for miles and miles. These things aren't possible when you stay on the 'highway' or travel with hundreds of others. Traveling aboard one of our yachts provides you with the comforts of a floating "home", incredibly experienced guides, and a way to travel deep into a world of rugged outer islands,



S Kirkvold

towering rainforest, beneath

Bluewater cook, Annie, brims with excitement in this close encounter with a Kermode in the Great Bear Rainforest.

snow-capped mountains – truly one of the last wild places on our planet. Our footprint is small; our vessel a tiny speck in comparison, yet the impact on one's life is grand. We search for



Lindsay Janes

A humpback whale experience off the bow of Island Roamer in Haida Gwaii.

wildlife in abundance, to learn of nature's wonders. The remote areas of the British Columbia and Alaska coast offer a special world full of whales and bears. Today, the need for us to connect with nature has never been more important. It helps give us perspective on our lives and the need to share this planet with the other creatures that live upon it.

Special 2014 Trips

We are really excited about our plans for next summer

Our **Haida Gwaii** trips will be starting in mid-May focusing on the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve. This is a great time for wildlife. Large numbers of humpback whales are returning from Hawaii and hundreds of thousands of pelagic birds are nesting on the outer islands.

Birdlife Canada's Christopher DiCorrado leads the **May 20-28** departure. This coincides with the peak of ancient murrelet chick hatching – an amazing experience. Native Art Historian, Dr. Robin Wright, joins us for her annual voyage focusing



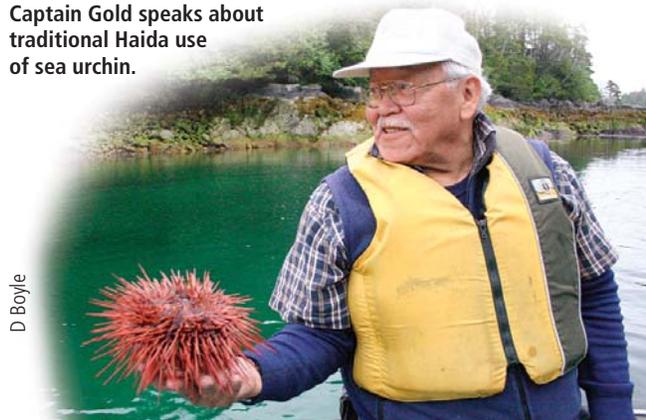
Randy Burke

A quiet moment with the ancient memorial poles at SGang Gwaay.

on the Haida history, art and carving **July 22-29** in conjunction with the Burke Museum at the University of Washington. We were thrilled to have Haida elders Captain Gold and Golie Hans aboard this summer and look forward to adding their intimate experience of Gwaii Haanas and being Haida to our trips again next summer.

continued on next page

Captain Gold speaks about traditional Haida use of sea urchin.



D Boyle

Quotes from you...

"It was a magical experience to spend time with the Alaskan wildlife and to see the magnificent nature of this coast. No better way to do this than on a sailboat!"

S&P – *The Netherlands*

"Another extraordinary trip with a crew ever ready to go above and beyond in every way. Another boatload of passengers inspired to join the effort to protect this extraordinary coast. Thank-you."

DD – *WWF Canada*

"The trip was a marvelous experience. It was awe inspiring to be able to interact with the natural world up close and personal. It will be an experience I will carry with me forever...Profound thanks."

MV – *Toronto, ON*

"The Crew was fantastic and supportive of our photo efforts. Our fourth trip – best yet! More to come."

J & R – *Washington*

"The trip of a lifetime with so many unforgettable experiences. The Crew looked to our every need with a wealth of knowledge happily shared. SE Alaska is a gem."

C & D – *Cambridge, UK*

Special 2014 Trips continued from page 1

In [Alaska](#), we are operating two of our 11-day "super" trips including both Anan Creek and Pack Creek for arguably the best bear viewing on the Pacific coast. Calgary educator, conservationist and travel guru, Brian Keating joins us in Alaska **July 6-16** after leading two of our Haida Gwaii trips this past May. We know his infectious



Island Odyssey at the towering Dawes Glacier.



J Varley

enthusiasm and wide following will quickly sell out this trip. Aboard "Snow Goose" our new itineraries are an 8-day Glacier Bay National Park trip – the best

Black bears are omnivores but come fall calorie-rich salmon are necessary for a healthy hibernation.



Randy Burke

Sows seek safety for their cubs in the Khutzeymateen Inlet.

known glacier viewing site in North America; and a 10-day trip that combines Glacier Bay, the whales of Chatham Strait and the outer coast near Sitka.

Dr. Barrie Gilbert will once again be joining us for the [North Coast/ Khutzeymateen](#) trip **June 17-23**. This is a great time to view the grizzlies. After emerging from hibernation they feed on the shoreline sedges with their tiny, new cubs. Orcas and humpback whales can be regularly sighted as we explore the many landscapes of the North Coast.

The Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole: A moment in history

On August 15, 2013, a lucky group of Bluewater guests were present for the raising of the Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole in Windy Bay on Lyell Island – the first totem pole to be erected in the Park Reserve in over 130 years. They arrived to witness Haida Elders and dancers in their traditional regalia and children paddling in carved cedar canoes. They joined over 400 people present to celebrate this day commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement between the Canadian Government and the Haida Nation. This formed the first park of its kind in Canada and established a ground breaking "[model for cultural and natural resource management](#)".

The Legacy Pole was designed and carved by Haida artist, Jaalen Edenshaw and tells the story of this historic agreement to protect the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve. The pole's design represents "Land, Sea, People" – the caretakers of this remote archipelago, protected from mountaintops to the ocean floor.



The Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole raising was celebrated throughout Haida Gwaii

The *Eagle and Raven* represent the sky and the two Haida clans; 3 *Watchmen* honour those watching over Gwaii Haanas, past and present; *Dog* – represents the long history of human presence in Haida Gwaii; *Marten* – who creates that sound before a big earthquake; *Visitor* – represents the people (like us) who come to visit Haida Gwaii; *Wasco* – a supernatural creature/ sea wolf; *Sacred one Standing and Moving* – a supernatural being who holds up Haida Gwaii and who makes the Islands shake whenever he moves; *5 Good People Standing Together* – representing those who stood on the protest lines at Athilii Gwaii (Lyell Island); *Grizzly Bear* – represents the findings that grizzly bears once existed on Haida Gwaii, and the *Sculpin* – representing the depths of the sea.

Join us in 2014 to see this Haida art form handed down from generation to generation. See the ancient poles of SGang Gwaay and Skedans, and the new Legacy Pole erected as a commitment to the sustainability of Haida culture.



The Future of the Coast?

Is development always good because it creates jobs? Should we assume that growth is always necessary? If we want more jobs, we need more workers and ultimately more people on the planet. Our society is perhaps a little like a pyramid scheme; as the pyramid grows each of us get to move up (receiving more, thus feeling more secure)... until the day comes when the pyramid may collapse due to climate change, over population and pollution. It seems essential that development proposals must now meet the requirements of a "triple bottom line" – profit, people and planet. If all three elements are not sustainable it must not get approved.

Bluewater Adventures wrote in previous newsletters about the threats that the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway presents. The pipeline and tanker route from Kitimat would ship Alberta tar sands bitumen (heavy oil) to Asia. A decision by the National Energy Board is expected before Christmas.

Now the province of British Columbia has decided that Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will solve all future economic challenges. This has resulted in nearly 20 competing proposals to expand LNG production by fracking (injecting huge amounts of chemically treated water under the ground) in northeast British Columbia, and building pipelines to Prince Rupert or Kitimat. The energy requirements for LNG are enormous as it must be stored and shipped at minus 163 degrees C (-261 degrees F).

For the last 5 years, Bluewater Adventures has been



B Gilbert

Dr Barrie Gilbert spots this juvenile male grizzly digging for clams in the protected Khutzeymateen Conservancy.

offering trips to the Khutzeymateen – Canada's only grizzly bear sanctuary; however, Bluewater pioneer, Dan Culver was one of the first to support the protection of the Khutzeymateen. He raised awareness of this special place by commemorating his 1990 ascent of Mt Everest.

There are now two LNG proposals that would run directly across the Khutzeymateen, with a half mile wide pipeline corridor, roads, and pumping stations. It seems amazing that government can protect an area that is internationally recognized as one of the best bear viewing sites in Canada and then a few years later consider approving a major development project in the same place. Survey work has already started. Our experiences with the bears have convinced us we must stand up and let the British Columbia government know this is not "just a wilderness" that no one cares about and that protecting grizzly bears does matter. If allowed this sets a very dangerous precedent for every park and protected area in the province.

Please click on this link to Premier Christy Clark – premier@gov.bc.ca and Environment Minister Mary Polak – ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca and express your opinion. It really makes a difference!

From Conor Rafferty

"Every moment of the trip was truly magical. As well as seeing lots of whales and bears, being in a place so wild with forests and mountains was a breathtaking experience, beyond my imagination. The setting was wonderfully peaceful and quiet, with fresh, clean air. This had a therapeutic effect on me, with relief from all the troubles of life. I had never felt so at home, so safe, so comfortable, so welcome as I did on the boat – nor been in such warm company. I felt, for the first time ever, that I had found a niche.

All in all, the trip was a life changing experience, unlike anything I had ever done before, and worth



Lindsay Janes

Conor, the star whale spotter on this epic Orcas, Totems and Grizzlies trip off Northern Vancouver Island.

every last penny. It has lit up my life to know that there is still great wilderness on earth, and people in the world so touched by nature. This has given me new hopes and joys to strive towards. On top of all this, I feel that managing the trip has opened up a whole new world of opportunities for me!

I hope this feedback will inspire others to travel with Bluewater Adventures, where they can learn the beauty and importance of the natural world. Memories of this trip will last a lifetime, and I hope to be on another Bluewater trip sometime in the coming years.

Thanks again"

Conor Rafferty

Trip Rating: 10/10

Conor is 23 years old, has Autism and a passion for cetaceans. He travelled all the way from Ireland by himself, on a quest to see whales. His experience validates how important opportunities to connect with wildlife are for all of us. We thank Wildlife Worldwide for helping to make his dream come true.

Special Offer

Until December 15th, you can book a 2014 trip at our 2013 prices. Call our office 1-888-877-1770 or email us at explore@bluewateradventures.ca to confirm details and book your 2014 summer adventure now.

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 or contact us via email at explore@bluewateradventures.ca Erin, Randy and Leanne are happy to answer your questions and share their experience.





Elaine Zelter

It IS Easy Being Green...

Bluewater Adventures has been operating Eco-tours on the north Coast of British Columbia since 1974 – long before the term “eco-tour” was coined. Over the last 40 years, we have witnessed great achievements in conservation along our coast and recognise the importance of operating “responsibly”. It is essential that we identify ways to reduce our carbon footprint and how to run a cleaner, more efficient company. Bluewater recently joined forces with [Green Tourism Canada](#) to conduct an audit of Bluewater Adventures’ operations. We look forward to working closely with them to create a more sustainable company.

This year we have made significant strides forward in our quest for greater sustainability. Bluewater began by joining [1% for the Planet](#) – with a commitment to donate 1% of revenue for conservation. Bluewater has always provided support to communities we work with



by buying locally. Bluewater has supported research and conservation groups as well, like Raincoast Conservation, Tides Canada, Orca Lab, Cetacealab, David Suzuki Foundation, Laskeek Bay Conservation, Sierra Club, and Save our Salmon to name a few.

We have chosen to make our contributions transparent so our guests can see where portions of their fees are being applied. Bluewater Adventures is now certified as [Ocean Wise](#) serving only sustainable seafood options, our office is powered by [Bullfrogpower](#) and we continue to work with [Offsetters](#) to balance the carbon impact of our operations.

We are proud to contribute to the preservation and conservation of the British Columbia and Alaska coast. See how you can make a difference. Join us in our quest for sustainability by making a few smart choices at home, like offsetting your flights or choosing sustainable menu options.

Quotes from you...

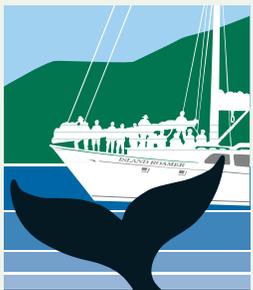
“You know it’s a good trip when each night your head hits the pillow and you feel an absolute sense of contentment and wonder. What a gift Haida Gwaii is! I feel so lucky to have experienced this part of our stunning west coast aboard the Island Roamer... I’ll be dreaming of breaching humpbacks, oyster catchers and the mossy stillness of the majestic Haida villages until I return.”

ES – British Columbia

“This has been my first real adventure holiday & I have started right at the top! It has been an experience which I will carry with me for a very long time indeed. Everything I was told I would see, we saw and the information given to me by the Crew was absolutely first class...”

JD – Kent, UK

Join us – We’re Social

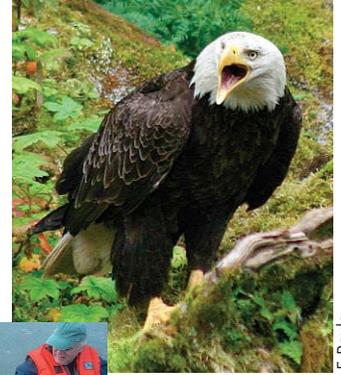


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Save Trees, Receive the Newsletter by Email

As part of our commitment to the environment, we are now using email as much as possible. If you would prefer to receive “Waterways” by email please let us know. Guests with email also receive extra updates. Bluewater will never sell, share or abuse the private information of our guests.



E. Boyle

Haida Gwaii has the 2nd highest concentration of nesting bald eagles in North America.



Our stable sea kayaks provide the perfect way to explore and be “one on one with nature.”

A lunge feeding humpback. Here you see its “baleen” plate – long hairs made of keratin used to filter their prey.



J Varley



P. McClosky

MV Snow Goose Research in Southeast Alaska

The MV Snow Goose is more than the perfect vessel to host memorable natural history expeditions in Southeast Alaska. Each fall, the Snow Goose and her Crew take part in research projects assisting scientists studying various coastal subjects like whales and otters. This year they assisted plant and soil ecologists in mapping the remote area of Glacier National Park in gathering soil inventories and documenting soil erosion hazards. Keep up the great work!

