



**GREAT BEAR SEA
WITH RAINCOAST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

Sample Itinerary

Start: Prince Rupert, BC

Finish: Bella Bella, BC

Vessel: SV Island Roamer

Note: This is intended as a Sample Itinerary. Please do not book flights based on information listed in this document as changes are possible. You will be provided with an Arrivals and Departures Itinerary once all details have been confirmed.

This 8-day voyage operates one-way from Prince Rupert to Bella Bella, BC in order to access some of the most remote and wild areas of the British Columbia coast. The Great Bear Rainforest is the largest remaining tract of unspoiled temperate rainforest remaining in the world. There are several routes along the famed 'Inside Passage' and we will weave our way south, guided by the wildlife, weather and group interests. The geography ranges from the towering Coast Mountains with waterfalls cascading thousands of feet, to large coastal islands such as Pitt, Campania and Princess Royal, and right out to the low lying islands bordering Hecate Strait. We anchor every night in a new and secluded bay – a perfect time to explore by zodiac or sea kayak along the shore. When we see wildlife we stop to enjoy the experience. We expect to go ashore every day to explore.

The passages of the North and Central Coast are rich feeding grounds for marine mammals. Salmon returning to spawn congregate in waterways leading to their natal streams and rivers. This is high season for fish-eating "resident" orcas. By mid-summer humpback whales return to these passages to feed on small schools of fish, such as herring, sand lance or pilchard. We will spend time in the lower reaches of Douglas Channel – an area designated as *critical habitat* for both orcas and humpback whales. Whale researchers from Cetacea Lab on Gil Island estimate that one hundred humpbacks spend the summer and fall feeding in the area. In addition, recent research has learned that this area is also important to fin whales – the second largest creature on the planet. These speedy whales can be the same length as our yacht and were some of the last to suffer from whaling. Their numbers are now recovering and there are good chances we may encounter them and in addition, we expect to see a variety of other species of marine mammals – seals, sea lions, and porpoise. We will visit some beautiful coastal estuaries and hope to see grizzly bears. If we are very lucky, we may even see sea otters. Although we do not visit spirit bear stands, there is a chance we may spot one on the shoreline.

In 2006, following the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement between the British Columbia government, Coastal First Nations, the forestry industry and environmental groups, 10% of the Great Bear Rainforest was set aside for protection as Conservancies. First Nations received support to shift from resource-based revenue to developing ecotourism and any logging must now meet sustainable ecosystem-based management guidelines. Just this year, the British Columbia government and Coastal First Nations announced that a further 75% of the land area will be protected. This stretch of coastline is a rich and unique ecosystem of impressive biodiversity – from the herring and salmon in the sea, to large coastal carnivores to massive cedar trees and hemlocks. This lush green forest lining the waterway belongs to one of the largest remaining tracts of unspoiled temperate rainforest left in the World.

We intentionally keep the itinerary for the voyage flexible in order to create the best wildlife experiences.

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES

Arrival Day into Prince Rupert

We strongly recommend arriving in Prince Rupert the day prior to the trip start and staying overnight as weather can often cause flight delays.

Day 1 – Board our vessel late morning, conveniently located in quaint Cow Bay a few blocks from the downtown core in Prince Rupert. Upon boarding the crew will show you to your cabin and we will have introductions and complete a safety orientation. We will then push off and head south past the mouth of the mighty Skeena River and Lelu Island - the proposed location for an LNG shipping facility resulting in environmental concerns surrounding important salmon habitat and increased tanker traffic.

Throughout the trip, your onboard Naturalist will spend time discussing marine area protection and current efforts to end trophy hunting of grizzly bears. We will then depart on our journey south through a labyrinth of rich, coastal British Columbia wilderness.

Day 2-3 – From Chatham Sound we will enter Grenville Channel, part of the famous “Inside Passage” route to Alaska where we can expect to see fishing boats, tugs towing enormous barges and the occasional ferry passing by.

Day 4-7 - This region is typically an area known for humpback whales. We keep an eye out for large spouts, and hope to witness their very interesting behaviours like breaches, pectoral slaps, spy-hopping and possibly bubble-net feeding. We plan to visit the researchers at Cetacea Lab in lower Douglas Channel to learn about their fascinating work.

The majority of this trip is spent in traditional Tsimshian First Nations territory and we expect to go ashore to see a coastal First Nation’s new big house with its impressive interior totem poles.

A soak in natural hot pools begins our journey further south into the sheltered and remote heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. We will sail along the coastline of Princess Royal Island and into river estuaries where we hope to see the mighty grizzly. We keep watch for orca and other marine mammals like porpoise and Steller sea lions. We explore Fiordland Conservancy. With its high granite cliffs, we experience a change in scenery on our way to remote estuaries where we hope to see grizzlies foraging on the shore.

Day 8 – Upon arrival in the Heiltsuk First Nation community of Bella Bella, we disembark to catch the afternoon flight back to Vancouver.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Booking Your Flights: Please book afternoon flights only to depart Bella Bella

Our designated Travel Agency is “UNIGLOBE DIRECT TRAVEL LTD”. If you need further accommodation or help with your airfare and insurance please call Elaine Ross at 604-538-2111 ext. 6614 or email at elaine@uniglobedirect.com

PRINCE RUPERT

Air Canada provides daily flights between Vancouver, BC and Prince Rupert, BC.

Air Canada	1 (800) 247 2262	www.aircanada.ca
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Please note: The Prince Rupert Airport is located on Digby Island accessible only by ferry and shuttle bus between the airport and downtown (Prince Rupert Hotel). The shuttle service and airport ferry take about one hour and is included in your airline ticket price. Please allow plenty of time for airport transfer. Please note that the airport does not have any food services.

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES

Call the Prince Rupert Airport or visit their website to confirm the shuttle bus schedule.

Prince Rupert Airport	(250) 622 2222	www.ypr.ca
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BC Ferry Services

BC Ferries offer service from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island and travels north up the coast to Prince Rupert, BC along "Inside Passage" route. The "Inside Passage" is very scenic but will add 2 days to your trip in each direction. Reservations are required for both vehicles and passengers.

**Be advised that adverse weather and sea conditions can often create delays and disrupt ferry schedules.*

BC Ferries	1-888-223-3779	www.bcferries.com
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Pacific Coastal flies between Vancouver and Bella Bella

<http://www.pacificcoastal.com>

ACCOMMODATION

Prince Rupert has a range of accommodations to serve the needs of visitors. The following selected accommodation contacts may be useful in helping to plan your trip around your Bluewater Adventure.

PRINCE RUPERT

Eagle Bluff B&B	(250) 627 4955 (800) 833 1550	www.eaglebluff.ca eaglebed@citytel.net	\$115.single \$155 double
Pacific Inn	(250) 627 1711 (888) 663 1999	www.pacificinn.bc.ca info@pacificinn.bc.ca	\$109 single \$129 double
Prince Rupert Hotel	250.624.6711 (855) 737 8774	http://princeruprhotel.com rooms@princeruprhotel.com	\$114-\$139
Tall Trees B&B	(250) 624 3664 (877) 624 3664	www.talltreesbedbreakfast.com talltreesbedbreakfast@gmail.com	\$135-\$145
Crest Hotel	(250) 624 6771 (800) 663 8150	www.cresthotel.bc.ca info@cresthotel.bc.ca	\$175-\$349

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TOURIST INFORMATION

For information on Prince Rupert visit Tourism Prince Rupert's website www.visitprincerupert.com or call (250) 624 5637, or Toll Free: 1 800 667 1994.

To learn more about the Great Bear Rainforest and general information on British Columbia's attractions, travel, restaurants, shopping, transportation and accommodation contact **Destination British Columbia**: 1 800 435 5622 or visit the Destination BC website at www.hellobc.com

BLUEWATER ADVENTURES

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