



SOUTHEAST ALASKA EXPLORER

Sample Itinerary

Aboard S/V Island Roamer

Prince Rupert, BC to Ketchikan, AK

13 Days

Join Bluewater Adventures and experience Southeast Alaska as few can ever do! Alaska is a vast, beautiful, and truly wild place. Alaska has the highest coastal mountain range in the world. Over one-half of the world's glaciers cover these mountains and Alaska is one of only three places in the world where tidewater glaciers exist. Most of the glaciers we will see stem from the massive Stikine Ice Field, sitting high in the Coast Mountains, east of Petersburg and Wrangell.

Sail Southeast Alaska (the "Panhandle") and enjoy its abundant wildlife. Alaska is one of the few refuges left in North America for the brown (grizzly) bear. On Admiralty Island, it is calculated there is one brown bear for every square mile – almost as many bears as there are eagles. Humpback whales migrate north to feed on the herring and tiny krill that swarm in large numbers when conditions are right. Each summer, several hundred whales gather to feed in these rich northern waters. When food is plentiful, the whales are active. We look forward to witnessing a variety of behavior that may include communication and feeding methods including bubble-net feeding – which is a unique and fascinating learned behaviour.

This adventure also adds the exciting opportunity of visiting the northernmost reaches of the Great Bear Rainforest region: the Khutzeymateen Valley. Khutzeymateen Inlet holds Canada's first grizzly bear sanctuary and is home to one of British Columbia's most important coastal bear populations. Khutzeymateen (or K'tzim-a-deen) is a native Tsimshian word meaning "a confined space for salmon and bears", a suitable description – as you will soon see. We explore along the fjordic Inlet's winding shores and expect some breathtaking bear viewing in the new Khutzeymateen Conservancy as grizzly bears feed on lush sedge grasses. Bluewater Adventures is one of the few operators permitted to bring guests into the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary at the head of the inlet – a wonderful opportunity for all of our guests!

Each night we will anchor in a new scenic bay. During our shore or small boat excursions, our onboard naturalist will help identify different coastal plants, animals, birds, and marine life. Interested participants can help keep a species list for the trip. There will be time to explore the protected waters using our stable sea-kayaks.

As with all Bluewater adventures, we may take you out of your comfort zone to make the most of an unforgettable journey. As our itinerary will take us to very remote areas, weather and tides may dictate the regions that we navigate. You know you are in great hands and that you will have the trip of a lifetime!

SAMPLE ITINERARY

On all our voyages we intentionally keep our itineraries flexible to take advantage of wildlife sightings, weather and tides, and the interests of the group.

Arrival into Prince Rupert, BC

Arrive in Prince Rupert the day prior to your trip start. This ensures we depart on time as there can be unforeseen weather delays when travelling in coastal regions. Prince Rupert's historic Cow Bay shopping district offers shops, galleries, restaurants, and cafes that are worth checking out.

Day 1: Trip Start

Meet at the top of the dock at Cow Bay Marina late morning. A Bluewater Adventures crew member will meet you and escort you to the vessel. After meeting the crew, cabin assignments, and a safety orientation, we will depart Prince Rupert harbour for the beauty of Chatham Sound and its myriad of islands.

We start our adventure by sailing inland to spend a day in the Khutzeymateen Inlet and Kwinamaas River (Ksi X'anmaas) area. These adjacent inlets provide excellent spring feeding for a dense population of grizzly bears.

The spring and early summer months of May and June are peak season for grizzly viewing in the Khutzeymateen (K'tzim-a-deen) and Kwinamaas (Ksi X'anmaas). Bears are attracted to the intertidal zone for its abundance of protein rich Lyngby Sedge which is an important spring food source. As this is also mating season, large, more reticent male grizzlies may also be seen searching for females in the estuary.

Day 2

We will spend a day bear viewing in Khutzeymateen Inlet, which is a protected area and is jointly managed by BC Parks, Coast Tsimshian First Nations, and the Gitsi'is Tribe collaboratively. At its head is Khutzeymateen Provincial Park, also known as Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary, which adjoins the more recently declared Conservancy lands along the inlet's length. These landscapes are collectively among the most beautiful and inspiring anywhere! Covering an area of 45,000 hectares, scientists estimate there is an important population of about 50 grizzlies protected by the restrictions of the Sanctuary.

In Khutzeymateen Inlet, viewing focuses on bear viewing in the Conservancy along the shores of the Inlet, and into the Sanctuary where only a few operators are permitted. After anchoring, we'll proceed by zodiac as we take care to spot the bears. The bear population here is not hunted and the bears display a general indifference to our presence. Still, in order to minimize our impact, we will maintain a respectful distance that allows them to engage in their natural behaviours.

Day 3-4

Continuing north, the entrance to Portland Canal marks the border between Alaska and British Columbia. Cruising up Revillagigedo Channel, we will stop briefly at Ketchikan to clear US Customs.

From Ketchikan, we continue north along Clarence Strait. Keep an eye out for bears feeding in intertidal zones and on lush sedge of the estuary – these are important food sources before the pink salmon run begins in early July. From Clarence Strait, we will either traverse Wrangell Narrows or Sumner Strait (weather and time dependent).

Wrangell Narrows a winding 35 km (19 nautical miles) long channel between Mitkof Island and Kupreanof Island. Due to navigation hazards and its winding and shallow nature, there are numerous buoys and lights to mark the path. Part of the "Inside Passage", this channel cannot be used by very large ships.

Should time and weather permit, we could instead travel west and north via Sumner Strait and Chatham Strait. This could give us the opportunity to visit Coronation Island, located off the Northwest coast of Prince of Wales Island. It is a true Alaskan wilderness with few visitors and cliffs rising 2000 feet above the sea providing a haven for nesting sea birds in the early summer.

Day 5-10

Frederick Sound, Chatham Strait, and Stephens Passage are the core feeding area for humpback whales in Southeast Alaska. Journeying through this area, we keep an eye out for large spouts and hope to witness spectacular behaviours like breaches, pectoral slaps, spy-hopping, and possibly bubble-net feeding. We will take the time to observe these amazing, 15-metre-long creatures whenever the opportunity arises. We just hope to have our cameras pointing in the right direction when one of these giant cetaceans breaches out of the water!

We will also keep an eye out for wary sea otters. In the 1700s, they were hunted for their luxurious pelts with the arrival of explorers to the North Pacific. Over 150 years of hunting nearly wiped them out completely until the signing of an international treaty to protect northern fur seals and sea otters in 1911. The 1960's saw efforts

to rebuild the population by reintroducing otters from the Aleutians and a count that took place in 2012 estimated 27,500 animals.

Admiralty Island National Monument has the highest concentration of brown bears and eagles in North America and has some beautiful evening anchorages – keep an eye out for brown bears on the shoreline! We are excited to include a visit to Pack Creek, an amazing bear watching opportunity located in a tidewater estuary up Seymour Canal. Pack Creek has been a protected area for bears for the last 40 years, and we are lucky to be amongst the 24 people a day allowed to visit.

Day 11

We will disembark for a day tour on a jetboat; escorted by a local guide, we have an opportunity to visit LeConte Glacier – the southernmost tidewater glacier in Alaska. In the last 15 years, it has receded by over a mile and a half with enormous slabs of ice “calving” into the ocean. It is located beside the Stikine River estuary – an important stop for millions of migratory birds.

Day 12

We continue south back among the narrow passages of Etolin and Wrangell Islands, this time stopping at Anan Bay. Anan Creek has the largest run of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska, and this accumulation of food attracts bears, eagles, ravens, and seals. The US Forest Service wildlife observatory is famous, and we are very fortunate to have the opportunity to watch black and brown (grizzly) bears feeding on spawning salmon in a rushing river – a classic Alaska experience! Access to this area is strictly limited in order to protect the wildlife and local habitat.

Day 13: Trip Finish

The trip concludes mid-afternoon upon our arrival in Ketchikan. After clearing customs, passengers can catch an **evening** flight to Seattle to continue their journey home or spend extra time exploring the town.

In the late 1800's the lucrative cannery industry earned Ketchikan the title of “Salmon Capital of the World”. Before flying home, guests may wish to enjoy some of the many activities Ketchikan offers. From walking along the old boardwalk “streets” of Creek Street, to visiting the Totem Heritage Center to see their collection of original totem poles collected from now uninhabited Tlingit and Haida Villages, to touring the town via amphibious duck boat, there is something for everyone!

CUSTOMS INFORMATION

The Island Roamer will be passing Canada Customs & Immigration inspection upon entry into the United States of America at Ketchikan, AK. All passengers must carry proper identification and documentation necessary for international travel and for entry into the United States. Bluewater Adventures is required to provide US Customs and Border Protection with a list of passengers and crew, in advance of our arrival in Ketchikan. We require your **Full Legal Name, Passport Number, Date of Birth** and **Citizenship** as it appears on your identity and travel documents. Please ensure you provide this information on the forms you return to the Bluewater Adventures office.

All international travellers arriving into Canada are now required to apply for an [Electronic Travel Authorization \(eTA\)](#), prior to their trip, in order to fly to or transit through a Canadian airport. Canadian and U.S. citizens are exempt. Please visit the Government of Canada’s official website to find out if you are eligible and to apply.

For entry into the United States, all international travelers will need to complete the [Electronic System for Travel Authorization \(ESTA\)](#). Canadian and U.S. citizens are exempt. If you hold a passport issued by a country that is not a US Visa Waiver country, please follow the directions on how to obtain a Visitor’s Visa. Please visit the U.S. Customs and Border Protection official website to find out if you are eligible and to apply.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Prince Rupert is located on the north coast of British Columbia, about 750 kilometers (465 miles) north of Vancouver, BC. Ketchikan is located in Southeast Alaska, about 380 kilometers (235 miles) southeast of Juneau, AK. Scheduled air service is the fastest, most convenient way to get there.

Flights

PRINCE RUPERT, BC

Air Canada provides daily flights between Prince Rupert and Vancouver, BC. Air Canada also provides service to Seattle as well as connections to other major cities.

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| 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.

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

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| Prince Rupert Airport | (250) 624-6274 | www.ypr.ca |
| Shuttle Information | (250) 622 2222 | |

KETCHIKAN, AK

Alaska Airlines provides several daily flights between Seattle Tacoma International Airport and Ketchikan and all major communities in Southeast Alaska.

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| Alaska Airlines | 1 800-252-752 | www.alaskaair.com |
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Please note: The Ketchikan Airport is located on Gravina Island and is accessible via ferry. The airport ferry leaves the town side for the airport at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour. Adult fare is \$6 (subject to change). There are luggage carts to help move bags on the ferry and up the walkway to the airport if you choose to walk onto the ferry.

Ferry Services

The **Alaska Marine Highway** (Alaska State Ferry) system services all of the larger communities in Southeast Alaska, Prince Rupert, BC and south to Bellingham, WA. One can travel as a foot passenger or pay an additional fee for a cabin.

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| Alaska Marine Highway | 1-800-642-0066 | dot.alaska.gov/amhs/index.shtml |
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BC Ferries offers 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.

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| BC Ferries | 1-888-223-3779 | www.bcferrries.com |
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Be advised that adverse weather and sea conditions can often create delays and disrupt ferry schedules.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

PRINCE RUPERT, BC

Skeena Taxi services the Prince Rupert area. Taxis are readily available to flag down, or they can be reached by phone at 250-624-2185.

Public transportation is available in Prince Rupert. Visit www.bctransit.com/prince-rupert/home for schedules, pricing, and further information

KETCHIKAN, AK

Sourdough Cab services the Ketchikan area, although most tourist destinations are located in and around downtown, which can be easily navigated on foot. They can be reached by phone at 907-225-5544.

There is also a free downtown shuttle bus which runs in a loop between the cruise ship docks and key downtown locations from May to September.

ACCOMMODATION

Prince Rupert and Ketchikan have a range of accommodations to serve the needs of visitors. The following are only a few selected accommodation contacts which may be useful in helping to begin planning your trip around your Bluewater Adventure.

PRINCE RUPERT, BC

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| Crest Hotel | 250-624-6771 1-800-663-8150 | cresthotel.bc.ca info@cresthotel.bc.ca |
| Eagle Bluff B&B | 250-627-4955 1-800-833-1550 | eaglebluff.ca eaglebed@citytel.net |
| Pacific Inn | 250-627-1711 1-888-663-1999 | pacificinn.bc.ca info@pacificinn.bc.ca |
| Prestige Prince Rupert Hotel | 250-624-6711 1-877-737-8443 | princerupert.com princerupert@prestige-hotels.ca |
| Tall Trees B&B | 778-884-6588 | talltreesbedbreakfast.com talltreesbedbreakfast@gmail.com |

KETCHIKAN, AK

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| Black Bear Inn | 907-617-7567 | www.stayinalaska.com blackbearalaska@aol.com |
| Cape Fox Lodge | 1-866-225-8001 | capefoxlodge.com |
| Inn at Creek Street | 907-225-0246 | www.creekstreet.com inn@creekstreet.com |
| The Landing Hotel | 907-225-5166 1 800-428-8304 | www.landinghotel.com |

TOURIST INFORMATION

PRINCE RUPERT, BC

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.

For general information on British Columbia's attractions, travel, restaurants, shopping, transportation and accommodation visit Destination BC or the Tourism BC website at www.hellobc.com.

KETCHIKAN, AK

For information on Ketchikan visit the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau website www.visit-ketchikan.com or call (907) 225-6166, or Toll Free: 1 800-770-3300. The Visitor Center is another great source of information – they can provide a walking map or information on various guided tours.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Due to the nature of travel with Bluewater Adventures, passengers should have in place, prior to departure, comprehensive insurance coverage including medical and emergency evacuation, trip cancellation and interruption, and baggage insurance. It is the responsibility of the guest to secure insurance to the level that they prefer. Bluewater Adventures terms apply to all passengers. Additional expenses are the full responsibility of the passenger. Any losses experienced because of incorrect travel planning or not securing adequate insurance will also be the full responsibility of the passenger.



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