

Great Bear Rainforest

BC's Central Coast
Bears, Whales & Totem Poles



Information about the Journey



We explore British Columbia's remote reaches of the North and the largest tract of intact temperate rainforest left on earth. The **Great Bear Rainforest** unfolds its convoluted coastline and allows us to experience the true spirit of this spectacular region. Towering glacial mountains, waterfalls leaping unbounded out of sheer cliffs and magnificent wildlife are interwoven into the fabric of a rich and proud First Nations culture.

We have timed our exploration to observe wildlife feeding on the summer abundance as they prepare for the leaner winter months. **Orcas and Humpback whales, white sided dolphins, black, Kermode/Spirit Bear, grizzly bears and wolves, bald eagles, and many sea birds** feast on the salmon; easy prey as they gather and ready to head up the stream to spawn.

The **Great Bear Rainforest** reveals complex First Nations heritage demonstrated in the **Heiltsuk, Kitasoo, and Haisla** art, culture and history present in local communities and midden sites we visit along the way. Each day we will anchor in isolated and spectacular bays for a chance to view ancient **petroglyphs** and **pictographs** or to visit remote coastal communities like **Klemtu** or **Hartley Bay** for a special visit to one of their magnificent **longhouses**.

Travelling deep into remote forested fjords, inlets and estuaries we will visit the home of the grizzly bear and the magnificent '**Spirit Bear**': The Kermode bear is a rare all white sub-specie of the black bear. A sighting of this splendid animal may reward our patience. As we explore further into these spectacular fjords we may also catch glimpses of **wolves** roaming along the tidal estuaries.





Great Bear Rainforest Itinerary

Itinerary: *Subject to changes due to either weather condition, group interest or wildlife focus*



(Sample)

Day 1

We time our departure with the daily flight arriving from Vancouver boarding Duen at Bella Bella's government dock shortly after landing. We set sail through **Lama Passage** along **Ivory Island Lighthouse** Northbound for **Oliver Cove** anchorage where we will explore its protected islands by zodiac and kayaks.



Day 2 - 5

We journey along **Mathieson Channel** towards **James Bay** to explore its winding stream where we may enjoy a sighting of either grizzly, or the rare all-white Spirit bear, and wolves known to feast on the salmon heading up the stream.

We move north to **Kynoch Inlet** to enjoy one of the most spectacular waterfalls found in the Great Bear Rainforest. We follow this steep granite inlet to the heart of **Kynoch Estuary** for a view of ancient pictographs and explore **Cul Pepper Lagoon** ashore and by zodiac and kayaks.



We continue northward to **Mussel Inlet** and **Poison Cove** for the opportunity to see grizzly bears known to frequent the area. Along **Sheep Passage** we may get a glimpse of mountain goats perched along the steep granite landscape as we travel towards **Thistle Passage** and approach from **South Laredo Inlet**, the heart of **Princess Royal Island**. Here we view majestic bald eagle nests, and rugged and lush coastal shoreline as we enter **Laredo Inlet**. We offer hikes along salmon streams and our patience may be rewarded by sighting of the beautiful and rare white **Kermode bear - Spirit bear** - searching for easy feed along tributaries.



Day 6 - 9

Travelling south along **Tolmie Channel** and **Boat Bluff** lighthouse we will continue to the Kitsoo First Nations village of **Klemtu**. From here we will set sail towards **Milbanke Sound** for possible sightings of Humpback whales or Pacific white sided dolphins known to transit the area before our final course back to **Bella Bella**.



Great Bear Rainforest

General Travelling Info



How do I travel to/from Bella Bella

Bella Bella is situated along British Columbia's Inside Passage between Port Hardy and Prince Rupert. It is serviced daily by Pacific Coastal Airlines from/to Vancouver, BC. BC Ferries also services the area via the Discovery Coast Passage leaving from/to Port Hardy on Vancouver Island, to/from Shearwater across from Bella Bella. A water taxi services Shearwater to Bella Bella.

PACIFIC COASTAL AIRLINES..... 604- 273-8666
www.pacificcoastal.com Toll free..... 800-663-2872
BC FERRY CORP 250- 386-3431
www.bcferries.com Toll free BC ... 888-223-3779

Accommodation in Shearwater (Across from Bella Bella)

Shearwater Marine Resort Direct: 250-957-2305
www.shearwater.ca Toll free 800-663-2370
Denny Island B&B 250-957-4248
www.dennyislandbandb.com

Joining instructions

Although it is possible to join DUEN on the day of departure, we recommend that you find accommodation the night before.

Embark..... First day at 11:00 AM *
Disembark..... Last day at 02:00 PM *

* Subject to changes of airline schedule

