

# Great Bear Rainforest Sailing Itinerary

[Link: Great Bear Rainforest Sailing](#)

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## Tour Overview

Cruise the Great Bear Rainforest in search of bears, whales and wolves. The remote central coast of British Columbia holds a spectacularly scenic wilderness. Every fall Grizzly and Black Bears come down from the towering peaks and lush rainforests to feed on spawning salmon.

On this adventure we search for these bears, including the all white race of Black Bear called a Kermode or Spirit Bear. We also have a good chance of finding wolves, humpback whales and numerous migrating and resident birds, including large numbers of Bald Eagles.

Join us to experience nature as you have never seen it alongside ten-thousand-year-old native cultures and learn why the Great Bear Rainforest is one of the last gems on the Pacific Coast.

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*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. This sample itinerary describes a typical 8-day trip, however, activities may occur in a different order or be substituted by suitable alternatives. Itinerary*

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## Itinerary

### Day 0: Arrival in Terrace

You should schedule your flight to arrive in Terrace today. Accommodations and meals are not included today.

## Day 1: Embarkation, Kitimat



Pick up on the morning of Day 1 will be at select hotels in Terrace (refer to your Itinerary Package for further details). The shuttle will transfer guests from Terrace to Kitimat where you will meet your crew & vessel. Following boarding, we'll depart into a land of dense forests reaching to the water's edge, towering rocky fjords, and lush valley estuaries.

## Days 2-4: Douglas Channel



As we explore the waters of southern Douglas Channel and at various other places along our journey, we expect to encounter humpback whales. We'll take the time to observe these 15-metre-long creatures whenever the opportunity arises and hope to witness spectacular behaviours like breaches, pectoral slaps, and possibly bubble-net feeding (an amazing cooperative foraging technique). We also hope to have luck in spotting other marine mammals like fin whales, orca, porpoise, and Steller sea lions. Time allowing, we may visit local whale researchers to learn about their fascinating work. There may be an opportunity to visit Bishop Bay hot springs for a soothing soak amidst an eclectic collection of fishing floats.

## Days 5 - 7: The "Salmon Forest"



As we travel along Princess Royal Island, we keep a close watch on the shoreline, since this is the best-known area for seeing the elusive, all-white Spirit bear (also known as Kermode bear). These white bears are black bears expressing a genetic variation resulting in light coloured fur. We are fortunate to spend a day with local Gitga'at First Nation guides who will take us to their favourite bear viewing areas. With a little patience, we hope to be lucky enough to see black bears and the Spirit bear fishing for salmon at quiet spawning streams hidden in the thick of the forest. This unique coastal ecosystem supports impressive biodiversity - from salmon and marine mammals in the sea, to bears, coastal wolves, birds, and massive trees on land. We expect some good grizzly viewing at the water's edge when visiting lush estuaries in the beautiful river valley of Khutze Inlet (K'ootz/Khutze Conservancy) and Fiordland Conservancy with its rocky cliff faces.

## Day 8: Departure - Bella Bella

Our trip finishes in the small First Nations coastal town of Bella Bella - also known as Waglisla - which is the home of the Heiltsuk First Nation. We will arrive at the Bella Bella Municipal Dock just before noon in time to catch the afternoon flight back to Vancouver. Guests can also explore the area further on their own - nearby Shearwater is a short seabus ride away and offers the most amenities for visitors.

## What to Expect

On our Great Bear Rainforest tour, as in all of our destinations, our itineraries remain flexible. This allows the crew to take time to enjoy wildlife sightings, spend more time at an ancient village site, or simply cater to the interests of the group.

This is a general natural history expedition rather than a dedicated birding tour. Travellers can look forward to a mix of wildlife viewing and time to appreciate the region's incredible scenery — with opportunities for birding included along the way.

Usually on the Pacific Coast we have a good variety of constantly changing weather. Expect a mixture of sunshine, rain and wind on most trips. You will require waterproof rain gear and rubber boots as most of our landings will be wet, where you will be stepping into the water and onto the beach. Boots can be provided for guests who require them; sizing must be supplied well in advance of the trip. Large rain ponchos are also available, however guests should plan to bring their own waterproof jacket and pants, which also serve as excellent wind protection while on deck viewing wildlife.

We travel in protected areas most of the time. On many days of the summer this coast is like sailing on a lake - flat and calm. Sometimes we cross into open water for short periods of time where we may experience greater motion. If you are prone to motion sickness it is a good idea to bring sea sickness medication. Check with your doctor.

All of our meals are served buffet style. We can usually accommodate most special dietary concerns if we are given sufficient advance notice. Alcoholic beverages are available for purchase onboard. A modest amount of wine is served at dinner and beer is usually available. Coffee and a wide selection of herbal teas are available throughout the day. Guests are also welcome to bring their own preferred drinks, including soft drinks, which can be refrigerated as space allows.

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## What's Included

### **Tour Price Includes**

- All meals from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on the last day
- All accommodation onboard ship; skipper, cook, naturalist;
- Full use of all onboard facilities, including kayaks.

### **Tour Price Does Not Include**

- Transportation to the start point and from the finish point of the trip
  - Accommodation and meals prior to or after the trip
  - Travel or cancellation insurance
  - Airport transfers
  - \$200 CAD Sustainability Fee
  - Taxes (5% GST)
  - The only money participants require during the trip is for optional purchases and gratuities for the crew.
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