

Great Bear Sea Sailing Itinerary

Link: Great Bear Sea Sailing

Tour Overview

Come celebrate and explore the north and central coast of British Columbia with the anticipation of encountering some amazing wildlife.

We keep our itineraries purposefully flexible allowing our captains to cater to the needs and interests of their group as well as take into account weather, wildlife sightings, and more. Itinerary

Itinerary

Day 0: Arrival in Prince Rupert, BC



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

Day 1: Embarkation, Prince Rupert, BC



Meet the crew at the top of the dock at the Cow Bay Marina in the late morning. Upon boarding the vessel, cabins will be assigned and following introductions and safety orientation we will depart Prince Rupert.

Days 2-4: Bears, Sailing and Humpback Whales



We return to the outer islands and lower topography of Chatham Sound; Porcher, Stephens and Dundas Islands are the largest in the area with remote beaches for us to explore. As the waters surrounding these outer islands are more exposed, we also hope for a good wind to allow for the opportunity to set the sails and enjoy the silence and serenity of nature. Humpback whales congregate along the mainland coast and we expect to find them feeding here. We also keep watch for other marine mammals like orca, porpoise, and Steller sea lions – an inquisitive species that are expert, deep-water predators.

Days 5 - 7: Inside Passage with Whales, Whales



Heading south from Chatham Sound we will enter Grenville Channel, part of the famous "Inside Passage" route to Alaska towards southern Douglas Channel (Wright Sound, Squally Channel, and Whale Channel). Exploring these waters - and at various other places along our journey - we expect to see humpback whales. We keep an eye out for large spouts and hope to witness very interesting behaviours like breaches, pectoral slaps, spy-hopping and possibly bubble-net feeding. Fin whales have also been spotted in Caamano Sound and we hope to have luck spotting these massive and speedy cetaceans. 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 rare all-white Spirit bear. There is a chance we may spot one foraging along the shore. Admiralty Island National Monument has the highest concentration of brown (grizzly) bears in North America. Pack Creek on Admiralty Island has been a protected area for brown bears for the last 40 years and offers amazing viewing opportunities in the estuary of their estimated resident 1,500 bears.

Day 8: Departure - Kitimat, Shuttle to Terrace



We will arrive in Kitimat around noon. Travel time to the airport is approximately 1 hour. We will provide transportation for you and your luggage to the Terrace Airport for a mid/late-afternoon flight. Alternatively, you can decide to spend an extra day in Terrace and either depart on the evening flight or the next day.

What to Expect

On our Great Bear Sea sailing 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 a 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 rubberboots as most of our landings will be wet, where you will be stepping into the water and onto the beach.

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.

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 or meals prior to the start of the trip or after the completion
- 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.