

Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bears Sailing Itinerary

[Link: Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bears Sailing](#)

Tour Overview

The Khutzeymateen Inlet is one of British Columbia's most northern glacial fjords, with characteristic steep cliffs, thick forests and rich estuary ecosystems. The Khutzeymateen Valley is Canada's only grizzly bear sanctuary and is home to British Columbia's most important coastal bear population.

We voyage along the Inlet's winding shores and expect some wonderful bear viewing in the new Khutzeymateen Conservancy. We look forward to exploring the outer islands, watching Steller sea lions on the hunt and at play. While ashore, we walk along rugged beaches and take the time for hikes to see bog flowers. Each day, we enjoy our time for incredible sea kayaking among rock studded anchorages.

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 7-day trip, however, activities may occur in a different order or be substituted by suitable alternatives. Itinerary

Itinerary

Day 1: Embarkation Prince Rupert



Meet your vessel late morning at Cow Bay in Prince Rupert. Departing the harbour quickly leads us off the beaten path into the awe-inspiring geography of the north coast of British Columbia with its dense rainforests, winding fjords, and high rugged mountains.

Days 2 - 3: Chatham Sound



The myriad of islands in Chatham Sound offer remote beaches to explore and beautiful anchorages in which to kayak, while the waters here offer the chance to search for marine mammals such as sea lions and whales. The waters surrounding these outer islands are more exposed and we hope for a good wind to allow for the opportunity to raise the sails and enjoy the silence and serenity of nature.

Days 4 - 6: Khutzeymateen Inlet



Sailing inland we'll spend one day bear viewing in Ksi X'anmaas (Kwinimass River) Conservancy and two days bear viewing in Khutzeymateen Inlet (Khutzeymateen/K'tzim-a-deen Grizzly Sanctuary). The Khutzeymateen Valley holds Canada's first grizzly bear sanctuary and these adjacent inlets are an important home to a dense bear population. In Khutzeymateen Inlet, our trip focuses on bear viewing along the shores of the inlet and into the estuary where only a few operators are permitted. Thanks to this exclusivity, this stunning bear viewing location with its backdrop of snow-capped peaks is a well kept secret. After anchoring, we'll proceed by zodiac as we take care to spot foraging bears from the water. May and June are peak season for viewing as bears are attracted to the estuary for its abundance of protein rich sedge grasses – an integral spring food source. Spring is also mating season which means there is the potential to see larger male grizzlies in search of females.

Day 7 - Return to Prince Rupert



We return through narrow Venn Passage to Prince Rupert. Venn Passage has an incredible collection of petroglyphs (indigenous rock carvings); tides depending, we may have a chance to see some of these ancient carvings and learn of their history from a local Tsimshian Guide. We return to Prince Rupert around noon. Guests will have time for lunch and a wander through town before catching a mid-afternoon flight back to Vancouver.

What to Expect

On our Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear tour, as in all of our sailing trips, 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.

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.
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