

Quest for the Spirit Bear

The Elusive White Bear of British Columbia

INTERNATIONAL
Wildlife
ADVENTURES

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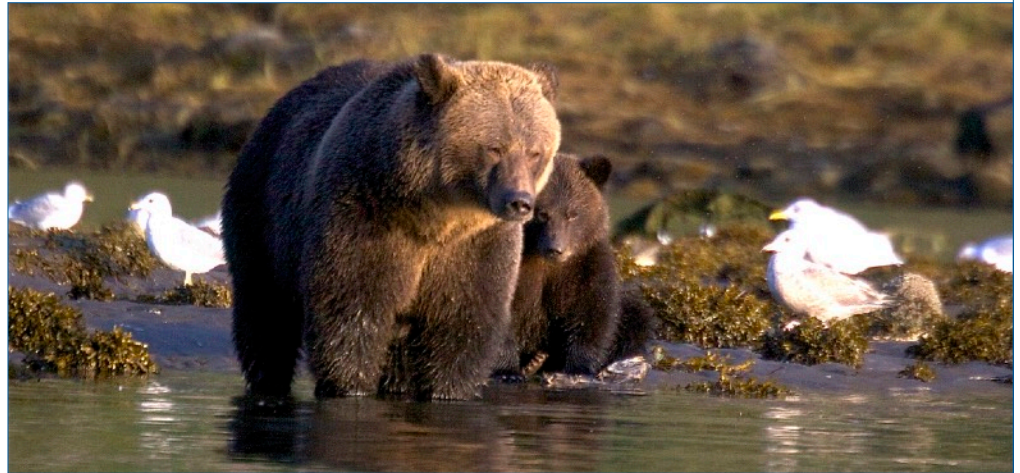
Highlights

2018

- #1: Northern Great Bear Explorer
Aug. 28-Sept. 6, 2018 //
Kutzeymateen and Spirit Bear
areas
- #2: Quest for the Spirit Bear
Sept. 22-29, 2018
- #3: Quest for the Spirit Bear Oct.
5-12, 2018
- Explore the deep fjords and inlets
of the British Columbia
temperate rainforest
- Photograph the rare Spirit Bear
as well as brown and black
bears
- Kayak around fjords
- Walk trails with First Nations
guides and visit their villages
- See humpback whales close up
- Excellent food and expert guides
- Small group size of only 14 for
maximum flexibility



Cruising the fjords of British Columbia



Brown bear with cub. Susie Green

One of the Tsimshians' myths says that "Raven made one in every ten bears white to remind the people of the time when glaciers covered this land". The Tsimshian speaking people attribute the white kermode bears with supernatural powers, hence they are also known as the "Spirit Bear", a name that suits their apparition-like presence. The rare white kermode, a subspecies of the black bear, is wild, elusive and little known to North Americans other than the Tsimshian-speaking people of the north coast of British Columbia. These people have shared territory for thousands of years with the kermode bear.

Princess Royal Island, Gribbell Island and other nearby islands off the north coast of British Columbia, are home to a healthy population of Spirit Bears. The island is a perfect bear habitat with its old-growth hemlock and cedar forest; tidewater estuaries rich with grasses, roots and berries; and sparkling streams of spawning salmon which bring the bears down from the hills to gather along the streams. The surrounding mountains and

rainforest are home to grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, black bears, deer and beaver. Though this trip is called Quest for the Spirit Bear, you will have excellent chances to see and photograph black bears, brown bears, humpback whales and Orcas.

We'll explore aboard a comfortable 68' ketch which accommodates up to 14 people in eight cabins. The yacht is crewed by an experienced staff and is a comfortable base. Meals are eaten on board with the exception of some picnic lunches while exploring the heart of the rainforest. A zodiac is used to transfer people to shore and there are kayaks in which you can explore on your own.

Bear viewing stands provide access to some of the best bear watching in the world. This is a truly unique adventure for photographers and naturalists alike!

Sample itineraries only - subject to change due to wildlife and weather conditions.

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Sample itinerary: subject to change due to weather, animal behavior and sightings.

#1: Northern Great Bear Explorer Aug. 28-Sept. 5, 2018

Day 0: arrive Prince Rupert: overnight not included

Day 1: Board boat: Head toward Portland Inlet

Day 2-4: Khutzeymateen and Inner Water: Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary traveling along shore where the grizzlies forage for salmon.

Day 5-8: Douglas Channel and Princess Royal Island: the best area for sighting the rare Spirit or Kermode Bears near Princess Royal Island.

Day 9: End in Terrace, BC: head home from Terrace, BC

#2: Quest for the Spirit Bear Sept. 22-29, 2018

Day 0: Arrive Terrace, BC: overnight in Terrace not included

Day 1: Board SV Odyssey: board boat and set sail toward the Great bear Rainforest.

Day 2-7: On board exploring the Great Bear Rainforest! The next 5 days travel down Douglas Channel watching the shoreline for bears, wolves. In the Central Coast, continue through Campania Sound and Whale Channel - excellent areas for spotting humpback whales and Steller sea lions. We will spend a day with our Gitga'at First Nations guides taking us to their favorite bear viewing areas. We hope to be lucky enough to see grizzlies, black bears and the elusive, all-white Spirit Bear!

Day 8: Trip Finish - Bella Bella: fly home

#3: Quest for the Spirit Bear on Island Solitude Oct. 5-12, 2018

Day 0: Arrive Terrace, BC: overnight not included

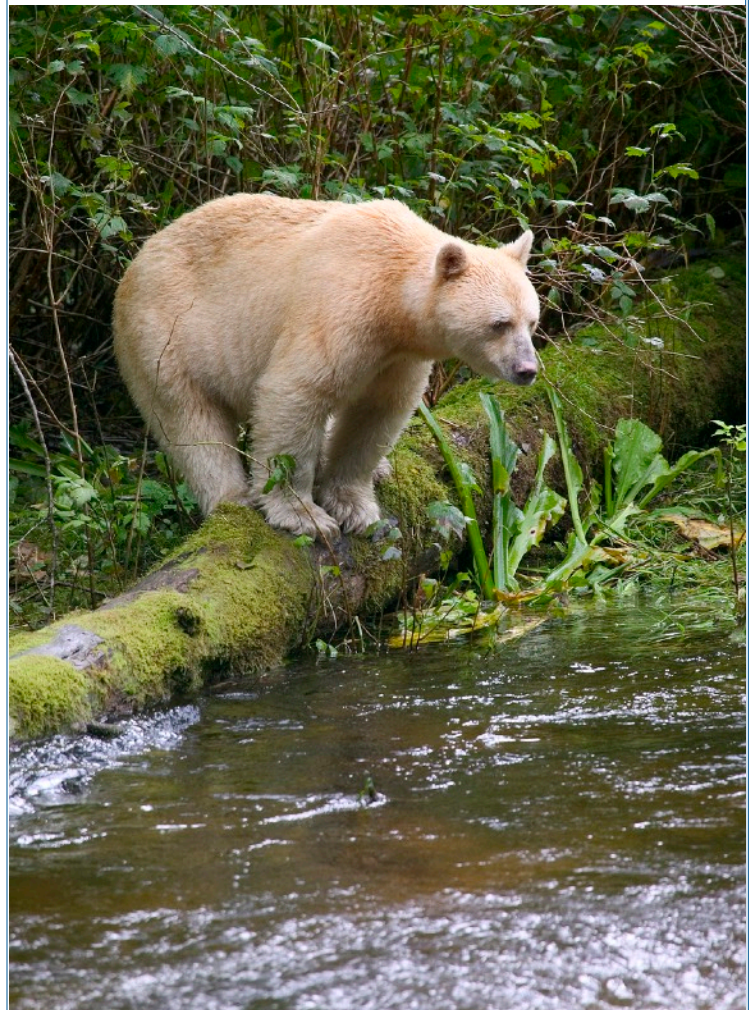
Day 1: Board boat: Set sail for Great bear Rainforest

Day 2-7: Douglas Channel: The next two days will be focused on the Douglas Channel. Here you will see spectacular rock faces and impressive waterfalls. We will explore remote estuaries and expect to see bears attracted by the spawning salmon.

Princess Royal Island: We travel along the shore of Princess Royal Island - the best known area for seeing Spirit Bears. We will visit creeks and river estuaries and keep an eye out along the shore as we travel. Khutze Inlet has a beautiful river valley, an abundance of birdlife and we may see bears along the shore.



We are fortunate to spend time with local Gitga'at First Nations guides who will take us to their favorite wildlife viewing areas where we will get one of our best chances to





viewing areas where we will get one of our best chances to spot the elusive Spirit Bear.

Day 8: Back to Bella Bella: fly home

Tour Details

Prices:

#1: Northern Great Bear Explorer: Aug. 28-Sept. 5, 2018

\$5,820 CAD Plus taxes on *MS Island Odyssey*

#2: Quest for the Spirit Bear: Sept. 22-29, 2018

\$5,575 CAD Plus taxes on *MS Island Odyssey*

#3: Quest for the Spirit Bear: Oct. 5-12, 2018

\$6,970 CAD plus taxes on *MV Island Solitude*

Rates per person CAD based on double occupancy, plus 5% GST, plus \$100 per person for sustainability fee added at booking. There is no single berth on the boat.

Price includes lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on last day, the boat, and all activities and guide services.

Registration: To confirm your space on this tour, please send a \$600 deposit to our office. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

The day-to-day itinerary is subject to weather and animal activity. The above itineraries are a sample only. Flight delays can happen due to weather and neither IWA nor the boat operator is responsible for any additional costs due to delays.

Cancellation Policy: In the event you must cancel your reservation, refunds will be made according to the following schedule: Deposit of \$600 USD is nonrefundable, unless space can be resold, in which case a \$300 Service Charge will apply. 90 to 61 days prior to departure, 50% of total is nonrefundable; less than 60 days prior to departure, 100% nonrefundable.

Insurance: Because many advance logistical arrangements have been made prior to the running of this trip, we must adhere to the above policy. In light of this, *we strongly recommend trip cancellation insurance.* A quote will be sent to you upon request.

To book this trip, call:
800.808.4492 (US & Canada);
575.524.0084 (Worldwide)
Visit [Webpage:](#)
[Quest for the Spirit Bear](#)



Boat Information

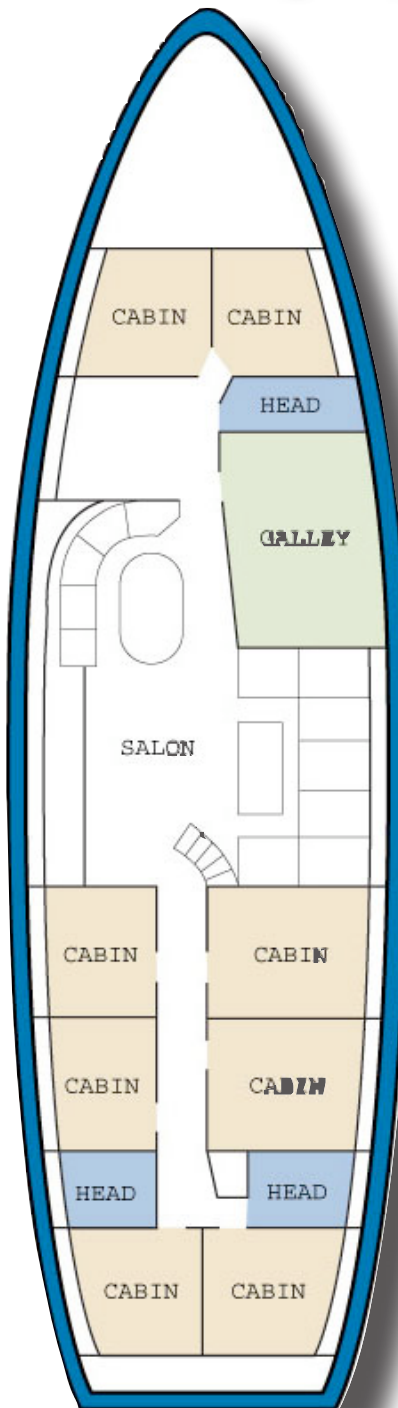


Island Odyssey & Roamer



This 68' ketch, *The Island Roamer and Island Odyssey*, are sister-ships. Originally built as a luxurious private yacht in 1984, she completed a major renovation in 2003 to update the cabins and all safety systems. She features 8 private cabins (double occupancy), 3 heads with hot showers and a comfortable salon with a natural history library. On deck, the large deckhouse provides a comfortable spot to watch for wildlife.

A certified Canadian Ministry of Transport passenger vessel, *Island Odyssey/Island Roamer* has all of the safety equipment, electronic navigation aids, and features you would expect from a vessel of her standard. All of our cabins have adequate storage space for your bags, personal items and jackets. Coat hangers and life jackets are stowed in every cabin for your convenience. There is electricity in each room, so you can charge your camera batteries and enjoy a reading light in the evening.



Spirit Bear Lodge

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Highlights

Daily departures
June 1-October 10, 2018

- Base out of a lodge for daily excursions returning in the evening
- View and photograph the rare kermode, or Spirit Bear as well as brown and black bears
- Paddle the rugged shoreline in kayaks
- Walk trails with First Nations guides and stay in their village of Klemtu
- See humpback and Orcas whales close up
- Excellent food at the lodge
- Small group size for maximum flexibility on guided hikes
- 3 - 6 Night packages



Lodge-based Tour of the Great Bear Rainforest



All photos Randy Green

The Great Bear Rainforest of British Columbia is the largest intact piece of temperate rainforest left on the planet. Grizzly bears, black bears, the Kermode bear (Spirit Bear), Orcas, humpback, coastal wolves and a variety of other species call this home.

Spirit Bear Lodge is located in Klemtu in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. Located 280 nautical miles north of Vancouver, BC. Klemtu is a Kitasoo/Xai/Xais fishing village centrally located for access to the best bear viewing areas. First Nations people own and operate the lodge where many of the guides are born and raised in Klemtu having exclusive access to the recently created Spirit Bear Conservancy. Community Elders often tell family stories while driving the skiffs on your Quest for the Spirit Bear.

The lodge was built in 2007 offering 12 rooms with private bath rooms. This is a great alternative for those guests that want to come back daily to private land based rooms.

Guests depart Vancouver's South terminal and fly to Bella Bella, BC where they are met and taken to the water taxi terminal for the 90 minute boat ride to Klemtu and the Spirit Bear Lodge.

After you settle in, you'll enjoy a buffet dinner, followed by an orientation and evening presentation on coastal ecology.

Each day includes one of several guided activities. You'll travel by boat, to one of many estuaries to look for grizzly bears, black bears, wolves, eagles, and, with luck, the shy spirit bear. Depending on the time of year, you may also have the option of a humpback whale watching trip.

Others excursions include sea kayaking, or a day trip to the UNESCO World Heritage site candidate Dis'ju Historic Long House.

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2018 Season

Low Season June 1 - July 31

Shoulder Season: August 1 - 28

High Season: August 29 - October 10

All trips include:

- Round trip air Vancouver/Bella Bella
- Water taxi from Bella Bella to Klemtu and Spirit Bear Lodge
- All nights accommodations at Spirit Bear Lodge
- Welcome briefing and orientation to tours
- All meals while at Spirit Bear Lodge
- All transportation to viewing areas
- Professional guided services on all programs
- Full day to main grizzly viewing area
- Half day morning excursion (optional) on departure day

Tour Options: 4, 5 or 6 night packages

- Humpback whale watching tour
- Extended cultural and natural history site interpretive walking
- Evening Big House interpretive tour
- Evening guide presentation/slide show
- Coastal Watchman Program user fee

Tour options: 5/6/7 night packages

- Full day Spirit Bear Quest - Canoona River
- Full day Spirit Bear Quest - Princess Royal Island
- Additional full day for grizzly at Carter Bay
- UNESCO day trip to Dis'ju
- Humpback whale tour - Finlayson Channel
- Kitasu Hill boat excursion
- Beachcombing/exploration in Kitasu Bay
- Kitasu salmon Hatchery tour

The Kitasoo feel that every family member's spirit passes on to another form when their body dies whether it is the raven, the spirit bear, a whale or salmon just to name a few. Hence they never say good bye - always - see you later!

Visit Webpage

[Spirit Bear Lodge](#)

Low	3N/4D	4N/5D	5N/6D	6N/7D
Double	\$2,950	\$3,585	\$4,215	\$4,840
Single	\$4,405	\$5,340	\$6,300	\$7,245

Shoulder	3N/4D	4N/5D	5N/6D	6N/7D
Double	\$3,310	\$4,135	\$5,030	\$5,855
Single	\$4,950	\$6,175	\$7,520	\$8,770

High	3N/4D	4N/5D	5N/6D	6N/7D
Double	\$3,660	\$4,565	\$5,475	\$6,385
Single	\$5,520	\$6,960	\$8,385	\$9,830

Rates are Canadian dollars and will be converted to USD at time of booking.

Triple and Child rates also available. Please refer to website: [Spirit Bear Lodge](#).

Price does not include taxes of 2.5% (non-Canadian residents), gratuities (recommended \$30 per day) and items of a personal nature.

Registration

To confirm your space on this tour, please send a \$750 deposit to our office. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

The day-to-day itinerary is subject to weather and animal activity. The above itinerary is a sample only. Flight delays can happen due to weather and neither IWA nor the boat operator is responsible for any additional costs due to delays.

Cancellation Policy

In case of cancellation, refunds will be made according to the following schedule: Deposit of \$750 USD is nonrefundable. 90 to 61 days prior to departure, 50% of total is nonrefundable; less than 60 days prior to departure, 100% nonrefundable.

Insurance: We strongly recommend trip cancellation insurance. Please contact us for a quote..

To book this trip, call:

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