



Explore • Discover • Capture

Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen

June 14 - 20, 2012



Trip Highlights

- Enter a pristine wildlife reserve for four full days of intimate grizzly bear encounters in beautiful British Columbia.
- Small group size of four guests makes this the most exclusive grizzly bear photography tour in North America.
- Photo instruction by award-winning photographer Daisy Gilardini.
- Kayak across crystal clear waters to capture stunning up-close images.



Just north of Prince Rupert is the Khutzeymateen Valley, British Columbia's only grizzly bear sanctuary, and home to the largest concentration of grizzly bears in Canada. This is the ultimate grizzly bear viewing experience, offering four full days to photograph the abundance of grizzlies in this very exclusive sanctuary with a small group of just four guests.

The Khutzeymateen Valley is ideal for photographers as this beautiful wildlife reserve is closed to the general public, and only two licensed operators are permitted access. The vast grizzly bear population and awe-inspiring scenery makes this area one of the best locations to photograph grizzlies in the world.

We stay aboard a charming 40' sailboat known as the Sunchaser, which is anchored just a stone's throw away from the grizzly action. Delicious meals are prepared daily by our expert skipper and naturalist, Dan Wakeman, who will also be leading us into the estuary by Zodiac in search of wildlife. Spring is the perfect time to take advantage of the plentiful bears, which come down to the lush estuary to feed. We will also have the opportunity to head to shore on occasion to explore the grizzly habitat up-close, and photograph the many plants and wildflowers that bloom across the estuary each spring.

Learn all about how to capture amazing grizzly bear photos from your Wild Focus guide, Daisy Gilardini. Daisy has a long history of leading photography tours and workshops in BC and Alaska, so rest assured you can expect to come home with stunning results.

Why the Khutzeymateen?

The Khutzeymateen Valley is 39,000-hectares of pristine grizzly bear wilderness and is Canada's only dedicated grizzly bear sanctuary, home to an estimated population of 50 grizzlies!





Tour Itinerary

Included Meals (B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner)

Day 1 (June 14): Arrive in Prince Rupert

Arrive in the quaint little town of Prince Rupert, British Columbia. Buses provided by your carrier (Air Canada or Hawk Air) will transport you from the Digby Island Terminal to downtown Prince Rupert. This charming drive involves a short ferry crossing, and both the bus and ferry fees are included in your flight fare. The bus will take you to Highliner Plaza where you will need to take a short taxi ride to your accommodation at the Eagle Bluff Bed and Breakfast. (Hotel is subject to change)

Day 2 (June 15): Flight to the Khutzeymateen B, L, D

Transfer to the Seal Cove floatplane dock for a scenic flight to the Sunchaser sailboat in the Khutzeymateen Valley. In approximately 1-hour our plane will glide into the Khutzeymateen Valley where the Sunchaser awaits, our floating home for the next five nights.

Day 3-6 (June 16-19): Explore the Khutzeymateen B, L, D

Each morning you will wake to the gentle sounds of nature and then enjoy a delicious breakfast on deck. After breakfast your Wild Focus leader will take you out into the Khutzeymateen estuary to meet the many grizzlies residing in the valley. The majority of our day tours will be done by Zodiac. These small boats provide exceptional conditions for photographing wildlife in the estuary. After a full day of adventure out on the water, you will return to the Sunchaser for a relaxing evening. Wander the deck and watch as eagles soar overhead. Enjoy the playful splashing of seals and otters, and then melt into the serenity of a Khutzeymateen sunset.

Day 7 (June 20): Departure Day B

Your final breakfast onboard the Sunchaser will be followed by an early morning wildlife tour. Floatplane arrives at the Sunchaser for a scenic flight back to Prince Rupert.

Accommodation

Eagle Bluff Bed & Breakfast

For your first night in Prince Rupert (June 14), we will be staying at the Eagle Bluff Bed & Breakfast. This night of accommodation is included in your tour package. The Eagle Bluff Bed & Breakfast is a quaint historic building that sits on a dock along the shoreline. Please note that your room for the evening of June 14 will be booked by Wild Focus, therefore you have no need to contact Eagle Bluff in advance. This accommodation is subject to change, depending on availability.

The Sunchaser

While in the Khutzeymateen Valley we will be staying on the warm and comfortable 40-foot Sunchaser sailboat. The sailboat is fully equipped with hot water shower, toilet, dining area, kitchen, and two semi-private sleeping quarters. Fresh drinking water and other refreshments will be available throughout your stay. All meals are expertly prepared to suit your dietary needs. Sun Chaser Charters has been providing wilderness expeditions in British Columbia for over 25 years. Your skipper, Dan Wakeman, has been actively involved in preserving the Khutzeymateen Valley and is very familiar with the local environment.

* Please be aware that you may be asked to share a room in the Eagle Bluff or on the Sunchaser. This will be dependent on the make-up of the group (e.g. the number of couples attending, etc.). We will make every effort to ensure a comfortable arrangement.

Inclusions

One night of accommodation in Prince Rupert upon arrival; all meals as listed in the itinerary (B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner); return air charter between Prince Rupert and the Khutzeymateen Valley; \$150 park entry fee; all meals, snacks, and drinks aboard the Sunchaser; and all photographic instruction and workshops.

Exclusions

International and domestic flights to/from Prince Rupert; excess baggage charges; travel insurance; international/domestic airport transfers; and gratuities.



Additional Details

STYLE: Adventurous

CLIMATE: Temperate

FITNESS: Low to moderate

Go Wild Add-On

You may arrange with your Wild Focus leader to participate in kayaking whilst onboard the Sunchaser. This exciting Go Wild Add-On is included in the price of this tour.



Tour Price

Tour Cost: \$4199 (+HST)

Trip Dates: 7 Days, June 14-20, 2012

©Wild Focus Inc., 2012

Phone: +1 206 923 9453 (US/Canada)

+61 2 8003 7453 (Aus/NZ)

+44 20 3286 4537 (UK)

Email: info@wildfocus.com

Web: www.wildfocus.com

Disclaimer: Please note that all Wild Focus itineraries are subject to change at the tour operator's discretion. Wild Focus will use reasonable efforts to ensure your tour follows the original itinerary, however we kindly request your understanding should we need to adjust your travel plans due to adverse weather conditions or other factors beyond our control. In the event your accommodations need to be changed, Wild Focus will use reasonable efforts to place you in comparable venues.