

Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen

A photograph of two grizzly bears standing on a large, moss-covered rock. The bears are looking down towards the water. The background is a dense forest with trees and foliage. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the bears and the surrounding environment.

2015 Edition

Ocean Light II Adventures



The Khutzeymateen Valley

The Khutzeymateen Valley is Canada's only Grizzly Bear Sanctuary. This 39,000-hectare valley lies 40 kilometres (25 miles) northeast of Prince Rupert on the British Columbia coast. It supports a robust ancient trilogy of grizzly bears, spawning salmon, and mammoth Sitka spruce trees. In 1992, after years of effort by several individuals and organizations, such as the Valhalla Society, the Khutzeymateen Valley was declared Canada's first Grizzly Bear Sanctuary by the B.C. government. This area is home to an estimated 40 - 60 grizzlies who depend on the rich valley for their existence, with its dense rainforest, river mouth estuary, and open fjord. It also attracts wolves, migrating geese, ducks, harbor seals, beavers, and otters, as well as orca and humpback whales. The watershed also supports over 100 species of birds including owls, grouse, shore birds, hummingbirds, swifts, woodpeckers, and kingfishers. Uninhabited by humans, there are no roads, villages or campsites, making this valley pure wilderness and the perfect habitat for the grizzly bear. To explore this magnificent valley, we will use an Ocean 71 ketch, the *Ocean Light II* as our base, and then travel by motorized inflatable to the estuary to safely observe and photograph these mighty animals.

The Grizzly Bear

Grizzly Bears. The name conjures up images of a huge powerful beast, signifying wild lands and freedom. Being highly intelligent and curious mammals, grizzly bears selectively feed on various high protein plants such as green sedge grasses, lupine roots, and the broad leaves of skunk cabbage, all of which the valley has an abundance to offer.

The grizzly bear defines wilderness for us. The bears represent the wild side of our nature and how things used to be. Although the Grizzly can be dangerous and unpredictable, the Khutzeymateen Grizzly is teaching us that they have been misrepresented. They are intelligent and show many human characteristics. This is our 28th year in the Khutzeymateen and our knowledge and understanding continues to grow.

Today the grizzly bears and their habitat – the Khutzeymateen Valley – are protected from dangers caused by increasing numbers of tourists. The *Ocean Light II* and her crew are one of only two outfitters licenced by the BC government to guide tours into the Khutzeymateen sanctuary in May and June.



2015 Dates & Prices

- Dates:**
- May 13-16
 - May 16-19
 - May 19-22
 - May 22-25
 - May 25-28
 - May 28-31
 - May 31-June 3
 - June 3-6
 - June 6-9
 - June 9-12
 - June 12-15
 - June 15-18
 - June 18-21

Availability: Please email us (adventure@oceanlight2.bc.ca) to check availability on any of the trips above.

Price: \$2299.00 CDN plus 5% GST from Prince Rupert. Price includes \$150 Park Fee, all meals as per the itinerary, and return charter float plane flight between Prince Rupert and the Khutzymateen Valley.

Number of Participants: Maximum of 9

Number of Crew: 2

What's Included?

- The services of a fully qualified skipper/bear guide and cook/crew
- Air charter from Prince Rupert to the Khutzymateen Valley return
- All meals as listed on the itinerary (B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner)

What's Not?

- Gratuities for crew (optional and/or discretionary, but always appreciated!)
- Optional airport drop-off fee if you request the float plane to drop you off at Prince Rupert Airport (final day of trip). See page 5 of this package for additional details

- Transportation between your home and Prince Rupert, BC
- Personal belongings and equipment as per "Clothing & Equipment List"
- Any meals and accommodation in Prince Rupert prior to Day 1
- Excess baggage charges
- Any extra personal expenses incurred because of weather, logistical delays, or delayed departures of chartered or scheduled aircraft.

Itinerary

Please Note: Due to the early meeting time on the first day, you must arrive in Prince Rupert prior to Day 1 of your expedition.

Day 1 – L/D

The trip begins in the coastal community of Prince Rupert. An early morning float plane flight from the Seal Cove float plane dock takes you to the *Ocean Light II* and her crew who await at the head of the Khutzymateen Inlet. The remainder of the day will be spent pursuing bear-viewing opportunities.

Days 2 and 3 – B/L/D

The itinerary for these days must remain flexible so that we can maximize each day's bear and wildlife viewing opportunities. The daily tide schedule varies and will largely dictate our itinerary. But our time in the inflatable or ashore will find us in some part of the estuary/inlet viewing what could be any number of animals, including black and grizzly bears, seals, river otters, coastal grey wolves, geese, ducks, and eagles.



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At dusk, after the evening's activities, you will return to the boat to enjoy a hot drink and dinner while reflecting on the day's events.

Day 4 – B

After breakfast the float plane will arrive for your return trip to Prince Rupert.

More About the Trip

The Boat. The *Ocean Light II* is an Ocean 71' ketch and is thought by many to be the perfect B.C. Coast charter yacht. With fourteen Atlantic crossings, the *Ocean Light II* has the pedigree and comfort to make any sailing experience with her one to remember. It has a spacious, well maintained interior of mahogany, authentic Douglas Fir and white enamel.

The layout offers 5 separate guest cabins that are closed off from the rest of the yacht. A berth will be assigned to each person upon arrival. There are two heads, a shower and the interior is all newly remodeled. The main salon located below deck is a spacious 14' x 17', which seats twelve comfortably while still leaving space to move about freely. There is ample deck space and she is very comfortable under sail. *Ocean Light II* features all of the extras expected: 19' hard bottom inflatable, six kayaks as well as an extensive library for your enjoyment.

For more information about our boat – including images of the interior – just visit this page on our website:

<http://www.oceanlight2.bc.ca/html/about/boat.html>

The Guides & Crew. Skippers Tom Ellison and Chris Tulloch have 57 years of combined coastal sailing experience. They have introduced the coast of B.C. to hundreds of people, young and old. Assisting as crew, guide, and cook is Jenn Broom. She has worked on the coast for many years and will make you feel at home aboard our beautiful boat. *Ocean Light II Adventures* and her crew continually contribute a tremendous amount to the conservation of our endangered wilderness areas.



Meals. We take special care in preparing nutritious and delicious meals. All meals will be prepared aboard the sailboat and will include fresh seafood, homemade soups, breads and salads. Wine is served with dinner, and you may bring your own drinks to be consumed in moderation only when the anchor is down for the night. We will not tolerate excessive drinking on our vessel. Clients have the option to assist in food gathering and meal preparation. If you have particular dietary restrictions, please let us know well in advance.

What About the Weather? Weather along the coast in the spring can be variable. The heavy rains and fog,

which are responsible for the large stands of spruce and cedar, fall primarily during winter months. One should expect the variety of weather that creates the many moods for which this area is noted. Come prepared for cold, wet weather and perhaps a morning frost. When the sun comes out – as it often does – you will be pleasantly surprised. Hot, sunny days are common as well.

Safety. Your safety while participating in this expedition is of our prime concern. The crew is well trained in wilderness first-aid techniques and are very experienced in the environment. Ultimately your guide makes decisions with your comfort and safety in mind, yet tries to maximize the experience of the adventure for each individual. We stress that listening carefully to instructions and directions given by the guide is your ultimate responsibility and in the best interest of yourself and the group.

For more information about this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, please contact us at:

Email: adventure@oceanlight2.bc.ca

Phone: 604-328-5339