

# WHALES & BEARS in the GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST, with Mark

3-12 September, 11-20 September & 19-28 September 2024



*The Great Bear Rainforest is a breathtaking wilderness of ancient trees, fern-clad canyons, glacial waterfalls, streams, inlets and bays that stretches seamlessly from the northern end of Vancouver Island all the way to southeast Alaska. It is the largest remaining tract of intact temperate rainforest left in the world and is home to whales, bears and a host of other wonderful North American wildlife. Here is a fabulous opportunity to join Mark's exclusive boat charters to explore one of the greatest and most wildlife-rich wildernesses on Earth.*

## About our trip

Mark's private yacht charter journeys through the wonderful maze of rainforest channels in search of whales and bears – from bubble-netting humpback whales, killer whales and fin whales, to grizzly bears, black bears and elusive spirit bears (rare and charismatic black bears with white coats). We will visit a special hotspot for spirit bears and will be there at the best time of year to see them emerge from the forest to feast on spawning salmon. We also hope to see a wide variety of other wildlife: coastal wolves, bald eagles, Pacific white-sided dolphins, Dall's porpoises, Steller sea lions and American martens, to name but a few.

We will have the freedom to explore this richly biodiverse region in a small group without having to return to a base camp each evening (there will be just 12 passengers plus Mark, and an experienced crew).

The itinerary is very flexible to take advantage of wildlife sightings and tides, but the aim is to spend as much time exploring and wildlife-watching as possible. September is the best month for

bubble-netting humpbacks and for seeing bears feeding on spawning salmon. Each night we will anchor in a different inlet, falling asleep to the evocative sounds of loons or even howling wolves. The trip starts and ends in Terrace – a charming 'frontier' town where we spend the night before boarding the boat. Despite starting and ending in the same place, the region is expansive enough to explore different areas of the coast and channels without retracing our steps (unless we want to, of course!).



**Concerned about your carbon footprint?** We use the World Land Trust's Carbon Balanced programme which enables travellers to offset their residual greenhouse gas emissions through the protection and restoration of carbon-rich wildlife habitats in the tropics. Click [here](#) to donate.

## About our boat

The Island Odyssey – a 68-foot (21 metres) ketch – was originally built as a luxurious private yacht:

- Eight private twin cabins with port holes (double beds and single bunks).
- Three bathrooms with hot showers.
- A comfortable salon with a natural-history library.
- Plenty of deck space for wildlife viewing and photography.
- Large, inflatable Zodiacs for shore excursions and stable sea kayaks for exploring protected bays and inlets.
- Wonderful food!

## Itinerary

**3rd/11th/19th Sep:** fly to Vancouver, overnight in comfortable airport hotel.

**4th/12th/20th Sep:** Jazz flight to Terrace for the night in comfortable hotel; welcome meal with Mark.

**5th/13th/21st Sep:** transfer after breakfast to Kitimat Marina, which is 50 minutes drive from Terrace, to board SV Island Odyssey. Following introductions, and a chance to pore over the chart, we set sail.

**For the next week:** explore the Great Bear Rainforest ...

**12th/20th/28th Sep:** disembark at Kitimat Marina around noon and 30 minute transfer to Northwest Regional Airport for flight to Vancouver and home (depending on flight times).

## Price for 2024 (excluding flights)

£6,595 per person (single supplement in hotels apply, 100% single supplement on the boat).

## Price schedule (per person)

- Non-refundable deposit on booking: £500.
- Final balance 90 days prior to departure.

## Price includes

One night in airport hotel at Vancouver; one night in hotel in Kitimat with welcome meal; seven nights' accommodation in comfortable cabin on the Island Odyssey; all breakfasts, lunches and dinners throughout the voyage, and a modest amount of wine with dinner each night; tea, herbal teas, coffee, juices and tap water (the boat does not serve bottled water); transfer from airport to hotel in Kitimat; transfer to boat at start of trip; transfer to Terrace airport at end of trip; guide services of Mark from arrival in Kitimat; expertise of onboard naturalist and experienced crew; all shore landings and excursions; use of kayaks (once anchored); comprehensive pre-departure advice and information; all miscellaneous service taxes, permits, landing fees at bear-viewing stand and port charges; link to Mark's photographs.

## Price does not include

Flights to Vancouver and Terrace; passport and visa expenses; excess baggage charges; cancellation, baggage and travel insurance (compulsory); meals on shore (except welcome meal in Kitimat); items of a personal nature such as laundry and telecommunications charges; medical expenses; crew gratuities (we suggest about CAD\$50-80 per day).

## To book and for more information, please contact:

Rachel Ashton,  
tel: +44 (0) 117 904 8934  
[rachel@markcarwardine.com](mailto:rachel@markcarwardine.com);  
[www.markcarwardine.com](http://www.markcarwardine.com)



**Concerned about your carbon footprint?** We use the World Land Trust's Carbon Balanced programme which enables travellers to offset their residual greenhouse gas emissions through the protection and restoration of carbon-rich wildlife habitats in the tropics. Click **here** to donate.