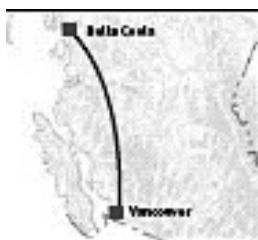


Grizzlies & Wildlife BC



6 Days / 5 Nights
Bella Coola, British Columbia

Twin: \$3905
Single: \$5975

North America's Newest Grizzly Viewing Hot Spot. This special adventure touches upon the rich complexity of Canada's most diverse province, allowing all travellers to experience a wealth of natural and cultural sites. Amidst the awesome scenery and captivating native cultures is an abundance of wildlife. Most exciting are the grizzlies, found in larger, more accessible numbers here than perhaps anywhere else on Earth! We have located the very best grizzly bear viewing rivers in all of Canada. On this adventure we will immerse you in these wild sites and give you a glimpse of the natural and cultural wonders of British Columbia.

Day 1 – Arrive Bella Coola, British Columbia

Upon your arrival in Bella Coola you will be met and taken to Tweedsmuir Lodge, a one-hour drive from the town of Bella Coola. The scenery in this region of British Columbia is unrivaled, and Tweedsmuir Lodge has the best view of all. Set near the base of an 8,000-foot rock peak and across the salmon-filled Atnarko River, the lodge is located within Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, the largest protected area in all of British Columbia, rich with wildlife and far away from civilization. The deck of the main lodge, as well as the porches and windows on each individual cabin, overlook a clearing where grizzlies are often seen. We will gather this evening for an orientation dinner.

Day 2 – Bella Coola River Float Trip & Optional Helicopter Journey

This morning we have the opportunity to enjoy wildlife viewing while gently floating down the Atnarko and Bella Coola Rivers. During this time of year the river is full of spawning salmon that attract eagles and bears. The awe-inspiring scenery includes snowy mountain peaks, and the colors of late summer fill the river valley. A shore lunch will be provided, allowing us time to relax in Mother Nature's backyard. After lunch, and the conclusion of the float trip, those who choose to will embark on a helicopter journey, which will reveal the other side of BC's splendid scenery – the high snowy mountain passes. We board our helicopter for a thrilling "heli-journey" over the snow-peaked mountains, ever watchful for families of regal mountain goats precariously perched atop seemingly impossible terrain. We may have the chance to stop at the Monarch Ice Field, where we set down and explore the dynamic nature of this high coastal glacier. From this rare perspective, we experience British Columbia's unique beauty. We will also fly by Hunlen Falls, Canada's second-largest waterfall, dropping 845 feet from a chain of lakes into a narrow canyon. Those who do not participate in the afternoon helicopter

journey will head into Tweedsmuir Provincial Park with our leader to explore the dense forest habitat on one of the many secluded trails. Always be on the lookout for the rare cougar, bald eagles, and a variety of other northern birdlife. One animal unique to this region is the gray wolf, occasionally appearing in a jet-black coat.

Day 3 – In Search of Grizzlies

British Columbia is home to an estimated 6,000 to 14,000 grizzlies, among the highest bear concentrations in North America. The summer and early fall salmon runs attract dozens of bears to this area, and although it is very likely we will see bears during our other activities and perhaps at the lodge, we will spend this entire day focused on British Columbia's magnificent bears. Each year, the rivers of the Kimsquit Watershed fill with spawning salmon that attract the bears. Permits pending, we will fly by helicopter or fixed-wing airplane to the area, and embark on a remarkable encounter with grizzlies. The flight itself is breathtaking, with chances to see mountain goats perched on steep ledges. Should permits to enter this rarely visited area be denied, we will visit other salmon rivers where brown bears are known to frequent. Viewing can be from our boats, vehicles, platforms or from the ground, depending on safety factors. Of course, grizzlies are unpredictable and we can never guarantee their appearance, but the Bella Coola Valley is so rich with bears that we feel confident in our sightings.



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RATES

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DEPARTURE DATES

August 15 22 29
September 5 12 19 26

GETTING THERE & GETTING HOME

Arrive in Bella Coola anytime on Day 1 in time to meet for a 7 pm dinner and orientation at the Tweedsmuir Lodge (we will pick you up at the airport on Day 1). You are free to return home at anytime on the final day.

TRIP DETAILS

Included

All meals, all activities described in the itinerary (helicopter optional), services of NHA's professional Expedition Leaders, entrance fees to parks, transportation, and tips for meals and accommodations. Return Air Vancouver to Bell Coala with Pacific Coastal Airlines.

Physical Requirements

Easy/Flexible

This adventure does not require a high degree of physical fitness although some short walks may be required should you wish to participate in every activity.

