



2026

North Coast EXPLORER

Michelle Valberg



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Detailed Information Package 2026

The North Coast of British Columbia is the northernmost portion of the Great Bear Rainforest. This trip aboard the *Afterglow* takes you to one of the world's most spectacular coastlines. Within the Great Bear Rainforest lie some of the world's last pristine coastal rainforest: Old-growth hemlock and cedar forests; tidewater estuaries rich with grasses, roots and berries; cascading waterfalls and sparkling streams of spawning salmon. We will explore the Khutzymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary, outer islands, inshore inlets, bays and old-growth forests of the spectacular coast of British Columbia. The surrounding mountains and rainforest offer spectacular scenery and diverse and abundant wildlife.

Your week aboard the *Afterglow* is designed to give you access to the best that the northern BC Coast has to offer; coastal fiords, rocky islets, sandy beaches, busy sealion haul-outs, marine mammals of various kinds, terrestrial mammals, fishing opportunities, and stunning vistas. The exact itinerary of your trip will be dictated by weather and sea conditions; however, we will use the long summer days to maximize your unique experiences in the northern Great Bear Rainforest. We will use the *Afterglow* as a mode of travel between the spots of special interest exploring these areas on foot and by kayak and inflatable.

Fitness should be of a general level for this expedition; however, a good level of fitness will always make your trip more enjoyable, so please exercise regularly prior to your trip. Children are welcome to join trips aboard the *Afterglow* but we ask that parents contact us prior to booking to ensure that the voyage they choose is "family focused".

Itinerary

Day 0 – Due to the early morning start time on Day 1, you must arrive in Prince Rupert on the day prior to day 1 and spend the night in Prince Rupert.

Day 1 – L/D

We will board *Afterglow* at the Cow Bay Marina at 8:30am and after the crew has completed the safety orientation, we will head out to begin our adventure.

Days 2 -6 – B/L/D

The itinerary for these days must remain flexible so that we can maximize each day's wildlife viewing opportunities and explorations. The daily tide schedule varies and will largely dictate our itinerary. We could see a whole array of wildlife at any time including: black and grizzly bears, seals, sea lions, river otters, sea otters, coastal wolves, humpback whales, orca, geese, ducks, and eagles. We will anchor each night in a calm location and continue to enjoy the pleasures of a home cooked meal and the comforts of the *Afterglow*. A visit to the Khutzymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary will be included.

Day 7 – B/L

After lunch we will drop you off at the dock in Prince Rupert with enough time that you will be able to book the Air Canada departing flight for later that day (around 3pm).



Brad Hill



Logistics & Details

Traveling to/from Prince Rupert

If You're Flying. Air Canada (1-800-247-2262) offers 1 daily flight between Vancouver and Prince Rupert. Please note: The airport in Prince Rupert is situated on an island. To get to the mainland, there is a bus that will board a ferry and take you to the main airport office in downtown Prince Rupert. The same service is available to get to the airport for departure. Check in 2 hours prior to your flight time. The bus/ferry service is complimentary.

If You're Driving. From Vancouver, take Hwy 1 to Cache Creek, turn off to Hwy 9 to Prince George, then Hwy 16 from Prince George to Prince Rupert. The driving time is approximately 20 hours.

If You're Arriving By Ferry. BC Ferries offers service from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island 1-888-223-3779.

2026 Dates & Prices

Dates:

- July 28 – August 3
- August 4 - 10
- August 11 – 17
- August 18 - 24

Availability: Please email adventure@oceanlight.ca to check availability.

Price: \$6250 CAD / person plus 5% GST from Prince Rupert, BC
Price includes: \$25 Bear Sustainability fee for research and conservation, \$25 BC Bear Viewing License fee, Khutzeymateen park fee.

NOTE: Payment schedule / cancellation policies are on page 5

Accommodation During the Trip

On Board Afterglow I. Each person has a berth assigned upon arrival. There are three double cabins with single beds and one double cabin with a double bed. Single participants may be required to share a cabin with someone of the same gender.

In Prince Rupert.

- Inn on the Harbour: 1-800-663-8155, info@innontheharbour.com
- Highliner Inn : 1-250-624-9060, 1-866-238-4218. <https://highlinerhotel.com/>

In Vancouver.

- Coast Vancouver Airport Hotel 604-263-1555, 1-800-663-1144

Number of Participants: Maximum 8

Number of Crew: 2

What's Included?

- The services of a fully qualified skipper/ guide and cook/crew
- Use of all gear on board Afterglow
- 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!)
- 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.

Baggage Weight Limits & Extra Gear

The maximum weight for personal baggage is 65 lb. per person, including camera gear. Please remember that you will be on the boat for 7 days and 6 nights – please pack accordingly and bring only what is essential. If you are travelling before or after the trip, please arrange to leave extra baggage at your hotel/B&B in Vancouver or Prince Rupert.

Please pack all your gear in a soft duffle bag. Bags without wheels are preferable. Hard suitcases are not recommended because of the space they take up in your cabin.