2027



Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen

Michelle Valberg



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, beaver 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 the motor vessel, the *Afterglow I* 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 34th 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. *Ocean Light Adventures with the Afterglow I* are one of only two outfitters licenced by the BC government to guide trips into the Khutzeymateen sanctuary in May and June. Our expert bear guides are CBVA (Commercial Bear Viewing Association) certified and diligently follow best practices for bear viewing.



2027 Dates & Prices

Dates:

- May 10 - 16*
- May 16 - 21*
- May 21 - 24
- May 24 - 29*
- May 29 - June 2*
- June 2 – 6
- June 6 – 10
- June 10 - 13
- June 13 – 16
- June 16 - 19
- June 19 - 23

**Privately booked*

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

Price: $3700 CAD per person plus 5% GST from Prince Rupert. *No single supplement for single travellers.*

Price includes $150 Park Fee, $25 Bear Sustainability Fee for research and conservation, $25 Bear Viewing License fee, all meals as per the itinerary, and return charter float plane flight between Prince Rupert and the Khutzeymateen Valley.

Number of Participants: Maximum 8

Number of Crew: 2

What's Included?

- The services of a fully qualified skipper/bear guide and cook/crew
- Return air charter from Prince Rupert to the Khutzeymateen Valley
- 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.