

SMALL-SHIP EXPEDITION CRUISE

Great Bear Rainforest

September 19 – 27, 2027

From **\$ 14,495** to **\$18,695** CAD + 5% per person based on double occupancy

Aboard the *Cascadia*

Starts: Terrace, BC, Canada

Ends: Terrace, BC, Canada

Flights not included.



Expedition Summary

Travel into the Great Bear Rainforest, where steep fjords, old-growth valleys, and wildlife-rich coastal waters shape one of the most remarkable ecosystems on Earth. Beginning in Haisla territory at Kitamaat, this journey unfolds through places where rainforest, ocean, and community remain closely intertwined. Sail aboard the *Cascadia* into Douglas Channel, Gardner Canal, and the Kitlope Valley, and experience a coast defined by deep stillness, layered knowledge, and extraordinary biodiversity.

Along the way, search for moksgm'ol, the spirit bear, in the territory of the Gitga'at First Nation; watch for humpbacks, orcas, porpoises, and other marine life in the productive waters of Caamaño and Estevan Sounds; and explore the rainforest edge by kayak, Zodiac, and on foot, conditions permitting. Visits to Indigenous communities and cultural hosts offer meaningful opportunities to learn about land stewardship, contemporary coastal life, and the enduring relationships that shape this region. With each day on the water, the journey reveals the Great Bear Rainforest not simply as a place of immense natural beauty, but as a living cultural landscape best understood through attention, humility, and connection.

Itinerary

Day 1: Terrace, BC, Canada

Day 2: Kitamaat

Day 3: Gardner Canal & Crab River

Day 4: Kitlope Rainforest

Day 5: Gitga'at First Nation

Day 6: Princess Royal Island

Day 7: Caamaño & Estevan Sounds

Day 8: At Sea

Day 9: Terrace, BC, Canada

Maple Leaf Adventures operates our Great Bear Rainforest expeditions, and Adventure Canada is delighted to host a group on this unforgettable journey.

Together, we create an engaging, enriching, and enjoyable travel experience, pairing the expertise of Maple Leaf Adventures' outstanding expedition team with the insight and care of Adventure Canada hosts.

Highlights

Search for the rare spirit bear

Travel into the territory of the Gitga'at First Nation in search of moksgm'ol, the spirit bear, also known as the Kermode bear. Found only in the Great Bear Rainforest, these rare white-furred black bears are deeply significant within Gitga'at culture and closely tied to the ecological richness of this region. With local guidance, experience spirit bear country with care, patience, and respect.

Encounter whales and marine life in wild coastal waters

Cruise through the deep channels of Caamaño and Estevan Sounds, a biologically rich marine corridor shaped by powerful currents and seasonal abundance. These waters are known for frequent sightings of humpbacks, orcas, porpoises, and other marine life. A visit to a remote whale research station adds insight into the conservation efforts that help protect this remarkable ecosystem.

Explore one of the world's largest intact coastal temperate rainforests

Journey into the Kitlope Valley, where glacier-fed rivers, old-growth forest, and a dense weave of life define the landscape. This vast rainforest offers a powerful sense of scale and stillness, shaped by generations of Indigenous stewardship. Travelling here invites a deeper understanding of the ecological and cultural importance of one of the most significant protected areas on the coast.

Connect through Indigenous-led cultural experiences

Begin in the territory of the Haisla Nation at Kitamaat and continue into places where relationships to land, water, and community remain central to daily life. At Crab River and in Txalgiuw (Hartley Bay), opportunities to meet with Indigenous hosts offer insight into cultural traditions, contemporary community life, and enduring systems of land guardianship.

Explore the coast by kayak, Zodiac, and on foot

Conditions permitting, experience the rainforest coast from a range of perspectives—paddling quiet fjords, stepping ashore for guided walks, or exploring the shoreline by Zodiac. Along the way, watch for signs of wildlife and learn from naturalists, local hosts, and other knowledge holders whose understanding of this place deepens each encounter.

Highlights-at-a-glance

- Search for the rare spirit bear in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest.
- Encounter whales and marine life in the wild fjords of British Columbia's central coast.
- Explore one of the world's largest intact coastal temperate rainforests.
- Connect with Indigenous communities through meaningful cultural experiences on the land and water.

Itinerary

Day 1: Terrace, BC, Canada — Gateway to the Great Bear Rainforest

Arrive in Terrace, where the Skeena River meets the Coast Mountains and northern British Columbia opens toward the Pacific. This welcoming northern town is the starting point for the journey ahead—a threshold between inland landscapes and the rainforest coast. Meet your expedition team and fellow travellers and begin settling into the rhythm of the days to come.

Day 2: Kitamaat — Into Haisla Territory

Travel to Kitamaat, in the territory of the Haisla Nation, where your expedition begins on the water. Here, board the *Cascadia*, the vessel that will carry you through fjords, channels, and coastal inlets over the coming days. As you sail into Douglas Channel, the scenery shifts toward steep forested slopes, quiet coves, and the first signs of the wild coast.

Day 3: Gardner Canal & Crab River — Fjord Waters and a Coastal Welcome

Enter the long, sheltered reach of Gardner Canal, where mountain walls rise sharply from the sea and waterfalls spill down through the forest. Conditions permitting, there may be opportunities to explore these calm waters more closely by kayak or small craft. At Crab River, a warm shoreside welcome offers an introduction to the people and places that shape this coast, grounding the journey in relationship as much as landscape.

Day 4: Kitlope Rainforest — Ancient Forest, Living Waters

Travel into the Kitlope Valley, home to one of the largest intact coastal temperate rainforests on Earth. Here, glacier-fed rivers, deep fjords, and old-growth forest form a landscape of remarkable ecological richness. As you move through this protected region, there may be opportunities to watch for bears, eagles, and other wildlife along the shoreline, while learning about the longstanding Indigenous stewardship that has helped keep this place whole.

Day 5: Gitga'at First Nation — Community, Culture, and Spirit Bear Country

Spend time in Tsalgiuw (Hartley Bay), home to the Gitga'at First Nation, where deep knowledge of the land and sea continues to shape community life. Encounters here offer space to learn from local perspectives and to better understand the cultural and ecological significance of this region. From within Gitga'at territory, and with local guidance, you may also travel into spirit bear habitat in search of moksgm'ol, the rare white Kermode bear found only in this part of the coast.

Day 6: Princess Royal Island — Whales, Research, and Rainforest Coast

Near Princess Royal Island, the waters and forest margins support an extraordinary abundance of life. Visit a remote whale research station to learn more about ongoing conservation work in this biologically rich region and the efforts underway to better understand the marine mammals that move through these channels. Time and conditions may also allow for a shore landing or quiet exploration by kayak, with opportunities to observe the coastal environment at a slower pace.

Day 7: Caamaño & Estevan Sounds — Along the Whale Superhighway

Sail through Caamaño and Estevan Sounds, a productive marine corridor known for frequent sightings of humpbacks, orcas, porpoises, and other cetaceans. Ocean currents, underwater topography, and nutrient-rich waters help make this one of the most dynamic marine environments on the coast. From the deck, take in the scale of the landscape and the shifting movement of wildlife through these open channels.

Day 8: Great Bear Rainforest Coast — Intertidal Worlds and Coastal Wildlife

Along remote stretches of shoreline, the meeting of land and sea reveals one of the richest zones of life on the coast. Depending on conditions, there may be opportunities to explore by Zodiac or kayak, observing kelp forests, sea stars, barnacles, and other intertidal life shaped by the tides. These outer edges of the rainforest are also home to coastal wolves and other elusive animals, reminders of how closely connected this ecosystem remains.

Day 9: Terrace, BC, Canada — Return from the Coast

Disembark in Kitamaat and make the return journey to Terrace, carrying with you the stories, encounters, and perspectives gathered along the way. The rainforest, fjords, and communities of this coast may linger long after the voyage ends, shaped as much by what was learned as by what was seen.

While every effort will be made to follow the proposed itinerary, weather conditions and unexpected opportunities may occasionally require adjustments. Your expedition leader will ensure you are kept fully informed throughout the journey.