



# The Great Bear Rainforest and the Legend of the Spirit Bear



**DURATION** 3 to 7-Night Packages Available  
**DATES** Mid-June to Mid-October  
**ROUTE** Vancouver | Bella Bella | Klemtu | Bella Bella | Vancouver

The Great Bear Rainforest is the largest intact temperate rainforest left on the planet. Towering green, forested mountains give way to river valley bottoms and estuaries that teem with wild salmon. It is the home of the great grizzly bear, coastal wolves, cougar and many other animals. The Pacific Ocean, which laps the forest's shores, is home to pods of orca and humpback whales that swim and hunt in the labyrinthine complex of fords and channels. The Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation has lived here since time immemorial. They have shared the forest and the salmon with a very special creature they call moskgm'ol (white bear). Their legend of moskgm'ol holds that "Goo-wee (Raven) made one in every ten black bears white to remind the people of a time when glaciers covered this land and how the people should be thankful of the lush and bountiful land of today." Many of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais believe they hold super-natural powers, hence the name Spirit Bear – a name that suits its mythical like presence.

## SUGGESTED ITINERARY

**Day 1 Vancouver | Bella Bella**  
 Depart Vancouver's South Terminal for the two-hour flight to Bella Bella. In Bella Bella, you overnight at the Shearwater Resort & Marina.

**Day 2 Bella Bella | Spirit Bear Lodge**  
 After breakfast, depart Shearwater by water taxi arriving at the **Spirit Bear Lodge** by late morning. Upon arrival, receive a short orientation on the lodge facilities and the bear-viewing program before embarking with your guides on a boat excursion. Lunch is served on board.

**Day 3 - 8 Great Bear Rainforest Exploring**  
 You can choose from 3 to 7-night packages. On the last day of your trip, a two-hour flight takes you back to Vancouver from Bella Bella. The lodge's bear-viewing programs take you to different pristine river valleys and estuaries in the traditional territory of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation.

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Travel by boat and disembark to explore the lush river valleys and broad, braided estuaries on foot. Your guides have an intimate knowledge of the behaviour and movement patterns of the bears and will often situate guests under the forest canopy or on a rocky outcropping to get intimate and special eye-level viewing and photographic opportunities as the bears forage for roots, berries or feast on salmon. In addition to bear-viewing, you have the opportunity to visit culturally significant sites including a spectacular Big House.

## Important Information

Grizzly bear-viewing is from mid-June to mid-October as the bears move from foraging for roots in the late Spring to savouring wild berries in the Summer before moving on to the great Fall feast during salmon spawning which runs from mid-July to late-October depending on the river system.

If you wish to view the Spirit Bear, consider a minimum 5-night package. The best time for viewing is September or October. The Spirit Bear is elusive and shy, and generally guests who stay longer – on the 5, 6 or 7-night packages – are more likely to get rewarded with the moving experience of seeing the bear known as *moskgm'ol*.



For more package information, departure dates and pricing, please visit [www.spiritbear.com](http://www.spiritbear.com).

## TRIP OVERVIEW

Day	City	Activities	Hotel Suggestions	km / Day
1	Vancouver to Bella Bella	Flight from Vancouver to Bella Bella	Shearwater Resort & Marina	2-hr Flight
2	Bella Bella to Klemtu	Orientation at the Lodge, bear-viewing program starts	Spirit Bear Lodge	N/A
3-7	Great Bear Rainforest Exploring	Bear-viewing, hiking, First Nations culture	Spirit Bear Lodge	N/A
Last Day	Bella Bella to Vancouver	Flight from Bella Bella to Vancouver		2-hr Flight