

YOUR GUIDE TO BEAR VIEWING

Canada and Alaska are teeming with majestic mountains, stunning coastlines, and vast forests. You may glimpse a bear by the roadside, from a train, or on a small-ship cruise; but for closer encounters, a wilderness lodge stay offers an unforgettable bear viewing experience like no other.



WHEN TO GO

Generally, the best bear viewing is in summer (June to Oct) when both black and brown bears emerge from hibernation to mate and feed on berries, flowers, and grass. December to March is hibernation time. Wherever you decide to go, World Journeys can advise on the best viewing times.

- **Grizzlies** emerge in spring (May/June) to feed on grasslands, and you can catch them feasting on spawning salmon from July to September, when they are feeding almost continuously in preparation for hibernation.
- **Kodiak Bears** are best viewed in September as they gather to feast on the migrating salmon.
- **Polar Bears** in Churchill are best viewed in the warmer summer months of July/August, but you can still see polar bears right through to November, after which the Big Freeze begins in Churchill and Hudson Bay. March is a very special month to visit the Canadian Arctic, as it is when the baby polar bears emerge from their dens.

ALL ABOUT BEARS



Kermode/Spirit bear

BLACK BEARS

With a population of up to 600,000, black bears are the most common species of North American bear. Black bears tend to like the solitude of forests and wetlands but they are, at times, lured into the towns by the prospect of an easy meal. They are excellent climbers and it is not uncommon to see a sow ushering her cubs up the nearest pine tree out of harm's way. As omnivores, they can live up to 25 years in the wild. The rare **Kermode, more famously known as 'Spirit' bears**, are revered by the First Nations people, and can only be found in a small corner of BC's Great Bear Rainforest. Although white, they are actually black bears with a double recessive gene that gives them their lighter colouring.



BROWN BEARS

Brown bears vary in size depending on their location and diet, with variations including:

Grizzly Bears are aloof and charismatic, fiercely territorial, and at times frustratingly hard to find. The grizzly bear is one of the largest predators, and during the annual salmon run it is possible to see them gather in large numbers on the Pacific Coast.

Kodiak Bears live only on the Kodiak Islands of Alaska and can grow to over 680 kilos!



POLAR BEARS

Canada's Arctic is home to these vulnerable bears, which are among the world's largest carnivores. Seals, walrus, and small mammals are hunted on the Arctic ice, which, as it retreats, threatens the livelihood of these creatures. The polar bear's fur is white but their skin is actually black, helping to absorb heat.

WHAT IS THE ACCOMMODATION LIKE?

From rustic fly-in lodges to the height of luxury, there is a diverse range of accommodation from which to base your bear-viewing activities. Here are a few of our favourites.

CANADA

OUR TOP PLACES TO STAY



GREAT BEAR NATURE LODGE
FLOATING LODGE

Enjoy a spectacular grizzly bear viewing program based in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. Recently renovated, the lodge now accommodates up to 16 people, offers large rooms with ensuite facilities, and has 2 new bear viewing platforms.



SPIRIT BEAR LODGE
FIRST NATIONS LODGE

This community-based ecotourism venture in the Great Bear Rainforest is owned and operated by the local First Nation people, offering guests the chance to see not only grizzlies, but also black bears and the rare Spirit Bear (Kermode).



KNIGHT INLET LODGE
FLOATING LODGE

Located in Glendale Cove, this floating lodge is home to one of the largest populations of grizzly bear in British Columbia. Accessible by float-plane from Campbell River, the lodge is an assortment of 5 modern cement floats containing 16 guest rooms, a dining room, a lounge, an interpretive centre and support buildings. Bunk rooms are also available for a great family holiday.



TUNDRA BUGGY LODGE
POLAR BEAR VIEWING

Discover the magnificent Lord of the Arctic at Tundra Buggy Lodge, just out of Churchill. Accommodating up to 40 people, the lodge contains outdoor viewing platforms for photography, a dining hall, and cozy sleeping units with the Polar Bears right outside. Depending on weather, travellers will also be treated to the stunning colours of the Northern Lights at night.

ALASKA

OUR TOP PLACES TO STAY



BROOKS LODGE

Located in the heart of Katmai National Park, home to one of the world's largest populations of brown bear. The world famous bear viewing at Brooks Falls is only a short walk from Brooks Lodge. During the peak of the salmon season, as many as fifty bears can be viewed fishing along the mile and a half long Brooks River.



KODIAK BROWN BEAR CENTER

Alaska's premier bear viewing destination, the Kodiak Brown Bear Centre, offers a true Alaskan adventure. Situated on the Karluk Lake with over 30 miles of shoreline, the area has countless tributaries, creating the highest salmon concentrations on Kodiak. There is an on-site maqii to unwind in at the end of the day, and each cabin has its own private deck and facilities.



REDOUBT BAY LODGE

A remote fly-in lodge overlooking the picturesque Big River Lakes. To the west, you'll find the dramatic Chigmit Mountains and the entrance to Lake Clark Pass. The lodge offers bear viewing, kayaking, salmon fishing, canoeing, wine tasting, and the opportunity to explore the surrounding lakes.



TUTKA BAY LODGE

Tutka Bay Lodge sits amidst rugged coastlines, deep fjords, mountains, quiet beaches, and spruce forests. Situated on a ten acre property with a main lodge, 6 private guest accommodations, a sauna, hot tub, and boat house – all connected by a boardwalk. Enjoy bear viewing excursions on the Katmai Peninsula.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

The destination experts at World Journeys can use their up-to-date knowledge and personal recommendations to tailor-make an itinerary to suit. Bear viewing is great when combined with a cruise, a journey aboard the Rocky Mountaineer train in Canada, or other touring around the highlights of Canada and Alaska. Contact us or your Travel Professional for information.