

# Grizzlies of the Kutzeymateen

*Just the Photo Op, Please...*



Photo Tour 2011



Misty Morning Dip - Khutzeymateen Inlet

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## Overview

The *Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen – Just the Photo Op, Please!* Photo Tour is a new photo tour that is being offered for the first time in 2011. This photo tour is geared toward the intermediate to advanced wildlife photographer who is primarily interested in photographing the Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen and who would prefer to forego the instructional component of the full instructional photo tour. This tour is two full days shorter than the full instructional photo tour and thus may appeal to those with slightly less time at their disposal. Those attending will spend four full days photographing the Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen in a very small group of like-minded individuals and with a highly experienced bear guide and professional photography guide at their service. The opportunities offered by this tour to capture breathtaking images of one of the world's most fascinating animals – the Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) – are absolutely unsurpassed.

**Photography Instruction.** While this photo tour offers less formal instruction than the full instructional photo tour, all participants will be given detailed lists of recommended photo gear to bring on this tour and an exhaustive summary of helpful “tips and tricks” that will assist them in capturing memorable images in this unique setting. The “tips and tricks” will cover everything from the idiosyncrasies of shooting with moderate to long telephoto lens from an inflatable Zodiac® through to handy ways of keeping your cameras and lenses protected while shooting in a potentially wet

environment.

**The Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary.** The 39,000 hectare (96,000 acre) Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary is Canada's only grizzly bear sanctuary and is located at the tip of a long, remote and pristine inlet on the northern coast of British Columbia. The sanctuary is closed to the public – only two licensed guides are allowed to lead very small groups into this majestic, globally unique ecosystem. The inlet is home to about 50 resident grizzlies, with many more passing through during the year. This remote piece of wilderness is set within one of the planet's few remaining completely intact temperate rainforests and offers a stunning, verdant backdrop to observe and photograph wild grizzlies as they interact with one another as they have for millennia. The bears themselves grant visitors with a very rare privilege: they allow humans fully and completely into their rich and behaviourally diverse daily lives. Be one of under 200 people – and far, far fewer photographers – annually gifted with the intimate experience of sharing the lives of the Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen.

To explore and photograph this spectacular valley we will use a 71-foot sailboat (the *Ocean Light II*) as our base and then travel into the depths of the sanctuary using a motorized inflatable Zodiac®.

**2011 Dates:** This year's Instructional Photo Tour runs from May 29<sup>th</sup> through to June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

**2011 Price:** The cost of the trip is \$2899 CDN *plus applicable taxes* (please see important taxation note below).



## What's Included?

- The services of a fully qualified skipper, bear guide, professional photography guide and cook and crew
- Detailed pre-trip documentation and “tips and tricks” on the unique factors and idiosyncrasies of photographing the Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen
- Air charter (float planes) from Prince Rupert to the Khutzeymateen Valley and return
- all meals as listed on the itinerary

## What's Not?

- 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.
- Any gratuities for the crew of the *Ocean Light II*

**IMPORTANT TAXATION NOTE:** Currently the only tax applicable to this photo tours is a 5% federal tax

called the GST. As of July 1st, 2010 the Federal Gov't of Canada and the Province of British Columbia are combining the federal GST AND the provincial sales tax (currently not applicable to these tours) and calling it a Harmonized Sales Tax (or HST). Once this occurs it applies to nearly everything purchased in British Columbia. This will mean that the new HST will be the current GST of 5% plus the provincial sales tax of 7%, so it will be a 12% tax. However, anything purchased and paid in full April 30, 2010 will have only the 5% GST applied to it. Thus, those choosing to pay for this photo tour in full before April 30, 2010 (and normally full payment isn't required until 90 days prior to the trip) will save 7% on the total trip price.

**Number of Participants:** The *Ocean Light II* can easily accommodate 9 guests while in the Khutzeymateen. However, I limit this trip to 6 participants for 3 reasons: 1) to maximize the attention each participant receives; 2) to ensure that each participant has room to shoot and good shooting angles (when in the Zodiac), and 3) to accommodate the photographic gear that each attendee will be bringing.

**Accommodation in Prince Rupert:** Due to the early meeting time and float plane trip into the Khutzeymateen on the first full day, you must arrive in Prince Rupert prior to Day 1 of your expedition. Accommodation recommendations in Prince Rupert will be forwarded to you when you book your tour.

**Accommodation in the Khutzeymateen:** While in the Khutzeymateen we will be staying on the *Ocean Light II* sailboat, a 71-foot ketch.



Taking the Plunge...



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## Itinerary

**Please Note:** Due to the early meeting time and float plane trip into the Khutzeymateen on the first full day, you must arrive in Prince Rupert prior to Day 1 of your expedition.

On the itinerary below B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner.

### *Day 1 – May 30, 2011 – L/D*

The trip begins in the coastal community of Prince Rupert. An early morning float plane flight from the Seal Cove float plane dock takes you to the *Ocean Light II* and her crew who await at the head of the Khutzeymateen Inlet. Brief meet and greet with the crew and guides followed by an orientation to the boat, and then off to view and photograph the Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen.

### *Days 2 to 4 – May 31 to June 2, 2011 – B/L/D*

The daily itinerary will remain flexible so that we can maximize bear viewing and photography opportunities. We will spend the majority of each day in the Zodiac® or ashore. Depending on the tides, our time ashore will find us in some area of the estuary viewing and photographing what could be any number of animals including black and grizzly bears, seals, eagles,

geese, ducks, and herons. At dusk, after the evening's activities, you will return to the boat to enjoy a hot drink and dinner while reflecting on the day's events (and reviewing your images!).

### *Day 5 – June 3, 2011 – B*

The floatplane will arrive in the morning for your return trip to Prince Rupert. Our time together in the fabulous Khutzeymateen will draw to an end, but you'll be left with many fabulous memories and photographs!

For more information about this amazing trip contact Brad Hill at [seminars@naturalart.ca](mailto:seminars@naturalart.ca)



Adios...

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