

Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen 2018

4-Day Photo Op Photo Tour





The *Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen – 4-Day Photo Op* Photo Tour 2018 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 any formal instruction. 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 North America's top land-based carnivore – the Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) – are absolutely unsurpassed.

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 and remote inlet on the northern coast of British Columbia. The sanctuary is closed to the public – only two



Stalking the Shoreline.

Nikon D4 with Sigma Sport 150-600mm zoom @ 180mm. 1/400s @ f11. ISO 2200.

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professional guides are allowed to lead very small groups into the heart of 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 time immemorial. The bears themselves grant visitors with a very rare privilege: they allow humans 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 Kutzeymateen.

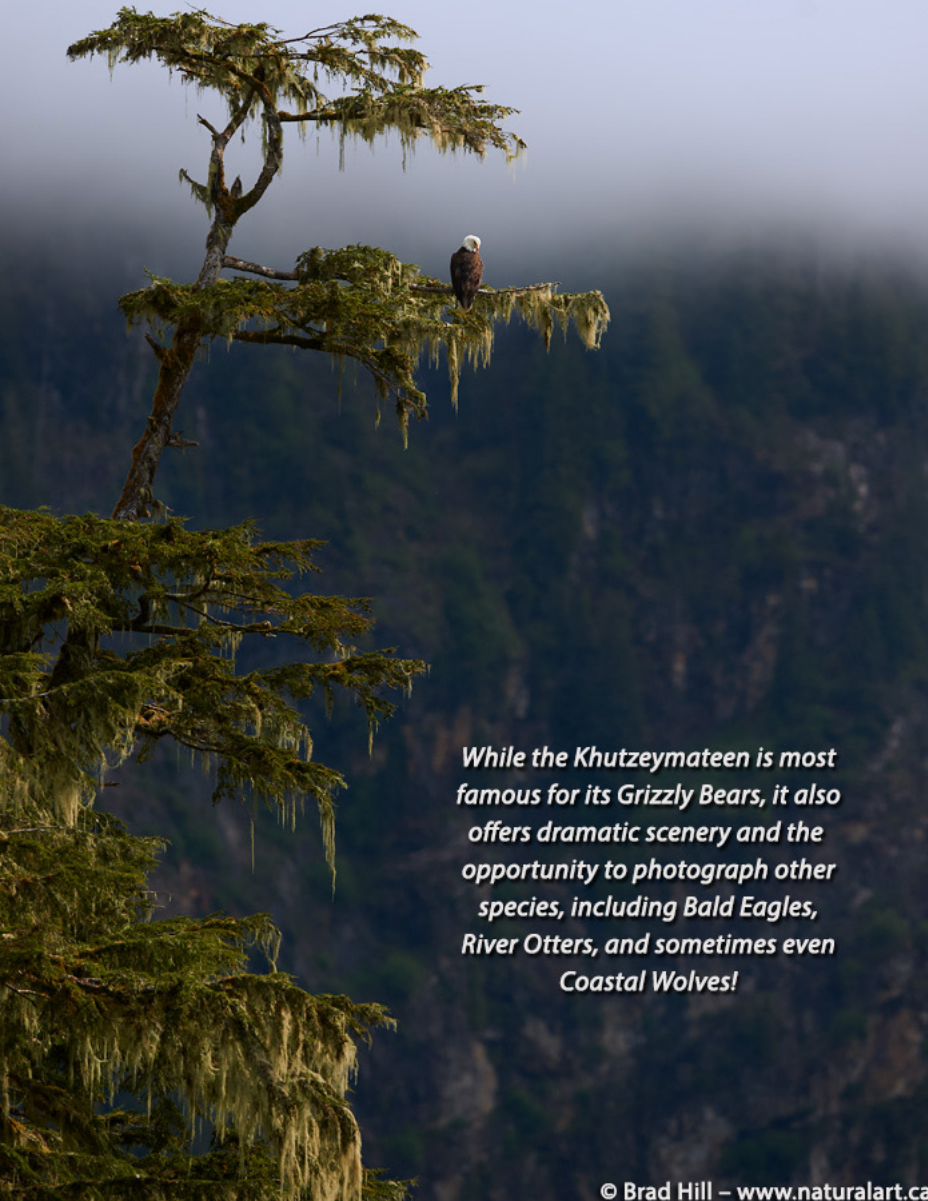
To explore and photograph this spectacular valley we will use a 71-foot sailboat (the *Ocean Light II*) as our floating basecamp and then travel into the depths of the sanctuary using a motorized inflatable Zodiac®.

2018 Dates: May 29th through to June 3rd, 2018.

2018 Price: \$4599 CAD *plus* 5% GST.

2018 Photo Tour Leader: Brad Hill

The Sentinel - Khutzeymateen Inlet
Nikon D3s with 400mm f2.8 VR. 1/1250s @ f5.6. ISO 200.



While the Khutzeymateen is most famous for its Grizzly Bears, it also offers dramatic scenery and the opportunity to photograph other species, including Bald Eagles, River Otters, and sometimes even Coastal Wolves!

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Maximum Number of Participants: 6. While the *Ocean Light II* can easily accommodate 9 guests, I limit this trip to 6 participants for 3 reasons:

- 1) to maximize the attention each participant receives;
- 2) so that each participant has room to shoot and good shooting angles (when in the Zodiac), and
- 3) to accommodate the photographic gear that each person will be bringing.

What's Included?

- Float plane transportation both into and out of the Khutzeymateen
- All food and accommodation while aboard the *Ocean Light II* in the Khutzeymateen (see Itinerary for details)
- A highly-experienced bear guide and professional photography guide
- A great cook and crew
- Jaw-dropping scenery and fabulous bears!

What's Not?

- Transportation between your home and Prince Rupert, BC
- Personal belongings and equipment
- Any meals and accommodation in Prince Rupert prior to Day 1
- Excess baggage charges from airlines
- 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*

Ghost of the Coast. Coastal Gray Wolves are not rare in the Khutzeymateen, but their secretive nature makes them a challenge to see or photograph. Nikon D4s with 400mm f2.8 VR. 1/500s @ f5.6. ISO 350. © Brad Hill – www.naturalart.ca



What To Expect?

- Cool weather (daytime highs of about 10-15C or 50-60° fahrenheit); rain showers are likely but usually short-lived (and sunny skies are NOT uncommon at this time of year)
- Totally calm water at our floating basecamp – seasickness is not an issue on this trip
- Very long hours of daylight (giving us ample time in the field)
- Unsurpassed grizzly bear photography opportunities
- Hearty, healthy and delicious food
- Always warm, always dry floating basecamp!

Fitness Requirements of Participants

This photo tour is not excessively physically demanding and there is no hiking involved. However, to fully enjoy and participate in the trip there are a few physical tasks you should be able to perform. These include:

- ***Being able to easily move between the sailboat and the Zodiac®.*** This involves climbing up or down a 5' vertical ladder.
- ***Shooting your camera from within a Zodiac®.*** This involves multiple tasks, including shooting your camera while sitting on the pontoon of the Zodiac® or, at times, while sitting on the floor of the Zodiac®. In some cases you may find that the most convenient way to shoot will be while kneeling (on your knees) on the bottom of the Zodiac®. Note that tripods can **not** be used within the Zodiac® and while it is theoretically possible to use a monopod in the Zodiac®, few photographers find it practical.

On some occasions it WILL be possible to stand in the Zodiac® when shooting, but you will be shooting while sitting or kneeling far more frequently. A degree of flexibility and/or suppleness can make your time in the Zodiac® far more productive and enjoyable!

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. Which means you must arrive in Prince Rupert any time on the 29th of May, 2018.

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

Day 0 – May 29, 2018

Arrive in Prince Rupert, BC.

Day 1 – May 30, 2018 – L/D

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, 2018 – 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



Sibling Rivalry?

Nikon D750 with Sigma Sport 150-600mm zoom @ 185mm-1/1600s @ f8. ISO 2200.

Family Dinner

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Nikon D5 with Sigma Sport 150-600mm zoom @ 200mm: 1/400s @ f11, ISO 1400

each day in the Zodiac® viewing and photographing bears. Depending on the tides, our time will find us in some area of the inlet viewing and photographing what could be any number of animals including grizzly and black 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, 2018 – B

The float plane 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





From Sea to Snow-covered Peaks. An aerial view of the fabulous Khutzeymateen Inlet – including the *Ocean Light II* sailboat...our home in the Khutzeymateen!
Nikon D4 with 70-200mm f4 @ 70mm 1/1600s @ f5.6. ISO 100.
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