

# Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen

## Instructional Photo Tour 2019







**T**he *Grizzlies of the Khutzeymateen Instructional Photo Tour 2019* combines professional photography instruction with 5 full days of photographing grizzlies in the most breathtaking environment imaginable. You will be provided with the opportunity, the conceptual and creative tools, and the techniques needed to capture fantastic images of North America's top land-based carnivore – the Grizzly Bear.

***Photography Instruction.*** The Instructional Photo Tour begins in

Prince Rupert, BC with a full day of photography instruction by professional wildlife photographer Terri Shaddick. The session will be of benefit to all levels of photographers – from enthusiastic novices through to seasoned professionals. We will discuss both the technical and creative aspects of wildlife photography as well as the specifics and idiosyncrasies of photographing grizzlies in the Khutzeymateen Inlet and Estuary. While the instructional material will be agnostic with respect to camera brand and camera type it will be assumed that most participants will be bringing either digital SLR's or mirrorless cameras on the photo tour.





*Stalking the Shoreline.*

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

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***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 bulk of the sanctuary is closed to the public – only two professional guides have licenses 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

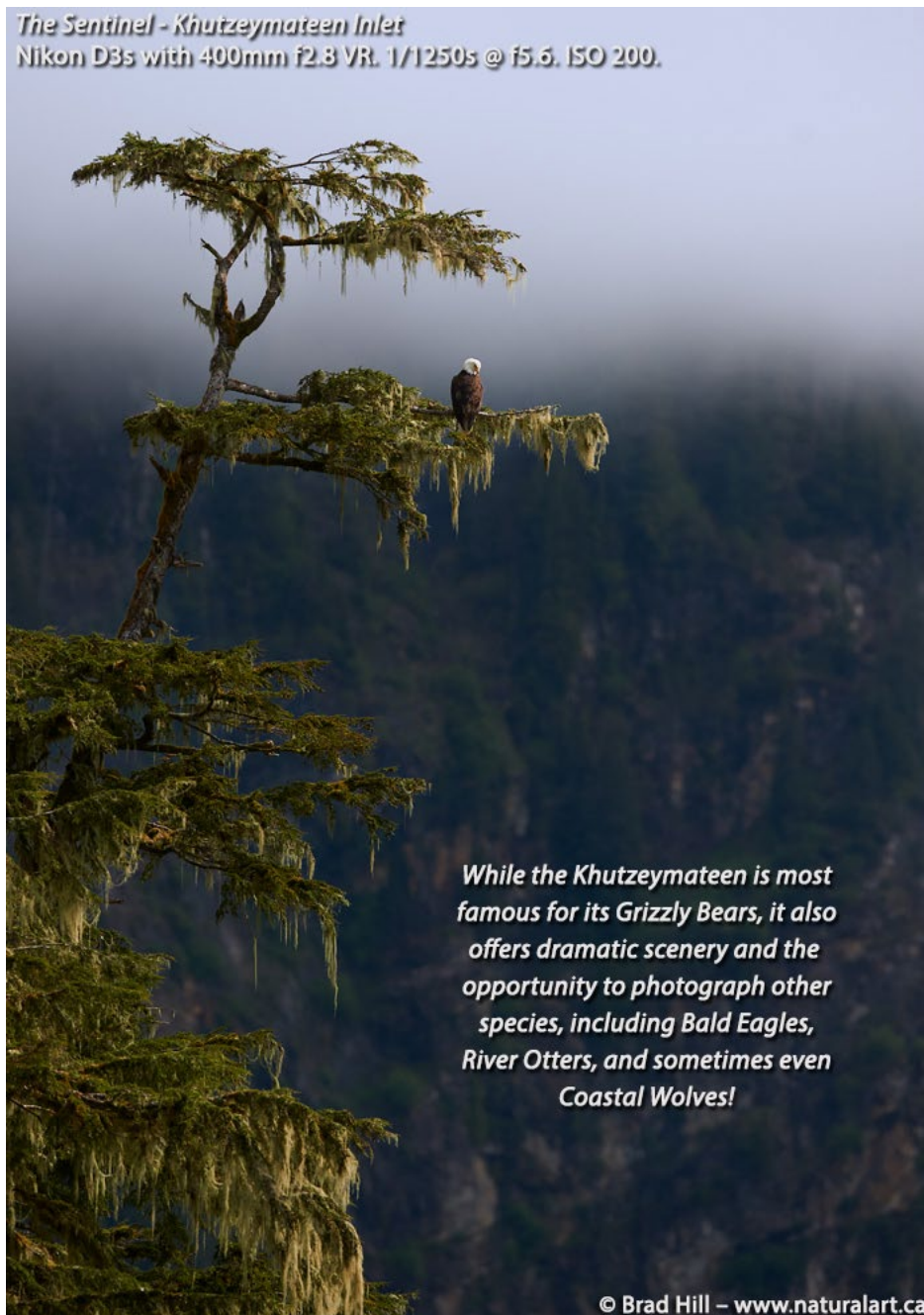
interact with one another as they have for time immemorial. The bears themselves grant visitors with a very rare privilege: they allow humans completely into their rich and behaviourally diverse daily lives.

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 Khutzeymateen.

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®.



*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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**2019 Dates:** May 22 through to May 29, 2019.

**2019 Price:** \$6499 CAD plus 5% GST.

**2019 Photo Tour Leader:** Terri Shaddick

### ***What's Included?***

- All meals and accommodation in Prince Rupert beginning on the evening of Day 1 (see Itinerary)
- Full day of professional photography instruction
- Float plane transportation both into and out of the Khutzeymateen
- All food and accommodation while aboard the *Ocean Light II* in the Khutzeymateen
- A highly-experienced bear guide and professional photography guide
- A great cook and crew
- Jaw-dropping scenery and fabulous bears!

### ***What's Not Included?***

- Transportation between your home and Prince Rupert, BC
- Personal belongings and equipment as per "Gear Lists"
- 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*

### ***What To Expect?***

- Cool weather (daytime highs of about 10-15C or 50-60° fahrenheit); rain showers are likely but often 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





*Sibling Rivalry?*

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

- 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!

**Accommodation:** While in Prince Rupert (nights of May 22 and May 23) we will be staying at the Eagle Bluff Bed & Breakfast.

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

### ***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 without assistance.
- ***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

*The Crossing.* Female Grizzly leads her cubs across the Khutzeymateen Estuary at high tide  
Nikon D2x with 200-400mm f4 VR @ 250mm. 1/750s @ f4. ISO 200.



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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. The obvious consequence is that you must be able to *hand-hold the camera/lens system* (and for extended periods of time) that you will be bringing and using on this photo tour.

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

### *Day 1 – May 22, 2019.*

Arrive in Prince Rupert. Make your way to the Eagle Bluff Bed & Breakfast to check in and stow your gear. You may check-in any time during the

day. If you arrive early in the day feel free to sightsee or check the town out. Plan on assembling at the Eagle Bluff at 6 PM for an informal “meet & greet”. Shortly following this we will head out for dinner together.

### *Day 2 – May 23, 2019.*

Photo instruction in Prince Rupert. After breakfast at the Eagle Bluff we will spend 5 to 6 hours in a classroom-style instructional session on modern photography, with special emphasis on the technical and creative aspects of wildlife photography. We will also discuss the nuances of bear photography as well as the specifics and etiquette of shooting from the close quarters of a reasonably small inflatable Zodiac®. The late afternoon activities are not firmly scheduled – options will include an extended Q&A session with participants, roaming the region to photograph Bald Eagles or, if the participants wish, some free time.



*Rough-housing in the Khutz!*



## **Day 3 – May 24, 2019.**

Early breakfast at the B&B, followed by an early float plane trip into the Khutzeymateen. Following meeting the crew and guides of the *Ocean Light II* and allocating the cabins, we will spend as much time as possible out in the Zodiac® photographing the bears. Photography instruction during our time in the Khutzeymateen will be offered very informally and will largely be based on the questions and photographic issues faced by the participants.

## **Days 4 through 7 – May 25 through May 28, 2019.**

In the Khutzeymateen. Full days of bear photography and opportunistic photography instruction.

## **Day 8 – May 29, 2019.**

Breakfast on the *Ocean Light II* followed by our return float plane trip back to Prince Rupert. After which our adventure together ends!

## **Our Ethical Stance – *Wildlife FIRST!***

Wildlife conservation is the primary reason for our involvement in wildlife photography. As such, *we place the welfare and value of our subjects above the value of any photograph of them.* This philosophy is embodied in our **Wildlife FIRST** rules of conduct that guide our actions during all our photo tours. These four simple ethical rules state that:

1. We engage in *PASSIVE* wildlife photography only. This means we strive to capture images of wildlife behaving as naturally as possible and without the use of “set-ups”, contrivances, or any actions that could guide the subjects toward desirable settings and/or backdrops or elicit specific “poses”.
2. We do nothing intentional to alter or influence the behaviour of our subject(s) for the purposes of photography. This means we do not engage in any form of luring or baiting (or any other form of food supplementation). Additionally, we will not use any form of sound



to alter the behaviour of the subject for the purpose of photography (including using predator and/or prey calls, vocal clicking, or making any other sound to encourage the subject to look at us).

3. We always allow the wildlife subject – regardless of the species – to determine the distance it is comfortable with between itself and us. This principle not only serves to reduce the stress on the subject, but it also allows photographers to capture the subject behaving in a more natural, and often more interesting, fashion.
4. We strive to always consider both the individual and collective effects our photographic activities can have on our subjects. This includes being aware of the total time spent with the subjects. This means we will often break contact and withdraw from the subject, especially if there is any indication that our presence is impacting on the subject's behavioural routine (including activities such as feeding, resting and/or sleeping, caring for its offspring, etc.). This consideration is always important and may become even MORE important if multiple photographers or groups of photographers are working with the same subject.

Those participating in our photo tours are expected to conform to these rules of photographer conduct.

All images in this trip compendium and the Natural Art Images website ([www.naturalart.ca](http://www.naturalart.ca)) were captured following these *Wildlife FIRST* rules of photographer conduct.

For more information about this amazing trip contact Brad Hill at:

[seminars@naturalart.ca](mailto: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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