VOYAGE TO GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST (NG VENTURE)

Sail into the narrow, winding fjords of northern British Columbia and enter the domain of the rare Spirit Bear. Also known as a Kermode bear, it is a variant of the North American black bear and can only be found in the pristine wilderness of the Great Bear Rainforest. The forest is roughly the size of Ireland and one of National Geographic's "Places of a Lifetime." It stretches 250 miles across the central and northern coast of British Columbia and encompases a quarter of the world's coastal temperate rainforest. Hike along its salmon-rich streams, enter forests of towering cedars, and see the protected region's abundant wildlife. Discover the region's abundant wildlife A diverse and healthy population of wildlife species thrive in the rainforest. Search for mountain goats, cougars, grizzly bears, as well as subspecies and genetically unique populations like the coastal grey wolves. The seas teem with killer whales, sea lions, sea otters, and more. Sail into the narrow Grenville Channel, which pinches to less than a quarter-mile across and is a gathering place for killer whales. Zodiac and kayak to a salmon run where bears come to feed. Learn the history of First Nations people Joining us aboard is a cultural interpreter who will share the legends and lore of their people and the lands we explore. In British Columbia see a coastal longhouse built of bark-stripped cedar and a museum's collection of First Nations artifacts. And in Ketchikan visit the Totem Heritage Center to view a unique collection of 19th-century Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian totem poles recovered from abandoned villages. Search for the Kermode Bear Circumnavigate Gribbell Island, what the Valhalla Wilderness Society has dubbed "Mother Island of the White Bear," in search of this elusive spirit bear. It is believed that 10 - 20 percent of bears in this region are born with the recessive gene that causes the white fur; fewer than 400 are estimated to exist. Travel in excellent company Explore under the sure guidance of an expedition leader, veteran naturalists, including a National Geographic certified photo instructor and an undersea specialist, plus a wellness specialist. Their knowledge and passion for the region is the key to your once-in-a-lifetime

experience.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Ketchikan, AK, USA

Arrive in Ketchikan and head to the Totem Heritage Center to view the priceless collection of 19th-century totem poles. This afternoon, board the National Geographic Venture. (D)

DAY 2: Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Canada

Wake up in Prince Rupert, a scenic harbor town on British Columbia's rugged northwest coast. Get immersed in First Nations history at the Museum of Northern British Columbia, built in the style of a coastal longhouse. Breathe in the scent of cedar beams and peruse an impressive collection of ornate carvings, weavings, ceremonial objects, and regalia. Visit the North Pacific Cannery Museum, a collection of cannery buildings located in a pristine wilderness surroundings that highlight BC's economic, cultural and natural development over the last century. (B,L,D)

DAY 3-6: Exploring the Great Bear Rainforest

Over the course of the next four days, we will cruise deep into the fjords and deep valleys that carve into the Coast Range looking for black and grizzly bears. We will be accompanied by a cultural interpreter who knows the area intimately and will share with you the legends of their people. We will circumnavigate Gribbell Island, what the Valhalla Wilderness Society has dubbed "Mother Island of the White Bear," in search of this elusive bear. It is believed that between 10 to 20 percent of bears in this region are born with the recessive gene that causes the white fur; fewer than 400 are estimated to exist. British Columbia has one of the highest proportions of protected land of any jurisdiction in the world. Almost 15% of the land is protected, with a wide range of provincial parks, national parks, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We will go ashore and explore several remote locations where few people venture. Pack your swimsuit, and conditions--and wildlife--permitting we will stop to experience one of the rustic hot spring pools found in the area. Discover hidden gems by Zodiac and kayak, navigating the tidal narrows that lead to the spectacular Foch lagoon and gliding into rugged valleys of Owyacumish Bay--all while constantly scanning the rocky shoreline for bears. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Cruising and Union Passage Provincial Marine Park

Sail alongside pods of killer whales, see foraging brown bears as we sail north through the narrow Grenville Channel, a dramatic navigational experience. Not only does the channel narrow to less than a quarter of a mile across, but a slight bend in the passage makes the waterway seem to disappear into the hills ahead and behind the ship. Here, we will drop our Zodiacs and kayaks to explore the salmon run at Verney Falls in Lowe Inlet Provincial Marine Park on our way to Ketchikan. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Ketchikan, AK, USA

Return to Ketchikan and disembark the ship after breakfast. Transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

Please note:

All day-by-day breakdowns are a sampling of the places we intend to visit, conditions permitting.

YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

YOUR SHIP: **National Geographic Venture**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

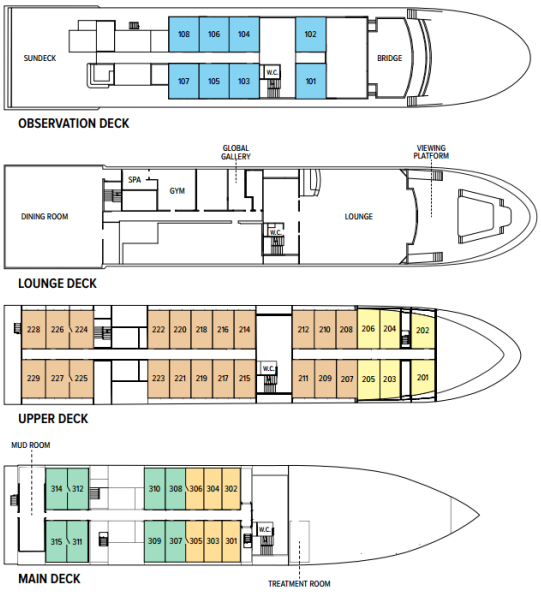
BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Launched 2018 Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage, National Geographic Venture is able to explore the same remote locations as National Geographic have sought out for decades while setting a new standard in comfort and style. She will follow National Geographic Quest in featuring step-out balconies (available in 22 of the 50 spacious cabins), plus 6 sets of connecting cabins for families and groups; a Sun Deck bar, and a designated mudroom for expedition gear. Comfortably accommodating 100 guests, Venture has a shallow draft depth, allowing us to navigate the same inner reaches and provide the same intimate experiences of the charismatic regions we explore. Her twin expedition craft landing platforms allow you to get on and off the ship quickly to take advantage of wildlife sightings and to ensure we maximize our time off the ship exploring. Designed with decades of expedition experience in the region, the purpose-built vessel also features open decks, generous windows, and specialty tools for exploration--the ideal platform for sailing into the fast-moving channels and shallow coves of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest and for exploring the tropical waterways of Central America. Remotely Operated VehicleCapable of reaching 1,000 feet, far beyond the range of any Scuba diver, the ROV allows you to literally view parts of the undersea that are as unexplored as the moon. Chances are you, like many of our guests, will be struck by how surprisingly colorful undersea life is in these unlikely places. And this glimpse may fundamentally change how you view the ocean. KayaksNational Geographic Venture is equipped with 24 two-person kayaks--a fleet large enough to ensure everyone who wants to can paddle at every opportunity. Consequently, prior kayaking experience isn't necessary--many of our guests have their first kayaking experience in extraordinary locations. Our custom-designed floating platform lets us deploy kayaks from the ship, or any location we want--including far from shore. Kayakers are usually free to explore where they want within boundaries set by the undersea specialist and officer of the watch. Underwater cameraOur undersea specialist will dive often during your expedition, even in Alaska, with cold-water gear, to shoot high-definition, Cousteau-like footage of the deep. Colorful nudibranchs, swimming, plant-like crinoids, and mysterious fish with antifreeze blood that thrive in the frigid sea will give you an entirely new appreciation of the marine environment. Video microscopeNaturalists will use the video microscope to help explain all elements of the environment, including tiny organisms that are the building block of the marine ecosystem. Spellbinding live views of krill at 80x magnification fills the high-definition screens in the lounge with vivid detail, and fills every onlooker with a sense of wonder at the importance of otherwise unobservable creatures. HydrophoneThis underwater microphone is deployed to listen to the vocalizations of marine mammals. Real time transmissions

of their eerie, haunting sounds can be broadcast through the ship or recorded for later playback. Few experiences in nature are as captivating as watching humpback whales feed close to the ship as their vocalizations play through the ship's PA system. Electronic chartsAn electronic chart showing the ship's location, course, and speed is almost always on display in the lounge. Open bridgeYou'll find our captains are engaged, knowledgeable members of your expedition who are eager to share their passion with you. Venture's open bridge features comfortable spaces to sit, enjoy the view, drink your morning coffee, or simply chat with the officers. Snorkeling gear & wetsuitsOn warm weather itineraries where there will be snorkeling, you'll select a mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit that remain yours for the duration of the expedition. There's no need to pack and tote your own gear, although guests who prefer to are welcome to bring

their own.

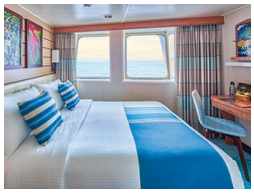
INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Category 1

Category 2

Category 3



Category 4

PRICING

01-Sep-2025 to 08-Sep-2025

Category 1	£3840 GBP pp
Category 2	£4462 GBP pp
Category 5 Suite	£6115 GBP pp
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08-Sep-2025 to 15-Sep-2025

Category 3	£4942 GBP pp
Category 1	£3840 GBP pp
Category 5 Suite	£6115 GBP pp
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Category 2	£5255 GBP pp
Category 1	£4519 GBP pp
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