

# Marine Tours

## Ocean Fishing

Cast your eyes up to the rugged snow-capped peaks as you angle for Chinook and Coho salmon.

Drop your line to the bottom for huge halibut, or bring up lunker ling cod and red snappers from the deep rocky shelves. Set your traps for jumbo white spot prawns from the deep and extra large Dungeness crabs near the mouths of the creeks.



Photo courtesy Leonard Ellis

## Wildlife

As you cruise along the often misty tidal beaches and estuaries of creeks and rivers into the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest, keep your eyes peeled.

In the spring, bears emerge from their alpine dens after the long fast of hibernation and offer prime wildlife viewing.

Grizzly bears and black bears, and even the rare white kermode (or "spirit bear" in First Nations lore) descend to the low lands and beaches for the first tender grass and shoots growing close to the tide line. In late summer and fall, the bears gorge themselves on the salmon returning to the coastal creeks and rivers to spawn. In the early morning, at first light, wolves often appear along the creek mouths and estuaries.

Early in the evening, from your offshore anchorage, you may hear their eerie howls drifting out over the calm waters. The Great Bear Rainforest teems with wildlife including bald eagles, seals, sea lions, and otters. At times, dolphins, humpback whales and killer whales (orcas or "blackfish" in First Nations parlance) break the water with their breaching - a sight to behold!



Photo courtesy Leonard Ellis

## Marine Charters and Tours

At the Government Wharf in the Bella Coola Harbour, 2km (1.2 mi) west of the Bella Coola Townsite, ocean-going charter boats with seasoned skippers and guides are available for a day tour or an extended nautical journey to the area of your choice. They can recommend the best times and places to catch the various species between Bella Coola and the Outer Coast.



Photo courtesy Leonard Ellis

Tour highlights can include: the Bella Coola estuary, historic canneries, petroglyphs and pictographs, bear/marine life viewing, hot springs, the Big Cedar Tree, Cascade Inlet, and Mackenzie's Rock. The Bella Coola Harbour Authority provides mooring floats, fuel, boat launching, parking, washrooms and laundry facilities for boaters. Saltwater and freshwater fishing licences can be obtained, along with government regulations, in Bella Coola Valley businesses selling equipment for these activities.

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