

The Bear Whisperer in the Cariboos



Gary, the Cariboo Mountains "Bear Whisperer", has devoted his life to the study of the social hierarchy, habits, habitat and body language of bears while communing with them on their turf. Come and join him for this unique experience of meeting the Caribou Mountains grizzlies in their natural habitat. As the salmon return from mid-August to October the Grizzly bears also return to the river. This adventure provides exceptional grizzly bear watching and photography opportunities as the bears feast on salmon and ready themselves for hibernation. Along with the grizzlies the river is lined with eagles, bald and golden, also feasting on the salmon carcasses. This exquisite river ecosystem provides a unique study opportunity for naturalists and photographers.

FROM MID-AUGUST TO OCTOBER

2 days /3 nights or 3 days/4 nights

Grizzlies, one of the largest predatory and most solitary species, are unmistakable with their razor sharp claws, dished nose, big demeanor and tell-tale hump over the shoulder, and the signature species of the Canadian wilderness. The Mountain Caribou grizzlies are wild, free and unhabituated.

Viewing the bears enjoying a salmon feast from a river jet boat or feeding on Solomon seals and grasses in the high mountain valleys is an experience you will remember and treasure forever.

A truly Canadian wilderness adventure. This is not just a grizzly bear viewing trip. It's a pure intimate experience with nature – one that has the power to enlighten and redefine one's inner self.

Follow the trails of these great animals in the wetlands. Gary knows most of the bears here intimately: their unique habits, temperament, family units and colorings.

While amongst the grizzlies, Gary thinks like a bear. As he communicates with them he speaks in a soft monotone, and filled with his special brand of

humour, he conveys calmness but also sometimes a stern command – "Hey, bear, how's the fishin'?" "Enough bear, back off now".

Observe the "cycle of life" as the clear glacial waters of the Mitchell River run red with the returning sockeye salmon. One of the lifeblood rivers of the Quesnel Lake watershed and one of the major salmon producing rivers in the province, the habitat it provides is shared by the resident trout and the salmon. The salmon return from the Pacific Ocean through the Fraser River system and the Quesnel River into the watershed. They make their way to the Mitchell River where they spawn and complete their life cycle.



As you watch the cycle of the salmon and the antics of the native wildlife you are likely to see many species of birds including ducks, geese, blue herons, trumpeter swans, white throated dippers, whiskey jacks (gray jays), sapsuckers, woodpeckers, grouse and many more.

Native wildlife in the area also includes mountain goats, mountain caribou, mule deer, moose, black bears, and a host of smaller furbearers such as otters, beavers, pine martens, chipmunks, squirrels and more. This is one of the few places on earth where this cycle of life remains intact in the wild - untamed and undisturbed.

Notes

The operator reserves the right to cancel or modify services as weather and local conditions warrant without notification in the interest of safety of all concerned.

Prices 2010

2 days/3 nights
CAD 1,385 + 5% GST tax

3 days/4 nights
CAD 2,020 + 5% GST tax

Half price for children age 6-15

Included:

- Accommodations
- Meals
- Guides
- Transport while at the venture (boats, motors, vehicles)
- Orientation & interpretive information
- Wilderness Tourism Habitat Conservation Fund (1%)

Not included:

- 5% GST tax
- Staff appreciation gratuities



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