



CANADA

GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST: SPRING & FALL EXPEDITIONS ON MV SWELL

(TOUR CODE: 15513)

STARTS AND ENDS

Bella Bella to
Kitmat

TRAVEL PERIODS

See additional information

EXPERIENCE

Cruising
Cultural
Wildlife
Sustainable Travel

TRAVEL STYLE

Cruise

Embark on an unforgettable journey through British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest aboard the MV Swell. Choose between two distinct seasons, spring or fall, to experience the rainforest's dynamic beauty and diverse wildlife.

Highlights

- Witness grizzly and rare spirit bears in their pristine natural habitat
- Connect with Indigenous coastal communities and rich cultural heritage
- Cruise through dramatic fjords and untouched coastal wilderness
- Explore ancient old-growth rainforests and hidden waterfalls
- Experience an intimate small-ship expedition led by expert naturalist guides

Entire Bonus

Limited Time Offer Book by 15May26 and **save up to AU\$400 per couple!**

Peace of Mind, Every Step of the Way

This holiday package is carefully designed by our team to give you complete Peace of Mind, with access to trusted local partners and expert support at your destination.

Leading Industry-Accredited Canada Specialist

Canada Travel is a leading, industry-accredited Canada specialist, combining genuine destination expertise with the strength and stability of an established travel group – so you can book with total confidence.

Venture into one of the world's most pristine and untamed wildernesses – the Great Bear Rainforest – aboard the intimate MV Swell expedition vessel. From lush spring landscapes alive with newborn wildlife to the dramatic fall salmon runs attracting spirit bears, grizzlies, and orcas, this journey offers an unforgettable encounter with nature at its most spectacular. With just a small number of guests on board, MV Swell provides exclusive access to remote fjords, estuaries, and hidden wildlife habitats, along with immersive experiences with First Nations communities. Explore the rainforest trails, cruise through pristine estuaries, and witness the raw beauty of British Columbia's wild coast in two breathtaking seasons, all from the comfort and unique vantage of this boutique expedition vessel.

Spring and fall offer distinct experiences:

Spring Experience (May–June):

In spring, the rainforest awakens. Grizzly and black bears emerge from hibernation, estuaries bloom with wildflowers, and wildlife activity peaks. The season also provides opportunities to engage with the Klemtu First Nation, learning about local culture and traditions while exploring trails and coastal waterways.

Fall Experience (September–October):

Autumn brings dramatic salmon runs that attract grizzlies, black bears, and the rare white-furred spirit bear. The coastal waters are alive with whales and other marine wildlife, while the temperate rainforest is painted in autumn hues. Guests also have the opportunity to interact with First Nations communities and witness traditional practices during the season.

Note: Itineraries vary by season to maximise wildlife viewing and seasonal highlights.



CANADA
SPECIALISTS



20+ YEARS
EXPERIENCE



ACCREDITED
& TRUSTED



ESTABLISHED
PARTNERSHIPS



TAILORED
ITINERARIES



ON GROUND
SUPPORT

INCLUSIONS

- 7 nights onboard MV Swell in Category 1
- All meals, snacks and beverages are prepared from the freshest ingredients
- Fine wines & craft beer featured with the evening meal
- Services of our naturalist and professional crew
- Shore excursions
- Use of gear on board, including rubber boots, kayaks

ITINERARY

Sail Maple Leaf Adventures MV Swell

The MV Swell is a beautifully restored 88-foot boutique expedition vessel operated by Maple Leaf Adventures, offering an intimate and comfortable way to explore Canada's wild West Coast. With just six private cabins accommodating up to 12

guests, Swell combines classic maritime character with modern comforts. Her inviting interiors feature warm wood panelling, a relaxed salon and dining area, and a covered aft deck for scenic lounging. Guests can unwind in the on-deck hot tub or venture out on guided shore excursions by Zodiac for close encounters with wildlife and coastal landscapes. Purpose-built for small-group exploration, Swell delivers an authentic, personalised and environmentally responsible adventure experience through some of the most remote and breathtaking waters in British Columbia and Alaska.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



MV SWELL | CREDIT: JEFF REYNOLDS / MAPLE LEAF ADVENTURES

Day 1

Welcome Aboard | Bella Bella

Embark on your adventure as you board the *MV Swell* and set sail into the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. As you cruise through the dramatic fjords of British Columbia, your crew provides an introduction to life aboard and the natural wonders ahead. Glide past towering granite cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and lush forested valleys before stepping ashore for your first guided rainforest walk – an inspiring introduction to this ancient ecosystem where moss-draped trees and crystal streams abound.

Overnight onboard **MV Swell**

Dinner



MV SWELL | CREDIT: JEFF REYNOLDS / MAPLE LEAF ADVENTURES

Day 2 - 3 Great Bear Rainforest & First Nations Culture

Awake to the serene beauty of Fjordland's protected channels, where river estuaries meet the sea. Step ashore to explore wildflower meadows and lush estuaries that provide essential feeding grounds for bears and birdlife, with the chance to spot grizzlies or black bears along the shoreline. Later, visit the remote Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation community of Klemtu. Enjoy a guided tour and cultural exchange at the impressive Big House, learning about enduring traditions, artistry, and architecture, while gaining insight into the community's deep connection to the land and sea.

Overnight onboard **MV Swell**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 - 6 Into Bear Country

Over the next three days, venture deep into some of the most pristine and remote areas of the Great Bear Rainforest, exploring some of the region's most remote and pristine areas. Cruise into sheltered mainland inlets, prime bear territory, with opportunities for bear viewing along the shorelines, and step ashore for guided rainforest walks among towering cedars and lush undergrowth, pausing to admire cascading waterfalls before continuing along the Inside Passage, with the option to soak in natural hot springs. Visit a coastal community and sail down Whale Channel, a key corridor for marine mammals, keeping watch for whales, sea lions, and other wildlife, and stop at a remote whale research station to meet scientists and learn about their conservation work, before exploring a wild west coast beach. Continue along the exposed outer coast, discovering remote islands, observing intertidal life, seabirds, and marine mammals, and explore pristine beaches and tide pools, rounding out an immersive coastal wilderness experience.

Overnight onboard **MV Swell**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 - 8 Coastal Exploration

Continue your journey along the remote north coast, an area renowned for its pristine wilderness and elusive coastal wolf habitat. Cruise from the rugged outer coast to the sheltered inner passages, taking time to enjoy guided rainforest walks through ancient forests and lush coastal landscapes. Keep a keen eye out for wildlife along the way, from eagles and seabirds to marine mammals in the surrounding waters. As the voyage draws to a close, sail towards Kitimat, taking in the dramatic scenery and spotting whales, sea lions, and other wildlife that inhabit these rich coastal ecosystems, providing a memorable finale to your Great Bear Rainforest adventure.

Overnight onboard **MV Swell**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French & English

LOCAL CURRENCY

Canadian Dollars

- **Advertised FROM prices apply to low-season travel periods only** and are subject to availability at the time of booking.

- **Prices vary by travel date, room type, length of stay and demand**, with higher rates applying during shoulder and peak periods, including school holidays and blackout dates.

- **FROM prices may not be available on all departures** and are indicative only.

- **International flights, where included, are based on lead-in fares** and are subject to limited availability. Actual airfares may vary depending on travel dates, seat availability and airline policies.

- **Any airfare differences from the advertised package price will be advised prior to booking**, and additional charges may apply for flight upgrades or changes.

- **Additional charges may apply**, including peak-season surcharges, festive period supplements, mandatory resort dinners, upgrades and optional experiences.

- **Final pricing, inclusions and promotions are confirmed at the time of enquiry or booking** and are subject to availability and change without notice.

- **Indicative pricing shown** for advertising purposes only.

2026 Departures onboard Maple Leaf Adventures *MV Swell*

- May - 17, 26*
- June - 03, 18*
- September - 12, 20*, 28
- October - 7*

***Notes:**

- 26 May operates Kitimat to Bella Bella
- 18 June operates Kitimat to Prince Rupert
- 20 September operates Kitimat to Bella Bella
- 07 October operates Kitimat to Bella Bella

2027 Departures onboard Maple Leaf Adventures *MV Swell*

- May - 16, 24*
- June - 01, 09*, 17
- September - 11*, 19*, 27
- October - 05*

***Notes:**

- 24 May operates Kitimat to Bella Bella
- 09 June operates Kitimat return
- 11 September operates Kitimat return
- 19 September operates Kitimat to Bella Bella
- 05 October operates Kitimat to Bella Bella

Sample Itineraries: As with all expedition cruises, the itinerary may change based on weather, wildlife activity, and guests' interests. This itinerary is to give you a general idea of the Great Bear Rainforest Spring expedition. The sample itinerary for the Fall expedition is below as a guide.

Days 1-3 Embark on Your Great Bear Rainforest Tour

Board your ship in Bella Bella, BC. Meet Heiltsuk guide who welcomes us to the territory. Visit spectacular big house. Beach walk. Cruise into Fjordland for an in depth Great Bear Rainforest tour. Massive waterfalls, spectacular inlet*, pictographs, estuary exploration and search for bears. Cruising to area frequented by grizzly and black bears. Extended bear viewing. Optional evening kayak, fishing, quiet time.

Days 4-6 Land of the Spirit Bear

Morning shore walk, visit First Nations village, Klemtu. Big House tour by village guide. Intertidal life. Fjord anchorage. Exploring coastal river by zodiac. Forest walk. Sea lion and black or grizzly bear viewing. Nature hike. Hot springs. Spirit Bear Island anchorage. Shore excursion to spirit bear viewing site with bear stands.

Days 7-8 Whale Channel

Whale Channel, humpback whale watching. Sailing down coastal channel, Island, visit whale research station. Optional evening kayak. Cruising

Gardner Canal, the most spectacular fjord on the coast. Evening shore exploration, fishing, kayaking, wildlife viewing. Farewell dinner. Cruise to port, watching for whales.

Limited Time Offer: Book by 15 May 2026 for travel in 2026 or 2027 and save up to AU\$400 per couple. Savings are already reflected in our advertised "from" prices. Contact our Canada Specialists to learn more.

Excluded

- **Airfares and taxes**, unless expressly stated in your holiday package
- **Visa costs**, including application, processing and issuance fees
- **Local city, tourist or accommodation taxes**, where applicable, payable locally
- **Meals not specifically listed as included**, including mandatory festive or special-event dinners
- **Travel insurance and personal expenses**, including mini-bar, laundry, telephone calls and similar incidentals
- **Tips and gratuities** to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff
- **Any other services or expenses not expressly included** in the holiday package

IN PARTNERSHIP

