Great Bear Rainforest: The Planet’s Largest Temperate Rainforest

Keyword: Great Bear Rainforest

Tags: Great Bear Rainforest, Ecotourism, Spirit Bear

SEO Title: Visiting the Great Bear Rainforest

Meta Description: Canada’s Great Bear Rainforest is the largest temperate rainforest on the planet spanning approximately 250 miles of preserved land.

Great Bear Rainforest

Great Bear Rainforest is located along the coast of British Columbia, Canada and is the largest temperate rainforest on the planet. The 250 miles of the rainforest is situated on 12,000 square miles of coastline that includes the ocean, mountains, forests, valleys and fjords that formed millions of years ago as ancient glaciers receded from the area. The coastal region extends from the Discovery Islands to the British Columbia/Alaska boarder and includes a multitude of offshore islands.

Flora and Fauna

Great Bear Rainforest is home to giant hemlocks, 1,000 year old red cedars and enormous Stika spruce trees that can grow up to 300 feet tall. The forest floor is very moist with an array of flora, which includes numerous species of ferns. Additionally, Great Bear Rainforest is home to many animals such as wolves, minks, Grizzly bears, tailed frogs, Marbled Murrelet, moose, whales and most notably, the Kermode bear or Spirit bear. The Kermode bear is a relative of the American Black bear of which one tenth of the population has a recessive allele making their fur white or cream-colored. It is estimated that there are between 400 and 1,000 of these rare bears living in the Canadian rainforest.

History

The Pacific coast is the ancestral homeland to many of the first native groups on the continent. There are several native villages along the coast in the Klemtu and Kitlope areas.

Conservation

The Pacific coast rainforest is an area that is targeted by conservation groups that hope to preserve the precious ecosystems and biodiversity of the fragile territory. One conservation project successfully petitioned for the preservation of five million acres that are now off-limits to logging.

Visiting Great Bear Rainforest

The best time to visit Great Bear Rainforest is May through September when the days are longer and significantly warmer. The best time to see the bears is in the spring. Though the newly protected land isn’t easy to access (there are little to no roads along the mountains and fjords) it can be toured via ferries or boats. There are numerous tours that allow for wild-life viewing, especially for whales and packs of wolves that frequent the coast to eat fish. Kayaking and floating fishing lodges are also available for the adventurous traveler. There are several places to stay including the King Pacific Lodge and the Spirit Bear Lodge, which offer guided tours and numerous excursions.