

## The Bears of Tweedsmuir, British Columbia



The historic Tweedsmuir Park Lodge is an attractive, family-style wilderness lodge nestled within Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, Bella Coola, BC. It is situated on 60 acres of pristine wilderness land with access to a variety of activities. Originally built in 1929 as a hunting lodge, it was rebuilt in 1952 to accommodate those seeking out a more eco-friendly adventure.

The lodge is well known for its friendly environment and the calming effect it has on those who visit. After a big day of outdoor activities, guests can relax in front of two huge fireplaces, enjoy the spa facility, soak in the outdoor hot tub, or simply retire to the lodge deck for drinks before dinner. Enjoy the mountain views and keep your eyes open for the local wildlife, including Grizzly Bears and Black Bears which may lumber past on the lawn.

### **Day by day itinerary**

#### **Day 1 : Victoria – Bella Coola**

Check in at Vancouver Airport for the short Coastal Pacific flight to Bella Coola. On arrival at Bella Coola you will be met and transferred to Tweedsmuir Park Lodge where you will stay for the following four nights in a premium view cabin (FB).

#### ***Your Financial Protection***

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

## **Tweedsmuir Park Lodge**

The lodge is situated at the junction of the Atnarko, Talchako and Bella Coola Valleys. There are 600 metres of river frontage and stunning views of the aptly named Mt. Stupendous and Mt. Mellikan. The lodge is in an exceptional location and has been a favourite place for local First Nation peoples to camp and fish for thousands of years. The lodge property is also known as 'Stuie', which means "nice place to rest" in the Nuxalk language.



The main lodge building is the central location for socializing. There is a large living room and dining room with river rock fireplace; a sports bar with billiards table, games and satellite TV; a retail shop; and a guest media room with computer access and fax/telephone service. In addition there is WiFi access throughout the lodge, chalets and cabins.

Come nightfall, guests retreat to their own private chalets and cabins. There are a total of 10 guest chalets on the property, accommodating between 2-4 people per chalet. The chalets are built around a giant central lawn and all have excellent views and lots of privacy, guaranteeing a serene setting for your holiday.

In addition to the main lodge and chalets there is also a 1,200 sq/ft spa building with yoga stretching room, weights and exer-cycles, massage rooms, showers and a 12 person covered outdoor hot tub overlooking the lawn and the coast range beyond.



The lodge is situated just off of highway 20 about 63 kilometres east of the Bella Coola town site and 385 kilometres west of Williams Lake. This is the eastern end of the Bella Coola Valley and neighbours the dry Chicotin Plateau. The high pressure air mass on the plateau influences the weather at the lodge creating a micro climate. The lodge area receives on average 70% less precipitation than what Environment Canada posts for the Bella Coola town site. Most of the time it's sunny at the lodge and on some occasions it's the warmest place in Canada.

Begin your safari with an afternoon drift on the Atnarko River to look for Grizzly Bears. Imagine a slow drift down a meandering river between massive, snow-capped peaks. Relax and enjoy the scenery, but keep your eyes open for wildlife. The Salmon are spawning and provide an easy meal for Bald Eagles and Grizzly Bears. River Otters and Black Bears may also be spotted.

## Day 2

Another river float trip, with the express purpose of looking for and spending time watching the magnificent Grizzly Bears. Group size is restricted to 4 people per boat to provide a more private experience.

Bella Coola is home to the highest concentration of Grizzly Bears in North America. The fall salmon run attracts them and they are busy eating and putting on weight for the coming winter.



## Day 3

Bella Coola is home to the Nuxalk First Nation peoples. These people have inhabited the valley for millennia and have created a vibrant artistic culture that includes totem poles, expressive dances and ancient rock petroglyphs.

The day includes stops at art galleries, the Bella Coola town site, and the harbour for a picnic lunch. The afternoon includes a hike

on the famed Alexander MacKenzie loop trail, which commemorates the terminus of the first crossing of North America in 1793 and will offer yet more opportunities to see the local wildlife.

## Day 4

A daytime drift on the Atnarko River for yet more photo opportunities. You will also enjoy a guided valley tour with short hikes to look for bear signs, such as tracks, salmon carcasses, rub trees with claw and bite marks, as well as places the bears dig out in the forest floor for their naps called day beds.

In addition, there will be stops at the river and many superb vantage points overlooking the river to see spawning salmon, and the bears and eagles fishing for them.



## Day 5

Breakfast, and a leisurely morning in which you can enjoy the grounds and the view from the deck before you depart from Tweedsmuir Park Lodge.

Transfer to Bella Coola and check in for the Coastal Pacific flight to Vancouver.

**Price Guide:**

The cost of this itinerary is from **£1825 per person\***, based on twin share and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).

*\*This price is based on exchange rates available at the time of publication and may vary at the time of booking. Please see our [booking conditions](#) for more information.*

**Includes:**

- Accommodation and meals as described
- Transfers to/from lodge
- Bear viewing activities
- Hotel taxes and park fees

**Excludes:**

- International airfares
- Personal items such as phone calls, tips etc.
- Travel Insurance – ask us for a quote

