

## The Bears of Tweedsmuir, British Columbia



Tweedsmuir is an attractive, family-style wilderness lodge nestled within Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, Bella Coola, BC. Constructed in the 1920s as a hunting lodge, it has since been renovated to accommodate those seeking out a more eco-friendly adventure, and now stands as one of the best bear-viewing locations in all of the Canada.

Tweedsmuir is situated on 60 acres of pristine wilderness, offering a wonderfully relaxed wildlife experience. The atmosphere at the lodge is warm and welcoming. After a day of outdoor activities, guests can relax in front of two log fireplaces, retreat to the spa and outdoor hot tub, or simply retire to the lodge deck for drinks before dinner. Local wildlife can often be seen from the comfort of the lodge, including grizzly bears and black bears.

### **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 stay four nights in a premium view cabin (full-board basis).

### **Tweedsmuir Park Lodge**

*Tweedsmuir occupies a prime wilderness setting to the east of Bella Coola, on Canada's Pacific coastline. Positioned at the junction of the Bella Coola, Atnarko and Talchako Valleys, it directly overlooks the Atnarko River, and also enjoys stunning views of the Mts. Stupendous and Mellikan.*

#### **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 is a relatively small lodge, with just 10 forest chalets scattered around the lodge grounds and accommodating 2-4 guests each, ensuring an intimate stay. The chalets centre on a the main lounge, dining and guest area, which houses two bars (including a sports bar with billiards table) and dining room. The main building opens onto a wide viewing deck overlooking the river.



Separate to the main lodge is the spa building, housing yoga room, gymnasium, massage rooms and a outdoor hot tub overlooking the lodge grounds.

Start your wildlife-viewing this afternoon with a cruise on the Atnarko River. The cruise will see you follow the meandering river through dense forest and beneath tall peaks. This is a great chance to relax and get a feel for the environment, but do also keep your eyes peeled – during salmon-spawning season, grizzly bears can be seen hunting in the river! Black bears and river otter may also be spotted, albeit more rarely.

After the cruise, return to Tweedsmuir Lodge for dinner and overnight.



### Day 2: Bear-spotting in Tweedsmuir

Start the day with another river trip with the express purpose of looking for grizzly bear. The group size is restricted to 4 passengers per boat to provide a more intimate wildlife-viewing experience.

Bella Coola is home to the highest concentration of grizzly bears in North America. During the fall season they can reliably be seen in the Atnarko River as they hunt for salmon and put on weight for the winter hibernation.

Return to the lodge in the afternoon. The rest of the day is at leisure.

### Day 3: Cultural tour of Bella Coola

Bella Coola is home to the Nuxalk First Nation peoples. The Nuxalk have inhabited the valley for thousands of years, and developed a vibrant culture which finds expression in totem poles, dance and ancient rock petroglyphs.

Today you'll be able to learn more about the history of the Nuxalk people and the region in general. The day includes stops at an Nuxalk art gallery, the Bella Coola town site, and the harbour for a picnic lunch.



In the afternoon, enjoy a walk 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: Wildlife-viewing in Tweedsmuir

Start the day with another drift on the Atnarko River in search of grizzly bear, followed by a guided walk in the valley, during which your guide and tracker will show you how to identify bear tracks and claw marks while also keeping an eye out for other wildlife.

The day will also include plenty of stops at vantage points overlooking the river to view the spawning salmon and the bears and fish eagles in pursuit of them.

### Day 5: Departure

Breakfast, and a leisurely morning in which you can relax on the lodge grounds and enjoy the view from the deck before departing for Bella Coola.

When ready, transfer to Bella Coola and check-in for the Coastal Pacific flight to Vancouver, where you can connect with your international flight home.

#### Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is from £1,995 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](#).*

#### Includes:

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

#### Excludes:

- International airfare
- Personal expenses
- Travel Insurance – ask us for a quote