



# Ecotours – BC

Grizzly Bears, Wildlife, and Wilderness

BC's Premier Outdoor Adventure Specialists!



## “Spirit Of The Mountains”

### “Sensational Super Summer Itinerary”

Come home to nature. Become part of the forest. See with the eyes of the forest. Find your wild within.

6 Days / 5 Nights - 4 full days of high adventure in the Cariboo Mountains mid-July to mid-September.

- Day 1 – Arrival day – check in to Pyna-tee-ah Lodge, home of Ecotours-BC. Orientation session with dinner at 6 pm. Evening is free.
- Day 2 – Canoeing the Cariboo River – Grizzlies, Moose, Black Bear, Deer, Eagles and other birds.
- Day 3 – Hiking Brew Lakes – Grizzlies and Mountain Caribou, birds and wilderness.
- Day 4 – Heli-hiking in the remote alpine back country of the Cariboo Mountains. Grizzlies, moose, black bear and lots of other wildlife and birds.
- Day 5 – Grizzly Valley - hiking intermediate forest and sub-alpine - bears, wildlife and birding.
- Day 6 – Departure day – leisurely breakfast in the lodge and prepare to depart.

### Amazing Alpine Hiking and Wildlife Viewing in the Cariboo Mountains!

Connect with the wild side of nature in the wilderness back country of the Cariboo Mountains. This exciting back country adventure takes you from glacier fed rivers to the high alpine, the ‘land beyond the tree’, where you will see wildlife and experience life of the wild mountain dwellers. Feel the freedom and exhilaration as you breathe in the fresh pure mountain air. You will be guided by local knowledgeable, caring guides who will ensure your safety and a memorable experience in the truly Canadian tradition. Here are some of the exciting things you can experience.

- *Simply Amazing Alpine Hiking* – with our trail systems a short hike puts you in high mountain valleys and on the peaks. Explore alpine ecosystems and watch the wild life unfold in the alpine.
- Wildlife viewing - grizzly bear, black bear, mountain goat, moose, Mountain Caribou, wolf, mule deer, lynx, wolverine, birds.
- Always in bear country, summer sightings of grizzlies are very common.
- Grizzly bear habitat and bear dens.
- Ancient forests and wetlands - 1000 year old western red cedars in this rare and unique interior rainforest.
- Wildlife calling and tracking.
- Birding - eagles, osprey, herons, mountain dwellers, migratory birds, song birds (over 250 species)
- Wild flowers, rare plants and unique ecosystems.
- The wilderness traveler’s paradise and a photographer’s dream.
- Forest Bathing – the quiet benefits of being out in nature - nature’s way to soothe the mind and heal the soul using all your senses – seeing with the eyes of the forest.
- Over 30 years serving the wilderness traveler

Travel the backcountry and mountain valleys, rivers and peaks with Gary Zorn, the Cariboo Mountains “bear whisperer™” and his team of professional guides. Gary’s passion for the ‘big bears’ has led him into the backcountry where he has observed and learned the ways of the bears, their habits and habitats. Gary has a lifetime of grizzly bear and wildlife experience. His passion for the big bears has provided him with a great wealth of knowledge and much entertainment. You will learn much about the bears that few people have had the chance to experience.

Canoeing the Cariboo River is a special experience as you glide with the flow of the river – the only sounds the dip of your paddle, the call of the eagles, and the rush of the river. Wildlife watching by canoe allows you to silently enter the world of the animals before they know you’re there giving you excellent viewing and photographic opportunities. Watch as the grizzly and black bears pad along the river sandbars, the moose slips under the water to feed on water plants in the backwaters and pools, the deer daintily quench their thirst at the edge of the river, the beaver, another iconic emblem of Canada’s heritage, busily engineers a better home, and the

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eagles and other birds glide along the river with you. No Cariboo River trip is complete without a visit to Spirit Rock. A very spiritual and peaceful place along the river, Spirit Rock gives you breath taking river views and you feel your cares drain away as you relax and absorb the spirit of the river.

Trek into the land beyond the tree and a world of spectacular mountain peaks, pure fresh air, exhilarating freedom and the wild side of nature. Accessing the summer alpine habitat of the wildlife allows you to quietly walk the game trails that the bears, moose, caribou and mountain goats, wolves and wolverines and other mountain dwellers have travelled for eons. Learn to recognize the tracks of the animals and meet these mountain dwellers in their natural habitat. Learn about wildlife and the high alpine plants and birds that make up this distinctive part of the natural world. Throughout the summer the wild flowers blanket the alpine meadows – from glacial lilies to the tiny mountain heather.

Experience the thrill as the helicopter whisks you to new heights and new frontiers deep in the heart of the Cariboo Mountains where the vistas spread below are guaranteed to mesmerize and excite. Hiking the peaks gives you that top of the world experience that exhilarates and rejuvenates. Grizzlies, mountain goats, mountain caribou and wolves frequent the higher altitudes during the warm summer months preferring the cool mountain breezes and solitude. Learn about the unique ecosystems with a variety of rare plants and the geology of the mountains as you watch and observe.

Grizzly Valley is home to a number of big bears. As you pass quietly through lush boreal forests exploring on your way to another world of alpine heights. Listen to the wilderness, the mountains and the forests – hear them speak to your soul as your adventure unfolds. Hear the creeks and streams tumbling down the mountainsides voicing the pure ancient wisdom of Mother Nature. Hear the multitudes of birds singing and chirping, the scurrying of small creatures, the voice of the wind sighing through the trees or just listen to the golden silence in alpine meadows surrounded by nature's palette of colorful flowers and plant life. Feel the winds as they swirl around the mountain peaks. Travel among the wildlife observing grizzlies, mountain goats, mountain caribou, wolves, black bear and moose in their natural wild habitat. This trekking experience is a unique learning experience with insights into the very soul of Canada's most unique features. It is adventure in the backcountry far from the beaten tourist tracks. A special place where only a very few have experienced nature's soothing powers. Learn from your guide as you wend your way to new heights. Challenge your outdoor skills and your sense of adventure.

The adventure days start early with breakfast in the lodge at 5 a.m. A packed lunch with soft beverages, and lots of homemade snacks will ensure a wonderful picnic in the wilderness. In the late afternoon return to the comforts of the lodge for the wonderful country style gourmet Canadian cuisine Pyna-tee-ah Lodge is known for. Enjoy the evening in our gazebo near the river or beside the lodge fireplace and review the day's adventure, tell stories, or just contemplate the pure beauty of your day.

An ideal adventure trip and photographic safari for those who love to get away from it all in pure undisturbed wilderness and nature, it is ideal for all - youth to seniors and multi-generational families. Hiking areas are suitable for people with reasonable fitness levels and endurance. Terrain ranges from very easy to more rugged on the ridges we travel between the peaks. None of the hikes are exceptionally strenuous, but require some good steady walking. Fully guided by experienced mountain guides makes it an exhilarating carefree adventure.

## **Why Ecotours-BC?**

We are often asked what is unique about our tours. The pure intrinsic value of tours with Ecotours-BC lies in your total immersion and connection with nature. A tour with Ecotours-BC connects you with wild creatures in their natural habitat in ways you have never known. We put you on the inside of the forest - seeing with the eyes of the forest – and you become one with nature and the wild creatures. It is a pure natural nature connection. It's pure joy. And when you look back at the pictures you have taken its not just a picture of a bear or a moose or a bird or a mountain peak, its an experience that brings back the complete lifetime memory of the adventure and maybe even a life changing moment.

## **Package Information:**

Season – Weekly mid-July thru mid-September. Single supplement is 30%.

Minimum age is 14 years. Full rate applies to all participants. Request date availability prior to booking.

**Packages Include: Accommodations, meals, guides, necessary motorized equipment (helicopter, boats, motors, vehicles), orientation and interpretive information.** Guests need to bring waterproof rain gear – pants and jacket, waterproof hiking footwear, day pack sack, hat, clothing that can be layered – fleece is best, personal toiletries, cameras (preferably with a telephoto lens), memory cards/film, a good pair of binoculars.

**Not Included:** International airfares, staff appreciation gratuities, liquor, applicable Canadian taxes, Wilderness Stewardship Fund, ground transport from/to Williams Lake airport is available - \$235.00 Cdn per vehicle – maximum 4 people. Single supplement is 30%. (Recommended gratuities for guides – 10% of package cost.)

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**Payment & Cancellation Policy:** Bookings are confirmed with a 50% deposit with the balance due 60 days prior to arrival. In the event of cancellation 60 days prior to your scheduled arrival, and your reserved space can be rebooked, the deposit can be applied for an alternative date in the same season or the following season. All payments are final and nonrefundable. Payments may be made by bank transfer or personal cheque. Prices are subject to change without notice. Bookings confirmed with a deposit are guaranteed.

**Notes:** Ecotours – BC reserves the right to cancel or modify services as weather and local conditions warrant without notification in the interest of safety of all concerned. Due to weather or other conditions beyond our control we reserve the right to change the order and/or elements of the itinerary to maximize wildlife viewing opportunities and achieve best conditions for each of the trip elements based on best knowledge available at the time. We view wild animals in their natural habitat. The animals are totally wild and unhabituated. This is natural wildlife viewing of animals in their natural habitat. There are no viewing platforms or baiting and the animals are not enclosed in any wildlife preserve. With natural wildlife viewing there are numerous variables that are out of our control including weather conditions, natural instincts and movements of the wildlife, and human capabilities. We do not guarantee bear/wildlife sightings but do our best to take guests to the optimal areas giving them the best opportunities for viewing wildlife. Guests are required to sign a waiver of liability on arrival at Pyna-tee-ah Lodge prior to participation in activities.

**Important Trip Planning Notes** – Being prepared is an important part of maximizing your wilderness adventure experience and making it an unforgettable experience. At the time of booking we will provide you with a recommended equipment list to assist you with packing for your tour with us. Please note we do not accept liability for any circumstances which may result in the failure/cancellation of your holiday arrangements which may be due to unusual or unforeseeable circumstances or events beyond our control or that we, our agents, suppliers and associates could not have anticipated or avoided. We do not carry health, life, or personal property insurance for guest benefit. As of March 2016 international travelers to Canada require an **Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)**. Please visit the Government Of Canada Immigration Website for more information - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>.

**Insurance:** You need to purchase trip cancellation insurance as well as extended medical insurance to cover life and health care risks while in Canada, emergency evacuation insurance (please ensure it includes wilderness activities), and personal property insurance to insure your personal belongings against loss/damage. Proof of insurance is required prior to trip commencement.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS REGARDING PREPARATIONS FOR TOURS.**

It is of vital importance that when you book an outdoor adventure excursion you are properly equipped for the tours in order to get the most enjoyment from it. You must be prepared for all types of weather as it can change within minutes in the mountains of British Columbia. Guests must come equipped with warm weatherproof raingear – jacket, pants and hat, waterproof footwear – hiking boots or shoes, gloves, and clothes you can layer – one piece of which must be a good fleece or wool sweater/jumper. These items are vital to your comfort on the tours. Please see our Equipment List for full details of recommendations of what to bring for tours. (No white or light pastel colored jackets. Tans, browns, dark greens, or black is best so you can blend into the forest.)

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