The Great Alaskan Grizzly Encounter
Meet the Mighty Brown Bears of Katmai Up Close from Our Private Small Ship

June 21 – 28, 2020
I am beyond excited to have the opportunity to host the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's Great Alaskan Grizzly Encounter, and I would love for you to join me!

This is an absolute exclusive experience to see the world's biggest coastal grizzlies in wild and scenic Alaska in a small group of seven. This eight-day trip is packed with incredibly memorable views and experiences.

We start in Kodiak, home of the Baranov Museum, Alutiiq Museum and the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center, for dinner and orientation. A day-long private cruise along secluded bays and rocky shoreline on day two will keep us busy looking for sea otters, puffins, bald eagles, sea lions and humpback and fin whales – more of my favorite wildlife!

On day three, our anticipation to see bears will be at its peak! We will take a floatplane from Kodiak to Katmai to board our privately chartered ship the Natural Habitat Ursus (be sure to read up on this vessel's incredible story!) where we will spend the next several days cruising the coast to witness the grizzlies in their most natural habitat. We can cruise to wherever the brown bears are, traveling from bay to bay.

We travel in an open skiff a few times to head to shore. Not only will we witness awesome glaciers and incredible seabirds, our hiking boots will come in handy as we travel on foot to see carnivores doing what bears do. I cannot wait to be among these incredible grizzlies, in absolute stunning wilderness. Our travel experts say, “Most travelers never get such an immersion in genuine wilderness, let alone a chance to sit in solitude with some of these magnificent bears."

On day seven, we return to Kodiak for a farewell dinner and on day eight, we return to our home destinations.

It will for sure be hard to end this experience of a lifetime. Undoubtedly, this trip will further inspire us to protect the bears from the unfortunately real threats of mining, climate change and other forces that impact the ecosystem that sustains them.

I cannot wait for this rare privilege and unbelievable experience. And, I hope it is with you!

Mayme Norman
Vice President, Philanthropy
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Trip Details:

Days: 8 Days
Price: $8995 (+ Air)
Dates: June 21-28, 2020
Physical Requirements: Moderate to Difficult

The Great Alaskan Grizzly Encounter

Meet the Mighty Brown Bears of Katmai Up Close from Our Private Small Ship

Nature puts on few displays as arresting as Alaskan brown bears feeding on summer's bounty. These bears—the largest coastal grizzlies in the world—gorge on clams, mussels, sedges and spawning salmon as the fish swim up the rivers that pour onto these wild beaches. Our private chartered small ship, the *Natural Habitat Ursus*, is ideally designed for our Alaska wilderness expedition, offering an exclusive opportunity to follow the bears along the wild shoreline as they fish, forage and amble along the beach. Ashore, we have an even closer vantage point as we watch on foot with our guide from a careful distance. The grizzlies could not be more nonchalant about our presence! Here in Katmai National Park, experience this rarest of encounters with *Ursus arctos* in all its untamed majesty.

Trip Highlights

You won’t believe how close you’ll get to giant brown bears—the world’s biggest coastal grizzlies—in a wilder setting than anywhere else on Earth...safely on foot!

Cruising just offshore on our private chartered ship allows unparalleled access for bear viewing in the most remote and intimate of contexts

Watch bears foraging on the beach as we walk ashore in the careful company of our Expedition Leader whose bear expertise adds immeasurably to your experience
Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1
Kodiak, Alaska

Day 2
Kodiak Island Wildlife Cruise

Day 3
Kodiak / Katmai—Board
Natural Habitat Ursus

Days 4–6
Bear Viewing in Katmai
National Park

Day 7
Bear Viewing in Katmai /
Return to Kodiak

Day 8
Kodiak / Depart

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Meet the Mighty Brown Bears of Katmai Up Close from Our Private Small Ship

Day 1: Kodiak, Alaska

On arrival in Kodiak, our local guide meets you and transfers you to our hotel, pointing out sights along the way. Depending on your arrival time, you may be able to explore some of Kodiak’s Russian and Native heritage on your own this afternoon. Options include the Baranov Museum, Alutiiq Museum, Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Cathedral and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center. All are centrally located in the compact town of Kodiak that surrounds St. Paul’s Harbor. Our grizzly adventure officially begins this evening with an informal welcome dinner and orientation hosted by our local guide.
Day 2: Kodiak Island Wildlife Cruise

While Katmai’s grizzlies will be our main focus, Kodiak Island is an impressive wildlife destination in its own right, and today we explore a sampler of its coastal waters on a day-long private boat trip. A cruise among Kodiak’s secluded bays and rocky shorelines, past tidal pools and kittiwake rookeries, may reveal sea otters, puffins, bald eagles, sea lions and sometimes humpback and fin whales. Kodiak is remote, not often visited by travelers to Alaska, and our sense of an intimate encounter with nature is palpable as we glide through its rockbound coves and islands. We’ll also spend time touring historic Kodiak, with a mix of activities that may include a walk through the coastal rain forest at Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park, a fisheries research center with aquarium and touch tank, and/or a drive up Pillar Mountain for sweeping views over the town and sea, when weather permits.

Day 3: Kodiak / Katmai—Board Natural Habitat Ursus

The day has arrived: We’re off to see the bears! And we reach them via a classically Alaskan means of transport: a floatplane journey from Kodiak to Katmai to meet our privately chartered ship, the Natural Habitat Ursus. Our plan is to fly out late morning, but timing is flexible in the event of weather delays, in which case we’ll explore a bit more of Kodiak as we wait for the clouds to lift. Once we board the plane, we fly west over Kodiak’s steep green mountains and across Shelikof Strait to the Katmai Peninsula. The pilot is in radio contact with the Ursus, and soon we’re taxiing along the water to pull up alongside. Exiting the plane, we embark the vessel that will be our floating home for the next several days.

The 73-foot Ursus was built as a deep-sea fishing boat called Time Bandit, which navigated the stormy Bering Sea in pursuit of the lucrative king crab catch. Its successor, the second Time Bandit, gained fame in the Discovery Channel TV series “Deadliest Catch.” The original boat was later transitioned for research use by the National Park Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Since retrofitted for custom tourism charters, this sturdy veteran of wild Alaskan waters now offers our guests comfortable accommodations in this remote marine wilderness. The Ursus (which means “bear” in Latin) cruises slowly along the coast, where we commonly find coastal grizzlies, or brown bears, foraging for food. Since we are mobile, we can cruise to wherever the bears are, following them from bay to bay depending on weather and sea conditions. Along the way, the friendly captain and staff of the Ursus ensure we’re welcomed, safe and attended to.
Days 4–6: Bear Viewing in Katmai National Park

While we've all seen footage in nature documentaries of Alaskan brown bears in the wild, nothing prepares us for the drama of an actual encounter with these magnificent beasts, often just yards away. They are North America's largest land predators, and an adult male can weigh 900 pounds. As we cruise just off the coast, bears dot the shoreline. We go ashore by skiff for an even closer view, traversing the beaches on foot. It's not uncommon to find several massive grizzlies at once. And far from dozing lethargically, these bears may put on quite a show in their efforts to fill up on enough protein-rich food to prepare them for a long winter in hibernation.

The bear activity we witness will vary according to the season, weather conditions, and timing of the salmon runs, but there's always something riveting to watch. We may see bears fight to capture salmon in their jaws, trying to seize spawning fish that make their way up the streams flowing over the intertidal area. As omnivores, bears also dig for clams and mussels in the sand and browse on protein-rich sedges. Depending on the timing of our visit, we may even see bears mating or cubs gallivanting on the shore. On our other Alaska trips, we watch grizzlies from viewing platforms or vehicles. Not here! In coastal Katmai we are on foot, carefully wandering the area in our small group under the cautious guidance of our Expedition Leader who offers thorough coaching in safe “bear etiquette.” Sometimes we see wolves, too, observing their interesting interactions with the bears. While occasionally there may be another boat in the region, we're usually alone in the wilderness, moved by a profound sense of solitude, peace and raw beauty. This trip offers an encounter with the Alaskan wild that we trust will thrill you beyond expectation.

Day 7: Bear Viewing in Katmai / Return to Kodiak

One last morning is set aside for time with the bears before our planned flight back to Kodiak later today. Traveling in an open skiff, we head once more toward shore, looking for a glimpse of the glaciers that crown the tall mountains behind Katmai's lonely coastline. Typically these peaks are cloaked in clouds while evocative mists weave in and out of the bays, providing the moisture that keeps Katmai so lush and verdant. Deep ash covered the region after the massive 1912 eruption of Mount Katmai and adjacent Novarupta, and revegetation in the century since has come mostly as a thick blanket of willow and alder bushes, though some stands of spruce thrive as well—keep an eye out for bald eagles in the treetops. Seabirds abound, too—look for kittiwakes, terns, mergansers, pigeon guillemots and black oystercatchers.

On shore, we walk across the tidal flats and gravel bars, possibly fording a few streams to find the best vantage point for a last sojourn with the bears. Inevitably, it's going to be hard to leave here. Most travelers never get such an immersion in genuine wilderness, let alone the chance to sit in solitude with some of the world's most magnificent carnivores. We're sure to come away awed by the access the bears grant us to their world, and inspired to protect them from the very real threats of mining, climate change and other forces that may impact the ecosystem that sustains them—especially the salmon runs on which they rely. Back in Kodiak, our local guide meets us once more as we transfer to our hotel. A farewell dinner is planned at a local restaurant. Fresh seafood is always on the menu, along with other varied choices.
Day 8: Kodiak / Depart

Our Alaska bear adventure comes to a close today as we depart from Kodiak. We recommend guests book an afternoon flight out in case inclement weather prevents us from flying back to Kodiak on Day 7 as scheduled. (Occasionally, weather delays may require a morning flight today from the Ursus back to Kodiak.) Several morning activity options are available in town as we wait for flight departures, however, and our Kodiak guide makes sure there's plenty to engage us.

Please note:

Most floatplane flights will depart Kodiak to meet the Ursus by late morning on Day 3 and return to Kodiak by mid-afternoon on Day 7. The exact timing will vary according to weather, marine conditions and other logistical factors.
Accommodation Details:

M/V Natural Habitat Ursus

Kodiak Inn

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/alaska-northern-adventures/alaska-grizzly-adventure/accommodations/

The Great Alaskan Grizzly Encounter Accommodations

Meet the Mighty Brown Bears of Katmai Up Close from Our Private Small Ship

**M/V Natural Habitat Ursus**

Our privately chartered 73-foot ship is ideally designed to explore remote waters of coastal Katmai National Park without leaving a footprint, and provides accommodations for up to eight passengers.

**Kodiak Inn**

Centrally located in downtown Kodiak overlooking St. Paul Harbor, the Kodiak Inn is the premier full-service hotel on the island, within walking distance of most of Kodiak’s main sites.
The World’s Most Intimate Grizzly Encounter!

You’ve seen pictures of Alaska’s enormous brown bears lumbering over tide flats, feasting on salmon, nurturing frisky cubs. Many travelers come to Alaska expecting to see them. But the fact is, very few will. These coastal grizzlies live in the remote reaches of Katmai National Park, far from any cruise ship or tour bus route. Few visitors to Alaska are fortunate to get to the heart of brown bear country, and certainly not the way we do, on the ground in very small groups, as up close and personal as you’ll ever safely get with wild bears! If you’re looking for the ultimate Alaska bear experience, this is it!

A Maximum of Just 7 Travelers

Because our Alaska adventure cruise takes place aboard a privately chartered vessel, our group is limited to a maximum of seven guests. A very small group is essential to approach the bears safely without disturbing them. You won’t find a more intimate bear-viewing context! Nor will you find a better guide-to-guest ratio on any Alaskan tour.

An Exclusive Itinerary into the Heart of Coastal Grizzly Habitat

Our itinerary, which is offered solely by Natural Habitat Adventures, focuses exclusively on nature and bears—not busy ports and tourist towns. In fact, you can’t get here by cruise ship or by road—we access this untouched wilderness by floatplane, then transfer to a private small ship to explore the coast. This is an experience you simply cannot get on a standard Alaska tour package.

Our Own Privately Chartered Ship

We travel aboard our own chartered vessel, the Natural Habitat Ursus, where we are the sole guests. This converted research ship, originally a crab fishing boat that has been retrofitted to comfortably accommodate guests, is ideal for exploring the scenic bays of Katmai National Park. Ursus cruises close to the coastline, allowing us to watch bears foraging in the meadows and clamming on the tide flats, we’ll travel ashore by skiff to view them on foot. And because we sleep aboard at night, our route can be flexible—we follow the bears!

Watch Bears on Foot—Sometimes Just Feet Away!

It seems impossible to fathom that we can stand on the ground at close range with Alaska's mighty brown bears. Yet that's exactly the opportunity this unique adventure affords. When we step ashore among the bears, we are generally the only humans around—and the bears are completely nonchalant about our presence! They often wander past in such proximity that you won’t even need your telephoto lens!
Explore the Shores & Bays of Kodiak Island by Chartered Boat

Our itinerary includes a private boat tour from Kodiak Island. Kodiak is remote, well off the standard Alaska tour itinerary, and its rockbound coves and tidal pools abound with wildlife. On a chartered day cruise, we’re likely to see sea lions, otters, puffins, bald eagles, and often whales. We may glimpse moose, black bears or coyotes on shore, too.

The World’s Finest Naturalist Guides

The Nat Hab Expedition Leaders who will guide our grizzly adventure are professional naturalists and bear experts. They take pride in employing Alaska’s most qualified, dedicated and passionate natural history guides, and their Alaska Expedition Leaders average more than 15 years’ experience each. They also receive additional training from leading WWF scientists. Expedition Leaders regale guests with their in-depth knowledge while remaining close at hand to ensure safety and comfort in every respect.

A Commitment to Bears & Other Wildlife

In support of our commitment to the conservation of Alaska’s brown bears and other wildlife, we’ve created a special website, Bears & Beyond, managed and edited by NHA Expedition Leader and bear expert Brad Josephs. The site is a showcase for photos and stories about bears and other wild animals, including wolves. Take a look, and share the link with your friends, too!

Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superior Alaska Bear Encounter

Natural Habitat Adventures offers an exclusive guarantee, which clearly states that they will meet the lofty expectations established in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

Feel Good About the Way You Travel

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with Nat Hab, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100-percent offset—Natural Habitat Adventures is the world’s first carbon-neutral travel company.
2020 Pricing

Trip Price (+internal air)
$8995

Internal Air Cost: $695 per person
Single Occupancy: for a single room, add 50% to the trip price. If requested, we can also match you with a roommate. If we are unable to find you a match, you will not be charged for a single room.
Deposit: $1000 per person (nonrefundable)
Group Size: ~7 Guests

Please Note:
- Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars
- A very important feature of our Alaska grizzly bear tour is the small group size, as this intimate wildlife encounter is best and most safely experienced with fewer travelers.
Included

Trip price includes: Accommodations, services of Nat Hab’s professional Expedition Leader(s), boat crew and local staff, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, beer and wine on board the Ursus, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, gear including chest waders for shore excursions, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Internal air cost includes: All floatplane flights within the itinerary.

Not Included
Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Physical Requirements
Moderate to Difficult
This small-ship-based Alaska adventure cruise requires a moderate level of physical fitness in terrain that can be difficult to navigate. At times, travelers must walk at least two miles to reach the daily bear-viewing location, in varied conditions that may include rough, uneven terrain, shallow water, and walking through mud while wearing chest waders (which can feel a bit awkward and uncomfortable)—while carrying all of your own gear including camera equipment. In order to maximize bear-viewing opportunities, we may spend long days ashore, returning late to the ship for dinner. Once at the bear-viewing site, physical activity is quite limited. We may spend several hours in essentially one spot with little movement, sitting on low stools or buckets. For safety reasons, it is not possible to split the group, for individuals to return to the ship early or to stay in one place while the rest of the group moves. Transfers between the Natural Habitat Ursus (our small ship) and the float plane, and to the smaller boat we use to access shore, require the ability to make a large step up or down onto an unstable surface. It is generally not possible to view bears from the Ursus. Travelers must be of sound health and able to maintain a positive attitude in a wild and remote setting.

Medical Form
Due to the extremely remote nature of this adventure, we require that all travelers submit a medical form before departure. This form must be completed and signed by your primary care physician.

Important Information About This Trip
This trip involves watching grizzlies on foot in unprotected open areas. While bears are unpredictable and sighting them can never be guaranteed, our groups have never missed seeing them. The unpredictability of bears can also lead to dangerous situations. They are wild animals, and we ask travelers to heed the rules set by our staff and to understand that this trip can, potentially, present harmful situations. We ask that all travelers take their own safety into consideration when signing onto
this (and any) adventure. On this rare adventure, we encounter giant Alaskan brown bears from an uncommon and fascinating perspective, at eye level! Very few people in the world have an opportunity to see these powerful and beautiful creatures in such an intimate context, and we are very proud that our guests are among the select few who do.

Getting There & Getting Home

Arrive in Kodiak in time for a 7 pm welcome dinner and orientation on Day 1. Exact times of our flights between Kodiak and the Natural Habitat Ursus vary according to weather and other logistical factors. We are scheduled to return to Kodiak on Day 7. You are free to depart from Kodiak anytime on Day 8, but we strongly recommended choosing a flight in the afternoon in the unlikely event that poor weather prevents us from returning by float plane as scheduled on the itinerary. Should travelers be required to remain in Kodiak longer than anticipated due to inclement weather, either before, after or during the trip, they will be responsible for their own expenses.

Questions

Please contact Patti Cattey at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium at (614)724-3558 or patti.cattey@columbuszoo.org or Court Whelan (courtw@nathab.com) or Brooke Mitchell (brookem@nathab.com) or by phone at (800)543-8917
COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM’S DISCLAIMER

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium (hereafter “Zoo”) is not the tour operator.

Zoo is not responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or car-rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond Zoo's control.

Zoo acts only as agent for participants with respect to travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, Zoo shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of any participants due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond its control.

Zoo shall not be responsible for alteration of the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure; in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on Zoo's part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's health, actions or general deportment in the opinion of Zoo impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour.

Applicants for participation in this tour accept in full all the conditions set forth above.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas you will travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), Nat Hab requires medical evacuation insurance for this program. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat Adventures, they require that you send them documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. They recommend that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage. Please note that they will add the cost of Nat Hab's medical evacuation policy (currently $48 per person) to your tour invoice until you provide their office with proof of coverage including your insurance company's name, phone number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that their policy exists exclusively in the interest of guests' safety.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium offers a plan which covers baggage, medical costs, trip interruption and cancellation, as well as medical evacuation. The plan also allows the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion to be waived if purchased within 21 days of the initial trip payment. Information will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation and deposit. For details you can call the Zoo at 614-724-3558, or go to the Zoo's website at: https://www.travelinsure.com/select/?pcode=33004/.
Please reserve ______ place(s) on Columbus Zoo Great Grizzly Alaska Adventure, June 21-28, 2020

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Nick Name: __________________________________________________________

Date of Birth: ___________ Dietary Preference: □ Regular  □ Vegetarian

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Nick Name: __________________________________________________________

Date of Birth: ___________ Dietary Preference: □ Regular  □ Vegetarian

*Street Address: ______________________________________________________

City: _____________________________ State: _______ ZIP: ____________

Phone: ___________________________ Email: _____________________________

*PLEASE NOTE: Travelers not living at the same address must fill out separate reservation forms.

Deposit Information:
$1000 1st deposit (non-refundable) — due at time of booking
Final Balance due 120 days prior to departure (2/22/2020).

☐ Check enclosed, payable to Natural Habitat Adventures (PO Box 3065 Boulder, CO 80307)
☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express  ☐ Discover Card

Account #: __________________________ CVV #: ______ Exp Date: ___/___

Cardholder Name: ____________________________________________________

PLEASE NOTE: Your final payment will be charged to your credit card at 120 days prior to departure. Should you prefer to pay by check, you must indicate your preference below.
☐ I will pay my final payment by check. Please do not charge my credit card for final payment.

Waiver of Liability
I understand that by signing below I am acting for myself and for everyone in my party in acknowledging that the Refund & Cancellation Policy has been read and accepted. I also understand that I and everyone in my party will be required to sign a release of liability form prior to and/or during my trip. I give my permission for NHA to charge my final balance on my credit card at 120 days prior to departure, unless otherwise noted on this form. I also give my permission for NHA to use any image taken of me or anyone in my party by NHA or its affiliates for promotional purposes.

Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: __________

Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: __________

PLEASE NOTE: Each participant must sign this waiver.

Please complete this form and email, mail or fax to:
Natural Habitat Adventures
Attn: Court Whelan (email: courtw@nathab.com) or Brooke Mitchell (email: brookem@nathab.com)

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