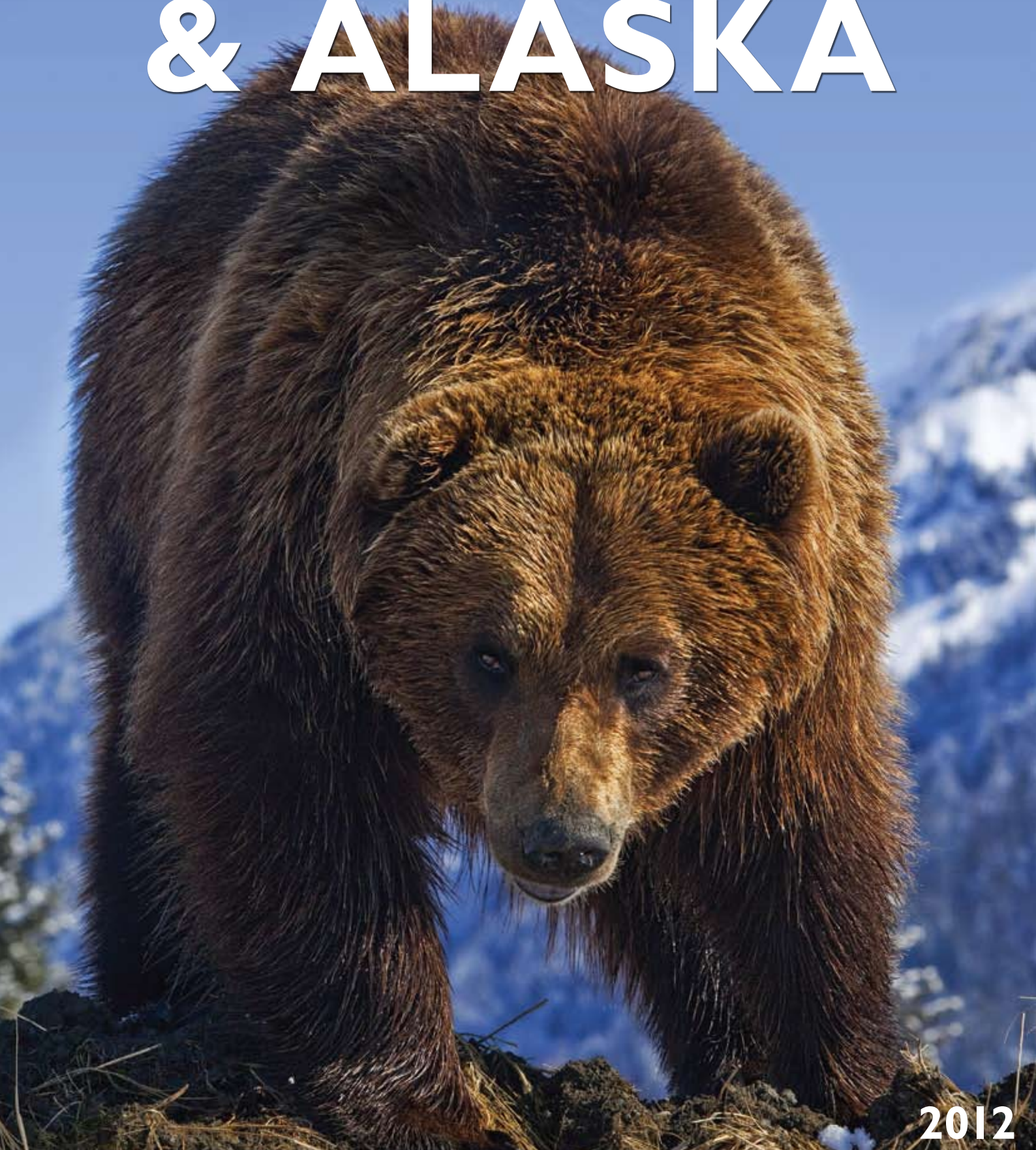




NATURAL FOCUS
SAFARIS

CANADA & ALASKA



2012



© Travel Alberta

Stunning Moraine Lake, Banff

CANADA & ALASKA IN FOCUS

Straddling the north of the Americas, from cosmopolitan Vancouver to the remoteness of the Arctic tundra, Canada & Alaska offers something for everyone. Choose from exciting outdoor adventures in unforgettable scenery, historic train journeys, sophisticated cities and rejuvenating tranquillity in the heart of nature.

Natural Focus Safaris specialise in personalised, tailor made holidays. Our knowledge and expertise has helped us to develop a portfolio of intimate wildlife lodges, small ship cruises, and expedition voyages which offer truly memorable experiences.

Cruising takes up a large part of this year's brochure. We have a wonderful range of small ship cruises through the famous Inside Passage which get you close to giant glaciers, ice bergs and marine wildlife. On Canada's east coast and up into the High Arctic we offer expeditions by land and sea, searching for amazing wildlife like polar bears, walrus, muskox, Beluga whales and even the mysterious Narwhal.

Encountering black bears and grizzly bears is usually high on the "must do" list of most travellers, including us. Nothing can quite prepare you from meeting these giant mammals in the wild and in this brochure you will find a range of wildlife lodges which offer excellent, naturalist guided bear viewing.

So take your pick of the many experiences available, whether it's relaxing at a chateau hotel next to idyllic Lake Louise, kayaking around a pod of whales or watching the Aurora Borealis from a snow-covered log cabin. You will find all of these in this brochure.

Happy travelling,

Stephen & Sara Cameron - Founders



TRAVEL WITH THE SPECIALISTS

Natural Focus Safaris specialises in small group tours and private tailor-made arrangements for the discerning traveller. For 27 years, with parent company African Wildlife Safaris, we have been organising tours to some of the world's most fascinating destinations, including Africa, Antarctica, the Arctic, Bhutan, Canada & Alaska, Egypt, India and South America. Our staff are all passionate travellers and over the years we have built up an enviable reputation for our knowledge, expertise and professionalism.

Weather Chart

ALASKA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anchorage	13 -6	-12 -4	-8 01	-2 06	03 12	08 16	11 18	09 17	05 13	-2 04	-9 -3	-12 -6
Juneau	-7 -2	-6 01	-3 03	0 08	03 13	07 16	09 17	08 17	06 13	03 08	-3 02	-6 -1
Kodiak	-4 02	-4 02	-3 03	-1 06	03 09	06 13	09 16	09 16	06 13	01 08	-2 04	-2 04
CANADA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Banff	-15 -5	-11 0	-8 04	-3 09	02 14	06 19	07 22	07 22	03 16	-1 10	-8 01	-14 05
Churchill	-31 -23	-29 -2	-25 -16	-15 -6	-6 02	01 11	07 17	07 16	02 08	-4 01	-1 07	-27 -18
Halifax	-11 -2	-11 -2	-6 02	-1 08	04 14	09 20	13 23	13 23	09 18	04 13	-1 07	-7 01
Igloolik	-34 -27	-35 -28	-32 -24	-23 -15	-12 -5	01 04	03 11	02 08	-2 02	-11 -6	-23 -16	-30 -23
Montreal	-15 -6	-14 -4	-7 02	01 11	07 18	12 23	15 26	14 24	09 19	03 13	-2 05	-11 -3
St. John's	-14 -3	-13 -3	-8 02	-2 08	03 14	08 19	11 22	11 22	07 17	03 12	-2 06	-10 -1
Toronto	-8 -2	-8 -1	-3 03	02 10	07 16	13 22	15 25	16 24	12 20	07 13	-2 -7	-5 01
Vancouver	0 06	01 08	02 09	04 12	08 16	11 19	12 22	13 22	10 18	06 13	03 09	01 06
Whitehorse	-23 -14	-18 -8	-13 -2	-6 06	0 12	05 18	07 20	06 18	02 12	-3 04	-14 -7	-20 -12

High or Best Time Shoulder or Low Season Off Season

Front Cover: © Photolibary



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Daisy and her two cubs, Whistler Mountain

© Tourism Whistler/Michael Allen

CONTACT US OR ASK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Call our experienced consultants to discuss your travel plans, or contact your travel agent.

Call us now on (03) 9249 3777 or 1300 363 302 (interstate callers).

Fax: (03) 9696 4937

E-mail: info@awsnfs.com

Web: www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au



© Arctic Kingdom

Climbing iceberg stairs

CHOOSING YOUR TOUR

Our program includes a variety of different holiday styles, from cruising to rail journeys, minivan tours and self-drive. These can easily be combined to create a personalised itinerary. However, choosing the right type of tour to suit your style and budget requires good planning and expert advice, and our experienced staff can help you put it all together. For example, combine a Rocky Mountaineer rail tour with a cruise of the Inside Passage and a few days at a bear-viewing lodge. Get back to nature on a camping tour, or combine outdoor adventures with luxury accommodation at a wilderness retreat. Below is a general guide to the different kinds of trips and accommodation styles available.



© American Safari Cruises

Amazing glaciers

BEFORE YOU BOOK

The information contained in this brochure was correct at the time of publication. Since then, however, changes beyond our control could have occurred. Please refer to our Booking Conditions on page 51, in particular with respect to prices, itineraries, tour duration, standard of services, tour content, airfares and airline schedules. Before you book please check with your travel agent or Natural Focus Safaris to ascertain if there are any alterations to the tour you have selected.

GRIZZLY & POLAR BEAR TOURS

One of the most exciting and rewarding trips you can do in Canada and Alaska, and one which we thoroughly recommend, is Grizzly Bear viewing (p18-20, 32-35). Polar Bear trips in Churchill are also available (p42/43).



© Jamie Scarrow

Close to mum

COACH TOURS

Coach tours (p37, 50) are the traditional way to see Canada and Alaska. These are affordable trips which include the most popular sightseeing and scenic areas. Several standards of accommodation are normally offered for you to choose from.



© Rocky Mountaineer®

Comfortable coach touring

CRUISES

The coastlines of Canada and Alaska offer some of the world's most dramatic natural wonders and captivating wildlife experiences. Our intimate cruise ships (p8-15, 46/47) offer comfortable accommodation and excellent facilities. Explore the famous Inside Passage or cross the Arctic Circle. Cruises can be one way or round trips.



© American Safari Cruises

Amazing wilderness cruising

RAIL TOURS

The spectacular scenery of the Rocky Mountains can be viewed from your rail car as you embark on some of the world's great train journeys (p24-28). Tours range from 2 to 10 days and you can combine rail and coach touring.



© Rocky Mountaineer®

Rail journeys

MINIVAN TOURS

If you prefer a small group, you can choose one of our minivan tours (p29, 36) which take about 2-9 passengers and are more personal and flexible than the large coach tours. Accommodation is usually in smaller, more intimate hotels and lodges.



© Alaska Wildland Adventures

Minivan tours

SAILING

Our sailing adventures will take you even closer to nature. Travel by motorised sail boat into remote waterways and enjoy daily activities such as wildlife viewing and exploring the shore by zodiac inflatable or on foot. For an intimate wilderness and grizzly bear adventure board the yacht Sun Chaser and sail the remote Kluane National Park Grizzly Sanctuary (p35).



© Sunchaser/Dan Wakeman

Sailing - A thrilling experience

HOTELS

Canadian and Alaskan hotels are very similar to those in Australia, with accommodation ranging from 5 and 4 star hotels and resorts, to motels, boutique hotels and country inns.



© CTC

Great hotel locations

DOGSLEDDING

On these unique winter adventures you will learn how to mush your own dog team. You will need to be fit, as the physical activity demanded is comparable to cross country skiing, must love dogs and have a sense of adventure. Accommodation is in log cabins, yurts or outpost tent camps (p41).



© Lorraine Ironside

Dogsledding

CAMPING TOURS

We also offer a number of camping tours for the more budget conscious. Tours take from 6 to 15 passengers, with all camping equipment supplied (p29, 44, 45).



© Arctic Kingdom

Camping

WILDERNESS LODGES

Most wilderness lodges can only be reached by boat or light aircraft. Some are simple and rustic, whilst others are luxurious with gourmet dining and even health spas. Activities include wildlife viewing, hikes, kayaking and marine tours. (p16-20, 31-34).



© King Pacific Lodge

Remote wilderness lodges



© Spirit Bear Lodge

Stunning wildlife viewing opportunities

MIX AND MATCH

Our Natural Focus Safaris program offers you flexible, independent touring so that you can choose the holiday that best suits you! We have a wide range of tours and accommodation which are easy to combine. Mix and match the tours you want and use our expertise to put it all together.

You don't need to be locked into a big group, or a set itinerary. It's just as easy to choose your own personalised itinerary. We have special inclusive tour airfares available with Air Canada and Air New Zealand. We can also arrange your city accommodation before and after tours. Natural Focus Safaris can do it all!

This brochure features an incredible selection of tours, but we have even more available. For example, we offer all the Rocky Mountaineer rail journeys and all the Brewsters coach trips. So, if there is something else you would like to do then let us know and we will incorporate it into your holiday.

At the same time, don't be daunted by the number of different tours on offer. It's as easy as calling us or your travel agent and we can put together an itinerary that will suit your style and budget.

There are some important questions you need to consider to help us create your perfect holiday:

- **What time of year do you want to travel?**
- **How long can you travel for?**
- **What is your approximate budget?**
- **Do you want a more comprehensive wildlife experience?**
- **What type of holiday do you prefer: a luxury cruise, being part of a small group, getting close to wildlife, a 'soft' outdoor adventure, or an active, hands-on outdoor adventure? Or a combination of some of these?**

Let us design an itinerary to suit your requirements. Please phone us on (03) 9249 3777 or 1300 363 302 or ask your travel agent to call on your behalf.

27

years

OF INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS

In January 2012 African Wildlife Safaris, parent company for Natural Focus Safaris, celebrates 27 years of organising tours to Africa. Since 2000, the Natural Focus Safaris division, has specialised in some of the world's other great wilderness destinations - Canada, Alaska, South America, Antarctica and India. The company is still family owned, started by Steve and Sara Cameron back in 1985, and they continue to be involved on a daily basis. Our travel consultants are also very well-travelled, and many have been with us for 15 or more years.

AFRICAN WILDLIFE SAFARIS
CELEBRATING
27 years
OF INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS

OUR CANADA & ALASKA SPECIALISTS

We have a team of experienced consultants who have travelled widely in Canada & Alaska. They have the expertise and knowledge to help you design the perfect holiday to suit your style and budget.



Stephen Cameron
 Founder and M.D. of Natural Focus Safaris, Steve is a keen photographer and wildlife enthusiast who has returned to Canada and Alaska half a dozen times. He has come face to face with Polar Bears in Churchill, seen grizzlies up close in Katmai and Khutzeymateen, and witnessed the awesome sight of glaciers calving in Glacier Bay National Park.



Sara Cameron
 Company co-founder Sara has visited Canada a number of times and has travelled from Quebec to Vancouver by road and rail. Her favourite place so far is Knight Inlet Lodge, where she had 35 Grizzly Bear sightings in 5 days, as well as encounters with Black Bears and Orca Whales.



Sue Cleveland
 Our Sales & Marketing Rep in Victoria, Sue has been in travel over 25 years and seen much of the world. In Canada she has toured Vancouver Island and travelled through the Rocky Mountains to Banff, Jasper and Lake Louise which included a trip on the Rocky Mountaineer.



Praful Albuquerque
 Praful has been in the travel industry for over 30 years and there are few destinations he hasn't visited. He began his career in India, designing and researching tours, before his fascination with wildlife took him to Africa where he worked in the safari business for 10 years. Praful has also travelled through South America and much of Canada, including Ontario, Vancouver, Victoria, and the national parks of BC and Alberta. Praful is our National Sales & Marketing Manager.



Anne-Marie Zambelli
 Our General Manager Annie has a travel diary that reads like a year's subscription to National Geographic. She has led our *Grizzlies & Polar Bears* tour, travelled on the Rocky Mountaineer, enjoyed whalewatching in Victoria and braved snow at Churchill to see the Polar Bears.



Brenda Parrish
 Hailing from British Columbia, Brenda has traversed the length and breadth of Canada including the Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and all of the Maritimes. Her adventures have taken her salmon fishing off the coast of Vancouver Island, canoeing in Algonquin Park, hiking through fields of wildflowers and into the territory of Grizzly, Black and Polar Bears. More recently she has sailed through Alaska's famed Inside Passage, including Glacier Bay.



Taleen Gaidzkar
 In her visits to Canada and Alaska, Taleen has polished up her French in the charming streets of Quebec, kayaked with Orcas in the Johnstone Strait, encountered bears at Knight Inlet and Katmai, travelled on the Rocky Mountaineer, cruised the beautiful Inside Passage, flown around the peaks of Mt McKinley and hiked in the Rocky Mountains. Her most unique experience in the region was travelling past the Arctic Circle into Barrow.



Dan Maher
 Our Sales & Marketing Rep in Queensland, Dan has been in the travel industry for 30 years. He has travelled widely throughout the world, including Canada where he crossed the continent exploring the mountains, wilderness, glaciers and islands by rail, road and ferry.



Michael Fitzgerald
 Michael's recent travels have taken him to Canada and Alaska where he cruised the awe-inspiring Inside Passage, visited small towns like Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg and Prince Rupert, fished in Alert Bay and got up close to nature and Grizzly Bears at the Great Bear Nature Lodge.



© Robert R. Taylor

Polar Bears walking by The Tundra Buggy



Trent Pauling
 Trent has worked in travel and tourism for many years. In Canada he lived and worked in British Columbia and Alberta, and spent a number of seasons working on cruise ships voyaging through Alaska and Canada's Inside Passage and as far south as South America. Trent is our Sales & Marketing Rep in NSW & ACT.

CONSERVATION

As a specialist tour company tailor-making journeys to Canada, Alaska, South America, Antarctica, the Arctic, Africa, Bhutan and India, Natural Focus Safaris and our parent company African Wildlife Safaris are committed to preserving the world's wilderness. Over the years we have made significant contributions to conservation societies and research projects in the destinations we visit through our policy of giving clients the opportunity to contribute \$8 (or more) per person, which we then match dollar for dollar. We don't charge an administration fee, so 100% of client contributions go to the nominated conservation society or research organisation. Featured here are some of the projects that we and our clients support.



© Lynn Rogers

Grizzly Bears



© Raincoast Images/Tim Irvin

Habitat protection is helping bear populations

LYNN ROGERS & THE WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Natural Focus Safaris would like to thank the generous support of Lynn Rogers in assisting us with Brown Bear images for our 2012 brochure.

Our clients will be offered the opportunity to support bear research when they make a booking with us.

Lynn has conducted bear research since 1967. Known as the Jane Goodall of Black Bears, he has a PhD in Ecology and Animal Behaviour from the University of Minnesota. One of his research methods is walking and sleeping with wild bears, including mothers with cubs, for 24 hours at a time. He is pictured opposite with his wild Black Bear friend "Gerry"!

His pioneering research is the source of much of the scientific information on Black Bear behaviour available today. Now retired from the U.S. Forest Service and conducting research and data analysis through the non-profit Wildlife Research Institute, he is conducting one of the largest public education programs ever done for bears, reaching millions

through the media, the internet, Black Bear Field Courses, and the North American Bear Center. All proceeds from the Field Courses, appearances, and his award-winning photos go to the nonprofit Wildlife Research Institute and the non-profit North American Bear Center. For more information, go to www.bear.org and www.bearstudy.org



© Lynn Rogers

RAINCOAST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Raincoast is a not for profit research and public education organization made up of conservationists and scientists. They use rigorous, peer-reviewed science and grassroots activism to further their conservation objectives. Their flagship projects focus on habitat and food supply needs of wolves, bears, marine mammals and marine birds in coastal BC. Salmon allocations for grizzlies and wildlife is central in their work.

To accomplish their goals, Raincoast works in partnership with First Nations, local communities, other scientists and NGOs. Together with their partners, they also purchase commercial hunting rights to end the trophy hunting of bears and wolves. Raincoast operates a research station near Bella Bella, BC and a 70' Coastguard-certified research vessel to facilitate their science and conservation work. For more information go to: www.raincoast.org



© Raincoast Images/Chris Darimont

Rainforest Wolf