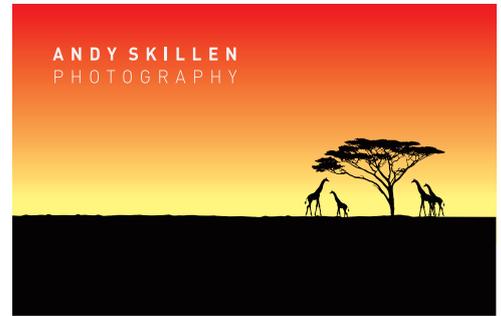


# Grizzlies of the Nakina

30 July – 07 August 2020 ; 06-14 August 2020

Location: Taku River, British Columbia, Canada

Group size: 8; Cost GBP 6,950 per person



AN 8 NIGHT, 9 DAY PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE TO THE **DEEPEST RECESSES OF THE TAKU RIVER**, ACCESSIBLE ONLY BY **HELICOPTER**, WHERE WE WILL HAVE AN **ENTIRE CAMP** AT OUR **EXCLUSIVE** DISPOSAL FOR THE **DURATION** OF OUR STAY. THIS IS A PLACE WHERE WE ARE VERY MUCH THE **GUESTS OF THE GRIZZLIES** THAT CALL THIS SPECTACULAR **WILDERNESS** HOME, AND WE ARE SEPARATED FROM THEM BY NO MORE THAN, WELL, THEIR DESIRE TO KEEP A CONSERVATIVE DISTANCE! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO **EXPERIENCE GRIZZLY BEAR BEHAVIOUR** WITH BEARS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES ON A TRULY INTIMATE LEVEL, WITH ALL THE **SPECTACULAR PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES** THAT SUCH ENCOUNTERS PROVIDE. WE ALSO HAVE THE CHANCE TO CAPTURE A GREAT DEAL OF **BALD EAGLE** ACTIVITY, AND IF LUCKY, A **TIMBER WOLF!**

**BECAUSE OF POPULARITY, THERE ARE TWO SEPARATE DEPARTURES FOR THIS ADVENTURE. KINDLY INDICATE YOUR PREFERRED OPTION WHEN BOOKING.**

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## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

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- **HELICOPTER TRANSFER TO THE REMOTE NAKINA BEAR CAMP**
- **7 NIGHTS** ACCOMMODATION IN THE CAMP, **SURROUNDED BY BEAR COUNTRY**
- **GUIDING AND SUPERVISION** TO ENABLE YOU TO GET AS CLOSE AS SAFELY POSSIBLE FOR THOSE BEAR SHOTS OF A LIFETIME
- **EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE CAMP – NO DAY TRIPPERS** OR OTHER GUESTS DURING OUR STAY
- **SCENIC DRIVE TO ATLIN** FROM WHITEHORSE AS PART OF THE TRIP
- **GUIDED** THROUGHOUT BY **ANDY SKILLEN**
- AS MUCH, OR AS LITTLE, **PHOTOGRAPHIC TUITION** AS YOU NEED!
- **LONG DAYLIGHT HOURS** (5am to 11pm) ENABLING LONG SHOOTING DAYS
- **FLEXIBILITY** TO USE ANY OF THE VIEWING AREAS WHENEVER YOU WISH
- **EYE-LEVEL AND GROUND LEVEL** PHOTO OPPS AT ALL SITE, AS WELL AS PLATFORMS TO PROVIDE **HIGHER ANGLES** FOR SWIMMING/DIVING BEARS

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## COSTS AND LOGISTICS

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- **Group size:** 8 guests only
- **GBP 6,950** per person, based on twin-share accommodation
- **Start point:** Whitehorse, Yukon Territory
- **End point:** Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

**Note:** You will be collected from Whitehorse Airport on the first day of the itinerary, and transferred to the hotel. If you have arrived in Whitehorse earlier, and are staying elsewhere, then we can help you relocate hotel for the night included in this trip.

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED...

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### What's Included:

- Airport meet and greet in Whitehorse
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Whitehorse at the start of the trip
- Welcome dinner
- Bus and helicopter transfer to the camp on the Taku river (and, of course, the return journey!)
- 7 nights accommodation at the Nakina camp (all meals included)
- Full photographic coaching and support throughout the trip
- Limited laundry facilities



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## WHAT'S NOT...

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- Visa fees if applicable
- International and internal flights to Whitehorse, Canada. We can advise on possible connections.
- Items of a personal nature
- Premium alcoholic drinks
- Toiletries in the cabins

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## YOUR ITINERARY....

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### Day 1: Arrive Whitehorse, transfer to the hotel (overnight)

Your trip will start from Whitehorse, where we will put you up for the first night in a comfortable mid-range hotel after your long flight (and no matter where you come from, Whitehorse is a long way!). We will collect you from your flight into town (we can help advise on routings if you wish), and transfer you downtown. You'll perhaps have enough time to get out and explore some of the town – depending on your arrival time – and in the evening, we will have a group meal so everyone will get to know each other and get ready for the adventure ahead!

### Days 2-8: Coach transfer to Atlin, helicopter to the Nakina (7 nights)

Well, here we go! I've been fortunate to work in some of the world's greatest locations for grizzly bears during my career, but very, very few come anywhere near matching the majesty and excitement of the Taku River in deepest British Columbia.

Getting to the camp is just as much part of the adventure!. This morning we depart by small coach to beautiful Atlin....where the road basically ends. Atlin is just over the border from the Yukon in British Columbia, and the drive is incredibly scenic on the way. From here we board our helicopter for the transfer to our camp far down the Taku River. This is a fantastic journey and one that gives you the chance to view this amazing bear-filled landscape like no-one else. Landing at the camp, we will disembark, get our safety briefing done...and get out to start looking for and photographing those bears!

Accessible only by helicopter, this incredible wilderness is far, far away from any casual bear watchers and makes for some of the best photography that I have ever experienced. It is notoriously difficult to get to, and, to be honest, has been a jealously guarded secret amongst professionals for many years. So popular was this trip for 2019, that the group I have been able to take in that year filled immediately before it had even reached the website. As such, and because we are good friends with the legendary film natural history cameraman that owns the camp and bases himself there all season, we have been able to secure two slots for 2020, each accommodating eight persons.

This is your chance to come and join me in one of my most favourite bear locations, surrounded only by lush forests and, of course, your fellow photographers on the group. We will take over the camp for the duration of your stay, so it really will be "home from home". Fishing, swimming, grooming, walking, scratching playing, fighting bears....what more could you want?! If you've not seen the video, check out the "andyskillenphotography" facebook page for a quick idea of what it's like to be face to face with a mother and her cub. This is a camp that is well and truly in bear territory, and as such we often have many furry visitors during our stay padding through the site, between the cabins.

Our camp is located right on the river, in "bear central". The forests and rivers around us are crawling with grizzlies of all shapes and sizes, engaging in the full range of ursine behaviour. We operate from a number of specific viewing sites up the river, where the bears will not be alarmed by our presence, and by having a variety of options at our disposal, the potential for truly unique shots is incredible. This is your chance to try that wide-angle grizzly shot you've been dreaming about! You will be out all day, every day, in search of bear photographic opportunities, and because of the nature of the camp's location in the middle of bear territory, we often don't even have to move to experience some bear behaviour!

Our accommodation is safe and comfortable, and each cabin has its own dedicated bathroom with hot showers and flushing toilets.

In quiet times and the heat of the day, our location means it's easy to rest a while in your cabin, crack-on with some editing and have time for discussions and exercises on composition and context. We will look to experiment with shutter speeds in particular, especially as the salmon swim close to the camp in shallow water. There will also be the chance for bald eagle photography, as well as some close up macro work within the surrounding forest...all the time ensuring we're poised to grab that other camera as soon as the next bear comes into view at the camp!

### **Day 9: Leave the Nakina, back to Whitehorse**

Alas, we reach the end of our adventure by mid-morning the helicopter transfers will commence to take you out of "Bear-vana" and back to Atlin. The flight back is just as spectacular, so keep the camera handy!, and once you reach there, you will be transferred back to Whitehorse. The aim is to get everyone back by early afternoon, in time to connect with the flights out to Vancouver at least. We suggest booking a flight beyond 4pm on the final day if you're planning to leave Whitehorse, to allow for any hold-ups.



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## WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

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To reserve your space on this very special adventure, either:

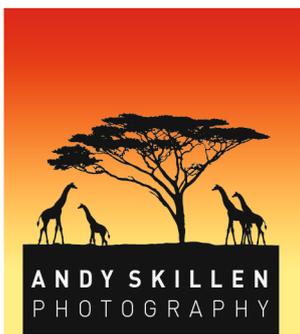
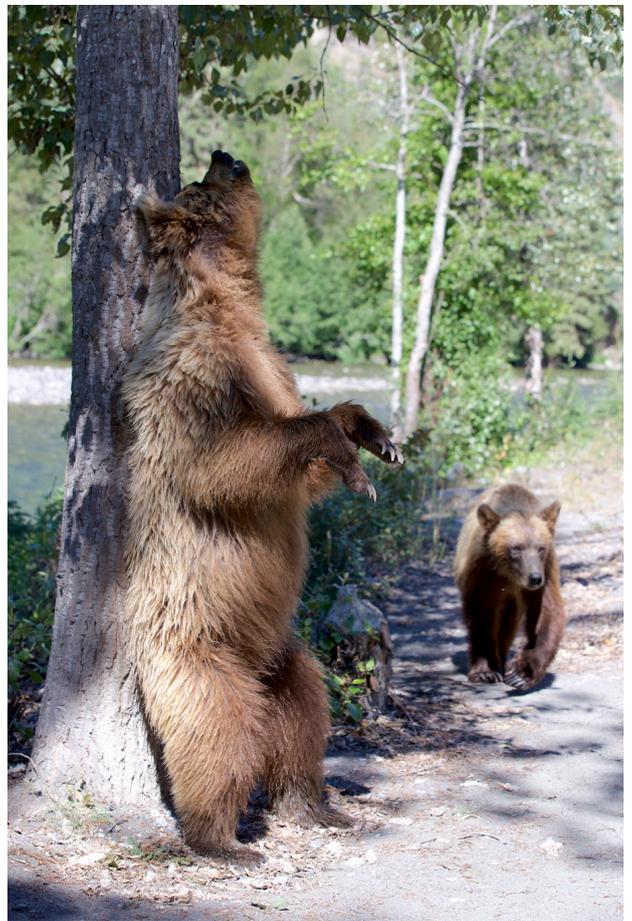
- a. send an email to [Andy@faunavista.com](mailto:Andy@faunavista.com) or [Carrie@faunavista.com](mailto:Carrie@faunavista.com) to register your interest and receive a booking form
- b. download the generic booking form using the link on the page from where you obtained your itinerary, fill it out, and send it to either email address as above.

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## Charity...a permanent winner

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Andy's photography is all about giving some thing back; back to a world that has given him such a wealth of memorable experiences and opportunities. As a result, a proportion of all the profits we make from every perspective of Andy's work is donated to some of the world's leading wildlife charities. These include the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF), Animals Asia and the Bushlife Foundation – for which Andy and Carrie are the UK ambassadors. Your holiday is not just therefore an adventure for yourself, your friends and your family, but a true contributor to the frontline of wildlife conservation.



**CHANGING THE IMAGE  
OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL...**