

# My Canadian Wilderness – In Search of Ursa Major.



*Brown bear with fish – an amazing sight!*



*horse-riding through the forest and over the river is just one of the activities available*



*a prospector-style tent at Clayoquot Wilderness Resort*

For lovers of the great outdoors, Canada is one of the most exciting destinations and **Clayoquot Wilderness Resort**, located at the mouth of the Bedwell River, is an incredible place to stay. Activities are highly personalised so you can be as relaxed or as active as you wish.



**Caroline Beckett**  
Product Manager for the Caribbean, North & South America, Canada and Luxury Cruise

As the seaplane approached Bedwell River Outpost, the remoteness of Clayoquot Wilderness Resort became very clear. I stepped off the plane and was greeted by smiling staff (including a cowboy who turned out to be John the owner) and some friendly dogs. I was escorted to the resort by horse-drawn carriage and the feeling of tranquillity was incredible. The only noise was that of the carriage on the stone path, the panting of dogs and the birdsong. I was taken straight to the cook house, which is the social hub of the resort, and a fantastic log cabin with river views and a roaring log fire. Here, I checked in, met the team and had a brief orientation that included what to do if I encountered a bear!

My accommodation was just a gentle stroll away, and it came in the form of an old prospector-style tent (each is either set around the river or within woodland). As soon as I unzipped it I was transported back in time by its traditional decoration of hand-made wooden beds, antique dressers and thick down duvets. The tents are thermostatically controlled by a propane wood stove and there is nothing better than walking into your warm and toasty tent at night and getting into bed. My three nights at Clayoquot were probably my best three nights of sleep since I was a child – and the night it rained, the gentle drumming on the canvas just lulled me straight to sleep. In the mornings I'd unzip the tent, step

*“the night it rained, the gentle drumming on the canvas just lulled me straight to sleep...”*

out onto my deck that overlooked the water and just take in the views and the delightful fresh smell of the forest.

All meals are served in the cook house and are simple in style, but lovingly prepared with fresh ingredients and home cooked into delicious dishes. Before dinner, everyone meets to chat about their day's adventures and enjoy a cocktail, before sitting down to a tasting extravaganza where each course is paired with a very good Canadian wine.

Activities include horse-riding which is a great way to explore the stunning surroundings and my horse, called Red, carried me across the open plains, through the forest and over the river. (All ages and abilities are catered for with routes as tame or as adventurous as you wish.) After a hearty homemade pizza lunch we swapped horse power for our own paddle power and went kayaking across the river and around the small inlets that are only accessible in this way and were able to get close to a variety of birds. It was very tiring, but a lot of fun. We also went whale and bear-watching, and we hadn't gone far in our speedy zodiac boat before we spotted a black bear on the shore that was picking up boulders like they were marbles to look for crabs. Then we sped off again and came across a pod of dolphins that were happy to show off by jumping out of the water to strike a pose for those quick enough to see. We also caught brief glimpses of some whales as they surfaced to clear their blow holes, but unfortunately they were rather shy!

Now you can understand why I slept so well – a winning combination of all the activities and fresh air, as well as a good meal and a couple of drinks, before retiring to a cosy tent.

Best of the West  
8 nights from **£8,195** per person\*

*Elegant Resorts*

## About Caroline...

Caroline joined Elegant Resorts in March 2008 as Product Manager for the Caribbean & Mexico – since then she's added the Americas and Luxury Cruise to her portfolio. An avid traveller herself, and a lover of the great outdoors, Caroline is happiest at the top of a mountain or sitting around a camp fire, so this trip to Canada was a dream come true for her.

\*Clayoquot Wilderness Resort, where Caroline stayed, is featured as part of our 8-night 'Best of the West' itinerary which can be viewed on our Luxury Tailor-Made pages. Alternatively, call our Travel Consultants to discuss your own bespoke itinerary. Please call **01244 897 222** for more details.



Caroline