

Muddy Water Adventures Showcases Wrangell's Local Advantage for Alaska Bear Viewing Tours

Muddy Water Adventures highlights Wrangell's local insight and experience for safe, authentic bear viewing at Alaska's Anan Bear and Wildlife Observatory.

WRANGELL, AK, UNITED STATES, October 27, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Muddy Water](#)

“

Our team grew up on these waters. That local knowledge shapes every tour we run—helping guests experience Anan's bears safely, comfortably, and with a real sense of Wrangell's character.”

Owner

[Adventures](#), a locally owned tour operator based in Wrangell, Alaska, is spotlighting the community's unique edge for Alaska bear viewing tours at the renowned Anan Bear and Wildlife Observatory. Drawing on crews born and raised in Wrangell and decades of on-the-water experience, the company delivers safe, close-up encounters with black and brown bears during peak salmon season—with comfort-first vessels, precise timing, and an authentic sense of place.

Reserve prime July–August dates and learn more about the Anan experience here:

<https://www.muddywateradventures.com/tour/an-an-bears-tour-wrangell-alaska/>.

Wrangell's local advantage

Launched in 2016 by lifelong Wrangell resident Zach Taylor, Muddy Water Adventures runs wildlife and sightseeing trips throughout Southeast Alaska. The majority of the team hails from Wrangell and pairs navigational expertise with a deep understanding of local wildlife behavior and conditions. That local fluency shapes every element of the experience—from when to depart and which marine route to run, to how to read salmon, tide, and weather windows on the approach to Anan Creek.

Rare two-species bear viewing at Anan Creek

The U.S. Forest Service–managed Anan Bear and Wildlife Observatory sits within Tongass National Forest. It is one of the few places in Alaska where visitors can reliably observe both black and brown bears feeding in the same area. During the summer pink salmon run, bears

concentrate at falls and pools, creating exceptional viewing opportunities from multiple vantage points at the observatory.

Safety-forward guiding and comfort-first boats

Safety and reliability underpin the operation. The company runs well-maintained, purpose-built jetboats—including the custom 26' FRAGO and two 28' Bentz jetboats (Stikine Spirit and Denali)—configured for Southeast Alaska's rivers and inside passages. The covered, heated vessels offer comfortable seating and marine restrooms on select boats for a smooth approach through Eastern Passage. On land, trained, local guides escort small groups to the observatory and are equipped with bear spray and high-powered rifles, following strict safety protocols throughout the visit.

What the experience includes

The Anan Bears Tour typically runs 5–6 hours. After an approximately one-hour marine transit from Wrangell's City Dock, guests disembark, climb a short staircase, and walk roughly 1/2 mile along a compacted gravel-and-bridge forest trail to the observatory. Viewing time averages about three hours, with bears, eagles, and marine mammals frequently observed. For safety, food is not permitted on the trail or at the observatory (bottled water is allowed). The company can adjust logistics for travelers with mobility constraints when arrangements are made in advance.

Convenience for cruise passengers and independent travelers

For cruise itineraries calling on Wrangell, the company's office is approximately 300 feet from the dock, and tours are scheduled to coordinate with ship calls. Independent travelers can book online, with departures timed to seasonal wildlife.

Booking window, pricing, and capacity

The Anan Bears Tour is offered July through August (daily availability varies). Tours generally accommodate 1–24 guests, with access to the trail and platform at the observatory managed in small groups (up to 12 at a time). Due to high demand and a limited daily capacity at this U.S. Forest Service site, early reservations are recommended.

About Muddy Water Adventures

Muddy Water Adventures is a Wrangell, Alaska-based operator offering wildlife and sightseeing tours across Southeast Alaska, including Anan Bear Observatory bear-viewing, Stikine River journeys, and LeConte Glacier excursions, as well as water taxi services. Founded by Zach Taylor in 2016, the company emphasizes local knowledge, safety-first guiding, and authentic experiences that reflect Wrangell's community and environment.

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