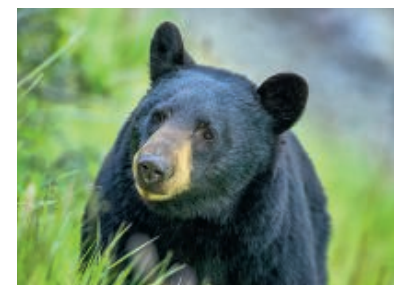


**Air bags for deft divers** – The Brown Pelican can often be seen dramatically dive-bombing into the waters below for fish, plummeting from as high as 65-70 feet. They can do this repeatedly and come out unfazed due to the friction-reducing angles of 60 or 90 degrees at which they dive. This is also thanks to special air sacs under their skin which inflate during the dive, cushioning the impact and protecting internal organs.



**Covered in scars** – Humpback whales are visible in the coastal waters of Nova Scotia from April to June or August to October as they migrate between polar and tropical seas. The grey whale is often seen off the Oregon coast and is characterised by grey-white patterns on its skin, which are in fact scars left by parasites which drop off once the whale migrates to colder feeding grounds.



**Bear necessities** – Black bears are the only bear species found outside the Arctic and western regions of North America, and the only bear in Nova Scotia and parts of California. They are known to approach settled areas for easy food sources like beehives, agricultural crops, and even garbage. They stand about one-metre-high at the shoulder and can weigh up to 200 kilograms.

## On North America's wild side

Much of North America's wildlife is protected within its sizeable national parks. Each of our itineraries features at least one, giving you the chance to see rare and iconic animals in their natural habitat.

### The Redwoods and Olympic National Park

Up from San Francisco on the Pacific Coast lies the mighty Redwood National and State Parks. Some of the tallest and oldest trees on Earth provide a forest home for the likes of bobcats, cougars, coyotes, salamanders and flying squirrels.

Olympic National Park sits in Washington State to the west of Seattle. Roosevelt elks and marmots roam the forests while black bears can be

spotted foraging for berries in the lowland areas. Scan the skies for the iconic bald eagle, and keep a lookout on the coasts for sea otters and sea lions.

### Acadia National Park

Over in Maine, Bar Harbor acts as the gateway to Acadia National Park, which spans around half of Mount Desert Island. Here, you'll discover towering forests, wildflower meadows, rugged shores, hidden caves, and miles and miles of hiking

trails. Humpback whales are known to frequent the coast here, while white-tailed deer and beavers are commonly seen. Rarer sights include moose and peregrine falcons.

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