

Oscar Furness

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Bear Guide and Photographer/Videographer

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Ever since getting involved with black bear rehabilitation when I was a teenager, I have been fascinated by bears, and they have remained a focus in my career to this day. Alongside my 'day job' working as a director for companies like the BBC, Discovery and National Geographic, I like to get away from the entertainment industry for a bit and pursue other roles that will allow me to get into the field with bears without the distraction of shooting sequences. I have worked with every species of bear in some capacity, including bear rehabilitation, bear keeping, bear technical welfare and bear guiding, and above all the rest it has been guiding that I most enjoy. I am a practical, efficient, hard-working problem-solver who thrives when communicating with guests, and above all enjoys being useful.

BSc Zoology (Hons, 2:1)	University of Exeter	2017
Drivers Licence (Class B/B1)	DVLA	2012
Remote Pilot Qualification	CAA	2018
Off Road Driving Safety	Xtreme Off-Road	2019
Bear Guide/Safety Level 1	Commercial Bear Viewing Association	2019

Bear-Related Experience

Television Work	UK	Assistant Producer/Director	Present
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As a part of my work I have often found myself working on television programs about bears, an animal that has rather become my niche, and so I have done extensive research on all the world's bears in order to find out what is possible to film in various places. I have been on and directed shoots targeting bears in many places, including Svalbard, Greece, Italy, Russia, Alaska and Canada. As a director I am rarely holding the video cameras, but I am a competent filmmaker and if needed can put together short videos for guests/social media using my cameras, drone and editing equipment. I prefer photography, which I do extensively on shoots in order to provide marketing images to television channels, as well as for personal use.

Grizzly Bear Ranch	BC	Wilderness Guide	2019
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A boutique lodge with guest cabins in the remote Selkirk mountains, Grizzly Bear Ranch (now Wild Bear Lodge) offers trekking tours for small groups to search for wild bears. Bears in the river basin were hard to come by and required a significant amount of scouting to locate and then considerable logistics and thinking on your feet to work out how to give guests the best viewing experience on often skittish bears. Expectation management was a big part of the job, as well as entertaining guests at mealtimes and vehicle maintenance.

Free The Bears	Vietnam	Technical & Welfare Advisor	2017
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Australian animal welfare and conservation charity that operates primarily in Southeast Asia to save sun and moon bears from illegal and inhumane captivity in bear bile farms. Role involved

bear keeping, research and careful observation of the bears to ensure their unique needs were all met to the best of the organisation's ability.

Critter Care Wildlife Society BC Animal Care Assistant 2014 – 2016

A wildlife rehabilitation centre that works with North American mammals. Responsibilities included a huge amount of animal husbandry, including raising and releasing 30+ American black bears, as well as a phenomenal amount of cleaning up after the hundreds of animals kept on site until they could be safely released.

Television Experience

Offspring Films

Development Assistant Producer 2022 - 2023

BBC Natural History & Factual Productions

Unannounced series 10x60' Unannounced Assistant Producer 2022

Silverback Films

Unannounced series 5x60' BBC One Assistant Producer 2021 – 2022

BBC Natural History & Factual Productions

Unannounced Series 4x60' Discovery Assistant Producer 2021

Eden: Untamed Planet 6x60' BBC America Researcher 2020 – 2021

Oak Island Films - Canada

Great Lakes Untamed 3x60' Terra Mater et al. Researcher 2019

Off The Fence

Europe's New Wild 6x60' Nat Geo Wild Researcher 2018 – 2019

Wild Edens: South Asia 60' Nat Geo Wild Researcher 2019

Wild Edens: Turkey 60' Nat Geo Wild Researcher 2018

Wild Arctic 3x60' Nat Geo Wild Researcher 2018

One Show 5' BBC One Drone Operator 2019

Daisybeck Studios

Big Week At The Zoo 5x60' Channel 5 Camera Assistant 2018

Oak Island Films

Grizzly Bear Cubs & Me 2x60' BBC Two Researcher 2017 – 2018

References Julius Strauss, Owner, Wild Bear Lodge

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