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"supporting intercultural opportunities"



# Sprit Bear Canada Adventure (including Hawaii stopover) September 20<sup>th</sup> -October 4<sup>th</sup> 2015

"It has been rated as one of the 1 of the 10 Wildlife encounters in the world today." In the 1990's the **Kitasoo Xai'xais and Gitga'at First Nations of BC's central coast** became concerned about the fate of the rare and magnificant Spirit Bear. Working closely with the Valhalla Society and the Province of BC, together they jointly announced official protection on February 7, 2006 through the creation of 10 spirit bear habitat conservancies totaling 212.415 hectares. The largest of these conservancies is known as the "Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy" comprised of 103,000 hectares of the Canoona River and the area of south Princess Royal Island including all of Laredo Inlet, a 30 km long fjord that runs up from the south end of the island.

The **Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy** area is about halfway between Vancouver and Prince Rupert. Stunning fjords, mountains, and valleys rich in salmon and bears comprise the mainland area. Vast expanses of intact rainforest and remote inlets and rugged coast comprise the protected areas. The area hosts more than 50 salmon streams, approximately 120 Spirit Bears, 1200 Black bears, Grizzly bears and an incredible wolf-deer predator-prey system with up to 16,000 Sitka deer.

In the end, the 2006 protection of the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy Complex occurred not only as a result of First Nations support but an international campaign resulting from publicity generated by the Valhalla Society and many other groups and individuals. The Spirit bear became the international poster icon of the whole Great Bear Rainforest Campaign

Located 280 km north of Vancouver, **Klemtu** is located in the middle of the lush forests of British Colombia, the largest intact temperate rainforest on the planet! Towering green forests open to lush valleys with rivers teeming with salmon. It shome of the Grizzly bear, coastal wolves and cougars. The forests lead down to the coastal shores where fijords and channels are home to Orcas and Humpback whales. It is in these great rain forests that the KItasoo Xai'xais and Gitga'at First Nations of BC's central coast shared their home with salmon and the unique creature that they call the Spirit Bear. Legend has it that one in ten white bears were created to remind the people of a time when glaciers covered the area and how they should be thankful for being blessed with the lush green towering rainforests.

It is here that we find Spirit Bear Lodge. Spirit Bear Lodge is a community-based ecotourism venture owned and operated by the Kitasoo/ Xaixais First Nation. It has been recognized by conservation organizations and the media as one of the best ecotourism experiences in the world. We will be their guests for the experience of a lifetime!

(text courtesy of Spirit Bear Lodge)

Join us on this trip of a lifetime ..

We will fly to Vancouver, Canada to begin our adventure. We then fly, north finally arriving at Klemtu where we begin the search for the elusive Spirit Bear for our 5 day and 4 night stay at Spirit Bear Lodge. We are looked after by the First Nations people in their traditional lands and this unique environment. We spend the days bear viewing and experiencing nature at its very best.

Returning from the Spirit bear experience we explore this beautiful part of British Colombia. We spend two nights at Whistler Blackcombe resort and travel the Peak to Peak cable car and its magnificent views.

View the largest population of Bald eagles in North America at their migratory sanctuary close by and also visit capital city of BC, Victoria and its English traditions and beautiful architecture.

Returning to Vancouver, we hop over to Hawaii USA and experience the beauty and wonder of this island paradise on the way home to Australia

# Canada Adventure (including Hawaii stopover) Itinerary September 20<sup>th</sup> –October 4<sup>th</sup> 2015

20<sup>th</sup> September

Depart Australia for Canada

20<sup>th</sup> September

Arrive Vancouver and check into Hotel.

21<sup>st</sup> September

Depart from Harbour Air terminal for Bear Lodge Overnight at Shearwater Resort

21st September-26<sup>th</sup> September Bear Lodge

21st Arrive Bear Lodge

22<sup>nd</sup> Bear Viewing activities

23<sup>rd</sup> First Nations Cultural performance

Orca and Whale viewing

24<sup>th</sup> Bear Viewing activities

25<sup>th</sup> Bear viewing

## 26<sup>th</sup> September

Depart Bear Lodge for Vancouver

Arrive Vancouver

Overnight Vancouver

## 27<sup>th</sup> September

Travel to Victoria Island on Afternoon Ferry

Overnight Hotel in Victoria

## 28<sup>th</sup> September

Explore Victoria before afternoon Ferry Back to Vancouver.

**Overnight Vancouver** 

### 29th September

Travel to Whistler Blackcomb ski Resort

Peak to Peak Gondola

Overnight at Whistler

## 30<sup>th</sup> September

Free Day Whistler Resort

## 1<sup>st</sup> October

Return to Vancouver for flight to Honolulu

Honolulu stopover

# 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Pearl Harbour tour

City Tour

Traditional Farewell dinner

## 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Free day Honolulu

Return flight to Australia

# 4<sup>th</sup> October

Arrive Australia













#### The fully escorted and personalized tour includes as highlights

## ( Ground Content including Hawaii flight)

Vancouver 3 nights
Whistler Blackomb 2 night
Victoria 2 night
Spirit Bear Lodge ( 5 nights 6 days) ( double share)
Full itinerary and meals included at Spirit Lodge
Travel to and from Whistler/Victoria/Klemtu
Ferry to and from Victoria
Peak to Peak Cable Car experience
Bus travel as required
Special evening meals Vancouver (1) Victoria (1) Whistler(1)

Honolulu 3 nights

Pearl Harbour and City Tour

Farewell traditional DInner

Total costs \$8118.00 TBC

Single supplement \$560

## Check out the full itinerary at www.interculturalconsultinggroup.com







#### Who are InterCultural Consulting Group?

Intercultural Consulting Group has been operating since 2000 offering educational opportunities for a wide range of age groups from school groups to adult and special interest groups. The group founders Michael and Donna Fiechtner are both qualified educationalists having over 60 years of educational experience between them having worked at all levels of education both in Australia and Internationally. Both having developed educational facilities in Japan and implementing relevant international educational opportunities for children and adults alike while living there. Michael and Donna have two grown children who experienced education in Japan first hand.

ICG has taken numerous school groups and adult groups to Japan over the last 15 years and developed a network of contacts that provide both cultural and educationally diverse opportunities. An inbound program also has provided Japanese immersion opportunities into Australia. ICG has extensive relationships with a range of contacts in Japan who provide unique experiences not found elsewhere. ICG has provided indigenous educational opportunities in Japan also on a number of occasions

ICG has a unique relationship with The Hiroshima Peace Foundation and has worked closely in the area of Peace education . During 2013, ICG toured a Hiroshima Peace Exhibition in Brisbane Canberra and Sydney working with the Red Cross to tell the story of Hiroshima and the need for World Peace. In August 2013, 9 former British Commonwealth Occupation Force soldiers took part in a tour to Japan to remember the events of August 1945 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The 9 former soldiers aged from 85- 92 took part in commemorative events in Hiroshima and Tokyo as well as extensive sightseeing opportunities.

Recently ICG has turned its attention to the battlefields of France and Belgium hosting tours to coincide with ANZAC DAY at Villers Bretonneux in France on the Somme. These tours aim to highlight the growing interest in World War 1 history. ICG has developed a close relationship with Vignacourt in Northern France ,the home of the LOST DIGGER glass photographic plates, now part of a travelling exhibition during the Centenary commemorations of World War 1. During July and early August 2014, ICG organized and hosted a group of 12 students from Vignacourt France and facilitated visits to 5 states and 1 territory to meet living descendants of those Aussie Diggers photographed in 1916-1918. Besides meeting the descendants, the group also met with the Australian Prime Minister for a 35 minute reflective opportunity.

Hiroshima in Japan and Ypres in Belgium are closely linked as cities of World Peace, Both having been destroyed in time of war. Plans are also underway for an Anzac tour 2015 which includes a visit to Japan to view Cherry Blossom season before travelling to Paris and the battlefields of the Somme and Salient.

ICG is a small provider of unique and outstanding cultural, educational, historical and tailor made opportunities for all ages.

We are dedicated and committed to providing unforgettable experiences that leave lasting memories.

InterCultural Consulting Group Supporting Intercultural opportunities.

ICG has a number of websites and a facebook page
Check out the range of opportunities on offer.
www.interculturalconsultinggroup.com www.memoriesofvignacourt.com
www.bcofremembered.com www.storiesofthesomme.com
www.hiroshimainternationalcollege.com
Facebook......Intercultural Consulting Group

Michael and Donna Fiechtner

