

## Adventure to Canada with Intercultural Consulting Group

### Visit the Unique Spirit Bear Conservancy.

*"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 magnificent 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 Columbia, the largest intact temperate rainforest on the planet! Towering green forests open to lush valleys with rivers teeming with salmon. It's home of the Grizzly bear, coastal wolves and cougars. The forests lead down to the coastal shores where fjords 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/ Xai'xais 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 . The tour will be limited to 15 travellers.

We will fly to Vancouver , Canada to begin our adventure and explore this beautiful part of British Columbia. We spend a night 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.

We then fly from Vancouver , 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 to Vancouver, we hop over the border to Seattle in Washington state USA and experience the beauty and wonder of this great North American city.

We return to Vancouver and farewell the adventure of a life time.

## **Canada Adventure**

### **Itinerary September 20<sup>th</sup> –October 4<sup>th</sup> 2014**

#### **20<sup>th</sup> September**

Depart Brisbane for Sydney and our Air Canada flight to Vancouver.

#### **20<sup>th</sup> September**

Arrive Vancouver and check into Hotel.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> September**

Free day to explore Vancouver

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Travel to Whistler Blackcomb ski Resort

Peak to Peak Gondola

Overnight at Hotel Whistler

#### **23rd September**

Return to Vancouver and travel to Victoria on Afternoon Ferry

Overnight Hotel

#### **24<sup>th</sup> September**

Explore Victoria before afternoon Ferry Back to Vancouver.

Overnight Vancouver

#### **25<sup>th</sup> September**

Depart from Harbour Air terminal for Bear Lodge

Overnight at Shearwater Resort

## **26<sup>th</sup> September-1<sup>st</sup> October Bear Lodge**

26<sup>th</sup> Arrive Bear Lodge

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

28<sup>th</sup> First Nations Cultural performance  
Orca and Whale viewing

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

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

Depart Bear Lodge for Vancouver

Arrive Vancouver

Overnight Vancouver

## **1st October**

Travel to Seattle Washington State

Free time Seattle

Overnight Seattle

## **2nd October**

Free time Seattle

Arrive Vancouver

Depart for Australia late evening

## **4th October**

Arrive Sydney Australia

Flight transfer to Brisbane.

## **Inclusions**

### **Air travel Australia to Canada return**

Hotel stays

Vancouver 2 nights

Whistler Blackcomb 1 night

Victoria 1 night

Seattle 1 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/Seattle

Ferry to Victoria

Bus travel as required

Special meals Vancouver (1) Victoria (1) Whistler(1)Seattle (1)

Travel Insurance as required ( Global Nomads)

## **Not included**

Tipping as required ( approx 10-12%)

Breakfasts ( except at Spirit Bear Lodge)

Individual items

## **Total Cost**

**\$8125.00 ( approx costs- to be confirmed early 2014)**

**Expressions of interest being taken now.**

**Only 12-15 participants**

