

**John and Barb Cunningham participated in Haida Gwaii Discovery Tours
6 day All-Inclusive Discovery Tour of Haida Gwaii July 24th to July 29th, 2011**

August 31, 2011

Hello Andrew:

I have been meaning to write to you about our trip this past July but I have only just recently finished cataloguing our pictures and transcribing my journal of the trip into something more readable and at times reflective.

First of all, I want to say that both Barb and I had a great time on Haida Gwaii and that your tour was everything we expected. The size of the group lent itself to a great time as we weren't tripping over one another and it was very easy to get to know each other much quicker than on some of the larger tours we have experienced. It was also, especially for me, a wonderful experience to be able to walk through a temperate coastal rainforest. I spent quite a number of years teaching about this particular ecosystem and it was something to finally be able to see, touch, feel, and breathe it.

Some of my favourite things to tell others about are the *Trout House* and the *Moon Over Naikoon Bakery*. To find such gems tucked away in such out of the way places was something else. The food at the *Trout House* was first rate and the atmosphere was great and the restaurant itself was truly unique. As for the bakery, I don't know of any other place where you can find such a busy place that serves such good cinnamon buns. I would very much like to have tried the pizza I saw come out of the oven. Again, a very unique place and one we talk about a lot.

The Haida culture we experienced was eye opening. I never thought so much information could be gotten from the figures on the totem poles. It was truly amazing to see a family's lineage and history displayed so vividly. Christian and Aaron did a wonderful job explaining all this and more to us. Also, dinner at Roberta's was something else. The variety of [traditional Haida] food that was presented and that most of it came from the ocean was something else. I have never eaten such a variety of food before. It was all so good.

The trip out to Skedans with *Moresby Explorers* was another high point, both the ride out and back as well as the Heritage Site at Skedans. Our guide, Vivian's knowledge of the site was excellent and she was very good at communicating her knowledge to us. It made for a very interesting day. She was also very good at guiding the zodiac over and through the waves. It made getting splashed an extra bonus. Again, being outside and experiencing all this directly was wonderful, which is one of the main things I liked about the tour. To spend all our time outdoors, even the lunches, made for a very enjoyable experience.

In closing, Barb and I would once again like to thank you for a great tour. It was, to us, more than just a tour of a place we wanted to visit, it was a learning experience as well. In my books, that is what makes a good trip, to see what you can't see at home and to learn about other cultures directly rather than from books or television.

Again, thank you. Sincerely,

Barb & John Cunningham