

## **SASQUATCH TOURS INTRODUCES ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CRUISES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

(Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia)---Sasquatch Tours offers enriching cultural cruises along the Harrison River and lower Harrison Lake, the largest freshwater lake in southwestern British Columbia. The geography of the area is striking, with evergreen-blanketed mountains plunging into the lake and river, marshlands and pristine shoreline. This region is home to a diversity of birds and wildlife, natural hot springs and the renowned Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa, the base of operation for Sasquatch Tours, just two hours from Vancouver.

Owned and operated by the highly respected Charlie family of Chehalis, British Columbia, Sasquatch Tours operates in the traditional lands of the Chehalis people - part of the Sto:lo First Nations and the Coast Salish cultures of the Pacific Northwest, with a history dating back thousands of years.

Along the shores of the Harrison Lake and River, the ancient pictographs and petroglyphs are explained in the context of a living culture, and the stories of the spirits inhabiting the mountains, water, and land come to life as your guide shares the legendary tales of transformation that continue to guide their culture and traditions today.

Willie Charlie, co-owner of Sasquatch Tours, is the chosen storyteller among the Chehalis people, a high calling in an oral culture that didn't have a written language until contact with westerners. From childhood, Mr. Charlie learned to listen well to the stories of his Elders and to retell the stories accurately, clearly understanding the lessons embedded within.

"Our Elders taught us our drumming, singing and dancing. These traditions have been deeply embedded in our family for many generations. It is through their teachings that we have carefully chosen songs and dances that can be shared with guests to our territory," says Willie Charlie, co-owner of Sasquatch Tours.

Guests are welcomed aboard the boat by drummers and dancers, who ask the ancestors to call the Spirit “with a good mind and a good heart” to the gathering. Each cruise is intimate, with a maximum of 12 guests and is equally suitable for children or adults, corporate or leisure travelers. Every guest has an opportunity to ask questions and each question is answered with great respect and tremendous depth of knowledge that goes far beyond an anthropological explanation, to the heart of the local indigenous culture. Truly, the experience is transformational, each guest taking with them the essence of the Chehalis culture of interrelationship with their environment and the stories that have taught their people great lessons over many generations.

Cultural cruises are two, four or six hours in duration, with special seasonal programs offered. For Fall 2004/Winter 2005 (November – February), cultural cruises with an additional focus on Eagle & Salmon Viewing and the Salmon Migration are being offered. This unique excursion provides a fascinating introduction to the First Nations culture of British Columbia combined with the breathtaking beauty of British Columbia.

Prices vary, according to the length of the tour and group rates are available. All tours are commissionable to travel agents. For information or reservations, contact Sasquatch Tours at 1-877-796-1221 or email at [info@sasquatchtours.com](mailto:info@sasquatchtours.com).

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