

Day 12 ~ Friday 1 August, Juneau, Tlingit culture, Mendenhall Glacier, Mt. Roberts.



Juneau, the capital of Alaska is on an island which can only be reached by air or sea. This is another foggy, drizzly day, but the dawn is colorful.



In Centennial Hall we enjoy a Tlingit presentation. Granddaughter and grandparents show family heirlooms and talk about their life, traditions and food. They all speak very quietly and make no eye contact. Listen well. We are welcomed in their native tongue.

The Tlingit culture has a strict hierarchy designed to prevent inter-marriage. A Raven can only marry an Eagle. These **two tribes are divided into clans then houses. A child follows the mother's lineage. Their culture is founded on respect** for one another and the precious land.

They show us Halibut Ivories, canned oils, and fish berries. I guess you can eat anything.



Raven, the main mythological character of the Northwest Coast, is also known as a trickster. He is a mixture of benefactor (usually accidently) and self-serving rascal, rendered here in traditional Northwest Coast Indian style. From a 1982 serigraph by Barry Herem.

*Barry Herem* ©



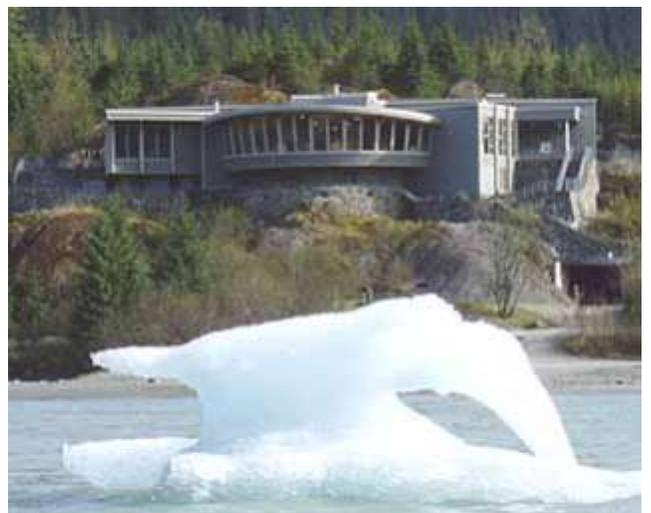
Mendenhall Glacier.



Off we trot to the Mendenhall Glacier. Are we glaciated out? The Mendenhall terminates in a lake but has retreated 250ft in one year. A stream flows from the lake. In it we watch salmon preparing to spawn. The visitor center is an impressive concrete structure. A sample of glacial ice sits on a trolley for us to fondle.



Salmon preparing to spawn.



Mendenhall Visitor Center.

"Who does not want tickets for Mt. Roberts?" A tram ride will take us to the top, but it is cloud covered.

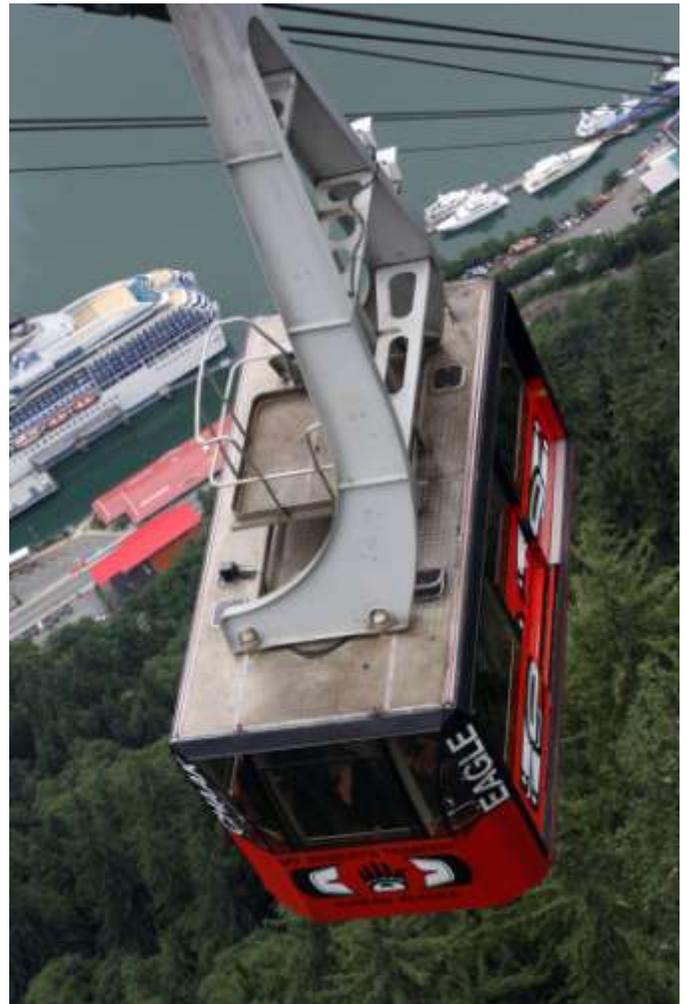
"Let's eat." The *Twisted Fish* has good fish and chips.

As we ascend in the tram the cloud begins to clear, we take photos of Juneau and the Coral Princess. The gift shop is nice. Jan indulges in a sporty coat. The theater presents a short history of Tlingit history. The narrator, sixty something, tells us she was betrothed at birth.

On board we watch another great show.



Eagle and Raven.



Juneau from Mt. Roberts.

