



# NATIVEAMERICA .TRAVEL

## Destinations

### Alaska

Remote glacial landscapes, untouched wildlife and a rich, varied culture are just part of what makes Alaska such an adventure. Take in the unparalleled views as you explore America's last frontier, from rugged mountain ranges to wildlife refuges. In both rural and urban areas, you'll meet people from a variety of Alaska Native cultures, all with their own stories and traditions to share.

St. Lawrence Island is home to Inupiat and Siberian Yupik, while the rich wetlands of southwest Alaska is home of Yup'ik people and millions of migrating birds. Kodiak and the Aleutian Islands are where the Suqpiak and Unangan people reside and the great interior is home to the Athabascan. Southeast Alaska, known as the Inside Passage, is home to the Tlingit, Tsimpsian and Haida.



### Top Alaska Experiences

- Catch a glimpse of whales, sea lions, and puffins around the tidewater glaciers on Native-owned Alaska Heritage Tours
- Walk among the largest totem collection in the world in Ketchikan; where Native artists continue to practice their craft
- Take in the traditional Naa Kahídi Dance Performance by the Tlingit people in Sitka
- Attend the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics during July in Fairbanks, an athletic competition showcasing traditional games

### California

Known as the "Golden State," California is famous for its sunny coastlines, welcoming spirit, and is home to over 100 federally-recognized tribes. The state is full of geographical diversity, with idyllic beaches, the Sierra Nevada Mountains and majestic redwoods just waiting to be explored.

With the largest Native American population of any state, visitors can experience both ancient and contemporary American Indian culture within its boundaries. So whether you're up for hiking in the desert to view thousands of years-old petroglyphs or catching an American Indian-made documentary, you can take part in California's rich Native heritage.





### Top California Experiences

- Take the Petroglyph Tour in the Mojave Desert to see the largest concentration of ancient rock art in the Western Hemisphere; sponsored by the Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest
- Attend the Stanford Powwow, the largest student-run powwow and one of the largest overall in the U.S., held each Mother's Day weekend in May
- Get your ticket to the annual American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco or the Red Nation Film Festival in Los Angeles to view films made by Native American artists
- Hike the oasis-like Indian Canyons in Palm Springs to walk in the footsteps of the Agua Caliente Cahuilla ancestors. Lush greens contrast with the desert surroundings making for a uniquely tranquil setting.

### Great Basin

The valleys, mountains and deserts between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada comprise the Great Basin. Mostly located in Nevada, this low-rainfall region is home to 21 federally recognized tribes and countless outdoor experiences.

The desert culture of the Paiute, Shoshone, Washoe and other tribes continues to thrive today; you can't miss it in the exquisite basketry, energetic celebrations, and stewardship of sacred lands, common threads shared by many of the tribes. Immerse yourself in the history of the region as you encounter pictographs, ancient lakes and sweeping views of a landscape that has gone largely unchanged throughout history.



### Top Great Basin Experiences

- Walk among the great red sandstone formations shaped during the age of the dinosaurs at Valley of Fire State Park and see the spectacular rock art left by ancient people.
- Shop at Wa She Shu It Deh, a summer festival in South Lake Tahoe promoting the Washoe Tribe's beautiful basketry and other arts.
- Take the Stewart Indian School Trail tour in Carson City to learn about the off-reservation boarding school for American Indians that operated from 1890 to 1980.
- Camp on the shores of Pyramid Lake, a sacred place on the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, with its incredible tufa rock formations.

## Great Plains

Wide open skies with views for miles make the Great Plains a uniquely expansive destination. Tens of millions of buffalo once roamed these prairies and grasslands, helping to make the region comprised of Nebraska and the Dakotas an epicenter of Native American culture throughout history.

This is the setting of defining events in American history, like Crazy Horse's surrender, Louis and Clark's journey, and death of spiritual leader, Sitting Bull. Come learn these stories and many others on the Great Plains.



### Top Great Plains Experiences

- Retrace a legendary journey by foot, car, or horse on the Louis & Clark National Historic Trail and learn about the travel party's interaction with the Great Plains tribes.
- Spend a night in an earth lodge on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, home of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara people near New Town, North Dakota.
- Take a road trip down the Native American Scenic Byway, passing through the picturesque lands of the Yankton, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Sioux Tribes.
- Attend the United Tribes International Powwow held in September, where 1,500 drummers and dancers representing more than 70 tribes, come together in Bismarck, North Dakota.

## Hawaii

Even though Hawaii is part of the United States, it feels like a whole other world. Each of the eight main islands offers its own personality and the Native Hawaiians who live here have shaped the state into what it is today.

As the decedents of early Polynesian settlers, Native Hawaiians have preserved their history by passing their skills and knowledge from generation to generation. Today, many Native Hawaiians study their language, the art of hula dancing, traditional cooking methods, navigational methods, music, and other timeless traditions.



### Top Hawaii Experiences

- Get your tickets to the Merrie Monarch Festival hula competition early; this premier display of ancient and modern hula sells out well before the Easter-time event on the Big Island.
- Spend a magical evening at the Old Lahaina Luau on Maui; the traditional Hawaiian cuisine, music and dances take place in a truly idyllic setting.
- Take a walking adventure of Lahaina with Maui Nei Native Expeditions; each cultural practitioner adds their own perspective and family stories for a very personal tour.
- Head to Twilight at Kalahuipua'a during a full moon on the Big Island to be treated to a celebration of Hawaiian culture complete with a traditional talk story, singing, and dancing.

### Midwest

Centrally located within the United States, the Midwest is known for its expansive farmlands and variety of wildlife. Thousands of lakes and northern woods provided irrigation, transportation, and sustenance for the tribes that thrived there for thousands of years. Fishing, boating, cross-country skiing and other outdoor opportunities continue to lure travelers to the region today.

Tribes living in the early Midwest commonly lived in tepees as well as grass houses and were primarily hunter-gatherers. Floral beadwork and exquisite basketry mark craftsmanship of many central plains tribes. Today, the Midwest not only holds the history of many large tribes, but is a region they continue to call home. Thirty-three out of the thirty-four federally-recognized tribes in the Midwest are located in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.



### Top Midwest Experiences

- Cahokia Mounds in Collinsville, Illinois is a UNESCO World Heritage Site where you can view the archeological remains of a sophisticated prehistoric native civilization that occupied the area for 700 years.
- The Grand Celebrations Powwow takes place in June each year in Hinckley, Minnesota. One of the largest powwows in the Midwest, this event draws hundreds of dancers from the U.S. and Canada.
- The Pow-Wow/Smoke Dance Exhibition by the Oneida Nation Dancers teaches participants the different styles of pow-wow dance, their significance, and invites attendees to join in to the beat of the drum.
- The Ziibiwing Center of Annishinabe Culture and Lifeways in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan presents an excellent history, mythology and culture of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

## Northeast

The Northeastern United States is the nation's most economically developed, culturally diverse and densely populated region. The diverse geography in this region makes for differing climates across this area, but the bountiful woodlands of the Northeast sustained Native American tribes throughout history.

The Eastern Woodland tribes built wigwam and longhouses and many used a shell currency, called wampum in trade. As the first to interact with European settlers, tribes of the Northeast are forever part of America's early narrative. Historical figures like Pocahontas, of the Powhatan tribe, and Squanto, of the Patuxet tribe are well known, but the true stories of these individuals and the Northeast tribes are worth exploring for yourself.



### Top Northeast Experiences

- Explore America's Hometown of Plymouth, Massachusetts with Native Plymouth Tours. Native American guides lead a walking tour, sharing their important perspective on local history.
- The National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. houses one of the world's largest and most diverse collections representing Native American tribes and communities across the hemisphere.
- The Annual Grand Mid-Summer Pow Wow at Queens County Farm is New York City's oldest and largest powwow. Over 40 tribes are represented with a spectacular display of arts, food, and dancing.
- Go to the Native American Festival & Basketmakers Market each July in Bar Harbor, Maine to buy directly from artists and learn about the cultures of the Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot people of Maine and the Maritimes.

## Northwest

The Northwest region of the United States is densely wooded with a temperate climate, fed by springs and streams that flow from mountain glaciers. Many tribes once lived along the resource-abundant coastlines of present day Washington and Oregon, building homes of cedar planks and travelling by canoe. Coastal tribes were connected to inland tribes by trade routes, which Lewis and Clark followed on their expedition and later integrated into the regional highway system.

Pacific coast tribes created the first totem poles to signify ancestry and commemorate events, along with elaborate Potlatches. This rich history continues to live on through the tribes of the Northwest today.



### Top Northwest Experiences

- Drive a section of the scenic Nez Perce National Historic Trail to follow the dramatic journey of the Nez Perce Tribe from Oregon to Montana as they attempted to flee the U.S. military in 1877 to safety.
- Attend the Shoshone-Bannock Festival in August in Fort Hall, Idaho and don't miss the Indian Relay races, a bareback riding competition that originated there over a hundred years ago.
- Tribal Canoe Journeys are held throughout the summer, bringing dozens of cedar dugout canoes from coastal villages in Washington to a host community with cultural festivities.
- Cruise to historic Blake Island, birthplace of Chief Seattle for a salmon bake and Coast Salish storytelling and dances as part of the Tillicum Village experience from Seattle, Washington.

### Rocky Mountains

The Rocky Mountain region represented by Wyoming and Montana is home to can't-miss natural features and some of the highest mountain peaks in the U.S. Wyoming's landscape features geological marvels, outdoor recreation and hot springs, and is home to the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes.

Western Montana has more than 100 named mountain ranges, the prized Glacier National Park, and is home to the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and the Blackfeet Tribe. Eastern Montana is defined by expansive plains and home to the Northern Cheyenne, Crow and other. From mountaintops to rolling plains to arid deserts, this area is undoubtedly one of the most popular destinations within Native America.



### Top Rocky Mountains Experiences

- Crow Fair, the "Teepee Capital of the World" is held each August near Billings, Montana. The event is one of the country's largest and oldest, and features an outstanding parade, rodeo, and dancing.
- The Little Bighorn Battlefield memorializes the Sioux, Cheyenne, and U.S. Army soldiers who died there in one of the last armed efforts to preserve the American Indian way of life.
- Take the Blackfeet Cultural History Tour with a tribal member and historian; visit historical and cultural sites on the reservation, arranged through the Lodgepole Gallery & Tipi Gallery in Browning, Montana.
- Drive the Wind River Canyon Scenic Byway through the Wind River Indian Reservation; navigate between towering canyon walls, view some of the oldest rock formations in the world and head out on a whitewater rafting excursion.

## Southeast

The Southeast is steeped in tradition and known for the hospitable ways of its inhabitants. This area of the country is home to a number of very distinct cultures that vary as much as the geography across the 11 states in the region. There are serene beaches, swamps, and alligators, but also intricate patchwork and sweetgrass baskets of the area's first inhabitants to search out. Tucked near some of the region's most stunning landscapes like the Great Smokey Mountains and Florida Everglades, tribes and their traditions are thriving. The federal government forced many southern tribes off of their homelands in the 19th century, but their history in the region and stories of persistence are celebrated.



### Top Southeast Experiences

- The Natchez Trace Parkway follows an early travel route through Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee with exceptional scenery and 10,000 years of history. Parks, monuments, and interpretive centers tell of the tribes that lived along the route.
- Ancient and contemporary Southeastern Indian culture converge at the Moundville Native American Festival held at Moundville Archaeological Park near Tuscaloosa, Alabama each October.
- The Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation in the Florida Everglades offers night excursions that include swamp buggy rides and Native storytelling
- Cherokee Bonfires are held on weekends during the summer at Oconaluftee Island Park in Cherokee, North Carolina to share Cherokee culture, history, legends, and marshmallows with visitors.

## Southern Plains

The Southern Plains region is made up of three states: Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. Oklahoma means “red people” in the ‘Choctaw’ language and is home to 39 federally recognized tribes, most of which were forcefully relocated there during the 19th century from their ancestral homelands by the United States government. Today, the concentration of Native American tribes in Oklahoma makes it a unique cultural destination. Further south, Texas was once home to the Apache, Comanche and Wichita tribes; travelers can visit historical sites like the Alamo and attend colorful Pow Wows in nearly every major city throughout the year. Discover these rolling grasslands and learn about the many significant events in Native American history that took place here.





### Top Southern Plains Experiences

- The Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival in Oklahoma City draws more than 1,200 artists and dancers representing more than 100 tribes for a 3-day celebration each June.
- Learn about the Cherokee's forced removal on the Trail of Tears; the National Historic Trail culminates at the Cherokee Nation where you can visit the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- The Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma houses the world's largest collection of American Western art with an unparalleled collection of Native American art and artifacts.
- Near downtown El Paso, Texas is the Tigua Indian Cultural Center. Enjoy Native American dances and bread baking on the weekends and guided tours by Tigua youth.

### Southwest

Home to the Grand Canyon and many other geological wonders, the Southwest represents many tribes spread across the dramatic landscapes of Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. Visitors have always been captivated by the region's Western history and the amazing canyons and colors, but they are also drawn by the amazing hand-crafted goods and several of the largest American Indian events in the country. Home to the largest tribe in the United States, the Navajo Nation, as well as the 19 Indian Pueblos of New Mexico, the Southwest offers visitors a glimpse into vibrant American Indian culture of the past and present.



### Top Southwest Experiences

- Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park boasts sandstone masterpieces that tower at heights of 400 to 1,000 feet and clouds casting expansive shadows on the desert floor.
- The Gathering of Nations is the largest Pow Wow in North America, held each April in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Santa Fe Indian Market is held each year in April. The largest American Indian arts market in the world, more than 1,000 artists come display their creations.
- Drive the Hopi Arts Trail to visit galleries and artists across the Hopi reservation in Arizona, led by a certified tour guide knowledgeable of the Kachina Doll carvers, basket makers, silversmiths and other local artists.
- Perched atop a mesa in New Mexico, the Pueblo of Acoma is the oldest continuously inhabited community in the U.S. Tour the pueblo with a local guide to hear about Acoma's rich history, culture, art and architecture.