



AIANTA

American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

Introducing America's First Nations to the World

PRESS PASSES AVAILABLE

Contact Liz Anderson

eanderson@aianta.org

Office: (505)724-3578

Cell: (904) 237-1285

American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Celebrates 15th Annual Conference in Tulsa with Host, Cherokee Nation

*15th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference September 22 - 26 at Hard Rock
Hotel & Casino*

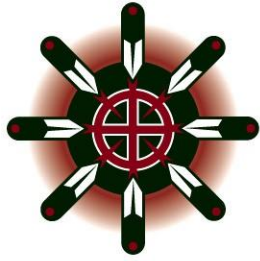
Albuquerque, New Mexico (August 22, 2013) - The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) proudly presents the 15th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) "Tourism: The Economic Engine for Indian Country" hosted by the Cherokee Nation at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tulsa, September 22 - 26, 2013.

The annual AITC strives to provide attendees with a quality educational forum to help you with your travel and tourism initiatives. As tradition, the conference kicks off with interactive mobile workshops - this year to the Chickasaw Cultural Center and on the Cherokee Nation History Tour.

"AIANTA has built many outstanding relationships in every circle of national influence, and we are using that access to generate new opportunities for tribes in tourism," said Camille Ferguson, AIANTA Executive Director. "We hope that the caliber of partnerships, speakers and projects our 15th Annual AITC has to offer attendees will inspire Indian Country to grow and sustain American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian tourism."

Whether your tribe or tribal organization is just entering the tourism arena and its operations, or your tribe has an experienced tourism department - AITC features something for everyone, Ferguson said.

In this year's sessions, attendees will learn more about tour packaging, attracting tour operators, creating itineraries, positioning your tribe for the international tour market, tourism assessment and inventory development, new technologies and



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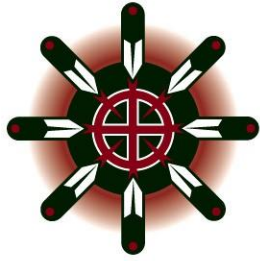
strategies for marketing and media, protecting intellectual and cultural property, working with state and federal agencies, safety in hospitality, geo-tourism, how to work with the Smithsonian, and more.

New this year, AIANTA is excited to launch cultural fashion trends and culinary cultural trends sessions.

Award-winning Recording Artist Martha Redbone will be the featured entertainment for AIANTA's *Enough Good People Silent Auction and Awards Ceremony* on Wednesday, September 25 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. CST. The event gives an opportunity to recognize the "best of" the tribal hospitality and tourism industry, accompanied by dinner, entertainment and a silent auction, featuring extraordinary items, which include overnight stays at tribal destinations throughout Indian Country.

Featured speakers on the 15th Annual AITC Agenda include:

- Mayor Dewey Bartlett,
Mayor of Tulsa
- Senator Harry Coates,
State of Oklahoma
- Congressman Markwayne Mullin,
Second District of Oklahoma
- Amir Eylon,
Brand USA
- Ron Erdmann,
International Trade
Administration, Office of Travel &
Tourism Industries
- Sandra Necessary,
U.S. Department of Commerce,
U.S. Commercial Service
- Kristin Lamoureux,
George Washington University
- Jim Dion,
Maps Division, National
Geographic Society
- Roger Saterstrom,
Tauck World Discovery
- Jennifer Tombaugh,
Tauck World Discovery
- Carolyn McClellan,
Smithsonian National Museum of
American Indian
- Danny Marti,
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
LLP
- David Vela,
National Park Service
- Julia Washburn,
National Park Service

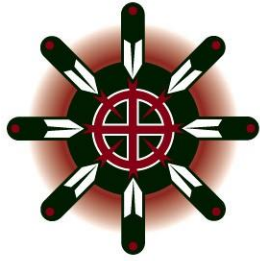


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- Sherry L. Rupert,
Nevada Indian Territory
- Janeé Doxtator,
Doxtator Marketing and
Communications
- Chief Baker,
Cherokee Nation
- Marta Kelly,
National Park Service
- Joe Watkins,
National Park Service
- Don McClellan,
McGill's on 19, Cherokee Nation
Entertainment
- Travis Suazo,
Pueblo Harvest Café, Indian
Pueblo Cultural Center
- Paige Williams,
Chickasaw Nation
- Travis Owens,
Cherokee Nation Entertainment
- George Tiger,
Muscogee Creek Nation
- Margaret Roach Wheeler,
Mahota Handwovens
- Melody McCoy,
Native American Rights Fund
- Bill Hardman,
Southeast Tourism Society
- Jack Baker,
Trail of Tears Association
- Trevor Ware,
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- Gordon Yellowman,
Southern Cheyenne
- W. Otis Halfmoon,
National Trails Intermountain
Region National Park Service
- Carly Hare,
Native Americans in Philanthropy
- Jeremy Nowak,
ArtPlace America
- Anna Barrera,
NativeTourism
- Matt Grayson,
Receptive Services Association of
America
- Shawn Termin,
Smithsonian National Museum of
American Indian
- Duane Blue Spruce,
Smithsonian National Museum of
the American Indian



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Invited Speakers:

- Gail Adams,
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Internal and External
Affairs
- Charlie Galbraith,
Associate Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs, The
White House
- Department of the Interior
Assistant Secretary for Indian
Affairs Kevin Washburn
- Kevin Gover,
Smithsonian National Museum of
the American Indian

To learn more about the 15th Annual AITC visit www.AIANTA.org/AITC2013
(mobile workshops; hotel information; sponsorship, artisan and exhibitor
information; speaker biographies; conference agenda; silent auction and award
ceremony and more)

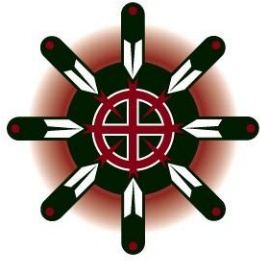
September 22-26

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
Tulsa, Oklahoma

About AIANTA

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit association of Native American tribes and tribal businesses that was incorporated in 2002 to advance Indian Country tourism. The association is made up of member tribes from six regions: Alaska, Eastern, Midwest, Pacific, Plains and the Southwest. AIANTA's mission is to define, introduce, grow and sustain American Indian and Alaska Native tourism that honors and preserves tribal traditions and values.

The purpose of AIANTA is to provide our constituents with the voice and tools needed to advance tourism while helping tribes, tribal organizations and tribal members create infrastructure and capacity through technical assistance, training



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and educational resources. AIANTA serves as the liaison between Indian Country, governmental and private entities for the development, growth, and sustenance of Indian Country tourism. By developing and implementing programs and providing economic development opportunities, AIANTA helps tribes build for their future while sustaining and strengthening their cultural legacy.

To learn more, please visit www.aianta.org. For current updates, like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@OfficialAIANTA](#)).

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