

# AIANTA

American Indian Alaska Native  
Tourism Association

*Introducing America's First Nations to the World*

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## **American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Member Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Holds North America's Oldest Petroglyphs**

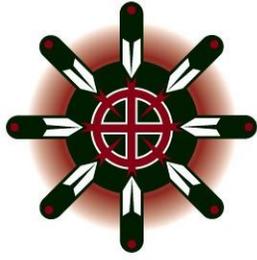
**Albuquerque, New Mexico (August 21, 2013)** - Located in Nevada, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, a member of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association is home to a new cultural heritage tourism component that may bring in travelers from around the globe: the oldest recorded petroglyphs in North America, dating back to at least 14,800 years.

Radiocarbon testing dated the carbonate layer underlying the petroglyphs to roughly 14,800 years ago. Geochemical data and sediment and rock samples from adjacent Pyramid Lake show they were exposed to air from 13,200 to 14,800 years ago, and again from 10,500 to 11,300 years ago, according to a recent Associated Press article.

"Pyramid Lake has been home to our ancestors for thousands of years and this development has great significance," said Sherry L. Rupert, AIANTA Vice President, State of Nevada Indian Commission Executive Director and American Indian of Paiute and Washoe heritage. "The exposure that these petroglyphs have received recently reinforces our early presence. It also provides a potential opportunity to share the Tribe's cultural heritage through tourism."

American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians are not simply relics; we are present and still very much full of cultural relevancy today. Indian Country is an asset to tourism, history and economic development in the United States, Rupert added.

The Tribes' Reservation is located 35 miles northeast of Reno, Nevada in a remote desert area located in the counties of Washoe, Lyon, and Storey. Out of the Tribe's 475,000 acres, approximately 112,000 acres cover the surface of a terminal desert lake, Pyramid Lake. Pyramid Lake is one of the most valuable assets of the Tribe



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and is entirely enclosed within the boundaries of the Reservation. Pyramid Lake is approximately 15 miles long and 11 miles wide. Pyramid Lake measures 350 feet at its deepest point.

To learn more about:

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe visit [www.plpt.nsn.us](http://www.plpt.nsn.us);

Nevada Indian Territory visit [www.nevadaindianterritory.com](http://www.nevadaindianterritory.com).



*Pyramid Lake - The Pyramid*  
*Photo Credit: Nevada Indian Territory*



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*Pyramid Lake - Stone Mother  
Photo Credit: Nevada Indian Territory*

## **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 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.



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