

Tlingit Indian Totem,
Ketchikan, Alaska;
Tom and Pat Leeson



Anasazi Drawings Animals;
Canyon de Chelly, Arizona;
Kit Howard Breen

Travel to Native America offers visitors genuine experiences with

discover
**Native
America**





Sioux Fancy Shawl Dancer;
Kit Howard Breen



Indian Lacrosse sticks and balls;
Cherokee, Choctaw Creek;
Kit Howard Breen

the descendants of this land's first inhabitants.

For millennia, North America has been home to native peoples as diverse as the land itself. Today, visitors are “discovering” the unique landscapes, histories, cultures, arts and peoples of the USA’s Indian Country.



BigStockPhoto/
Pierrette Guertin

A visit to Indian Country offers authentic experiences, and a chance to learn the history of the land and its inhabitants from those who live it, who grew up with it, and who learned it from the generations that came before them.

There are 563 federally recognized tribes in the USA, each with a unique story to tell. The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association has identified six regions, to allow visitors to explore Indian Country more easily. Every region of Indian Country USA has its own beauty, story, art, culture and unique attractions.

East Region

From Maine’s rocky shores down to Florida’s white-sand beaches, and on to the bayous of Louisiana, the East region includes more than 3,300 miles of Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico coastline. This magical and diverse region contains 23 states, hundreds of tribes, and thousands of Native American sights.

The Seminoles are the only tribe in America who never signed a peace treaty. They are proud, strong and welcoming, with plenty to offer visitors. In the heart of the Florida Everglades, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum highlights their history, art and culture with exhibits, rare artifacts and lifelike dioramas. To get deeper into the Everglades, you might ride a motorized, elevated swamp buggy and let a Billie Swamp Safari guide take you on a tour where alligators, bison, wild hogs and many rare birds live.

The Cherokee reigned over the mountains of the Southeast for 10,000 years. Theirs was a history nearly lost, but now it thrives and prospers among the sparkling streams and dazzling forests of what is today western North Carolina. Each summer, the town of Cherokee – nestled at the gateway to Great Smoky

Mountains National Park and the south entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway – hosts the Festival of Native Peoples and the Southeastern Tribes Cultural Arts Celebration.

Opened in 2004 to honor all native peoples

the beauty of its trees and foliage. The Oneida Nation offers spectacular tours highlighting its culture. All of Wisconsin's tribes hold Pow Wow celebrations throughout the year which are open to the public. And visitors to Milwaukee's Indian Summer Festival



Taos, New Mexico; BigStockPhoto/Natalia Bratslavsky



Kotzebue, Alaska; Alaska Division of Tourism



Native American Drum with Drum Sticks, Mid West; Kit Howard Breen

of the western hemisphere, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian shines on Washington D.C.'s National Mall. Inside the beautiful four-story home of native creations, visitors to this free museum enjoy exhibitions, film, live performances, and a treasure chest of archives.

Midwest Region

Great water is the tie that binds the Midwest region. The eight states of the region border four of the five Great Lakes and contain the headwaters of the USA's mightiest river – the Mississippi. The waterways provided transportation, irrigation and recreation for the first settlers, and still do for today's visitors.

Wisconsin's Northern Tribes are surrounded by crystal clear lakes that draw fishermen, campers, water sport enthusiasts and festival lovers. The Menominee Nation is known as "Forest Island" for

enjoy a September celebration of singing, dancing, storytelling, music, art and food.

In Minnesota, fishing is a significant enterprise for many of the tribes. Visitors can enjoy casting a line



BigStockPhoto/
Lynette Mager Wynn

for trophy bass, trout, salmon and the state fish – the “mighty” walleye. Several tribes run outfitting services for some of the finest backcountry escapes: cross-country ski trips in winter and spring, and canoe voyages in summer and fall.

home of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara people. Lewis and Clark passed through these lands in 1804, wintered with the Mandan people in 1805, and traveled back through here in 1806. The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara people have never been displaced and



Seminole palm doll; BigStockPhoto/Jason Tormo



Navaho sand painter; Kit Howard Green



Cliff Dwelling; Mesa Verde National Park; Kit Howard Green

Plains Region

Here, in a land where 30 million buffalo once roamed, are many of America’s natural wonders and cultural treasures. The Plains region includes eight states and some of the USA’s most diverse driving tours.

The twisting, two-lane Going-to-the-Sun Highway inside Montana’s Glacier National Park offers stunning views of large glacial lakes, cedar forests and windswept alpine tundra. On the other side of the state, the homestead of Crow Chief Plenty Coups is a significant National Historic Landmark often called “the Whitehouse” of the Crow Tribe, as the Chief served as a goodwill ambassador for all Indian nations.

The Killdeer Mountains Four Bears Scenic Byway includes travel through wind, water and sand-sculpted Little Missouri State Park in North Dakota. This scenic byway transcends the western half of the Fort Berthold Reservation, homeland and present

still live on their indigenous homeland.

Nebraska’s Fort Robinson marks the spot where Crazy Horse surrendered in 1877. The fort is part of a larger complex that was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1960. There are many original buildings for viewing, including a century-old guard-house, officers’ quarters, a blacksmith shop and a veterinary hospital.

Oklahoma, whose name means “red people” in the Choctaw language, is home to 39 federally recognized tribes. Oklahoma is also home of the Cherokee Hills Byway, a magnificent drive that follows the Illinois River as it carves its way through blue-grey flint stone.

Southwest Region

Few places on earth offer landscapes as diverse and dramatic as those found in the Southwest states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. Visitors have

always been captivated by the region's amazing canyons and colors, but they are also drawn by the distinct regional cuisine, amazing array of hand-crafted goods and several of the largest Indian events in the country.

Albuquerque, New Mexico hosts the largest Pow Wow in North America every April, a two-day, round-the-clock Gathering of Nations, which features an Indian Traders Market, live music, art, and the crowning of Miss Indian World. In August, downtown Santa Fe hosts Indian Market, the world's largest Native American Indian arts market. More than 1,000 artists showcase their creations on the streets of the country's oldest state capital.

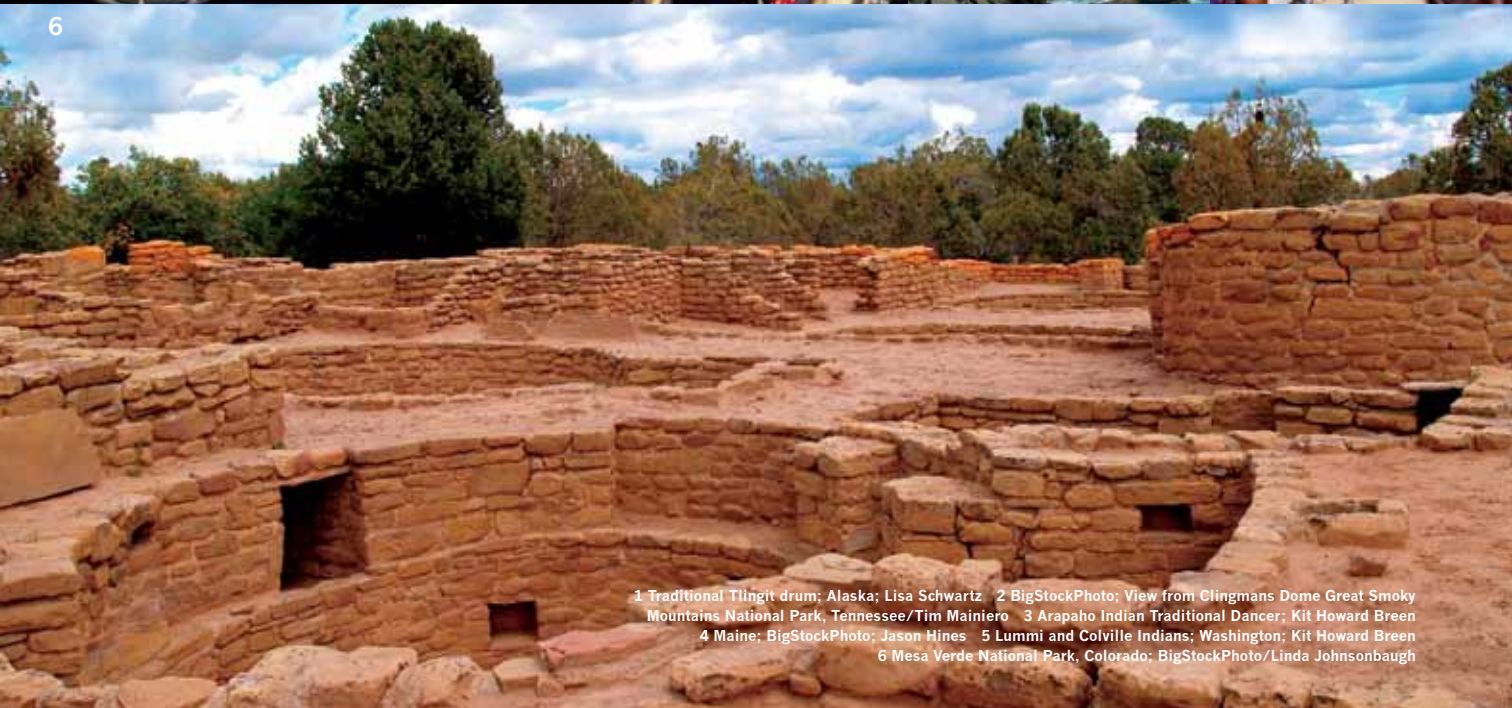
Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park remains etched in the minds of all who have visited. Extending into Utah and Arizona, this land of spellbinding shapes and shadows is best explored in a jeep with a Navajo tour guide. Deeper into Arizona, but still on Navajo lands, Canyon de Chelly National Monument reached public consciousness when Ansel Adams used his lens to expose the sandstone canyon's magnificent features.

Perhaps the most recognized Indian site in the country is in southwestern Colorado. Here at Mesa Verde National Park, Ancestral Puebloans settled on mesa tops and inside canyon alcoves. Hundreds of dwellings remain, and guided tours allow you to step back a millennium and explore a variety of archaeological sites.

Pacific Region

From parched deserts to rain forests that receive 13 feet of rain per year, tribes of the Pacific region adapted and thrived in diverse climates and environments. The region runs from the Mexican border in the south to the Canadian border in the north, and includes the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Within its realm, you will find great rivers, dozens of volcanic peaks, 13 national parks, and 1,293 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline.

Northwest tribes living along the resource-abundant coastline built cedar plank houses and travelled



1 Traditional Tlingit drum; Alaska; Lisa Schwartz 2 BigStockPhoto; View from Clingmans Dome Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee/Tim Mainiero 3 Arapaho Indian Traditional Dancer; Kit Howard Breen 4 Maine; BigStockPhoto; Jason Hines 5 Lummi and Colville Indians; Washington; Kit Howard Breen 6 Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado; BigStockPhoto/Linda Johnsonbaugh

by canoe. An annual Tribal Canoe Journey honors their centuries-old customs.

Over 100 canoes from U.S. Tribes and Canadian First Nations will converge on the Swinomish Reservation in Northwest Washington in July 2011 to participate in the next Tribal Canoe Journey.

Tribes of Oregon, Washington and Idaho forged trails for trade, which Lewis and Clark, early pioneers, and European traders followed. They continue to be a major part of the regional highway system. One of the most significant trails is now recognized as The Nez Perce National Historic Trail. It marks the 1877 flight of the Nez Perce from their homeland in Oregon and Idaho, while being pursued by U.S. Army Generals for more than three months and 1,170 miles.

Indian Country experiences in California are as diverse as the state's 107 federally recognized tribes, from paddling around the pristine Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara to walkabouts in the Mojave Desert and Joshua Tree National Park, to strolling beneath 35-story-high redwoods near Eureka.

Alaska Region

In Alaska, you can experience incredible landscapes and discover unique Alaska native culture during any season. Winters are cold, but bring the spectacular northern lights, and the entire state becomes a playground for skiing, skating, snowmobiling and dog-sledding. Summers bring an abundance of sunshine, temperatures that sometimes exceed 90 degrees, and wildlife viewing round-the-clock. Here you can spy on polar bears, giant grizzly bears, moose, migrating caribou, whales, sea lions, lynx, swans, and hummingbirds.

The regions of Alaska include the High Arctic, the tundra and St. Lawrence Island, home to Inupiat and Siberian Yup'ik; the rich wetlands of southwest Alaska, home of Yup'ik people, and millions of migrating birds; Kodiak and the Aleutian Islands, home of the Sugpiaq and Unangan people. The great Interior is home of the Athabascan people. In Southeast Alaska, a land of deep fjords and emerald forests also known as the Inside Passage, reside the Tlingit, Tsimpsian, and Haida. ☀



1 Iroquois Longhouse; Alaska; Kit Howard Breen 2 Montana Office of Tourism
3 Creek Indian; Georgia; Kit Howard Breen 4 Barrow, Alaska; Alaska Division of Tourism/ Kristen Kemmerling
5 Northern Cheyenne Encampment; Kit Howard Breen 6 Wind River Indian Reservation, Wyoming; Jeff Vanuga

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Located on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation between Fort Lauderdale and Naples, I-75 to Exit 49

Billie Swamp Safari

Learn about the unconquered Seminole Tribe of Florida at Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation located in the Florida Everglades. Swamp Buggy Eco-Tours and Airboat Rides depart daily through 2,200 acres of untamed Everglades with abundant native and exotic wildlife. Enjoy a Snake and Alligator Show, Swamp Critter and Bird of Prey Show, reptile exhibits, boardwalk nature trail and dine in the Swamp Water Café. Stay overnight in an authentic Seminole Chickee. Bring the whole family and experience the heart of the Florida Everglades like a native at Billie Swamp Safari. Overnight packages available. Exclusive tours offered.



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Native Music Rocks

Native Music Rocks! is a program created and designed to give Native American musicians a forum to be heard, a chance to showcase their music worldwide. With the help and support of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Hard Rock International, this initiative is designed to support Native American music and musicians. Leading the effort is Grammy Award winner and five time Native American Music Award winning artist, Micki Free. Prominent and fellow award-winning Native American musicians such as Levi and the Plateros, Shea, Keith Secola and Casper are a few of the Native American artists that have appeared at Native Music Rocks events.

