

# Native American Travel Experiences in the U.S.



# What to Know Before Visiting Tribal Lands



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## Native American Tribes in the U.S.

- 574 federally recognized tribes; also called nations, bands, pueblos, communities and native villages
- There are additional tribes located throughout the U.S. recognized by their respective state governments.
- Each is a sovereign nation; many have their own language, culture, heritage and traditional practices
- Approximately 229 of these ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse nations are located in Alaska
- The others are located in 35 states.



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## Public Lands are Ancestral Homelands



“Sacred sites are like churches; they are ‘places of great healing and magnetism.’”

--Joseph Toledo, Jemez Pueblo Tribal Leader  
The Conversation, August 2016



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## Visiting Tribal Lands is a Privilege

“Indian tribes have these beautiful places, and outsiders come in and just take photos and leave without acknowledging any of the importance to those of us who have used these places as shrines for thousands of years.”

-- Terry Secody (Navajo), Bitterwater (Tódích'íinii) Clan  
Roadtrippers.com, April 2019



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## Visiting Tribal Lands is a Privilege

“People did not respect our decision as a sovereign nation to close the reservation.”

“They wanted to get into our ancestral homelands as if it is their right to fish and use our resources for recreation, when ultimately it is a privilege.”

--Amber Torres, Chairwoman  
Walker River Paiute Tribe



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# When Visiting Tribal Lands

## Be Respectful

- Dances and other cultural events are often sacred. Act and dress respectfully.
- Homes located on tribal lands are private and should be entered only by invitation.

**Be Aware:** Photo policies vary among tribal communities.

**Do Not Disturb:** Do not disturb or remove plants, rocks or artifacts.

**Rules Vary:** Each tribal community has its own set of rules; be cognizant of these regulations before visiting.

**Leave No Trace:** Clean up after yourself.



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# Leave No Trace

☰ TIME

CORONAVIRUS STATS NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION RESHAPING INDIA LIFE AFTER PROTESTS  NEWSLETTER

## National Parks Are Getting Trashed During COVID-19, Endangering Surrounding Communities

 MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

FRONT PAGE ALL STORIES ABOUT SUPPORT US CONTACT

[◀ BACK TO STORIES](#)

AUGUST 13, 2020

### How Social Media And Bad Behavior Are Leaving Wild Places Trashed

WHAT HAS THE COVID AGE SPAWNED? WHILE PROBLEMS EXIST IN ALL CORNERS OF PUBIC LAND WEST, NATURALIST SUSAN MARSH LOOKS AT IMPACTS IN JACKSON HOLE

## Idaho Statesman

### Masks, other trash piling up at one of Utah's most popular national parks, park says

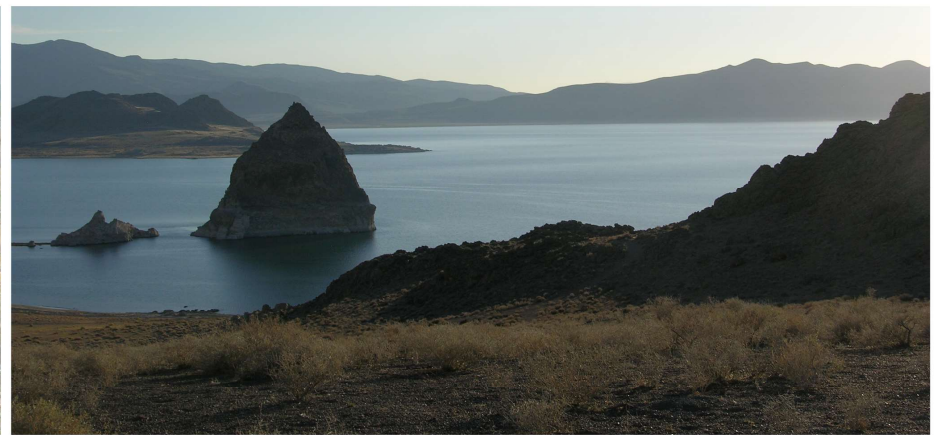
BY [MADDIE CAPRON](#)  
AUGUST 07, 2020 03:54 PM



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# Visiting National Parks



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## National Park Visitation is Booming

Nearly 23 percent of Americans who plan to travel this year indicated their plans would include a visit to a national park.

--U.S. Travel Association  
August 3, 2020



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# National Park Visitation is Booming

“After a slow start to the summer tourism season, visitation is now booming at Yellowstone and many other national parks, as Americans look to escape their coronavirus confines and spend time in the relative safety of the great outdoors.”

--National Public Radio  
August 11, 2020

6 Billings Gazette

## Visitation to Yellowstone up in July over last year, despite COVID-19

Tourists stroll the boardwalk at Old Faithful this spring in Yellowstone National Park. Visitation to the park has gone up in July compared to last ...  
5 days ago



3 WHSV

## Shenandoah National Park sees 10 percent visitation ...

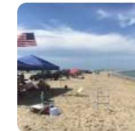
SNP saw a 10 percent increase in park visitation from last year, however, Sally Hurlbert, a management specialist with SNP, said fewer guests ...  
3 weeks ago



11 Island Free Press

## Cape Hatteras National Seashore sees highest July visitation in 17 years

Cape Hatteras National Seashore sees highest July visitation in 17 ... including more than \$459 million in national parks in North Carolina.  
4 days ago



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## Public Lands are Ancestral Homelands



- Indigenous people have inhabited the North American continent for at least 20,000 years.
- Native Americans have deep ties to America's National Parks.
- For example, more than 25 modern tribes have an ancestral connection to Yellowstone National Park.



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## Public Lands are Ancestral Homelands



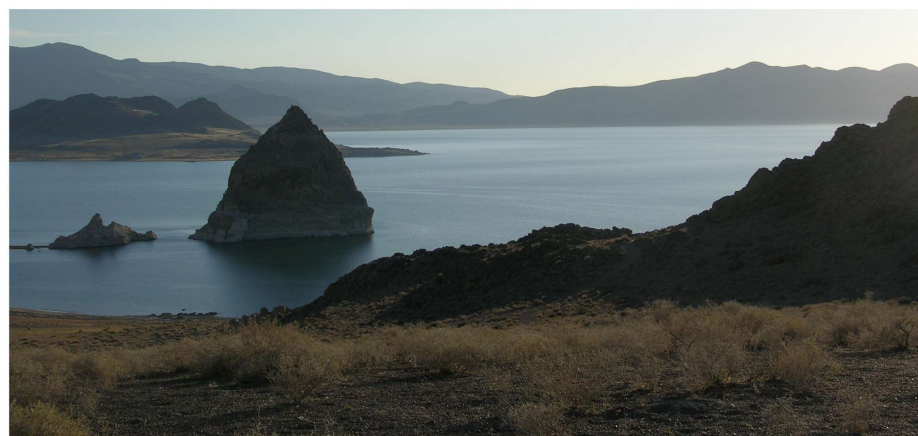
**Blackfeet in the Two  
Medicine Area,  
Glacier National Park,  
ca. 1914. Photo by  
R.E. Marble/ NPS**

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# 2021 Native American Visitor Experiences





## Malama Hawaii (Hawaiian Islands)



- Hawaii visitors are encouraged to “give back” to the destination.
- Activities range from reforestation and tree planting to self-directed beach cleanups, ocean reef preservation and even creating Hawaiian quilts.
- By making a positive impact, visitors can earn a free extra night from participating hotels.



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# First Americans Museum (Oklahoma)



- Scheduled to open Sept. 18, 2021
- The new First Americans Museum will celebrate the art, culture and heritage of the 39 tribes that now call Oklahoma home.
- The sit-down dining restaurant will serve menu items inspired by authentic Native recipes and tribally specific dishes
- [famok.org](http://famok.org)



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# National Native American Veterans Memorial (Washington DC)



- The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian established the National Native American Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.
- The Memorial, which opened to the public on Veterans Day 2020, is the first memorial of its kind to recognize the distinguished service of Native Americans in every branch of the U.S. military on National level.
- [americanindian.si.edu](http://americanindian.si.edu)



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## Lakota Ranching Traditions (South Dakota)



- A fourth-generation rancher and enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, Kelsey Ducheneaux and her family share their Lakota heritage and ranching lifestyle through ranch stays in which guests learn about the work and values of ranch life.
- The 7,500-acre ranch includes two bunkhouses attached to a 200-foot-long indoor riding facility, where visitors can get a taste of how tribal members view their resources and meet their needs locally.
- [nativeamerica.travel/listings/the-dx-ranch](https://nativeamerica.travel/listings/the-dx-ranch)



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## Kayaking the Apostle Islands (Wisconsin)



- Explore the icy caves along shores of Lake Superior with Rustic Makwa Den.
- Tours of the Red Cliff Ice Caves are available by kayak or by boat ride.
- Rustic Den Makwa also offers a variety of year-round, high adventure activities.
- All tours are accompanied by a Red Cliff guide, who provides insights on the history, culture and heritage of the people that make this area home.
- [rusticmakwaden.com](http://rusticmakwaden.com)



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# More Information





# NativeAmerica.travel



From Adobe dwellings to buffalo herds, carved totems to vibrant pow wows and Aloha-inspired luaus, America's rich culture and heritage begins with the nation's Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities. See America from a new perspective, explore cultures and traditions as rich and as beautiful as the lands where the nation's first people live. Authentic American culture is only a click away. [www.NativeAmerica.travel](http://www.NativeAmerica.travel)



NATIVEAMERICA  
.TRAVEL



Alaska Native Heritage Center



Cachini Dancers of Zuni Pueblo



Great Plains, Indian Relay



Southeast Arts and Crafts



Spirit of Aloha

- **NativeAmerica.travel** is the only destination-planning website representing American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians across the United States.
- The site connects travelers to unique and authentic American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian destinations and experiences



# More Information

## Websites

[www.ainta.org](http://www.ainta.org)  
(Trade)

[www.nativeamerica.travel](http://www.nativeamerica.travel)  
(Consumer)

[www.ainta.org/showcase](http://www.ainta.org/showcase)  
(Showcase Information)

## Contact Us

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# 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN TOURISM CONFERENCE



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