

TOP 10

INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES IN 2023

Best Cultural Heritage Experience: Oglala Lakota Living History Village

(AIANTA Region: Rocky Mountain)

The Oglala Lakota Living History Village (OLLHV) is a unique cultural attraction located near the Badlands National Park in South Dakota. This village is complete with tipis and other traditional dwellings – an authentic re-creation of a Lakota Indian village from the late 1800s to 1960s. Visitors to the OLLHV are led by knowledgeable Native guides, who provide insight into Lakota life and stories. Hear the drumbeat and songs while witnessing the vibrant dances and purchase artwork from local artists that bring the ancient culture into the modern era. AIANTA's Best Cultural Heritage Experience of 2022 makes the Oglala Lakota Living History Village the perfect place to visit this year!

www.oglalalakotahistoryvillage.com/

Tribal Destination of the Year: Akwesasne Travel Cultural Tourism

(AIANTA Region: Northeast)

Experience the Mohawk Nation with Akwesasne Travel Cultural Tourism! Located at the intersection of the U.S., Canada, and the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, this remote destination offers three tours to "Share the Mohawk Spirit." From baskets and lacrosse sticks, to a tour of Mohawk life, there's something for everyone. Akwesasne Travel has been featured internationally and was named AIANTA Tribal Destination of the Year for 2022. Discover why this destination is so special!

www.akwesasne.travel/mohawk-cultural-tours

Excellence in Customer Service: Tatanka Rez Tourz

(AIANTA Region: Rocky Mountain)

Visit Lakota country with Tatanka Rez Tourz for a life-changing experience. Native-owned and operated, Tatanka offers the opportunity to learn from the local Lakota people and visit Wounded Knee. Participate in a ceremony honoring the people who lost their lives in the massacre, and listen to traditional songs reverberating across the landscape. Though there is sadness, Tatanka celebrates the chance to share their history with the public and honor their ancestors. Experience the rich culture and history, and enjoy breathtaking vistas while learning a different perspective with the renowned Tatanka Rez Tourz and their exceptional offerings of transformative experiences you will surely keep in your heart forever.

bit.ly/TatankaRezTourz

Unique Cultural Museum Experiences

Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza (AIANTA Region: Southern California) The Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza features a 48,000-square-foot museum that's destined to be one of the nation's most impressive Native American cultural facilities.

Comprised of intricate design details and architecture inspired by traditional basketry, pottery, and desert landscapes and offers an outdoor Native garden.

The Spa at Séc-he is the heart of the plaza and is a developed luxurious mineral hot spring spa that celebrates the ancient and sacred location of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians' hot mineral spring. With its vibrant atmosphere, stunning landscape, and cultural offerings, Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza is sure to be a popular destination for years to come.

www.aguacaliente.org/

Choctaw Cultural Center

(AIANTA Region: Oklahoma)

Dive into the extraordinary culture, history and spirituality of the Choctaw people at the Choctaw Cultural Center. Located in Oklahoma, this 100,000 square foot space of living exhibitions, entitled "Chahta Nowvt Aya", explores the four-part journey of the Choctaw Nation - starting with their ancestors up to the establishment of their new homeland. As you experience this moving story of resilience, you will gain insight into the unique customs, cultures and traditional spiritual practices of the Choctaw people, as well as their relationship with nature. The Cultural Center is an inviting space to explore, to reflect, and to celebrate the beauty of the Choctaw Nation. Come and discover the profound connection to the land and its people for yourself.

<https://choctawculturalcenter.com/>

Ski Apache Adaptive Sports

(AIANTA Region: Southwest)

Ski Apache Adaptive Sports is the perfect destination for people with physical or cognitive disabilities to actively practice snow sports, including skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and tubing. Located in the Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico, Ski Apache offers breathtaking views and world-class experiences for all. The adaptive sports program provides specialized ski equipment, tailored instruction, and a supportive environment for those with disabilities. The mountainside terrain offers a variety of slopes, from gentle beginner terrain to more challenging trails for those who are more experienced and seek more adrenaline. Ski Apache Adaptive Sports is the perfect place for anyone looking for an accessible, unforgettable snow sport experience. www.skiapache.com/lessons/



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Food for Your Body and Spirit

Café Ohlone (AIANTA Region: California) – Café Ohlone is a unique dining destination located in Berkeley, California. Named after the indigenous Ohlone people who have lived in the Bay Area for thousands of years, the café serves traditional foods and contemporary fare. Café Ohlone offers interactive learning activities and workshops to teach guests about the Ohlone people. If you are looking for a truly special and meaningful dining experience in Oakland, Café Ohlone is a must-visit.

www.makamham.com/cafeohlone

Star Village Coffee (AIANTA Region: Great Basin) – Star Village Coffee, owned and operated by Natives, preserves history and culture with their custom-built drinks made with local ingredients. Enjoy a cup of coffee, nostalgia, and appreciation for traditional foods. Feel the sense of community at the table and remember joy, humor, and struggle that is part of being Numu (the people of the Great Basin). Experience the perfect balance of old and new at Star Village Coffee.

www.starvillagecoffee.com

Yurok Country Visitor Center (AIANTA Region: Pacific Northwest)

The Oohl (Yurok people) welcome you to their homelands in California among the redwoods at the Yurok Country Visitor Center in downtown Klamath. The central location is right in the center of Redwood National and State Parks and in the midst of the last remaining old-growth redwoods on the planet. The dynamic destination for culture, nature, and recreation enthusiasts looking to explore the rugged beauty of California's northern coast will find an immersive experience of Yurok customs at the Center. From interactive exhibits to guided tours, you'll learn about ancient Yurok practices that have shaped the area over centuries. Whether you're looking for a day trip or an extended stay in one of the many nearby campgrounds, Yurok Country Visitor Center is a must-see destination that will make your California vacation unforgettable.

www.visiturokcountry.com

Seneca-Iroquois National Museum (AIANTA Region: Northeast)

Why is the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum a unique destination? Not only is the museum home to a truly extensive collection of Hodinöhsó:ni' historical and traditionally designed archaeological artifacts (over 10,000 objects, 5,000 photographs, and thousands of archaeological materials dating back to pre-colonial times) – it also provides you the hands-on opportunity to carve a wooden canoe or create a wampum belt. Ancient tools, pottery, and weapons are among the displayed artifacts, and interactive exhibits on traditional music and instruments like the drum and flute intrigue your mind and your spirit. Standing next to the life-sized models of traditional longhouses and learning about the importance of plants in the culture allow you to immerse yourself in a humbling experience of the unique history and culture of the Seneca and Iroquois Nations. The Seneca-Iroquois National Museum is a destination that a description cannot fully capture – it must be experienced! www.senecamuseum.org



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Outdoor Adventures Rivalled in Ancient Places and Perspectives

Kooyoee Pa'a Guides (AIANTA Region: Great Basin) – The first Paiute woman flyfishing guide within Kooyoee Pa'a Panunadu (Pyramid Lake, Nevada), is making fishing accessible, educational, inclusive, and impactful for both people, animals, land, and water alike. With no past experience necessary, the guided trips include information about the lake, Numu history, and cultural values for respectfully fishing and visiting Kooyoee Pa'a Panunadu. Reel in a worldclass Lahontan Cutthroat trout with Autumn Harry, one of USA Today's "Woman of the Year – Nevada Honoree" while garnering a relationship with the astounding Nevada landscape.

kooyoopaaguides.com/

Iron Shield Creative (AIANTA Region: Rocky Mountain) – Iron Shield Creative helps visitors connect with the natural world through storytelling. The Indigenous guides offer more than just a tour, weaving in elder knowledge, they transport you to a world before colonialism through experience, story, and song. ISC guides share ways of knowing and untold histories in books – all the while trekking the Miistukiiks (Mountains). Take in some breathtaking views of the mountain ranges of Glacier National Park the Amskapi Pikuni (Blackfeet) call, "The Backbone of The World" and shift your perspective and connection with the people who have been in the region since beginning of time. www.ironshieldcreative.com

Alaska Treasures: The People and Places (AIANTA Region: Alaska)

Alaska Native Heritage Center Welcome to the Alaska Native Heritage Center, where you can feel the heartbeat of Alaska's Indigenous People and hear our stories. This center is one of America's cultural treasures and the only statewide living cultural center in Alaska. It offers a unique experience to explore the traditional and contemporary ways of Alaska's Indigenous cultures. At ANHC, you can engage and interact with Alaska Native cultures, ask questions, and discover our rich history and cultural heritage that is living and thriving today. Our cultures continue to flourish in a changing world, and although our world changes, our values and traditions remain.

www.alaskanative.net

The Kodiak Brown Bear Center and Lodge – A visit to our home will leave you with unforgettable memories of your time spent in the heart of Kodiak's wilderness with the legendary monarchs of our Archipelago: the Kodiak brown bear. The Kodiak Brown Bear Center is just a short boat ride away from some of the best brown bear habitats remaining on the planet. Our program represents Alaska bear viewing at its best, including the fusion of thousands of years of traditional Alutiiq wisdom with modern scientific knowledge and opportunities to kayak, paddleboard, go fishing, bird watching, and even Maqii* (traditional Alutiiq sauna/steam bath). The Kodiak Brown Bear Center and Lodge offers a plethora of Alaskan experiences packaged into one location. kodiakbearcenter.com

The World Eskimo Indian Olympics – A must-witness annual event held in Alaska celebrating ancient Arctic games, the World Eskimo Indian Olympics features a variety of competitions, from the Alaskan High Kick to the Blanket Toss. It's a great way to experience the vibrant culture of Alaskan indigenous people and learn their history and culture. This year's event is July 12 – 15, 2023 in Fairbanks, so mark your calendars! www.weio.org