

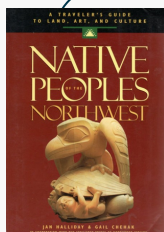
# TOP 20

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISITORS TO NATIVE AMERICA



**AIANTA**  
American Indian Alaska Native  
Tourism Association

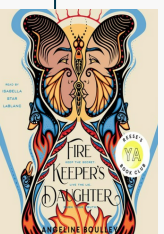
Explore our curated list of books authored by Native writers, offering unique insights into Native American communities and their vibrant cultures. Celebrating resilience, wisdom, and contributions, these books cover topics like Native American life, agritourism, science, history, and historic trails. Whether you're a traveler, tourist, researcher, student, or simply curious about Native American culture, our selection provides authentic perspectives. Join us in fostering understanding and appreciation for Native communities, whether you're seeking insight as a visitor to America or eager to explore diverse perspectives as a member of a Native community. Let's embark on a journey of discovery together.



### NATIVE PEOPLES OF THE NORTHWEST: A TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO LAND, ART, AND CULTURE

Jan Halliday and Gail Chehak (Klamath)

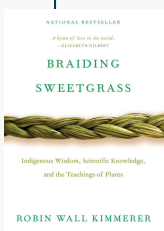
This updated guide features info on contemporary Native culture, including performances, tours, events, art galleries, and more. All alongside stunning photos of artwork by modern Northwest artists.



### FIRE KEEPERS DAUGHTER

Angeline Boulley (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)

Follows Daunis, a biracial teen who investigates a drug ring on her Ojibwe reservation. Torn between cultures and facing family struggles, Daunis must use her smarts and heritage to uncover the truth.



### BRAIDING SWEETGRASS: INDIGENOUS WISDOM, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND THE TEACHINGS OF PLANTS

Robin Wall Kimmerer (Potawatomi)

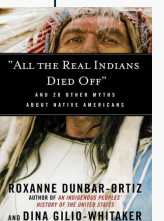
Blend of science and Indigenous wisdom to explore our connection and reciprocity with the Earth, urging us to listen to its messages for a sustainable future.



### TO BE A WATER PROTECTOR: THE RISE OF THE WIINDIGOO SLAYERS

Winona LaDuke (Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe))

Explores Indigenous resistance to environmental destruction. LaDuke, an Anishinaabekwe leader, calls for a New Green Economy and honors Mother Earth's teachings.



### ALL THE REAL INDIANS DIED OFF

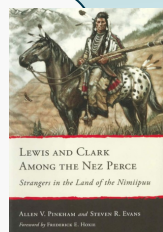
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Colville Confederated Tribes)

Tackle a wide range of myths about Native American culture and history that have misinformed generations. Tracing how these ideas evolved, and drawing from history, the authors disrupt long-held and enduring myths.

### LEWIS AND CLARK AMONG THE NEZ PERCE: STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF THE NIMIIPUU

Allen V. Pinkham (Nez Perce) and  
Steven R. Evans

Sheds new light on Lewis and Clark's time with the Nez Perce tribe, analyzing the explorers' journals alongside Nez Perce oral traditions, nuanced understanding of encounter.



### THE LONE RANGER AND TONTO FISTFIGHT IN HEAVEN

Sherman Alexie (Coeur d'Alene/Colville)

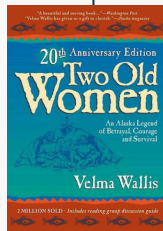
Real life, on and off the Reservation. This is a collection of insightful, unflinching, yet sometimes laugh-out-loud funny snapshots of contemporary Native American life.



### TWO OLD WOMEN: AN ALASKA LEGEND OF BETRAYAL, COURAGE AND SURVIVAL

Velma Wallis (Gwich'in Athabascan)

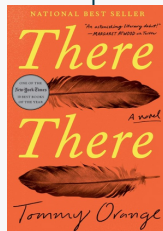
an Athabascan legend of survival, resilience, and community bonds in the Alaska wilderness, offering insights into traditional Indigenous ways of life.



### THERE THERE

Tommy Orange (Cheyenne/Arapaho)

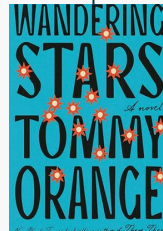
Awarded the Pulitzer Prize and hailed as a contemporary classic, There There is a novel that follows twelve characters from Native communities as they travel to the Big Oakland Powwow. The characters grapple with their identity, history, and the challenges of urban Native American life.

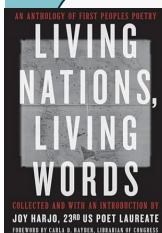


### WANDERING STARS

Tommy Orange (Cheyenne/Arapaho)

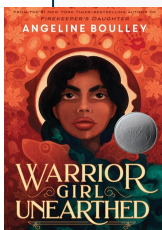
A multigenerational saga tracing the legacy of a Native American family through trauma and resilience, explores the impact of the Sand Creek Massacre and the Carlisle Indian Industrial School across generations, weaving a story of hardship, hope, and the enduring spirit of identity.



LIVING NATIONS, LIVING WORDS, AN  
ANTHOLOGY OF FIRST PEOPLES POETRY

Joy Harjo, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

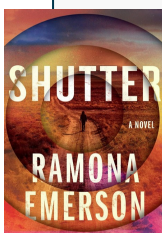
Edited by the first Native U.S. Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo, it features poems that explore the deep connection between Native communities, their land, and their rich cultural heritage.



## WARRIOR GIRL UNEARTHED

Angeline Boulley (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)

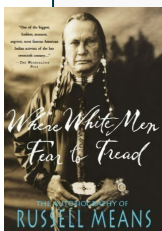
Biracial teen Perry Firekeeper-Birch uncovers a dark secret about her Ojibwe heritage while investigating missing women and confronting grave robbers, thrilling adventure about reclaiming history and protecting her community.



## SHUTTER

Ramona Emerson (Diné)

A dark and suspenseful crime thriller with a supernatural twist. Rita Todacheene, a forensic photographer with a secret ability to see ghosts, uses her gift to solve crimes while battling the burdens of her past.



## WHERE WHITE MEN FEAR TO TREAD

Russell Means (Oglala Lakota)

Autobiography of Russell Means, a charismatic and controversial American Indian leader. Means recounts his life fighting for self-determination through actions like storming Mount Rushmore and the 71-day occupation of Wounded Knee.

PROJECT 562: CHANGING THE WAY WE  
SEE NATIVE AMERICA

Matika Wilbur (Swinomish/Tulalip)

The body of work Wilbur created serves to counteract the one-dimensional and archaic stereotypes of Native people in mainstream media and offers justice to the richness, diversity, and lived experiences of Indian Country. Project 562 inspires, educates, and truly changes the way we see Native America.

THE GREAT VANISHING ACT:  
BLOOD QUANTUM AND THE FUTURE  
OF NATIVE NATIONS

Norbert Hill Jr. (Oneida Nation)

Explores the controversial concept of blood quantum in defining Native American identity, collection of essays examines the challenges for tribal enrollment and the future of Indigenous communities.

## AMERICAN INDIANS AND THE CIVIL WAR

National Park Service, AIANTA, Robert K. Sutton, John A. Latschar

This publication amplifies tribal voices in American history, documenting oral tradition for future generations. It validates the past, contextualizing tribal history in America's story and fostering understanding for our children.

## THE BEADWORKERS: STORIES

Beth Piatote (Nez Perce/Colville Confederated Tribes)

Explores contemporary Native American life through stories that blend humor, history, and cultural identity. The book features characters facing challenges and finding strength in family and tradition.

IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE NAMES OF  
CLOUDS, YOU'VE LOST YOUR WAY:  
AN INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN  
INDIAN THOUGHT AND PHILOSOPHY

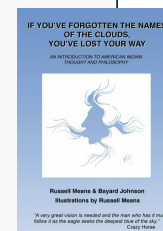
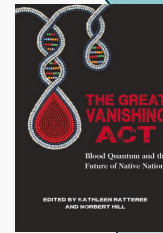
Russell Means &amp; Raymond Johnson

Offers a glimpse into traditional Lakota beliefs on creation, family structures, and the future, aims to preserve knowledge at risk of being lost and foster understanding between Indigenous and industrialized societies.

## THE GRASS DANCER

Susan Power (Standing Rock Sioux)

Set on a North Dakota reservation, The Grass Dancer reveals the harsh price of unfulfilled longings and the healing power of mystery and hope. Rich with drama and infused with the magic of the everyday, it takes readers on a journey through both past and present—in a tale as resonant and haunting as an ancestor's memory, and as promising as a child's dream.



## About AIANTA

For more than 25 years, the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) has served as the only national organization dedicated to advancing cultural heritage tourism in Native Nations and communities across the United States. Established by tribes for tribes to address inequities in the tourism system, AIANTA is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit governed by an all-Native board of directors and serves as a united voice for the \$15.7 billion Native hospitality sector. AIANTA's successful legislative work led to the industry-changing Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act (NATIVE Act) funding in 2018, as Indigenous Tourism was recognized through federal appropriations via NATIVE Act implementation. AIANTA's mission is to define, introduce, grow, and sustain American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) tourism that honors traditions and values while helping AIANNH businesses become market/export ready for domestic and international markets. Tribes who are looking to start or expand their cultural tourism footprint can find resources at [www.aianta.org](http://www.aianta.org) and visitors interested in learning more about Native culture can visit [www.nativeamerica.travel](http://www.nativeamerica.travel).