

TOP 10 INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES OF 2025



AIANTA
American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association



2025 TRIBAL DESTINATION OF THE YEAR

Inn of the Mountain Gods, New Mexico

The Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino, nestled in Mescalero on the Mescalero Apache reservation, offers an upscale escape with thrilling casino action, a Top 50-rated golf course, award-winning dining, and a luxury spa. Guests can enjoy zip-lining, boating, biking, and horseback riding, plus live entertainment, including concerts and stand-up comedy. Surrounded by stunning natural beauty, this premier New Mexico resort blends relaxation, adventure, and world-class amenities for a memorable experience.

2025 BEST CULTURAL HERITAGE EXPERIENCE

Choctaw Cultural Center, Oklahoma

The Choctaw Cultural Center in Durant, Oklahoma, offers an immersive experience that connects all generations to the Chahta journey. Visitors can explore Choctaw history, create beaded jewelry, cook frybread, and enjoy activities for all ages. With over 100,000 square feet of exhibits, a Living Village, classrooms, theater, café, and retail spaces, this center celebrates the Chahta spirit of faith, family, and culture, fostering lasting memories and a deeper connection to the Choctaw story.



2025 EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

Paragon Casino Resort, Louisiana

Paragon Casino Resort blends excitement and luxury, offering a world-class casino with top slots, table games, and a lively poker room. Guests can enjoy over 500 lavish hotel rooms and suites, an indoor tropical pool, full-service spa, three-screen cinema, and alligators in the hotel atrium. With exceptional dining, retail shops, a championship golf course, and live entertainment, Paragon Casino Resort is the ultimate destination for entertainment, relaxation, and unforgettable experiences.

CULTURAL SITES THAT INSPIRE

The Hibulb Cultural Center, Washington

The Hibulb Cultural Center and Natural History Preserve is dedicated to preserving and sharing the history, culture, and spiritual beliefs of the Tulalip Tribes, successors to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, and Skykomish tribes. Spanning 23,000 square feet with a 50-acre preserve, the center features interactive exhibits, a longhouse, classrooms, a research library, and a certified archaeological repository. It is the first Tribal facility in Washington to be state-certified, offering a deep connection to Native heritage and traditions.

The Chickasaw Cultural Center, Oklahoma

The Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma, offers an immersive experience to learn about First American history. Through interactive exhibits, powerful performances, and advanced technology, visitors can explore the rich culture of the Chickasaw people. Highlights include the Chikasha Poya Exhibit Center, Anoli' Theater, Kochcha' Aabinili' Amphitheater, and Chikasha Inchokka' Traditional Village. With a research center, art gallery, and scenic gardens, the center provides a unique, educational journey into the Chickasaw way of life, along with celebrated hospitality.





CHARACTER IS POWER: NO VOICE IS TOO SOFT

Ho'okipa Hawai'i Weekend

Ho'okipa Hawai'i Weekend is a vibrant two-day celebration of Native Hawaiian culture at the Royal Hawaiian Center. This free, family-friendly event features cultural demonstrations, exhibits, hands-on workshops, and a marketplace highlighting Native Hawaiian-owned businesses. Enjoy live music, hula, storytelling, and interactive experiences with esteemed cultural practitioners. With special performances and a live TV broadcast, Ho'okipa Hawai'i Weekend offers an immersive opportunity to engage with and appreciate the richness of Hawaiian traditions.

HAPPY TRAILS: ADVENTURE AWAITS

Fire Mountain Trails, North Carolina

Fire Mountain Trails in Cherokee offers over 11 miles of multiuse trails perfect for mountain biking, hiking, or running. With a mix of smooth, fast sections, fun turns, and manageable elevation changes, it's ideal for all skill levels. The trails feature rock gardens, technical spots, and flowy features, winding through the scenic Great Smoky Mountains. Located near the Oconaluftee Indian Village, the trails are open year-round, free of charge, and provide breathtaking views and adventure for outdoor enthusiasts.



ESCAPE & WANDER

Pacific Alaska Tours, Alaska

Founded in 2023 in Anchorage, Pacific Alaska Tours brings 20 years of experience in safely guiding guests across Alaska. Operating as Alaska Coach Tours since 2004, the company is 80% owned by Na-Dena, a joint venture of Doyon, Limited, and Huna Totem Corporation, with the remainder owned by employees. Offering guided tours of Anchorage, wildlife and cultural experiences, and seamless cruise transfers, Pacific Alaska Tours ensures memorable adventures, including stops at the Alaska Native Heritage Center and Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.

WHISPER TO THE PAST: UNCOVERING HISTORY

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Florida

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, located in the Florida Everglades, showcases over 180,000 artifacts and archival items to educate visitors about the Seminole people. The museum highlights the Seminoles' unique status as the only unconquered tribe in America and offers five exhibit galleries exploring Seminole history and culture. With permanent displays of 19th-century Seminole life and contemporary exhibits, the museum also features a mile-long boardwalk where visitors can immerse themselves in the natural beauty of the Everglades.



The Ute Indian Museum, Colorado

The Ute Indian Museum highlights the enduring spirit of the Ute people, connecting their rich history with contemporary life and culture. Exhibits focus on the Utes' adaptability and resilience, centered around significant geographical locations in their history. Visitors explore themes of cultural survival, political determination, economic opportunity, and the celebration of the Bear Dance through engaging displays. The museum offers a deep, immersive look at Ute heritage and their ongoing contributions to history and culture.



SERENITY OF STILL WATERS

The Pyramid Lake, Nevada

Pyramid Lake, one of Nevada's largest natural lakes, spans 125,000 acres and is a remnant of the ancient Lake Lahontan. Known for its stunning shifting shades of blue and gray, the lake is significant to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, with myths and stories surrounding it. Visitors can learn about its cultural and natural history at the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum. Activities like kayaking, mountain biking, and world-class fishing, including the rare Cui-ui fish, make Pyramid Lake a renowned destination.