

# American Indians Tour



## American Indian Tour

Entry: Seattle

Route: Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Denver (exit)

The Plains Indians - the proud first residents of the Rocky Mountain West - still make the region their home. In recent years, a new sense of vision and cultural awareness has grown between whites and Native Americans. The region is home to sixteen Indian nations.

Day 1 Seattle

Days 2-3 Idaho

The Cataldo Mission, near Coeur d'Alene, was built between 1848 and 1853 by the Couer d'Alene Indians under the direction of the Italian Jesuit missionary, Father Ravalli. It is the oldest standing building in Idaho and is constructed of carefully woven straw, river mud and wooden pegs. Today, 34 sites in the Nez Perce National Historic Park throughout Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, bring alive the ten thousand-year-history of the Nez Perce people. The visitor's center contains a museum and an auditorium with interpretive talks and films. Fort Hall is the home of both the Shoshone and Bannock Native Americans who have peacefully inhabited the same land in southern Idaho for thousands of years. The tribes host the Sho-Ban Indian Festival each year during the second weekend in August. The tribal museum and trading post are open to the public year round.

Days 4-5 Montana

The Assiniboine, Sioux, Blackfeet, Chippewa, Cree, Confederated Salish & Kootenai, Crow, Gros Ventre, Northern Cheyenne and Little Shell Indians all reside in Montana. In early July, the Blackfeet host the Northern American Indian Days in Browning. The eight-day Crow Fair is hosted each August at the Crow Agency near Hardin. This event includes rodeos, dances, parades, games, food and craft displays.

#### Days 6-7 North Dakota

Indian people of North Dakota – They are the Mandan, Hidatso, Arikara, the Yanktonai, Sisseton, Wahpeton, Hunkpapa, and other Dakotah/Lakotah tribes, along with the Pembina Chippewa, Cree and Metis.

The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes farmed the area along the Missouri River. Today there are reconstructed earthlodges, near Mandan, New Town and Stanton, that showcase the some of the oldest settled cities in America. Throughout the year, Powwows are held around the state, with the United Tribes Technical College's International Powwow finishing the season on the second weekend in September each year. This "Contest Powwow" attracts hundreds of American Indian dancers, drum groups, showcase of American Indian culture, and is home of the champions. It is a celebration showcasing "champion" dancers and drums from across the U.S. and Canada, competing for top honors.

#### Day 8 South Dakota

##### The Black Hills and Crazy Horse Memorial

The Black Hills are traditional hunting grounds for American Indians. The Lakota never welcomed "the whiteman" to these hunting grounds. The first European explorers to see the Black Hills was probably Verendrye. It was reported that their American Indian guides would not take them any closer to the mountains because hostile bands of Indians were known to live there. Crazy Horse Memorial is the world's largest sculpture-in-progress, and frequent drilling and mountain blasts make each visit unique. When completed, Crazy Horse Memorial will stand 563 feet tall by 641 feet long.

#### Days 9-10 Wyoming

Both the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes share the Wind River Indian Reservation near Lander. Within the last two years, self-guided or step-on guide service has been available through Pat's Tours for historical and cultural tours of the reservation. Guide and outfitting services are available from Native American guides to explore the spectacular Wind River Mountain Range. Fishing, camping and horseback riding are offered during an authentic Indian cultural experience.

#### Day 13 Denver

The Denver Art Museum has what is often acknowledged as the world's greatest collection of American Indian art work, representing all of North America's tribes. There are many traders in the city who deal in Indian artwork, jewelry and blankets. The Denver Pow Wow is held every March.

Depart Denver for Los Angeles LAX, San Francisco SFO or Seattle SEA gateways.