Welcome to NMAI

The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C., features the lifeways, history, and art of indigenous peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere. The museum on the National Mall is one of three sites that make up the National Museum of the American Indian.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your visit on the fourth level in the Lelawi Theater, which features a 13-minute film, Who We Are, celebrating the vitality and diversity of Native life. Take a Highlights Tour. Tours last 45 minutes to 1 hour. All tours assemble in the Potomac Atrium on the first level. Check at the Welcome Desk or the museum’s website for additional times and special tours.

IMAGINATIONS ACTIVITY CENTER

The museum’s family activity center on the third level provides interactive, hands-on learning for curious visitors ages 12 and under. Explore a tipi, play a quiz show, and weave a giant basket. Educational programs are held regularly; please ask a staff member for the weekly schedule of events. To reserve a group entry time (groups must be preschool to 3rd grade only), contact Group Reservations at 202-633-6644. Open Tuesday through Sunday.

PROGRAMS, THEATER, AND FILMS

The museum has several locations that feature Native presentations, drama, dance, music performances, demonstrations, readings, panel discussions, and seminars, including:

- The Rasmuson Theater (Level 1)
- The Lelawi Theater (Level 4)
- The Potomac Atrium (Level 1)
- The Outdoor Theater
- Education Workshop (Level 3)
- The Conference Center (Level 4)

STORES AND CAFE

The Chesapeake Gallery Store (Level 1) and Roanoke Museum Store (Level 2) offer a wide variety of merchandise, including books, crafts, music, souvenirs, toys, jewelry, textiles, and other works by Native artisans. The Zagat-rated Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe (Level 1) serves meals and snacks based on the indigenous foods of the Americas. The Mitsitam Espresso Bar (Level 1) offers coffee and light fare.

Support the museum! Donate $10 by texting NATIVE to 20222. Message and data rates apply.
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Don't miss the short film Who We Are in the Lelawi Theater. Then visit the two exhibition galleries to learn about Native beliefs and history.

Find out why American Indian names and images are everywhere—visit the Americans exhibition. Discover the foundations of the Inka Road in the exhibition The Great Inka Road: Engineering an Empire. Enjoy hands-on displays in the family-friendly imagiNATIONS Activity Center.

Discover the Native communities of Washington, D.C., in Return to a Native Place. View changing exhibitions in the Sealaska Gallery. And visit the museum store for one-of-a-kind gifts and souvenirs.

Join a tour in the Potomac Atrium or catch a performance or film in the Rasmuson Theater. Feast at the Mitsitam Cafe. Enjoy a beverage at the Espresso Bar.