



AKTÁ LAKOTA

Museum & Cultural Center

- an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School -

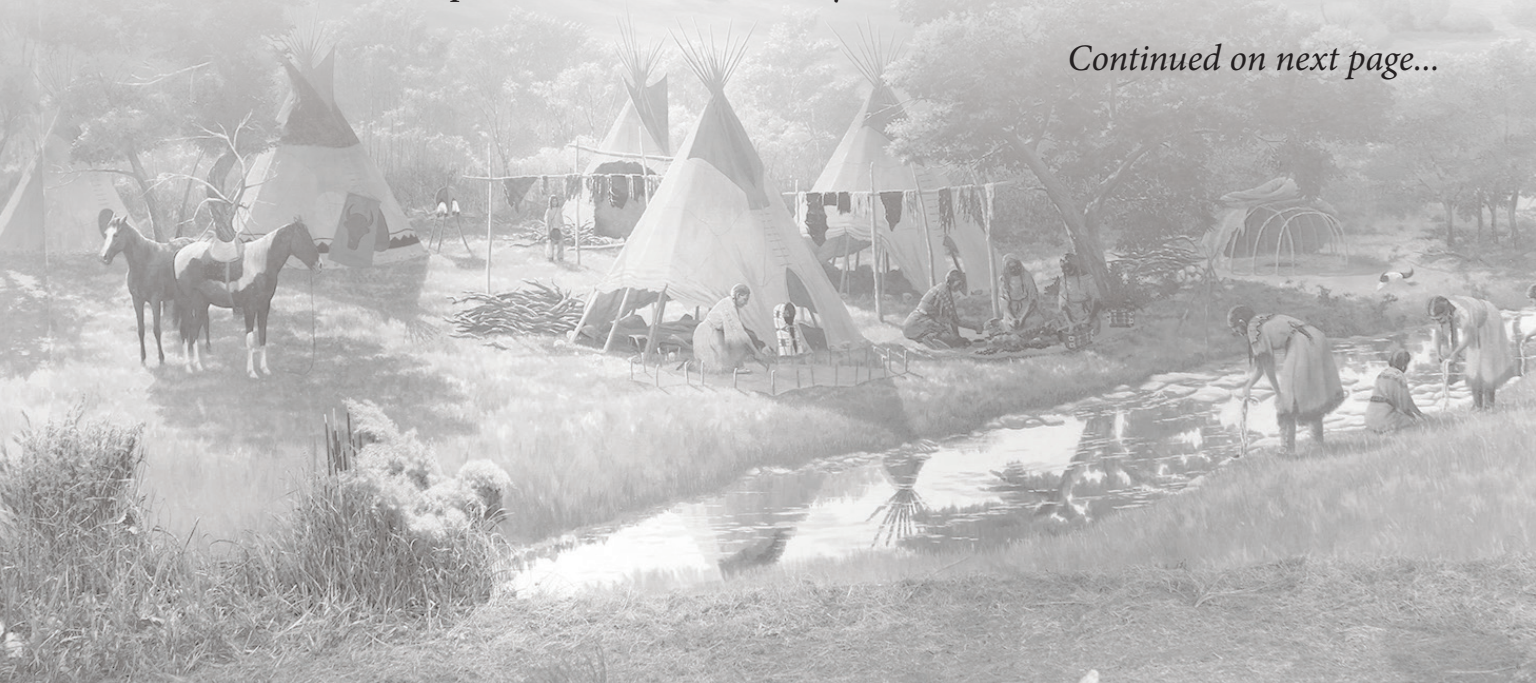


NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART

EXPERIENCE LAKOTA CULTURE

The Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center, an educational outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School sits on the banks of the Missouri River in the heart of Chamberlain, South Dakota. Since the museum's start in 1991, thousands of visitors have experienced the powerful works of local Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota artists. A stroll through the museum is a walk through the Lakota timeline, starting with their settling on the Great Plains. Consisting of much more than displays and informational plaques, the exhibits feature video kiosks with short presentations on the lifestyle and rituals of Plains Indians.

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EXPERIENCE LAKOTA CULTURE *Continued ...*

The museum's collection features contemporary art, historical artifacts, and educational displays depicting the proud heritage of the Lakota people. Their story is told through interactive displays, English-Lakota descriptions, and continues in the Gift Shop which provides local artists a venue to market their work.

Much of the museum's original collection came from gifts given to St. Joseph's by alumni and friends since the school opened in 1927. Since the museum opened in May 1991, many new pieces have been acquired. Each year we continue to add relevant pieces to the collection. In addition, the outside walls showcase historical drawings of ten influential Lakota and Dakota chiefs.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

The Aktá Lakota Museum was spectacular! Beautifully designed and steeped with historical artifacts and informative displays. It is a priceless tribute and I was honored to visit!

— Mary Z., South Dakota

I wasn't expecting this to be quite so well done. The displays are very interesting and are arranged well. The whole thing feels like a first-class museum. Very impressive.

— Joe W., Illinois

A wonderful learning experience about the St. Joseph Indian School and the Lakota Indians and their culture. The Medicine Wheel Garden was beautiful and well worth the visit. The museum is a thought-provoking tribute to the American Indian.

— Kunter A., Istanbul, Turkey

LAKOTA MOON CALENDAR - *Wíyawapi Wówapi Hanwí*



Wetú:

Wetú: *Moons of Renewal and Growth (Spring)*

The Moons of Renewal and Growth (Spring)

Majáksicaagli Wí Moon When Ducks Come Back

Wihákata Cépapi Wí Moon of Making Fat

Wójupi Wí When the Leaves are Green

The Lakota year is divided into 13 moons. Each moon is 28 days long, and every day represents something sacred:

Two days for the Great Spirit

Two days for the Mother Earth

Four days for the Four Winds

One day for the Spotted Eagle

One day for the Sun

One day for the Moon

One day for the Morning Star

Four days for the Four Ages

Seven days for the Seven Rites of the Sacred Pipe

One day for the Buffalo

One day for the Fire

One day for the Water

One day for the Rock

One day for the Two-legged People

Each spring, the camp circle moved to higher ground. Men fixed and created weapons and resumed hunting. Women gathered early berries and roots and repaired the tipis. Children enjoyed the warm weather after the confines of winter.

[Learn More!](#)

MUST SEE EXHIBITS

OPENING IN MAY - THE QUILT — OWÍŃŽA

When the buffalo was gone, Lakota women used their sewing skills to create traditional designs on quilts that would take the place of ceremonial buffalo robes. Contemporary quilts are an enduring representation of vibrant culture and are still used in traditional ceremonies today.

The OwíŃžá exhibition highlights the history and beauty of Lakota quilts from as early as 1893. These quilts embody cultural traditions that survived through the perseverance and adaptability of the native people. The exhibit opens May 20 and runs through October 31, 2022; a reception and exhibit lecture is planned for Friday, July 3, 2022.



ON DISPLAY NOW – CREATION.STORY



The words and images we use to communicate differ between cultures and change from generation to generation. **Creation.Story** explores how a culture's most important messages find a way to endure. This show is a contemporary version of the (Lakota) creation story, a collaborative exhibit featuring the MFA thesis work of Oglala Lakota artist Keith Braveheart. The exhibit is being co-curated by Keith BraveHeart and David A Meyer II – together they have expanded the exhibit to include the work of nine additional artists, who created work specifically for this show.

The museum will host an artist reception on Sunday,
May 15, 2022, from 3:00 – 6:00 PM
with artists speaking about their work throughout the afternoon.



MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

FUN FIELD TRIPS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Aktá Lakota Museum promotes learning for children of all ages and abilities through interactive, informal, hands-on exhibits and programming.

The museum is a welcoming, fun, and enjoyable environment that honors the rich, beautiful history of the Lakota people. Exhibits, both inside and outside, are designed to include subjects in art, literature, culture, and history. The Aktá Lakota Museum is a place that provides children and adults a living lesson on the American Indian way of life — both past and present. Admission is Free! [Plan your visit today!](#)



STORY TIME WITH UNČÍ & LALÁ

Story Time with Unci and Lala is a free public program that brings American Indian history to life through Native American literature. The program is primarily for children, but all are welcome.



Readings are held every week in June and July on Tuesdays in the museum from 10:30-11:30 AM with stories and activities every week. [Learn More!](#)



CAMPUS TOURS

The St. Joseph's Indian School welcomes visitors and group tours. Campus tours are available in a variety of ways:

- **Self-guided audio tour (drive or walk):** For those who like to explore on their own, audio tours are available anytime by dialing 1-877-342-0829. Campus maps are available at the front entrance of the museum.
- **Guided walking tours:** Approximately a mile walk, transportation is available. Please email or call ahead to reserve. Available May – October at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday – Saturday.
- **Private tours:** Year-round, by appointment only.



To schedule an appointment for a guided tour or request transportation for a tour email aktalakota@stjo.org or call 800-798-3452.



SUMMER HOURS START MAY 1ST!

MONDAY - SATURDAY 8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



GENERAL MUSEUM INFORMATION

Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center

St. Joseph's Indian School

1301 North Main Street

Chamberlain, SD 57325

Phone: 1-605-234-3452

Toll Free: 1-800-798-3452

E-Mail: aktalakota@stjo.org

Online: www.aktalakota.org

Memberships and Affiliations

ABA – American Bus Association

NTA – National Tour Association

ASDM – Association of South Dakota Museums

SDSHS – South Dakota State Historical Society

AAM – American Association of Museums

IACA – Indian Arts & Crafts Association

MPMA – Mountain Plains Museum Association

AASLH – American Assoc. for State &
Local History

Summer Hours

May – October

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Monday - Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday

Winter Hours

November – April

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Monday - Friday

Closed weekends and National Holidays

- **Interactive Displays**
- **Medicine Wheel Garden**
- **After Hours Tours by Appointment**
- **Bus/RV Parking**
- **Handicap-Accessible**
- **Guided Tours Available Upon Request**

FREE ADMISSION

Donations Welcome



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