

AKTÁ LAKOTA

Museum & Cultural Center



The cultural center opened in 1991 on the campus of St. Joseph's Indian School. The words Aktá Lakota, meaning to honor the people, were chosen because the museum is truly intended to honor and preserve the rich Lakota culture for the students at St. Joseph's Indian School and for thousands who visit the museum each year.

Art, artifacts and educational displays in the museum's collection honor the proud Lakota (Sioux) heritage and culture. Much of the museum's original collection came from gifts to St. Joseph's by alumni and friends since the school's inception in 1927.

Since the museum opened, it has acquired many new pieces and continually strives to add appropriate pieces to the collection. The museum's gift shop, gives local artists a venue to display and sell their work.



AKTÁ LAKOTA
Museum & Cultural Center
- an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School -

MUSEUM HOURS

May — October

Monday — Saturday: 8 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Sundays: 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.

November — April

Monday — Friday: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
**Closed on weekends and National Holidays*

FREE ADMISSION — Donations Accepted

Directions

Exit 263 off I-90, proceed north two miles, through downtown Chamberlain. Turn left into St. Joseph's Indian School. Continue going north through our campus for one block until you come to a four-way stop. Turn left the museum will be on your left.

Group Visits — Bus/RV Parking

Tour guides are available for group visits. Advance reservations are appreciated; call 1-800-798-3452

Accessibility

The museum is fully accessible to all visitors.

Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center

St. Joseph's Indian School
1301 North Main Street
Chamberlain, South Dakota 57325

aktalakota.org 1-800-798-3452



• • • OPEN YEAR ROUND • • •



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www.aktalakota.org

More than just a museum ...

St. Joseph's Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center is the only American Indian center of it's kind. The facility is more than a traditional museum because it provides visitors with a living lesson on the Lakota way of life — both past and present.

"I would recommend this museum to anyone planning a trip through the area."

— Susan H., Michigan

Meet the past, encounter the present ...

A museum tour reflects the four cardinal colors and directions for the Lakota.

East — Camp Circle depicts life on the Great Plains prior to Euro-American contact; exhibits explain historical relationships of tribes and bands features items of traditional culture.

South — Two Worlds Meet details the arrival of Euro-American explorers, missionaries, traders and settlers in the early 1800s.

West — Broken Promises outlines US Government involvement with the Sioux; details the loss of traditional lands and treaties and maps out current reservation lands.

North — Continuity and Change illustrates how the people adapted to their new way of life and successfully preserved their traditions and heritage.

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Lakota Buffalo Days** is a 36-foot diorama by renowned artist Tom Phillips giving a sweeping view of life on the prairie from the Missouri River to the Black Hills.
- **Audio/Visual Observation Area** transports viewers into daily Lakota experiences.
- **Gift Shop** features a striking collection of unique sterling, bead and quill jewelry as well as quilts, original sculptures, paintings, traditional crafts and more.
- **Interactive Display** provide visitors of all ages with the opportunity to learn and take part in the culture through informal, hands-on exhibits.
- **Historical & Alumni Center** preserves memories and accomplishments of the students, staff and religious persons of St. Joseph's since the founding in 1927.
- **Medicine Wheel Garden** a combination of traditional and contemporary art forms create a peaceful atmosphere conducive to healing and learning.

