

# American Indian & Eskimo Exposition held in San Diego

Native people of the Americas have been hosting tourists and travellers since time began. More recently, organized efforts by the various nations have been a major part of native economic

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development.

In April, the American Indian Travel Commission hosted the first annual American Indian/Eskimo Exposition in San Diego. This was an international travel

show to promote native tourism to both travel operators and the general public. Attendance surpassed industry expectations.

On view were over 50 booths showing a variety of Indian and Eskimo enterprises. Crafts from all areas of the continent were displayed and sold.

Entertainment was royally provided by groups as diverse as the Barrow Dancers, an Inupiat group from Alaska, the Pacific Coast Indian Club with Southern Plains-style dancing, and the Huan Totem Dancers, a Tlingit-Haida group from the Northwest Coast.

Also most impressive were the native-owned luxury resorts and hotels featured at the show. Some are in or near cities, like the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage which is owned by the native regional enterprise, the Calista Corporation and the Tsa-La-Gi Motor Inn near Tahlequah,

Oklahoma that is owned by the Western Cherokees. Other properties are on reserved lands, such as the Radisson Inn Grand Portage in northern Minnesota and Kah-Nee-Ta Resort in the heart of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon.

American Indian Travel Commission President Terry Combs termed the Exposition

"an excellent success." Combs went on to say, "It helped identify Indian properties and arts and crafts enterprises to tour brokers and travel agents."

With this show's success under its belt, the American Indian Travel Commission is now planning the second American Indian/Eskimo Exposition to be held next spring in Boston.