

(Regional)-Indian Commission Head Pushes Native Tourism

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CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) - A Native American leader from Nevada recently named to a national tourism advisory board says tribes need to learn to better tap into the keen interest so many travelers have in their heritage and the culture and history of the West.

Nevada Indian Commission Director Sherry Rupert says there's really nothing quite like the opportunities awaiting visitors to tribal lands. She says most of those cultures and traditions remain alive.

Rupert is of Paiute and Washoe descent. She says her elders taught her how to garden and make baskets and cradleboards.

U.S. Deputy Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank recently appointed her as one of six new members of the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board. She's also the vice president of the New Mexico-based American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association.