



Travel
OKLAHOMA
TravelOK.com

With its rich heritage and diverse geography, Oklahoma is one of the most fascinating states for international tourists to visit.

The state is home to more than 400 miles of Route 66, and its stretch of the Mother Road includes fascinating museums, delicious diners and fun roadside attraction photo ops like the Catoosa Blue Whale and the Arcadia Round Barn.

Thirty-nine American Indian tribes make their home in Oklahoma, and many have cultural centers, museums and events where visitors can experience native culture up close. The state also celebrates its Western heritage in many ways. Visitors can attend a rodeo, shop for custom cowboy boots and hats, and explore some of the world's best Western art collections.

Oklahoma's two largest cities, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, are home to world-class museums and restaurants that feature everything from fine dining to some of the United States' best barbecue and hamburgers. Visitors can see Tulsa's incredible new \$465 million park, Gathering Place, or go whitewater rafting in the heart of downtown in Oklahoma City at Riversports Rapids Whitewater Rafting Center. But no visit is complete without a stop in the state's small towns, which are filled with fun festivals, friendly people and fascinating tourism attractions.

Oklahoma has the most diverse ecology mile-for-mile in the nation. Travelers will find wide-open plains and lush green spaces, golden sand dunes and ancient mountain ranges.



OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CLIMATE

Most of Oklahoma has a warm, dry climate. The northwestern part of the state is cooler and drier than the southeast. Temperatures range from below zero in the winter to more than 100° in the summer.

Precipitation varies greatly across the state. The wettest part is in the southeast with 50 inches of average rainfall per year. The driest part is the Panhandle with 20 inches of average rainfall per year. Snowfall ranges from 2 inches per year in the southeast to 25 inches in the northwest.

TRANSPORTATION

Airports:

- Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City (OKC) – Alaska Airlines, Allegiant, American Airlines, Delta, Frontier, Southwest and United
- Tulsa International Airport, Tulsa (TUL) – Allegiant, American Airlines, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, United, Via Airlines

Interstates & Highways:

- Interstates 40, 35 and 44
- U.S. Highway 412, 69 and 81
- Route 66

Public Transit:

- Amtrak – The Heartland Flyer connects Oklahoma City to Fort Worth, Texas, with stops in the Oklahoma cities of Norman, Purcell, Pauls Valley and Ardmore
- Downtown Oklahoma City has a new streetcar system, and much of the metro is serviced by EMBARK bus service
- The Tulsa metro is serviced by Tulsa Transit bus service



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MAJOR CITIES & TOWNS

Oklahoma City
Tulsa
Norman
Lawton
Edmond
Enid
Stillwater
Muskogee
Bartlesville
Ardmore
Pawhuska
McAlester
Ponca City

TOURISM ATTRACTIONS

First Americans Museum
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum
Riversport Rapids Whitewater Rafting Center
Philbrook Museum of Art & Garden
Gathering Place Park
Bob Dylan Center
Woody Guthrie Center
Chisholm Trail Heritage Center
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge
Medicine Park
Beavers Bend State Park
Talimena National Scenic Byway
Black Mesa State Park & Nature Preserve
Route 66

NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS

Oklahoma has no national parks or monuments, however it is home to the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge and more than 30 Oklahoma State Parks.

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DAY 1: ARRIVE IN DFW

Arrive at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW). Overnight in Dallas-Fort Worth.

DAY 2: DFW TO HONOBIA

DFW to Durant | Miles: 96 | Driving Time: 1hr 30min

Fort Washita Historic Site & Museum – This fort was built in 1842 to protect the relocated Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes from the Plains tribes, and Confederate troops occupied it during the Civil War. Guests can see many original structures that have been restored, visit the Confederate cemetery and explore the museum to learn what life was like at the fort.

Three Valley Museum – This museum is dedicated to sharing the history of Durant, Bryan County and southeastern Oklahoma. There's a large transportation exhibit with vintage vehicles like a 1931 Ford Model A and a 1933 F12 Farmall tractor. Second-floor rooms are set up to look like businesses and scenes from the early 1900s, and there is a Native American gallery with exhibits on the Caddo, Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes.

World's Largest Peanut – Travelers can stop for a photo with this fun statue that honors area peanut growers.

Durant to Idabel | Miles: 98 | Driving Time: 1hr 45min

Museum of the Red River – Extensive renovations have expanded this institution to more than 57,000 square feet. Its best-known piece is the cast of the bones of the *Acrocantosaur atokensis* – better known as Acro – found near Idabel in 1983. The 40-foot-long dinosaur species was one of North America's largest predators. The museum also has one of the world's most comprehensive collections of Caddo ceramics, along with Choctaw basketry and Amazonian featherwork.

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Idabel to Beavers Bend State Park | Miles: 22 | Driving Time: 30min

Hochatown – Enjoy fun local shops and restaurants in this area that has grown into an Oklahoma tourism hotspot.

Girls Gone Wine – Be prepared for some fun on a trip to this winery, tasting room and gift shop. Take a tour and then sip some wine while relaxing on the spacious covered patio.

Beavers Bend Brewery – Tour the brewery and then head to the taproom to try some of the brewery's seasonal and year-round offerings.

Beavers Bend State Park – There's something for everyone at one of Oklahoma's most popular state parks. Go fly fishing, zip line over Broken Bow Lake, take a guided trail ride, enjoy a round of golf or just embark on a peaceful hike through the woods at this outdoor paradise.

Beavers Bend State Park to Honobia | Miles: 38 | Driving Time: 45min

Bigfoot – Southeastern Oklahoma is a hotbed for sightings of Bigfoot, the hairy ape-like creature also known as Sasquatch. Hear some of the local lore about the supposedly mythical creature and pick up some fun Bigfoot merchandise from area shops.



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DAY 3: HONOBIA TO MUSKOGEE

Honobia to McAlester | Miles: 72 | Driving Time: 1hr 30min

McAlester Building Foundation – McAlester’s beautiful old high school building has been transformed into mini-museums highlighting various themes that relate to the history of the area.

Rainbow Girls – Visit the building that is home to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a service organization often called Rainbow Girls, and learn about the group’s history.

Scottish Rite Masonic Center – Tour this amazing building, once referred to as the “Million-Dollar Temple,” that is home to a 3,100-pipe Kimbell organ that was custom built in 1930.

Tannehill Museum – This museum contains a wide variety of items, from century-old firearms to memorabilia from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary, which is located nearby.

McAlester to Muskogee | Miles: 65 | Driving Time: 1hr

Five Civilized Tribes Museum – This museum highlights the history and cultures of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole tribes. It’s located in a historic building constructed by the U.S. government in 1875 to house the superintendent of the Five Tribes. Today, it’s home to a large collection of art and artifacts, including works by Jerome Tiger, the late Muscogee (Creek)-Seminole artist. Tiger’s only major sculpture, Stickballer, is among the museum’s treasures.

Three Rivers Museum – Located in a restored depot, this museum presents the multi-ethnic history and heritage of the area where the Arkansas, Grand and Verdigris rivers meet. Outside is a 1940s-era diesel switch engine that visitors can come aboard.

Creek Council House Museum – This two-story stone structure at the center of Okmulgee’s town square was built in 1878 to house the Muscogee (Creek) government. Today, it’s a museum that holds many precious pieces of the tribe’s history. Displays highlight early tribal leaders, everyday life in Indian Territory and the tribe’s role in the Civil War.

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U.S.S. Batfish & War Memorial Park – Visitors can go inside the U.S.S. Batfish, a World War II submarine that now rests on dry land, and walk the park to see cannons, a self-propelled Howitzer and other military paraphernalia. The 3,000-square-foot museum contains exhibits on the Batfish and other parts of military history.

Ataloa Lodge Museum – This museum is on the campus of Bacone College, which opened in 1880 as Indian University and is the state's oldest continuously operating institution of higher education. Its collection includes Navajo rugs, Maria Martinez pottery, a large collection of Kachina dolls and a beaded bonnet believed to have belonged to Lost Bird, the lone survivor of the Battle of Wounded Knee.

DAY 4: MUSKOGEE TO TAHLEQUAH

Muskogee to Fort Gibson | Miles: 10 | Driving Time: 15min

Fort Gibson Historic Site & Interpretive Center – Established in 1824 to keep peace between the Cherokee and Osage tribes, Fort Gibson was the first army post in Indian Territory. It was also the Union's Indian Territory headquarters during the Civil War, and the famed buffalo soldiers once served there. Today, visitors can see a re-created log fort, 29 historic buildings and exhibits that explore the fort's history.

Fort Gibson to Tahlequah | Miles: 21 | Driving Time: 30min

Cherokee National Prison Museum – Explore the history of law enforcement in Oklahoma's largest Native American tribe at this complex, which includes a prison built in 1875 and an interpretive center. There are exhibits on Cherokee crime and punishment, law enforcement, prison life and famous outlaws.

Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum – Built in 1844 to house the Cherokee National Supreme Court, this two-story brick structure is the oldest government building in Oklahoma. It was also home to the printing press of the Cherokee Advocate newspaper. Today, exhibits help educate visitors on the tribe's judicial system, language and newspapers.

Cherokee Heritage Center – This complex in nearby Park Hill features outdoor exhibits and a museum that helps visitors understand the Cherokees' way of life from the 1700s to present day. Guests will feel as if they've stepped back in time as they walk past traditional structures in Diligwa, a 1710-era village that replicates on ein the tribe's eastern homeland. There's also a museum store and family research center.

Cherokee National History Museum – Built in 1869, the Cherokee National Capitol building is now home to a museum that showcases the tribe's lifestyle from before European contact to present day. There's a multi-sensory Trail of Tears exhibit and rotating exhibit space that focuses on different aspects of the Cherokee experience.



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DAY 5: TAHLEQUAH TO GROVE

Tahlequah to Grove | Miles: 60 | Driving Time: 1hr 15min

Har-Ber Village Museum – This pioneer-era village has historic structures and reproductions built to re-create typical buildings from the 1800s. Visitors can tour the McElroy Cabin, a one-room structure built in 1896, and explore a partially paved nature trail that includes an area where guests can pan for gemstones.

Lendonwood Gardens – Guests can see many plants that thrive in Oklahoma, including a dazzling collection of rhododendrons, as they meander eight acres of gardens that are beautiful year-round.

Grand Lake Queen (seasonal) – Visitors can take a 90-minute riverboat cruise to see the sights around Grand Lake O’ The Cherokees.

DAY 6: GROVE TO MIAMI

Grove to Miami | Miles: 27 | Driving Time: 30min

Coleman Theatre – This stunning showpiece has anchored Miami’s downtown since 1929. Its rich Louis XV interior and mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ still wow visitors.

Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center – This free museum shares the story of the Shawnee people, including an exhibit focusing on the rediscovery of ancient ways of pottery making.

The Dobson Museum & Memorial Center – This museum features rotating exhibits on the history of the area. Its collections include American Indian artifacts, Texaco marketing memorabilia and photos of Yankee legend and area native Mickey Mantle. It is housed in the Dobson Home, a 1910s-era building surrounded by lovely gardens.

Mickey Mantle – Yankees slugger Mickey Mantle grew up in the tiny town of Commerce, earning him the nickname “The Commerce Comet.” Visitors can stop for a picture with the town’s Yankee-pinstriped water tower and the bronze statue of The Mick that stands beyond the center-field wall of the high school’s Mickey Mantle Field. They can also walk around outside his boyhood home, including the spot in front of an old barn where he learned to hit. (Note: Tours of the home can sometimes be arranged with advance notice.)

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DAY 7: MIAMI TO BARTLESVILLE

Miami to Bartlesville | Miles: 75 | Driving Time: 1hr 30min

Phillips Petroleum Company Museum – Learn about the early days of oil and gas production in the state and Phillips Petroleum Company’s history with the early days of the aviation industry.

Frank Phillips Home – Tour an elegant, turn-of-the-century mansion built for Phillips Petroleum founder Frank Phillips and his family.

Frank Lloyd Wright’s Price Tower & Price Tower Arts Center – The legendary architect’s only fully realized skyscraper rises high above Bartlesville. Tour the 19-story landmark and its arts center, enjoy drinks at the Copper Bar or spend the night in the inn that occupies floors 7 through 14.

DAY 8: BARTLESVILLE & PAWHUSKA

Bartlesville to Pawhuska | Miles: 50 | Driving Time: 1hr

Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve – Built in the 1920s as a retreat for oilman Frank Phillips, this unique attraction is home to a 3,700-acre wildlife preserve and working ranch. Visitors can drive through the preserve and see American bison, elk and longhorn, along with more exotic animals like water buffalo and Sika deer. The museum features a wide-ranging collection of Western and Native American art and artifacts, including works by old masters like Charles M. Russell and Thomas Moran along with more contemporary artists.

The Pioneer Woman Mercantile – Food Network star Ree Drummond’s store, deli and bakery is filled with Pioneer Woman merchandise, kitchen goodies and many other made-in-Oklahoma products. Travelers can enjoy a down-home dinner of chicken-fried steak or meatloaf.

Cathedral of the Osage – In the 1920s, Osage Nation members grew wealthy after large oil reserves were found on reservation land. One of the things they built was the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. It’s know for its 22 stained glass windows, one depicting Osage chiefs and tribal members who were alive when the window was created – something the church had to get Vatican permission to do. Outside is the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine, which honors a Mohawk woman who was the first Native American recognized by the Catholic Church as a saint.

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Osage National Museum – This was the first tribal-owned museum in the United States. It shares the story of the Osage Nation through photos, art, historical artifacts and cultural programs. The museum hosts frequently-changing exhibits that feature Osage artists and items from the tribe’s history.

Osage County Historical Society Museum – Learn about Oklahoma’s early days in this museum housed in an old Santa Fe Depot. Outside, a bronze statue commemorates the 1909 founding of the first Boy Scout troop in the United States, which happened in Pawhuska in 1909. An exhibit inside the museum has more information on Pawhuska’s historical connection with the Boy Scouts.

Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve – Spanning nearly 40,000 acres, the preserve is the largest protected remnant of tallgrass prairie left on the planet. A herd of roughly 2,500 free-range bison inhabit the land. Visitors can drive the 10-mile bison loop to spot them.

Ben Johnson Cowboy Museum – Explore Osage County’s rich Western heritage and learn about Oscar-winning actor Ben Johnson and other cowboys and cowgirls from the area.

Roaming the Osage Scenic Tours – Ride along in a convertible bus as guides share the history of Osage Country and visit locations that include the Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and the Drummond Ranch.

DAY 9: BARTLESVILLE TO CLAREMORE

Bartlesville to Vinitia | Miles: 56 | Driving Time: 1hr

Will Rogers Archway – Built in 1957, this unique piece of architecture arches over the Will Rogers Turnpike. It contains restaurants and a convenience store.

Vinita to Claremore (Route 66) | Miles: 37 | Driving Time: 45min

J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum – During his lifetime, Claremore hotelier J.M. Davis amassed more than 14,000 guns – the largest privately held firearm collection in the world. Today, the collection, which includes weapons made from 1350 to 2015, is on display at this museum. Its Gallery of Outlaw Guns includes Jesse James’ Smith & Wesson revolver and a Colt 45 belonging to Bonnie Parker (of Bonnie and Clyde fame). There’s also a display of artifacts from 1930s hangings of murderers, including nooses, black hoods and eye bands.

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Shepherd's Cross – Get a taste of American farm country on this working sheep farm that has a reproduction of a 1920s-era farmhouse and an Amish-built red gambrel barn.

Will Rogers Memorial Museum – Learn about the life of the beloved cowboy, actor and humorist at this museum built on land he once intended for his home. You can watch Rogers' movies in the theater, pay respects at his tomb and see memorabilia from his career. There are movie posters, pieces from Rogers' saddle collection and the typewriter he used to write his newspaper columns.

Claremore Museum of History – Learn about the history of the musical "Oklahoma!" and Lynn Riggs, the author of the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" that inspired the musical. There's also an exhibit on singer Patti Page and other famous area residents.

Nut House – This shop is known for fresh, locally-grown pecans as well as just about every flavor of homemade fudge imaginable, including crazy flavors like cotton candy and blueberry cheesecake. There are also tons of fun Route 66 and Oklahoma-made goodies.

Blue Whale (Catoosa) – Make time for a photo with this 80-foot-long concrete whale with a toothy grin. The Blue Whale has become an icon since it appeared in a pond along Route 66 in the early 1970s. While it's no longer a swimming hole like it was in the early days, there is a gift shop and picnic tables.

DAYS 10-11: CLAREMORE TO TULSA

Claremore to Tulsa | Miles: 27 | Driving Time: 30min

Gathering Place – Tulsa's 100-acre, \$400-million palace of a park opened to rave reviews in 2018. With imaginative playgrounds, kid-friendly water features, sports courts, a boathouse and a skate and bike park, the park provides a place for visitors of all ages to play.

Tulsa Air & Space Museum – Learn about Tulsa's rich aviation history while exploring a museum filled with vintage airplanes and interactive exhibits – including flight simulators. The 3-D planetarium will have visitors seeing the universe in a whole new light.

Greenwood Cultural Center – Tulsa's Greenwood District was a center for black commerce and a hotbed for jazz and blues before much of it was burned in the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. The center's photos and artifacts tell the poignant story of the district's destruction and resurrection. The building also contains an African-American art gallery with contemporary works by local artists.

Quan Am Bodhisattva Statue (Buddhist) – Established in 1993, the Chua Tam-Bao Buddhist Temple in Tulsa features a 57-foot-tall statue of Quan Am. The granite statue, which weighs 400,000 pounds, was sculpted in Vietnam and shipped to Tulsa in 12 pieces. The temple holds services of Judaism, including stunning stained-glass windows that grace the lobby.

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Route 66 Historical Village – See a restored Frisco 4500 steam engine, passenger car and caboose at this outdoor attraction that celebrates Tulsa’s oil and transportation history. It is built on the site of the 1901 oil strike that turned the city into the “Oil Capital of the World.” The spot is marked by America’s tallest oil derrick, a 154-foot-tall structure built specifically for the village.

Gilcrease Museum – This museum is home to the world largest and most comprehensive collection of Western art and artifacts. Among more than 13,000 pieces of art are 18 Frederic Remington bronze statues, large-scale landscapes by Thomas Moran and a wide-ranging collection of ancient and contemporary Native American art.

Golden Driller – Stop for a photo with the 76-foot-tall, nearly 22-ton Tulsa Driller, who became a permanent fixture at the city’s fairgrounds in 1966 after his predecessors drew a crowd at a trade show exhibit.

Boston Avenue United Methodist Church – Downtown Tulsa is filled with beautiful Art Deco buildings, and this church is one of its most stunning pieces. Designed by Bruce Goff and Adah Robinson, the building’s exterior has a 15-story tower and numerous terra cotta sculptures. Inside, the circular sanctuary features the exposed pipes of a pipe organ along with a dome ceiling with stained glass at the center. Free guided tours are available Sundays at noon, and visitors can take a self-guided tour any time the building is open.

Woody Guthrie Center – Learn about this history of the legendary folk singer, who grew up in Okemah, Oklahoma. His songs still resonate, especially his most famous tune, “This Land Is Your Land.” The center has handwritten lyrics and the well-traveled fiddle that Guthrie carried with him on his World War II journeys. Interactive exhibits let visitors listen to Guthrie’s music and trace his journey across the United States on a 9-foot interactive touchscreen map.

PostOak Canopy Tours – Zip along above the treetops on this six-zip tour that provides beautiful views of the rolling hills of northeastern Oklahoma.

Tulsa Cave House – This quirky, craggy house built into the side of a hill started out as a Prohibition-era restaurant. It was rumored to have a hidden, underground speakeasy frequented by outlaw Charles “Pretty Boy” Floyd and his crew. The tunnel leading to that area is now sealed off, but owner Linda Collier has the house – an architectural curiosity inside and out – open for tours by appointment, and she loves to share its legends.



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Cyrus Avery Centennial Plaza & East Meets West Statue – Cyrus Avery came up with the idea for the Mother Road, and his hometown honored the “Father of Route 66” with this plaza and a statue. Titled “East Meets West,” the bronze shows the juxtaposition of old meeting new. It depicts Avery and his Model T frightening two horses pulling a wagon full of oil barrels. The pedestrian bridge leading to the statue features a Route 66 shield that makes a great photo op.

Buck Atom’s Cosmic Curios – Pose for a photo with one of Route 66’s newest giants, Buck Atom, a colorful space cowboy with a wry grin and a shiny silver rocket ship in his hands. Buck stands outside a quirky gift shop filled with Mother Road souvenirs and gifts.

Philbrook Museum of Art – This unique museum is one of the state’s cultural gems. Its permanent collections reside in a grand historical mansion set on 25 acres of exquisitely manicured, Italian-inspired gardens. The museum’s art pieces represent an incredible variety of different styles and time periods, with the three-story Villa Philbrook containing items from extensive collections of Native American, modern and contemporary art

Cain’s Ballroom – In the 1930s, Cain’s Ballroom became famous as the home of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, whose catchy Western swing tunes were broadcast live from the stage at Cain’s. These days, musicians of every genre hit the stage at the venerable venue, which still hosts live music three to four times a week.

DAY 12: TULSA TO EDMOND

Tulsa to Sapulpa | Miles: 15 | Driving Time: 15min

Heart of Route 66 Auto Museum – Opened in 2016, this museum is a classic car lover’s paradise. From hot rods to military vehicles, there are unusual and truly beautiful cars. The displays also include vintage photos and racing paraphernalia. The big attraction is the 66-foot-tall gas pump. While it does not actually pump gas, it is red, shiny and provides a great photo op.

Unique Downtown – Explore the cafes and shops of this Route 66 city’s historic downtown.

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Sapulpa to Stroud | Miles: 38 | Driving Time: 45min
Rock Cafe – Fans of Route 66 and Disney/Pixar’s “Cars” movies will love this stop, where they’ll find Dawn Welch, the café owner and beloved Route 66 personality who inspired “Cars” character Sally Carrera. Former Walt Disney executive John Lasseter and his crew spent plenty of time at the café while creating the film, and memorabilia from the movie decorates the walls. The menu consists of classic diner fare and German-influenced items like Jägerschnitzel, a tasty dish of fried pork cutlets.

Stroud to Chandler | Miles: 14 | Driving Time: 30min

Route 66 Interpretive Center – Watch historic videos about Oklahoma’s Route 66 while relaxing in vintage car seats or beds honoring Mother Road motels of the past at this attraction. It’s housed in a restored armory that the WPA built in the 1930s that is made from thick bricks of local sandstone and was once the home of the local National Guard battery.

Chandler to Arcadia | Miles: 26 | Driving Time: 30min

Round Barn – Don’t pass up the chance to see a unique piece of Route 66 history. Built in 1898 from native bur oak, this is the only truly round barn on the Mother Road. Outside are pieces of vintage farm equipment, and the lower level is an eclectic gift shop. Make sure to go upstairs and get a look at the inside of the domed roof, which has a woven, basket-like appearance.

POPS – POPS’ 66-foot-tall soda pop bottle is irresistible to travelers. In fact, it has become one of the state’s most popular selfie spots. It’s just the start of what’s to be found at this gas station, diner and soda ranch, though. With more than 700 types of bottled soda, visitors are sure to find old childhood favorites.

Arcadia to Edmond | Miles: 9 | Driving Time: 15min

Armstrong Auditorium – Located in a palatial building in Edmond, this world-class performing arts center hosts classical, jazz and folk concerts along with theater, ballet and other events.

Public Art – Explore more than 200 pieces of public art in this Route 66 city. Visitors will find everything from bronze sculptures to murals to a giant fiberglass blue hippopotamus.



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DAYS 13-15: EDMOND TO PAULS VALLEY

Edmond to Oklahoma City | Miles: 14 | Driving Time: 30min

The OKC Rattlesnake and Venom Museum – See venomous snakes from around the nation, including many Oklahoma-native species, at this museum.

Oklahoma Stockyards City – Oklahoma City's stockyards have been around since 1910, and today the district that grew up around them is a destination for cattlemen and tourists alike. Inside the historic storefronts are shops selling custom boots, hats, saddles, tack and a variety of Western decor. The district is also one of the best places in the state to get a steak with the venerable Cattlemen's Steakhouse and the opulent McClintock Saloon & Chop House.

American Banjo Museum – With the largest collection of banjos on public display in the world, this museum is a fascinating slice of Americana. Interactive exhibits follow the banjo's evolution and instruments from every era of the banjo's history are on display along with songbooks, sheet music, photographs and other memorabilia.

Oklahoma State Capitol – Tour the only state capitol on Route 66 to see paintings and statues by Oklahoma artists and get an up-close look at the intricate interior of the capitol dome.

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum – This all-encompassing museum highlights many aspects of the Western experience. An extensive collection of fine art is on display in addition to galleries dedicated to topics like cowboy and Native American cultures, Western performers, the rodeo and firearms. A kids' area lets little partners try their hand at cowboy activities like building an imaginary campfire to cook dinner at the chuck wagon.

Centennial Land Run Monument – Make time for a photo with these stunning bronze statues that commemorate the Land Run of 1889.

Riversport Adventure Park – Everyone from beginners to Olympians can find some way to get out on the water in this area that includes a whitewater rapids center and programs offering rowing, sailing and kayaking lessons.

Oklahoma History Center – From the Land Run to the Dust Bowl to Route 66, the Oklahoma History Center tells the story of the state's history and culture. The center's Crossroads of Commerce exhibit highlights the economic impact Route 66 had on the state and how Oklahomans capitalized on its popularity.

Remington Park Racetrack & Casino – Remington Park has two live racing seasons each year along with casino gaming and simulcast racing.

Myriad Botanical Gardens – This stunning downtown green space is home to beautiful gardens, the massive Crystal Bridges Tropical Conservatory and water features that kids love. Seasonal events like a fall pumpkin patch and winter ice rink mean there's always something new for families to enjoy.

Skeletons: Museum of Osteology – This unusual museum has skeletons of every shape and size – from a tiny mouse to a 40-foot humpback whale. It has nearly 300 skeletons from around the world on display. There's also a gift shop filled with out-of-the-ordinary items, including real and replica skulls.

OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Bricktown District / Canal – There’s much to do day and night in the city’s entertainment district. There are numerous dining and nightlife options, the Triple A Oklahoma City Dodgers baseball team, horse-drawn carriage rides, boat tours of the Bricktown Canal and more.

Frontier City Theme Park – This Western-themed amusement park has rides for all ages.

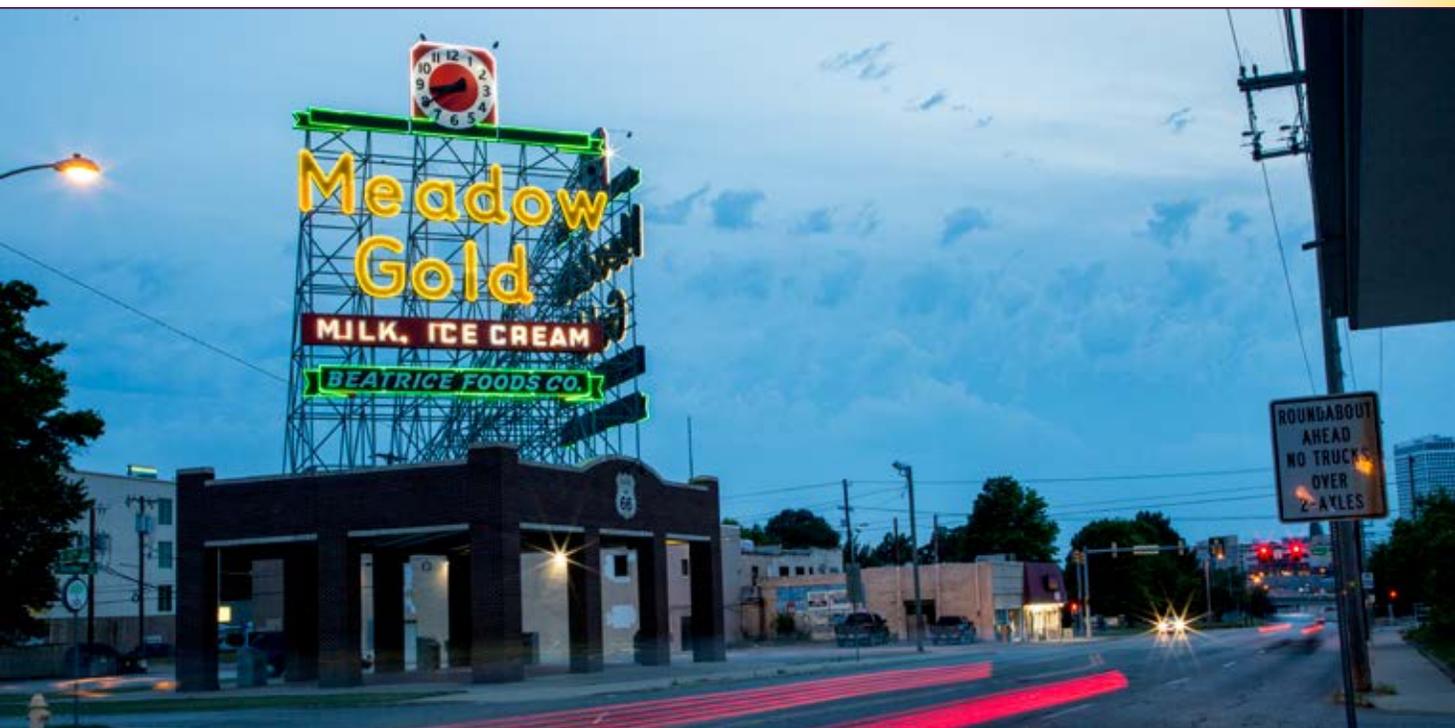
Red Earth Art Center (reopening in 2021) – View fine art, pottery, basketry, textiles and beadwork from the museum’s permanent collection of more than 1,000 traditional and contemporary American Indian pieces. Be sure to browse the art pieces and gift items for sale.

Oklahoma River Cruise – See the city from the water with these unique cruises that depart from popular areas of the city.

Rodeo Opry – This country music show in Oklahoma City’s Stockyards City features country legends along with up-and-coming artists.

45th Infantry Division Museum – Learn about the history of Oklahoma’s own 45th Infantry Division of the National Guard, the famed Thunderbirds. The 27,000-square-foot museum has one of the country’s largest military firearm collections, including many rare Civil War weapons. Also on view are more than 200 of Pulitzer Prize winner Bill Mauldin’s World War II cartoons and an extensive collection of Adolf Hitler’s personal items, including a mirror from the bunker in Berlin where he spent his final days. Outside is a 16-acre park to see military planes, tanks and other vehicles.

Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum – This somber but beautiful site is a monument to the victims of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The outdoor memorial resides on the spot where the Murrah building once stood. A reflecting pool and a field of 168 empty chairs represent each life taken in the bombing. Inside the museum, videos and audio recordings take you minute-by-minute through the morning when so many lives were changed forever. Guests will see cases of artifacts from the bombing and key evidence from the investigation. A Gallery of Honor celebrates the life of each victim.



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Oklahoma City to Norman | Miles: 20 | Driving Time: 30min

National Weather Center – Learn about how center’s meteorologists track storms, see props from the movie “Twister” and take in the view from the center’s top-floor observation deck.

Fred Jones Museum of Art – The University of Oklahoma art museum is home to the stunning Aaron M. and Clara Weitzenhoffer Collection of French Impressionist works. Take a close look at Vincent Van Gogh’s “Portrait of Alexander Reid”; Reid bore such a strong resemblance to Van Gogh that the work is often mistaken for a self-portrait.

Sam Noble Museum of Natural History – This stunning, 50,000-square-foot facility traces over 500 million years of Oklahoma’s natural and cultural history. The Hall of the People of Oklahoma follows the 30,000-year history of native people in the state. Its collection includes the oldest painted object in North America, the “Cooper Skull.” The 10,000-year-old object, which was found in northern Oklahoma, is the crushed skull of a now-extinct bison that has been painted with a red zig-zag pattern.

University of Oklahoma – Explore the beautifully manicured campus, see the Sooner football team’s trophy collection at the Barry Switzer Center and visit the Bizzell Library, which Architectural Digest Magazine has called one of the most beautiful libraries in the world.

Norman to Pauls Valley | Miles: 42 | Driving Time: 45min

Toy & Action Figure Museum – With toys from floor to ceiling, this Pauls Valley museum is a dream come true for a visitor’s inner child. It also houses the Oklahoma Cartoonists Hall of Fame.

Stark Art & Gallery – See the work of versatile artist Kevin Stark and other local artists.

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DAY 16: OKLAHOMA CITY TO STILLWATER

Oklahoma City to Guthrie | Miles: 32 | Driving Time: 30min

Victorian Downtown – Guthrie boasts one of the largest contiguous historic districts on the National Register, featuring Victorian architecture constructed from 1889-1910.

Rock'N D Alpaca Farm – Guests can feed and visit with the soft, fuzzy alpacas and then shop for goods made from alpaca wool.

Dorwart Custom Cowboy Boots – Learn about the process of making custom cowboy boots from bootmakers who've been in business for more than 35 years.

Scottish Rite Masonic Center – This sprawling limestone building is a thing of beauty. Each of its rooms has a distinct look with designs patterned after Assyrian, Egyptian, English, French, Gothic Italian, Pompeian and ancient Roman cultures.

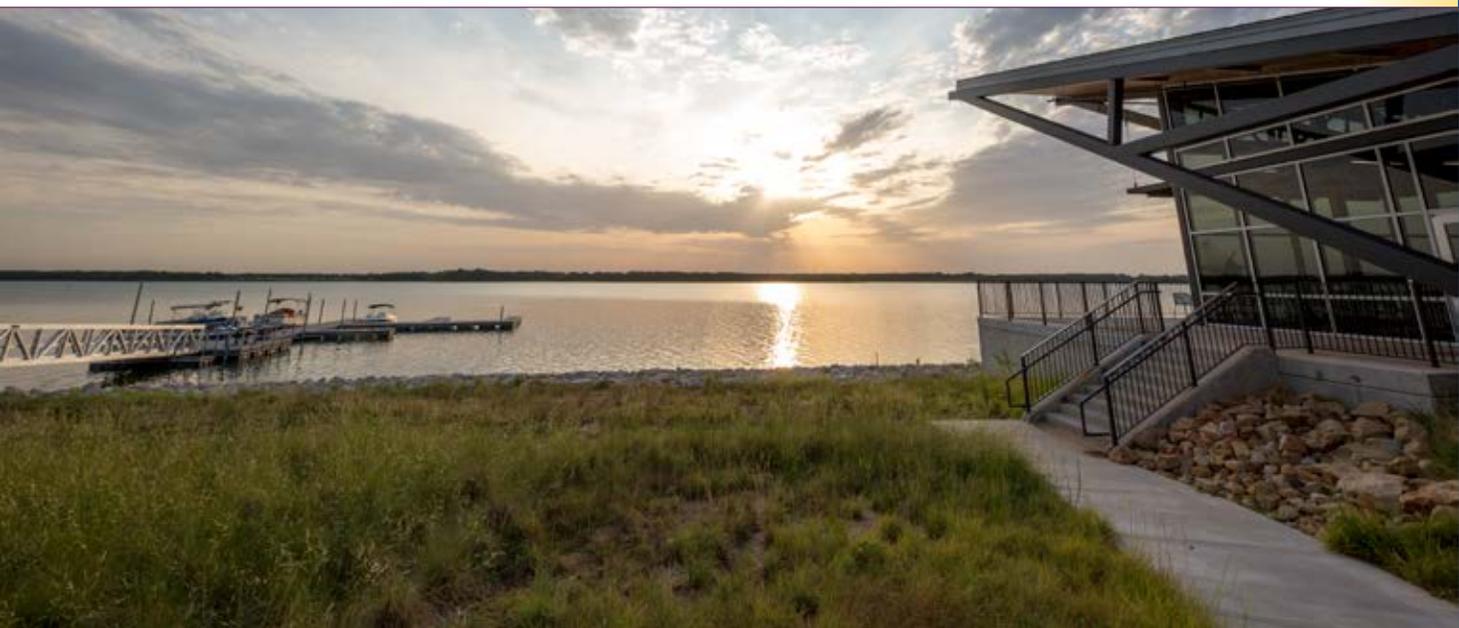
Guthrie to Stillwater | Miles: 33 | Driving Time: 45min

Eskimo Joe's – Famous for its cheese fries and a logo featuring a grinning boy and his dog, Eskimo Joe's has grown from a tiny college bar just east of the Oklahoma State University campus into one of the state's most well-known restaurants. Stop for a burger and fries and pick up one of the iconic Joe's T-shirts at the gift shop.

Oklahoma State University – Explore the beautiful campus of one of the state's largest universities. Stop at legendary Gallagher-Iba Arena, the storied fieldhouse that is home to the OSU wrestling and basketball programs. Stop in the southwest lobby to see the Remember the 10 memorial that honors the members of the OSU basketball traveling party killed in a 2001 plane crash.

National Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum – This fascinating museum features a huge collection of Olympic uniforms and other memorabilia, an exhibit on the evolution of wrestling equipment, a library of wrestling books and video of NCAA Championship matches from 1930 to the present day.

Lost Creek Safari – Get an up-close look at many exotic animals, including antelope, capybara, zebras, lemurs and tamarins, at this fun attraction.



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DAY 17: STILLWATER TO PONCA CITY

Stillwater to Pawnee | Miles: 28 | Driving Time: 30min

Pawnee County Historical Society Museum & Dick Tracy Headquarters – Guests can learn about the life of Chester Gould, the Pawnee native who created the Dick Tracy comic strip.

Pawnee Bill Ranch Historic Site & Museum – Tour the home of world-famous Wild West show entertainer Gordon W. Lillie, who was better known as “Pawnee Bill”. Family memorabilia fills the home, and a museum on the grounds has exhibits about the Wild West shows that made Lillie famous.

Pawnee to Ponca City | Miles: 42 | Driving Time: 45min

Pioneer Woman Museum & Statue – This museum explores the role of women in shaping the development of Oklahoma and the United States. The 30-foot bronze statue depicts a pioneer woman of the prairie in honor of the women who helped found the state, while the museum features women who were pioneers in many fields. The museum also has an education center with craft demonstrations, an interactive timeline and a Pioneer Woman Walk of Fame.

Standing Bear Park, Museum & Education Center – This complex honors Chief Standing Bear and six local tribes: the Osage, Pawnee, Otoe-Missouria, Kaw, Tonkawa and Ponca nations. Outside is a stunning, 22-foot bronze statue of Standing Bear, a Ponca chief and Native American civil rights leader. Two miles of walking trails feature interpretive exhibits on each of the six tribes. Inside the free museum, a rotunda holds display cases devoted to each of the six tribes. Throughout the museum is an art collection featuring traditional pieces, including ledger art, and contemporary work. Paintings, pottery and beadwork are also for sale in the gift shop.

Blubaugh Angus Ranch – Tour the historic home and vintage barns of this ranch founded in 1893.

Marland Mansion & Estate – Guests can tour the “Palace on the Prairie,” an Italian-inspired mansion that is the former home of oil baron and Oklahoma governor E.W. Marland, and hear stories of his stranger-than-fiction life. Marland built the mansion in 1928 at a cost of \$5.5 million. The home’s 43,561 square feet are filled with carved wood, sculptured stone, wrought iron arched doorways, Waterford crystal chandeliers and a leather-lined elevator.

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Silvertop Farm & Vineyard – Tour a vineyard that is also a working farm with cattle and sheep.

Conoco Museum – This museum tells the story of Conoco's growth from a kerosene distributor to an energy empire with interactive exhibits and videos.

DAY 18: PONCA CITY TO ENID

Ponca City to Enid | Miles: 67 | Driving Time: 1hr

Leona Mitchell Southern Heights Heritage Center & Museum – Opera star Leona Mitchell's namesake museum in her hometown of Enid tells the story of Native Americans, Black Indians and Freedmen of the Five Tribes. It also features cultural exhibits and memorabilia from Mitchell's career.

Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center – Located along the famed Chisholm Trail, this immersive museum tells the story of the 1893 land run and the settlement of northwestern Oklahoma.

Simpson's Old Time Museum & Movie Studio – Explore real-life movie sets, a chuck wagon and an extensive collection of Western paraphernalia and antiques.

DAY 19: ENID TO WOODWARD

Enid to Woodward | Miles: 87 | Driving Time: 1hr 30min

Boiling Springs State Park – Easy-to-walk trails, abundant wildlife and lakeside cabins make this park a nature lover's paradise. Its namesake spring still flows and is enclosed in a rustic structure with an interpretive exhibit that tells its story. Guests can see many structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Howard Ranch – Visit a 13,000-acre, authentic working cattle ranch set amid rolling grasslands.

Covington's Customs – Guests can take a factory tour of this custom-built motorcycle manufacturer whose bikes have been featured on the Discovery Channel and the Speed Channel.

Plains, Indians & Pioneers Museum – This free museum highlights the history of the Plains tribes, including the Cheyenne and Arapaho. Its collection contains many items found at Chief Black Kettle's Cheyenne village after the Battle of the Washita in 1868.

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DAY 20: WOODWARD TO CHEYENNE

Woodward to Cheyenne | Miles: 75 | Driving Time: 1hr 15min

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site – Visit the site of Lt. Colonel George Custer’s 1868 attack on Chief Black Kettle’s Southern Cheyenne village. Guests can take self-guided or guided tours of the battlefield while following a 1.5-mile trail. Inside the visitors’ center, a film and exhibits explain the events leading up to the battle.

Black Kettle National Grasslands – This 30,000-acre national forest has several maintained trails for beginners along with plenty of other areas to explore. Visitors can walk the paved Dust and Fire Trail to learn how plants, animals and people lived on the Southern Plains. Along the path are an example of a dugout home, a windmill and a fire plot.

Croton Creek Guest Ranch – This 5,000-acre ranch offers guided deer, turkey and quail hunts. Hunters can stay in the ranch’s western-style hotel and head to the social barn, which serves as a dining hall and social center, for continental breakfast and a home-cooked dinner. The ranch also has hiking, biking and equestrian trails.

DAY 21: CHEYENNE TO CLINTON

Cheyenne to Elk City | Miles: 50 | Driving Time: 1hr

Ackley Park Carousel – This 220-acre park’s crown jewel is its full-size, all-wood carousel with hand-carved horses.

Elk City Museum Complex – This complex is home to three museums in addition to its Route 66 collection. There’s the Old Town Museum, a Victorian mansion with exhibits about the history of the town and Route 66; the Farm & Ranch Museum, with its vast collection of antique tools and farm equipment; and the Blacksmith Museum, where guests can learn how blacksmiths forged objects from steel or iron.

National Route 66 & Transportation Museum – With what is believed to be the world’s largest Route 66 sign out front, this museum is hard to miss. Also out front is Myrtle the Kachina Doll. Made of oil drums and scrap metal, the 14-foot-tall Myrtle has resided along Route 66 since 1962. Inside the museum, exhibits tell the story of the Mother Road in each of the eight states it runs through. Its exhibits use a combination of murals and memorabilia to set scenes from Route 66 history. The transportation collection includes classic cars and motorcycles from many eras.

Elk City to Clinton | Miles: 29 | Driving Time: 30min

Mohawk Lodge Indian Store – Around since 1892, this business started as an outlet for Cheyenne women to sell handmade creations and was one of Indian Territory’s first trading posts. These days, it’s part museum and part store. The staff still buy, sell and trade Native American artifacts and sell supplies tribal members use to make regalia. Historic photos and museum-quality clothing are on display but not for sale.

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum – Chronologically ordered exhibits lead visitors through the history of the Mother Road, and tunes from each era are pumped through speakers as they walk through. The museum has classic cars and tons of selfie-ready spots, like a retro diner scene and a Volkswagen bus. There’s also a huge gift shop full of Route 66 souvenirs.

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DAY 22: CLINTON TO EL RENO

Clinton to Weatherford | Miles: 15 | Driving Time: 15min

Stafford Air & Space Museum – This Smithsonian-affiliated museum is named after Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford, a Weatherford native and astronaut. The museum is filled with shuttle program artifacts like a moon rock and a Gemini spacecraft. Also on display are suits that Stafford, a veteran of four space flights, wore on the Apollo 10, Gemini 6 and Gemini 9 flights. Guests can even sit in the cockpit of a Russian MiG and try their hand at flight simulators.

Weatherford Wind Energy Park – This park has a blade from a wind turbine on display. The giant wind turbines are a familiar site in western Oklahoma, their blades turning rapidly in the powerful Oklahoma wind.

Weatherford to El Reno | Miles: 43 | Driving Time: 45min

Historic Fort Reno – Established in 1874 to facilitate relations with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, this fort has a diverse history. It was a home to the buffalo soldiers, a remount station where horses were bred and trained for the military, and a German and Italian prisoner of war camp during World War II. Today, visitors can stop at the Historic Fort Reno Visitor Center & Museum and at Post Cemetery, where soldiers, Native Americans, civilians and prisoners of war are buried.

Heritage Express Trolley Tour – Explore downtown in a fully-restored 1924 Brill Motor Car.

DAYS 23-24: EL RENO TO LAWTON

El Reno to Chickasha | Miles: 36 | Driving Time: 45min

The Verden Separate School – Built in 1910, this building was used as a one-room schoolhouse for the African American community. It was constructed near Verden but was relocated to Chickasha in the early 2000s.

Muscle Car Ranch – This unique attraction features a neon and porcelain sign museum along with displays of rare muscle cars and bikes.

Chickasha to Lawton | Miles: 47 | Driving Time: 45min

Mattie Beal Home – Built in the early 1900s, this home stands as a rare example of residential art deco architecture in Oklahoma. It sits on part of the 160-acre allotment selected by Mattie Beal, a young woman whose name was drawn second in the Lawton District of the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Land Lottery of 1901, which opened lands in Oklahoma Territory for settlement.

Comanche National Museum & Cultural Center – This free museum that has what is believed to be the world's largest collection of Comanche art. There are exhibits on traditional Comanche beliefs, the Native American Church and the Code Talkers, a group that used the Comanche language to encode Army messages during World War II. Interactive exhibits include a buffalo-hunting video game.

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Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge – Spanning more than 59,000 acres in southwestern Oklahoma, this area is not to be missed. The ancient, granite mountain range has some of Oklahoma’s most stunning scenery and is a popular spot for hiking, rock climbing and wildlife watching.

Holy City of the Wichitas – Within the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is this 66-acre expanse. Thought to resemble Israel during biblical times, the Holy City plays host to the long-running Easter passion play “The Prince of Peace.”

Medicine Park – Built in the foothills of the Wichita Mountains along picturesque Bath Lake, Medicine Park was Oklahoma’s first resort community when it was established in 1908. Today, shops, restaurants and galleries fill its unique cobblestone buildings, which are made of rocks that are native to the area.

Museum of the Great Plains – Explore the human history of the Great Plains at this family-friendly museum that contains many hands-on exhibits, including a dig site where guests can excavate replica mammoth bones. Visitors can go inside a teepee and learn how it was used or remove pieces from a take-apart bison model to learn how tribes used each part of the animal’s body.

DAY 25: LAWTON TO SULPHUR

Lawton to Duncan | Miles: 35 | Driving Time: 45min

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center – Experience the sights and sounds of the West at this multisensory attraction. Guests can watch a 4-D film or test their roping skills. There’s also a gallery filled with fine and contemporary Western art pieces.

Stephens County Historical Museum – Visitors will feel like they’ve stepped back in time as they enter this museum, which features room vignettes that show what life was like during Oklahoma’s pioneer days.



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Duncan to Sulphur | Miles: 61 | Driving Time: 1hr

Chickasaw National Recreation Area – With abundant wildlife, gently flowing streams and miles of trails to explore, this lush area south of Sulphur is a haven for nature lovers. Deer and bison are among the animals to watch for.

Arbuckle Trail Rides – See the beauty of the Arbuckle Mountains first-hand with a trail ride. Rides take place in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area or at the Wolfe Ranch, a quarter-horse ranch north of Sulphur. Rides can range from one to four hours, and lessons are available.

Chickasaw Cultural Center – This state-of-the-art complex shares the story of the Chickasaw Nation through interactive displays. Exhibits include the Spirit Forest, which uses light and sound effects, running water, and replicas of native plants and animals to leave visitors feeling as if they've been transported to the forests of the Chickasaw's southeastern homelands. There's also the Removal Corridor, which guides guests through the tribe's terrible journey to Indian Territory. Outside are stickball games and stomp dances to watch, and a traditional Chickasaw village features cultural demonstrators illustrating aspects of Chickasaw life. Also on the campus are fine art galleries, gift shops and a café serving favorite Chickasaw dishes and modern American items.

The Artesian Hotel, Casino & Spa – Built to replicate the grandeur of a turn-of-the-century luxury hotel that once existed on the spot, the Chickasaw Nation's elegant hotel has modern amenities like upscale shops, a spa and fine dining.

DAY 26: SULPHUR TO TISHOMINGO

Sulphur to Tishomingo | Miles: 31 | Driving Time: 45min

Ole Red – Musician and “The Voice” star Blake Shelton makes his home in Tishomingo, and in 2017, he opened Ole Red. The restaurant, performance venue and retail space serves up live music, Shelton-style hospitality and delicious steaks and hamburgers.

Junk Stars – Leave some time for shopping in downtown Tishomingo's fun shops, which include this unique repurposed art and décor store owned by Shelton's mom.

Chickasaw Council House Museum – This free museum holds one of the largest collections of art, artifacts and archival material related to the Chickasaw Nation. Inside still stands the Chickasaw's original Council House, a log structure built in 1856. The gift shop includes Chickasaw art, jewelry, books, music, language materials and other souvenirs.

Chickasaw National Capitol Building – This stately red granite building has stood in Tishomingo's Capitol Square since 1898. It was the Chickasaw Nation's government until Oklahoma achieved statehood in 1907. Today, it's a free museum with portraits of the Chickasaw governors and an exhibit on the history of Chickasaw government before statehood.

DAY 27: SULPHUR TO DFW

Sulphur to DFW | Miles: 129 | Driving Time: 2hr

Depart from DFW International Airport.



STATE FACTS

- Oklahoma has the most drivable miles of Route 66 of anywhere in the nation – more than 400
- Thirty-nine Native American tribes make their home in Oklahoma
- The Oklahoma onion burger is one of the state's best-loved culinary creations. Legend has it that during the Depression, a cook at a tiny burger joint in El Reno came up with the idea of smashing a huge pile of sliced onions into the meat while it was cooking. The idea was meant to stretch the meat a little further, but it also injects an amazing burst of flavor into it. *Food & Wine* magazine has called the Oklahoma onion burger a national treasure.
- Oklahoma City's Nonesuch Restaurant was named Bon Appetit's best new restaurant in the U.S. for 2018
- The Butcher BBQ Stand in Wellston was the 2018 Jack Daniel's World Championship Grand Champion
- Open since 1908, Tulsa's Ike's Chili House was a favorite of Will Rogers
- Oklahoma City's American Banjo Museum has the largest collection of banjos on public display in the world
- Open since 1910, Oklahoma City's Cattlemen's Steakhouse is a local institution. It has served a long list of celebrity diners, including George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan and John Wayne.
- Tulsa's Gilcrease Museum has the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of art and artifacts of the American West
- The JM Davis Arms & Historical Museum is home to what was the largest privately held firearms collection in the world

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- The 39,000-acre Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is the largest protected remnant of tallgrass prairie left on earth
- The Oklahoma City Museum of Art has one of the world's largest Dale Chihuly collections
- Boley's Farmers & Merchants Bank was the first nationally chartered bank owned by African Americans
- Elmore City is the town that inspired the Kevin Bacon movie "Footloose" and each year, the town hosts a Footloose Festival
- The world's first computer is on display at the Fort Sill U.S. Army Field Artillery Museum
- Atomic Annie, the only nuclear cannon to ever fire a shot, is on display at Fort Sill U.S. Army Base
- Famed Apache warrior Geronimo lived out the last years of his life on Fort Sill and is buried in an Apache cemetery at the base. Geronimo's grave has been the focus of intrigue over the years as stories persist that his skull was stolen from the grave by Yale's Skull and Bones society
- Alabaster Caverns State Park in Jet is home to the largest natural gypsum cave in the world that is open to the public
- Oklahoma is home to Ree Drummond, the Food Network's Pioneer Woman. Visitors to Pawhuska can visit her The Pioneer Woman Mercantile, The Boarding House, Charlie's Sweet Shop, and P-Town Pizza. Tours of the Drummond Lodge are sometimes offered
- S.E. Hinton, author of "The Outsiders," is from Tulsa, and "The Outsiders" movie was also filmed in the city. The house used in filming has been turned into The Outsiders House Museum, and tours can be scheduled of the museum and other filming sights around the city



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- Many top country music artists past and present have Oklahoma ties, including Gene Autry, Bob Wills, Woody Guthrie, Wanda Jackson, Roger Miller, Merle Haggard, Vince Gill, Garth Brooks, Reba McEntire, Toby Keith, Carrie Underwood, Blake Shelton and Ronnie Dunn of Brooks & Dunn. There are several locations throughout the state where visitors can learn more about these legends, including Oklahoma City's National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and Oklahoma History Center, Tulsa's Woody Guthrie Center, Gene Autry's Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum and Muskogee's Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. Travelers can also visit Ole Red, Blake Shelton's restaurant, gift shop and performance venue in his hometown of Tishomingo

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