

Flint Hills • Frontier Military • Glacial Hills • Gypsum Hills • Native Stone • Post Rock

BYWAYS OF KANSAS



Prairie Trail • Route 66 • Smoky Valley • Western Vistas • Wetlands & Wildlife



Kansas



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Expand your horizons.

Like apple pie and pioneers, there's something so American about taking to the road and exploring new places. We share a sense of adventure and freedom meandering through historic settings, undisturbed nature and welcoming towns. Traveling byways take us off the charts – and into a fresh reality. Kansas is home to 11 byways, two of which are officially designated National Scenic Byways. In each of them,

you'll discover stories better than fiction.

Besides exploring breathtaking natural surroundings, you'll be sharing celebrations and festivals, spotting wildlife, and learning about uniquely Kansas lifestyles. This book offers glimpses into each of our matchless byways, along with maps and suggestions on what to see. We look forward to seeing you on the road!

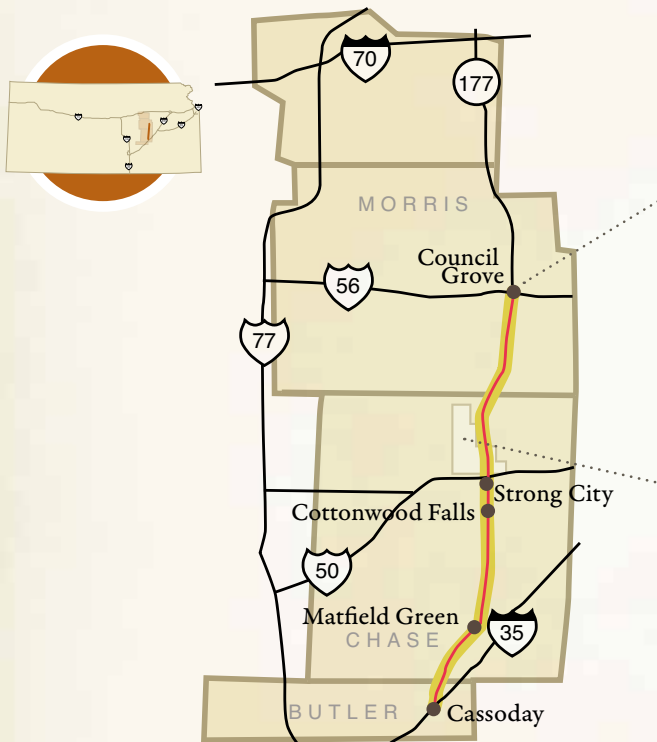


1

Flint Hills

Across the Grassland Sea

With its sweeping grasses and tawny limestone bluffs, the Flint Hills just might be the most famed landscape in Kansas. It's certainly the most revered, as the area represents the largest remaining tract of tallgrass prairie in North America.



Kaw Mission State Historic Site

– Council Grove

The Kaw Mission served as home and school to 30 Kaw boys from 1851 to 1854. It stands as a tribute to the Kaw (or Kansa) Indians, who gave our state its name. They lived in the Neosho Valley when, despite an impassioned plea by Chief Allegawaho, the U.S. government relocated the Kaw to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).



Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

– Strong City

The 10,894-acre reserve is an amazing combination of unspoiled prairie grasses and subtly hued wildflowers. The rare, rich biome boasts more than 400 species of plants, 40 species of grasses, 200 species of birds, 30 types of mammals, plus reptiles and amphibians.

SCENIC PLACES



- Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park, Council Grove
- Cottonwood River Bridge, Cottonwood Falls
- Guardian of the Grove, Council Grove
- Neosho River Walk, Council Grove
- Schrumf Hill Scenic Overlook, Cottonwood Falls

POINTS OF INTEREST



- Chase County Courthouse, Cottonwood Falls
- Chase County Historical Museum, Cottonwood Falls
- Hays House Restaurant, Council Grove
- Madonna of the Trail, Council Grove
- Pioneer Bluffs Ranch, Matfield Green

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Cassoday Bike Run, Cassoday (March thru November)
- Flint Hills Rodeo, Strong City (June)
- Prairie Fire Festival, Cottonwood Falls (April)
- Symphony in the Flint Hills (June)
- Washunga Days, Council Grove (June)



The endless vistas have remained unchanged for thousands of years, while a variety of people, plants and wildlife have called the Flint Hills home. The Plains Indians once lived here and used the flintlike chert they found for tools and weapons. These days, residents of the Flint Hills include: red-tailed hawks, cottontail rabbits, fox, coyote and the occasional massasauga rattlesnake.

History abounds in Council Grove – the northernmost

point of the byway. Explore the Kaw Mission State Historic Site, Council Oak and the Cowboy Jail. Further south is the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and its late-1800s, native-stone ranch house and three-story barn, plus the 1882 Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse. Down in Cottonwood Falls, you'll find the Chase County Courthouse, two museums and the historic Cottonwood River Bridge.

WILDFLOWERS



Cobaea Beardtongue

Penstemon cobaea May-June



Carolina Anemone

Anemone caroliniana April-May



Blue Wild Indigo

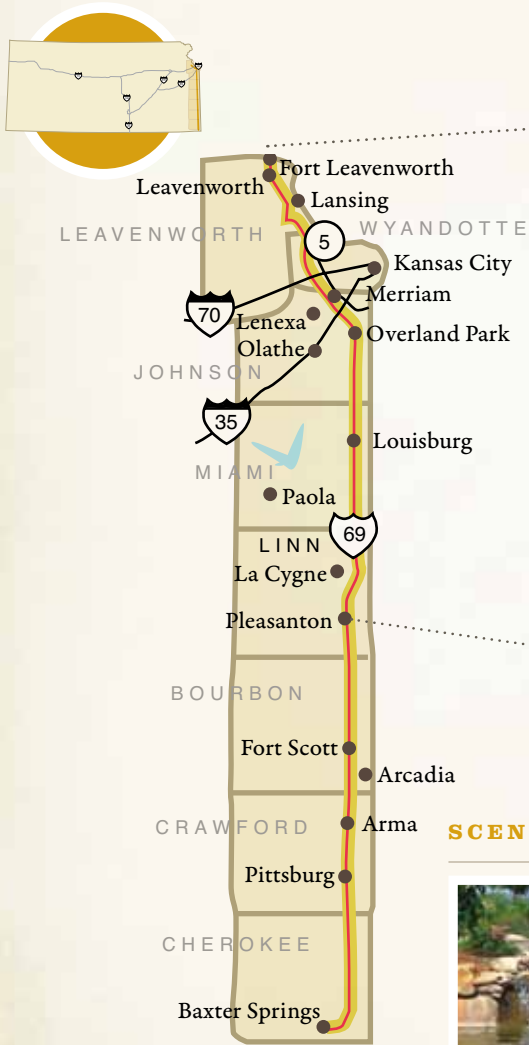
Baptisia australis May-June

2

Frontier Military

Marching Through History

The Frontier Military Historic Byway offers a journey through Kansas' pre-Civil War history. The byway extends roughly 167 miles, linking Fort Leavenworth in the north to Fort Scott and, finally, former-cowtown Baxter Springs in the south.



Fort Leavenworth

– Leavenworth

Established in 1827, Fort Leavenworth is the oldest fort in continuous operation west of the Mississippi River. It was originally opened to protect fur trade, safeguard commerce and maintain peace among the region's residents and westbound travelers. Visit the Frontier Army Museum, the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery and the Buffalo Soldier Memorial – a tribute to the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry Regiments, made up of black soldiers.



Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site

– Pleasanton

Walk the actual battlefield and creek banks to learn more about one of the largest cavalry battles in the Civil War. Prairie and timber trails are flanked by interpretive signs. A welcoming visitor center features displays on the Battle at Mine Creek, the Price Campaign of 1864 and other aspects of the Civil War.

SCENIC PLACES



- Mined Land Wildlife Area, Cherokee & Crawford Counties
- Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, La Cygne
- Ernie Miller Nature Center, Olathe
- Overland Park Arboretum, Overland Park
- Hillsdale Lake, Paola

POINTS OF INTEREST



- Frontier Army Museum, Fort Leavenworth
- Fort Scott National Historic Site, Fort Scott
- Baxter Springs Heritage Center, Baxter Springs
- Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm State Historic Site, Olathe
- Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial Amphitheater, Pittsburg

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Little Balkans Days, Pittsburg (Labor Day Weekend)
- Frontier Day, Fort Scott (October)
- Spinach Festival, Lenexa (September)
- Cider Fest, Louisburg (September/October)
- Wild West Show & Bullwhacker Days, Olathe (September)



A drive along the byway traces the 1800s military trail used to transport troops and supplies between frontier forts. Fort histories detail the stories of Army efforts to protect westbound pioneers and events leading up to the Civil War. You'll encounter a number of important historic and cultural attractions along the way,

including Fort Blair in Baxter Springs, Merriam Historic Plaza, the Cato School in Arcadia, Lansing Historical Museum, and much more. But there are also plenty of outdoor settings to enjoy, from county and city parks to acres of wildflowers and lush prairie grasses.

WILDFLOWERS



Rose Verbena

Glandularia canadensis May-June



Prairie Groundsel

Packera plattensis April-June



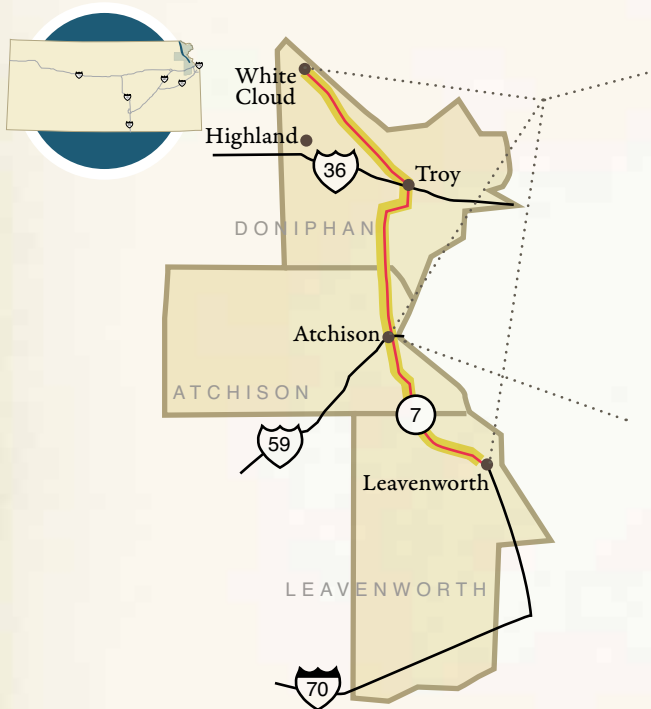
Lead Plant

Amorpha canescens June-August

Glacial Hills

The Pioneering Spirit

Glaciers in Kansas? Obviously not any more, but during the last Ice Age, thousands of years ago, Kansas was covered by gigantic glaciers. As the formations advanced and retreated, they carved out the gorgeous rolling hills and rock-strewn valleys that we see today.



Lewis and Clark Trail

– Atchison, Leavenworth and White Cloud

The Lewis & Clark Expedition is one of America's greatest adventure stories, inspiring many to follow the famous trail the explorers forged. Visit informative kiosks, historic highway markers and special sites along the route.



Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum

– Atchison

Overlooking the Missouri River bluffs, this is the birthplace of the internationally famed aviatrix. See family heirlooms, historic photos, turn-of-the-century antiques, special exhibits and more at this award-winning museum.

SCENIC PLACES



- Amelia Earhart Earthwork at Warnock Lake, Atchison
- Four-State Lookout, White Cloud
- Independence Park, Atchison
- Leavenworth Landing Park, Leavenworth

POINTS OF INTEREST



- C.W. Parker Carousel Museum, Leavenworth
- Carroll Mansion, Leavenworth
- Lincoln Monument, Troy
- Santa Fe Depot, Atchison
- Tall Oaks Indian Monument, Troy

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Amelia Earhart Festival, Atchison (July)
- Buffalo Bill Days Festival, Leavenworth (September)
- Oktoberfest, Atchison (October)
- Pioneer Days, Troy (September)
- White Cloud Flea Market, White Cloud (Spring and Fall)



The receding glaciers also left behind some of the most farmable and fertile land in the state, which attracted farmers and settlers from back east and across the seas. Perhaps the most famous people to pass through were the explorers Lewis and Clark. On July 4, 1804, their expedition made camp and celebrated Independence Day in the area now known as Atchison.

Several other people who helped shape American

history have been a part of this region. Abraham Lincoln practiced his renowned Cooper Union Address in 1859 in Atchison, Doniphan and Leavenworth Counties. Amelia Earhart's childhood home is also found on this byway. Today, Kansas-born crop artist and muralist Stan Herd maintains a 42,000-square-foot, living earthworks image of Earhart, in Atchison, "painted" with grasses, soil and stone.

WILDFLOWERS



Pitcher Sage

Salvia azurea July-October



Rosinweed

Silphium integrifolium July-September



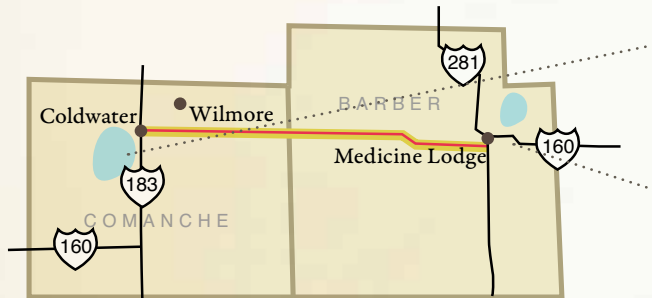
Stiff Goldenrod

Solidago rigida August-October

Gypsum Hills

A Colorful Heritage

Named for the landscape's underlying layers of gypsum, this unique byway boasts an incredible variety of geographic features. Also known as the Red Hills, the area is marked by flat mesas, deep canyons, sharp high hills and caprock formations, all within a 42-mile drive.



Lake Coldwater

– Coldwater

The only southwest Kansas waterway welcoming water sports, Lake Coldwater is a 250-acre lake nestled in a 930-acre park. Visitors enjoy ample facilities and opportunities for bird watching, boating, camping, fishing, hiking and swimming.



Carry A. Nation Home & Stockade Museum

– Medicine Lodge

A forceful promoter of the anti-alcohol Temperance Movement, Carrie Nation launched her saloon-smashing crusade while living in Medicine Lodge in 1900. Her home – plus, a nearby replica stockade and an 1877 cabin – provide displays of historical artifacts. Nation's house is a National Historic Landmark.

SCENIC PLACES



- Barber State Fishing Lake, Medicine Lodge
- Flower Pot Mound, Medicine Lodge
- Red Cedar Nature Trail, Barber County Lake, Medicine Lodge
- Scenic Byway Overlook and Turn Out, Medicine Lodge
- Twin Peaks, Medicine Lodge

POINTS OF INTEREST



- Comanche County Historical Museum, Coldwater
- Heritage Memorial Park, Coldwater
- Stan Herd Murals, Coldwater & Wilmore
- Memorial Peace Park, Medicine Lodge
- Wisner Memorial Fountain, Medicine Lodge

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Gypsum Hills Trail Rides, Medicine Lodge
- Barber County Wildflower Tour, Medicine Lodge (May)
- Indian Summer Days, Medicine Lodge (September)
- Kansas Championship Ranch Rodeo, Medicine Lodge (September)
- Peace Treaty Pageant, Medicine Lodge (Fall, every 3-5 years)



The Gypsum Hills blush with spring and summer wildflowers, providing blankets of color to complement the region's red soil, mixed green prairie grasses and dark cedar breaks. The hills are also home to a variety of wildlife, including: deer, coyote, turkey, pheasant, quail and prairie chicken. You may even catch a glimpse of beaver, bobcat, porcupine and armadillo!

Yet, bison herds originally attracted people here. Prehistoric bands, Plains Indian tribes and Wild West marksmen came for the stellar hunting. Following the influx of pioneers, fifteen thousand Indians convened here in 1867 to sign peace treaties ensuring settler safety. Medicine Lodge commemorates the event with historical reenactments at the Peace Treaty Pageant.

WILDFLOWERS



Compass Plant

Silphium laciniatum July-September



Black Sampson Echinacea

Echinacea angustifolia June-July



Indian Blanket Flower

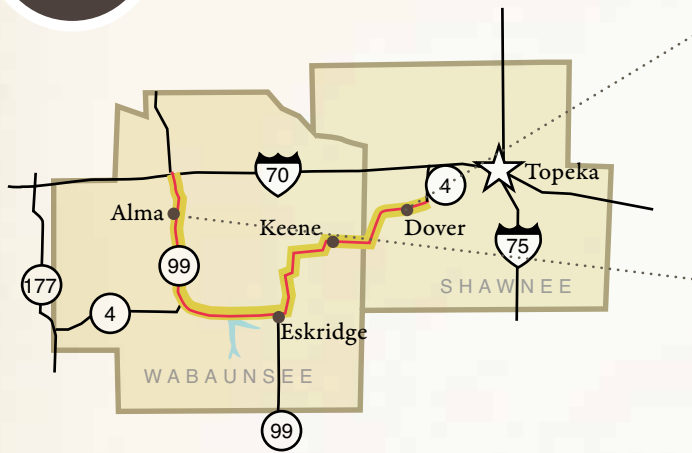
Gaillardia pulchella May-September

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Native Stone

Built from Bedrock

Elements of nature – fire, rain, sun and wind – had a hand in sculpting this scenic byway. The limestone, for which the route is named, was formed from settled sediments of shallow seas that covered Kansas 80 million years ago.



1878 Sage Inn & Stagecoach Station

– Dover

Originally built in 1865, the Sage Inn opened its doors to travelers on the Southwest Trail, which connected the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. The inn was expanded to present-day size in 1878 to include a livery, a corral for horses and a blacksmith shop. Making regular stops at the inn, the stagecoach carried freight, mail and passengers westward.



The City of Native Stone

– Alma

Alma contains 26 historical native-stone structures built between the 1880s and 1930s. In fact, 98 percent of the business district is constructed with warm-toned limestone. Enjoy a walking or driving tour of the area and its architecture to see examples of the superior craftsmanship and patience of stonemasons from years past.

SCENIC PLACES



- Skyline-Mill Creek Scenic Drive
- Alma City Lake, Alma
- Echo Cliff Park, Dover
- Lake Wabaunsee, Wabaunsee County

POINTS OF INTEREST



- 1905 Henry Sump Barn, Alma
- Underground Railroad Sites, Alma & Keene
- Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma
- Wabaunsee County Historical Museum, Alma
- Security State Bank & Waugh Law Office Building, Eskridge

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Native Stone Festival, Alma (May)
- Dover Heritage Days, Dover (June)
- Labor Day Rodeo, Eskridge (September)
- Fall German Meal, Alma (October)
- Veteran's Day Celebration, Eskridge (November)



Today, you can see examples of limestone usage in the stone fences, barns, homes and buildings that dot the countryside. Alma, one of the communities along the byway, is actually called the City of Native Stone. Many of the limestone structures were built by pioneer stonemasons who hailed from Sweden and Germany. Of course, there are plenty of other cultural influences.

Paleo-Indians harvested clams and mussels from the local creeks. Osage, Kansa, Shawnee and Potawatomi tribes lived here and enjoyed the remarkable views. Abolitionist immigrants from the Old Northwest Territory and New England came and voted to make Kansas free from slavery. These days, a cowboy spirit still lingers in the lifestyles of local farmers and ranchers.

WILDFLOWERS



Missouri Evening Primrose

Oenothera macrocarpa May-July



Sweet Joe Pye Weed

Eupatorium purpureum July-September



New England Aster

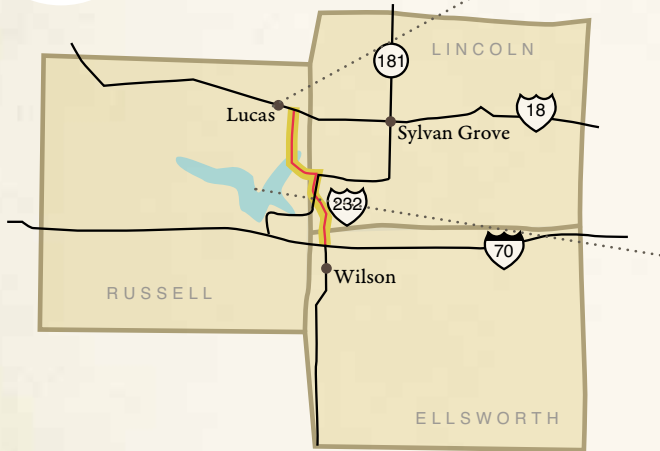
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae September-October

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Post Rock

A Prairie Art Paradise

Sweeping around Wilson Lake and over the geological formations of the Saline River Valley, Post Rock Scenic Byway offers a picturesque pathway through postcard-perfect scenery. The endless sky and rolling hills have inspired generations of artists whose work is marked by broad vision and a uniquely Kansan perspective.



Garden of Eden

– Lucas

One of the world's premiere grassroots arts landmarks, the Garden of Eden is a one-half-acre, cement sculpture garden created by Civil War veteran and visionary artist Samuel Dinsmoor. The sculptures grace the grounds around the artist's cabin-style home built with hand-chiseled limestone "logs."



Wilson Lake

– Russell County

Located in the heart of the Smoky Hills, this lake is considered by many to be the most beautiful in the state. It's divided into two parts: Hell Creek and Otoe Park. Excellent fishing, hunting and hiking add to the area's popularity.

SCENIC PLACES



- Burr Oak Nature Trail, Wilson Lake
- Dakota Sandstone Rock Formations, Wilson Lake
- Lucas Mini-Park Mural, Lucas
- Overlook, Wilson Lake
- Red Cedar Trail, Wilson Lake

POINTS OF INTEREST



- Florence Deeble Rock Garden, Lucas
- Flying Pig Studio and Gallery, Lucas
- Grassroots Arts Center, Lucas
- Midland Railroad Hotel, Wilson
- Round Stone Jail, Wilson

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Adam's Apple Festival, Lucas (Labor Day Weekend)
- After-Harvest Czech Festival, Wilson (July)
- Oktoberfest, Wilson (October)
- Wilson Lake Area Association Poker Run, Wilson Lake (July)
- Wings Over Wilson, Wilson Lake (May)



Miles of stone fence posts stand as a tribute to the ingenuity of the early settlers. Facing a lack of trees, the innovative farmers and ranchers quarried, rock posts to fashion fences, which today have become a trademark of the Smoky Hills region. That creative essence certainly carried on, as the town of Lucas is considered the Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas. In town you'll find the

Grassroots Art Center, Florence Deeble Rock Garden, Bowl Plaza as well as S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Near the town of Wilson is the Kansas Originals Market, where you can find hand-crafted, Kansas-made products. And throughout the entire byway you may encounter more than 225 species of birds, including waterfowl and bald eagles.

WILDFLOWERS



Yucca
Yucca glauca May-June



Resinous Skullecap
Scutellaria resinosa May-July



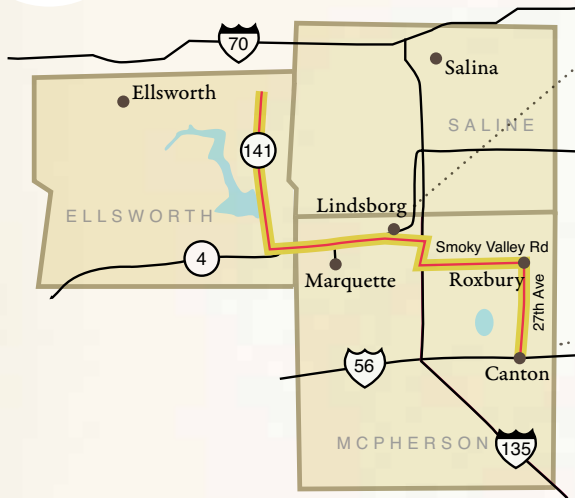
Prairie Spiderwort
Tradescantia occidentalis May-August

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Prairie Trail

A Trail of Adventure

Spanning 56 miles in north-central Kansas, *Prairie Trail Scenic Byway* has a little bit of everything. You'll discover scenic, historic, natural, cultural, archeological and recreational sites and activities just about everywhere you turn.



Coronado Heights

– Lindsborg

Located just outside Lindsborg, Coronado Heights was named after the legendary explorer who is believed to have passed through the area in the 1500s. You'll encounter a castle, which affords breathtaking views of Lindsborg and the Smoky Valley.



Maxwell Wildlife Refuge

– Canton

Explore 2,800 acres of native prairie and get to know the grassland biome through guided tours of buffalo herds. The refuge also features roaming elk, more than 100 species of birds and a bluebird trail.

SCENIC PLACES



- Kanopolis State Park, Marquette
- McPherson State Fishing Lake, Canton
- Millennium Legacy Trail, Kanopolis State Park
- Mushroom Rock State Park, Marquette
- Valkommen Trail, Lindsborg

POINTS OF INTEREST



- 1883 Pioneer Jail, Canton
- Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, Lindsborg
- Faris Caves, Marquette
- Kansas Motorcycle Museum, Marquette
- Old Mill Museum, Lindsborg

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Fort Harker Days, Kanopolis (July)
- Millfest, Lindsborg (May)
- Midsummer's Day Festival, Lindsborg (June)
- Prairie Days, Canton (June)
- Thunder on the Smoky, Marquette (May)



The byway begins in Canton, not far from where the Santa Fe and Chisholm Trails brought in travelers and cattle back in the 1800s. Canton is home to the Stars and Stripes Military Museum, an 1883 Pioneer Jail and the last Carnegie Library ever built in Kansas. Moving on, the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge spans 2,800 acres of native prairie and features guided tours to see roaming buffalo

and elk. Prairie Trail meanders into Lindsborg, known as “Little Sweden U.S.A.,” where you’ll be greeted by four-foot-tall wooden Dala horses and discover a number of art galleries and museums. A must-see stop on the byway is the unique Mushroom Rock State Park, where you’ll find some of the most interesting rock formations in the state.

WILDFLOWERS



Common Sunflower
Helianthus annuus July-September



Wild Four-O’Clock
Mirabilis nyctaginea May-August



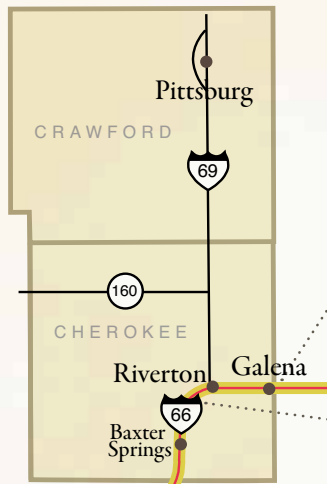
Ten-Petal Mentzelia
Mentzelia decapetala July-September

8

Route 66

Historic Mother Road

Get your kicks while driving the 13.2 miles of Historic Route 66 in Kansas. Relive the glory days of the Mother Road and drive over many of the original roadway structures, including the only remaining Marsh Arch Bridge on Route 66. Explore the mining, railroad, and Civil War history of the area.



4 Women on the Route

– Galena

Located in an old Kan-O-Tex service station on the north end of Main Street in Galena, this historic treasure sells sandwiches, snacks, antiques, and Route 66 items. Don't forget to take your picture with the rusty old tow truck that inspired the character "Tow Mater" in the movie *Cars*.



Marsh Arch Bridge

– Baxter Springs

Drive over the last remaining Marsh's Reinforced Arch Bridge, or Rainbow Bridge, on Route 66. Built in 1923, this bridge is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places after being saved and restored in 1992. Engineer James Marsh patented the unique bridge design in 1912. Of roughly 70 Rainbow Bridges erected in the Midwest, most were built in Kansas, where some still remain in use.

SCENIC PLACES



- Field of Dreams, Baxter Springs
- Hell's Half Acre, Galena
- National Cemetery, Baxter Springs
- Schermerhorn Park, Galena
- Spring River, Riverton

POINTS OF INTEREST



- Baxter Springs Heritage Center and Museum, Baxter Springs
- Fort Blair, Baxter Springs
- Galena Mining Historical Museum, Galena
- Nelson's Old Riverton Store, Riverton
- Route 66 Historic District, Galena

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Cowtown Days, Baxter Springs (August)
- Galena Days, Galena (June)
- Mother Road Marathon, Baxter Springs, Riverton, Galena (October)
- Octoberfest, Galena (October)
- Steel Guitar Rendezvous, Baxter Springs (October)



Route 66 is still going places. Found on the Ozark Plateau in the southeast corner of the state, the byway offers travelers opportunities to visit artifact collections, museums, murals and more. Take your picture with the tow truck that was the inspiration for the character “Tow Mater” from the *Cars* movie, then explore Schermerhorn Park and the Southeast Kansas Nature

Center. Stop at Nelson’s Old Riverton Store – in what was once a 1920s, Route 66 gas station – for a bite to eat. Find out where Bonnie and Clyde committed crimes and how Fort Blair impacted the Civil War. While there are only 13.2 miles of Route 66 in Kansas, the sights and attractions along the way are as remarkable today as they were in their heyday.

WILDFLOWERS



Maximilian’s Sunflower
Helianthus maximiliani August-September



Purple Poppy Mallow
Callirhoe involucrata April-August



Snow-on-the-Mountain
Euphorbia marginata June-October

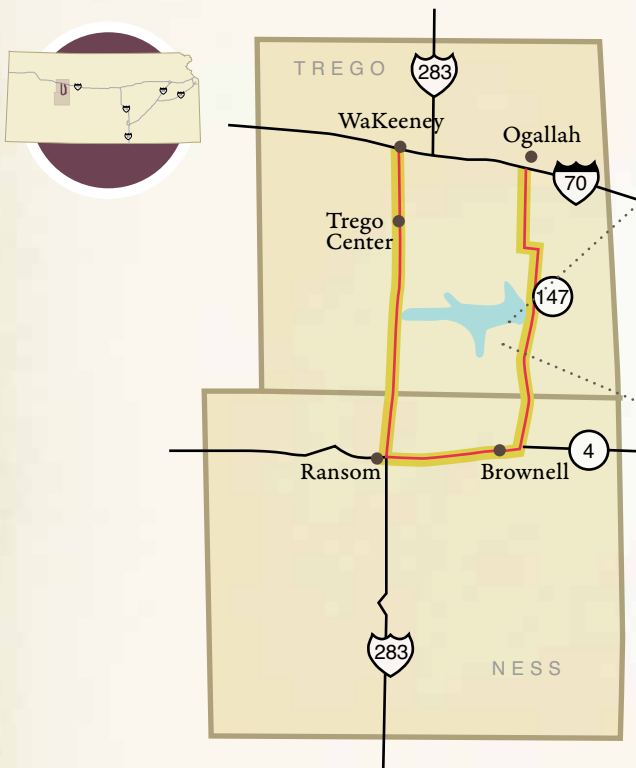
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Smoky Valley

Into the Valley

Named for their hazy appearance at sunrise and sunset, the Smoky Hills provide an interesting transition between the mixed-grass and short-grass prairie of the plains.

Native wildflowers thrive in the region, including coneflowers, yucca and sky-blue pitcher sage.



Cedar Bluff State Park & Reservoir

– Trego County

A great place to camp, hike, fish, bird watch and boat. The reservoir hosts a number of fishing tournaments and other events throughout the year, including “Th’ Gatherin’” – a Celtic celebration with food, games and music.



Threshing Machine Canyon

– Cedar Bluff State Park

This historic site was the location of an 1867 Native American Indian attack on a wagon train, which was transporting a threshing machine to Salt Lake City. The remains of the machine could be seen for years.

SCENIC PLACES



- Agave Ridge Hiking/Biking Trail, Cedar Bluff State Park
- Butterfield Overland Despatch, WaKeeney
- Scenic Overlook, Cedar Bluff State Park

POINTS OF INTEREST



- Emanuel Lutheran Church, Ogallah
- Kansas Veteran's Cemetery, WaKeeney
- Trego County Courthouse, WaKeeney
- Trego County Historic Museum, WaKeeney
- Wilcox Schoolhouse, Trego County

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Christmas City of the High Plains, WaKeeney (December)
- Th’ Gatherin’, WaKeeney (May)
- Trego County Fair, WaKeeney (July)
- Wildflower Tours, WaKeeney (June)



Throughout the hills you'll be greeted by a multitude of picturesque windmills. The area's rich history is exemplified elsewhere too, from the limestone markers identifying the Butterfield Overland Despatch to the names carved into limestone bluffs, still legible after nearly two centuries. The croplands provide a panorama of vegetation, from the emerald green

of winter wheat to the rich reds of milo. Smoky Hill chalk is known the world over for the fossils of swimming reptiles and other sea life that have been discovered in these deposits. At Cedar Bluff Reservoir, a trip to the top of the 100-foot-tall bluffs makes for a stunning view of the area below, and an ideal way to spot wildlife.

WILDFLOWERS



White Beardtongue

Penstemon albidus May-July



Scarlet Globe Mallow

Sphaeralcea coccinea May-August



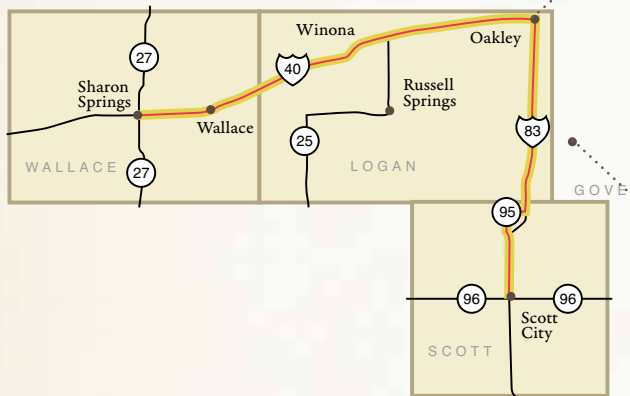
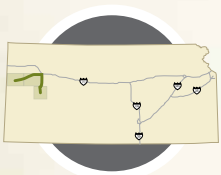
Curly-Cup Gumweed

Grindelia squarrosa June-September

Western Vistas

Fresh Perspective on the Past

You are invited on a 102-mile historic journey into what was once an ancient ocean. Discover breathtaking pinnacles of chalk rising above the plains, trace the trails of early pioneers and follow the road once traveled by buffalo hunters.



Buffalo Bill Sculpture

– Oakley

Oakley is the “Birthplace of the Legend” of Buffalo Bill. A twice-life-sized bronze sculpture honors William F. Cody, who won his title in a buffalo hunting contest with William Comstock in 1868 and later became world renowned for his “Wild West Show.”



Monument Rocks

– Gove County

Rising above the plains, you will find a series of large chalk formations, rich in fossils. These magnificent monoliths were created when chalk was deposited during the Cretaceous Period, approximately 80 million years ago. The region is known as the source of some of the best Cretaceous marine fossils that have been discovered anywhere in the world.

SCENIC PLACES



- Battle Canyon, Scott County
- Garden of the Gods, Logan County
- Lake Scott State Park, Scott County
- Mount Sunflower, Wallace County
- The Nature Conservancy, Logan County

POINTS OF INTEREST



- Butterfield Trail Museum, Russell Springs
- El Quartejeo Museum and the Jerry Thomas Gallery and Collection, Scott City
- Fick Fossil and History Museum, Oakley
- Fort Wallace Museum, Wallace
- Keystone Gallery, Scott City

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- Buffalo Bill Days, Oakley (June)
- Butterfield Trail Ride, Russell Springs (June)
- Fort Wallace Rodeo, Wallace (May)
- Kansas State Cornhusking Contest, Oakley (October)
- Whimydiddle Arts & Crafts Fair, Scott City (September)



The badlands of Western Kansas are visually breathtaking, with chalk towers rising above the plains. These vast, open plains provided herds of migrating bison rich grasslands for grazing and ample space for what would become known as “America’s Breadbasket.” The success of the region’s early farmers and ranchers helped draw additional immigrants from the East. They came on horseback, by wagon train and,

eventually, by rail as Americans continued to explore their destiny in the West. The press of immigration soon began to intrude on the hunting grounds of tribes of America’s Plains Indians. This led to a series of battles and the establishment of several forts along the Smoky Valley Trail, including the “wildest Fort in Kansas” – Fort Wallace. This geographic area is world renowned for its fossil discoveries and fossils continue to be found today.

WILDFLOWERS



Stenosiphon

Stenosiphon linifolius July-September



Grayhead Prairie Coneflower

Ratibida pinnata June- August



Woolly Verbena

Verbena stricta June-September

Wetlands & Wildlife

Time to Fly

Stretching some 76 miles, the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway brings you up close and personal with the Central Flyway – North America's most important bird migration route. It's undoubtedly one of the most subtly beautiful, natural regions in the country.



Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

– Great Bend

Each year, Cheyenne Bottoms attracts anywhere from 45 to 90 percent of North America's shorebirds during the spring and fall migrations. This 64-square-mile marsh is a surprising interruption of the prairie landscape, as well as a critical resting and feeding place for migrating birds.



Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

– St. John

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is comprised of 22,135 acres of prairie grass, salt marshes, sand dunes, canals, dikes and timber. Little Salt Marsh and Big Salt Marsh are ancient basins that play host to more than 500,000 birds during spring migration. The refuge features a visitors center, as well as several hiking trails to bring you closer to nature.

SCENIC PLACES



- Arkansas River Hike and Bike Trail, Great Bend
- Prairie Walk at Dozier Winery, Ellinwood
- Scenic Overlook, Cheyenne Bottoms
- The Nature Conservancy Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve, Hoisington
- Scenic Overlook, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

POINTS OF INTEREST



- Barton County Historical Society Museum and Village, Great Bend
- Kansas Wetlands Education Center, Cheyenne Bottoms
- Kansas Raptor Center, Great Bend
- Street Light Metal Art Banners, Hoisington
- Underground Tunnels, Ellinwood

FESTIVALS & EVENTS



- After Harvest Festival, Ellinwood (July)
- Labor Day Celebration, Hoisington (Labor Day Weekend)
- St. John Jubilee, St. John (May)
- Trail of Lights, Great Bend (November & December)
- Wings and Wetlands Birding Festival, Cheyenne Bottoms & Quivira (April, odd number years)



The byway is anchored by two of the largest wetland systems in the world – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Preserve and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. These giant marshes host incredible numbers of sandhill cranes, avocets, pelicans, whooping cranes, sandpipers, ducks, geese and many more species bringing sound, motion and color to the inland marshes. In fact, many naturalists

believe Cheyenne Bottoms is the most important migration stopover point in the Western hemisphere. Birds aren't the only inhabitants you'll encounter. The Bottoms is home to 23 species of mammals, 19 species of reptiles and nine species of amphibians. At the Refuge, the shallow water teems with crabs, crayfish and frogs. Nearby, in drier digs, prairie dogs are alert to coyotes, red foxes, bobcats and badgers.

WILDFLOWERS



Bull Thistle

Cirsium vulgare July-September



Common Spiderwort

Tradescantia ohiensis May-August



Broom Snakeweed

Gutierrezia sarothrae August-September



State & Federal Recreation Areas	Phone	Byway
Atchison State Fishing Lake & Wildlife Area	(913) 367-7811	Glacial Hills
Barber State Fishing Lake & Wildlife Area	(620) 895-6446	Gypsum Hills
Benedictine Bottoms Wildlife Area	(913) 367-7811	Glacial Hills
Bourbon State Fishing Lake & Wildlife Area	(620) 449-2539	Frontier Military
Cedar Bluff State Park, Lake & Wildlife Area*	(785) 726-3212	Smoky Valley
Chase State Fishing Lake & Wildlife Area	(620) 767-5900	Flint Hills
Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area	(620) 793-7730	Wetlands & Wildlife
Council Grove Lake	(620) 767-5195	Flint Hills
Council Grove Wildlife Area	(620) 767-5900	Flint Hills
Crawford State Park	(620) 362-3671	Frontier Military
Hillsdale Lake	(913) 783-4366	Frontier Military
Hillsdale State Park & Wildlife Area*	(913) 783-4507	Frontier Military
Kanopolis Lake	(785) 546-2294	Prairie Trail
Kanopolis State Park	(785) 546-2565	Prairie Trail
La Cygne Wildlife Area	(913) 352-8941	Frontier Military
Leavenworth State Fishing Lake & Wildlife Area	(913) 845-2665	Glacial Hills/Frontier Military
Logan Wildlife Area	(785) 726-3212	Western Vistas
Louisburg-Middle Creek State Fishing Lake & Rutlader Wildlife Area	(913) 783-4507	Frontier Military
Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge	(913) 352-8956	Frontier Military
Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area	(913) 352-8941	Frontier Military
Maxwell Wildlife Refuge	(620) 628-4592	Prairie Trail
McPherson State Fishing Lake	(620) 628-4592	Prairie Trail
Mined Land Wildlife Area	(620) 431-0380	Frontier Military
Mushroom Rock State Park	(785) 546-2565	Prairie Trail
Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	(620) 486-2393	Wetlands & Wildlife
Scott State Park, Lake & Wildlife Area*	(620) 872-2061	Western Vistas
Smoky Hill Wildlife Area	(785) 658-2465	Prairie Trail
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve	(620) 273-8494	Flint Hills
Wilson Lake	(785) 658-2551	Post Rock
Wilson State Park & Wildlife Area*	(785) 658-2465	Post Rock

*The wildlife areas within the state parks might not have some amenities. Please call for information.

	Fishing	Hunting	Full Utility	Electrical Only	Electric & Water	Dump Station	Primitive Camping	Camping Cabins	Reservable Sites	Picnic Shelters	Motel Nearby	Drinking Water	Trails	Equestrian Trails	Historic Features	Swimming Beach	Boating	Boat Rental	Marina	Boat Ramp Lanes	Courtesy Docks	
	X	X					X	X			X	X									X	X
	X	X					X			X			X								X	X
		X																				
	X	X					X					X									X	
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
	X	X					X			X						X					X	
	X	X					X				X											
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X
	X	X					X															X
	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X
	X	X					X		X			X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
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	X	X					X						X	X	X							X
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Byway Etiquette

Kansas Byways are home to some of the great natural landscapes in the United States. Please help us preserve this beautiful land of flowers and native grasses and refrain from disrupting natural geological features. These magnificent lands are home to many Kansas residents who welcome you to their communities, shops and restaurants. Please respect their privacy by not straying onto private land, climbing fences or gates or photographing residents and their families. Stay out of the way of wild animals, and please help keep everyone safe by obeying posted speed limits and sharing the roadways with large vehicles.

Acknowledgments

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For more information on the Kansas Byways, visit www.ksbyways.org.

For hunting and fishing opportunities, visit www.outdoorks.com.

Contact Information

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700 SW Harrison Street
Topeka, KS 66603-3754
800-684-6966
www.ksbyways.org

*Kansas Department of Wildlife,
Parks & Tourism*
Topeka, KS 66612-1354
785-296-2009
www.TravelKS.com



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