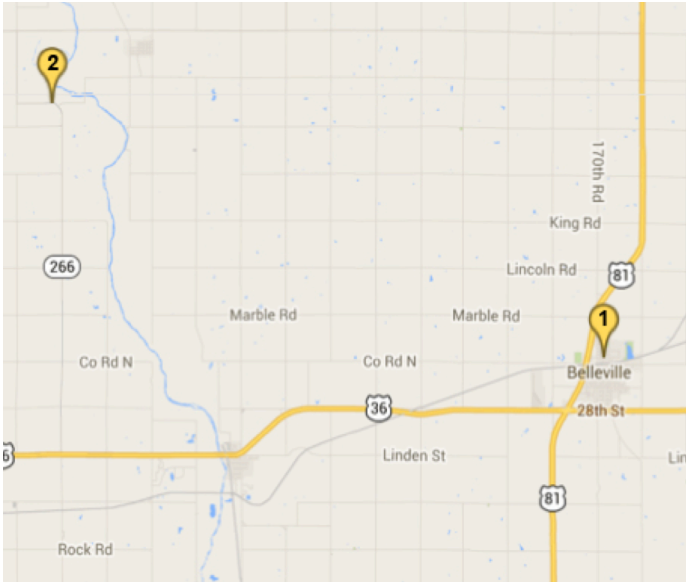




## Region: Central Prairie - North

Note: Attractions marked with an asterisk (\*) were recognized as part of the 8 Wonders of Kansas contests, sponsored by the [Kansas Sampler Foundation](#). Don't miss them!



### 1. Boyer Museum of Animated Carvings\*

[http://www.BellevilleKS.org/?page\\_id=241](http://www.BellevilleKS.org/?page_id=241)

1205 M St, Belleville, KS

(785) 527-5884

### 2. Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site\*

[http://www.Kshs.org/Pawnee\\_Indian](http://www.Kshs.org/Pawnee_Indian)

480 Pawnee Trail, Republic, KS

(785) 361-2255

### 3. Rock City Park

<http://www.MinneapolisKansas.org>

1051 Ivy Rd, Minneapolis, KS

(785) 392-2092

### 4. Grassroots Art Center

<http://www.GrassrootsArt.net>

213 S Main St, Lucas, KS

(785) 525-6118

### 5. Garden of Eden\*

<http://www.Garden-Of-Eden-Lucas-Kansas.com>

305 E 2nd St, Lucas, KS

(785) 525-6395

### 6. Wilson Lake/Wilson State Park

<http://Kdwpt.State.KS.US/State-Parks/Locations/Wilson>

#3 State Park Road, Sylvan Grove, KS

(785) 658-2465

### 7. Sternberg Museum of Natural History

<http://Sternberg.FHSU.edu/>

3000 Sternberg Dr, Hays, KS

(785) 628-4286

### 8. Mushroom Rock State Park\*/Kanopolis Reservoir, State Park

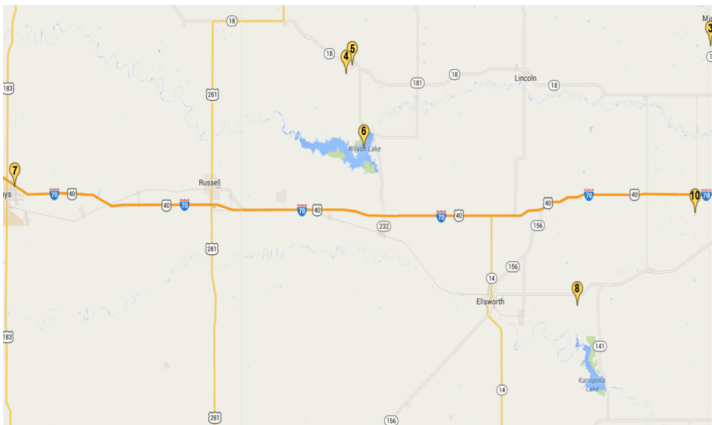
<http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/State-Parks/Locations/Mushroom-Rock>

<http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/State-Parks/Locations/Kanopolis>

<http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/State-Parks/Locations/Kanopolis>

200 Horsethief Rd, Marquette, KS

(785) 546-2565





### 9. Coronado Heights\*

<http://www.VisitLindsborg.com>

4200 W Coronado Heights Rd, Lindsborg, KS  
(785) 227-8687

### 10. Rolling Hills Zoo

<http://www.rollinghillswildlife.com>

625 N Hedville Rd, Salina, KS  
(785) 827-9488

## Region: Central Prairie – North

The Central Prairie North region offers a wide variety of fascinating museums, outdoor adventures and evidence of creativity and innovation. Follow the Post Rock Scenic Byway where miles of stone fence posts stand as a tribute to the early settlers. A mixture of farmland, rolling hills, and man-made lakes, central Kansas is a transition zone between the hilly east and the western high plains.

## Belleville

### 1. Boyer Museum of Animated Carvings\*

Be mesmerized by the 65 animated carvings and motion displays created by Paul Boyer, a self-taught artist who has been carving for more 60 years. Paul's delightfully original work consists of a working calliope made from cedar, animated hand-carved figurines and moving wire sculptures.

*Looking for more to do near Belleville? May we recommend:*

### **National Orphan Train Complex**

<http://OrphanTrainDepot.org/>

300 Washington, Concordia, KS  
(785) 243-4471

Dedicated to the preservation of the stories and artifacts of those who were part of the Orphan Train Movement from 1854-1929.

## Republic

### 2. Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site\*

This fascinating site features exhibits on the culture of the Pawnee Indians using a combination of information from archeological investigation and historic details. The museum surrounds an excavated Pawnee earth lodge from the 1820s. Authentic music enhances the experience. The grounds include the Kitkehahki Nature Trail, a one-mile walk through prairie and woodlands featuring a variety of native grasses.

## Minneapolis

### 3. Rock City Park\*

Behold the geographical wonder of Rock City! Here you'll discover over 200 sandstone concretions – some as large as houses – rising from the Kansas prairie. Rock City Park also features a gift shop and picnic areas.



*Looking for more to do in or near Minneapolis? May we recommend:*

**George Washington Carver Museum Exhibit\***

<http://www.OttawaCountyKSMuseum.com>

110 S Concord St, Minneapolis, KS

(785) 392-3621

The official boyhood home of the notable agricultural scientist from 1880 to 1884, the Ottawa County Historical Museum features many exhibits about Carver's life.

**The Linger Longer Soda Fountain**

<http://www.TheLingerLonger.com/>

119 N Nelson, Bennington, KS

(855) 378-SODA

Experience an authentic soda fountain and browse the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest collection of Dr. Pepper collectibles and antiques in the United States.

## **Lucas**

**4. Grassroots Art Center**

Recycled creations of metal, wood, pulltabs, limestone, cement, computer motherboards and even chewing gum are among the fascinating works of art featured at the Grassroots Art Center. Outside, the Great Post Rock Limestone Courtyard Exhibit emphasizes the architectural, historical and cultural value of post rock limestone. See examples of stone construction and design detail - from the utilitarian to the ornate and whimsical.

**5. Garden of Eden\***

One of the most unusual sculpture gardens in the world, the Garden of Eden was created by Civil War veteran Samuel Perry Dinsmoor in the early 1900s. The only Visionary Sculpture Environment and limestone log cabin in Kansas, it is internationally known as a prime example of the Grassroots Art genre.

### *Unique Shopping*

**Brant's Meat Market\***

125 South Main Street, Lucas, KS

(785) 525-6464

A third-generation family business, all meat products are made on site from Brant family traditional Czechoslovakian recipes.

## **Wilson**

**6. Wilson Lake / Wilson State Park**

Beautifully clear Wilson Lake graces the rolling grasslands of Post Rock Country. The Saline River, open waters of the reservoir, numerous streams, marshes, riparian woodlands, and upland mixed grass prairie provide the diversity for wildlife. To become familiar with the area, take a walk on Bur Oak Nature Trail in Sylvan Park below the dam. The river below the outlet has beaver dams and cone-shaped muskrat dens. Rocktown Natural Area, a registered Kansas natural and scientific area in Lucas Park is a good place to view massive red Dakota sandstone formations, prairie grasses, wildflowers, and birds.



### *Unique Lodging*

#### **Midland Railroad Hotel**

<http://www.MidlandRailroadHotel.com>

414 26<sup>th</sup> St, Wilson, KS

(785) 658-2284

Established in 1899, this hotel was a filming site for the movie "Paper Moon."

### *Unique Shopping*

#### **Kansas Originals Market & Gallery**

<http://www.KansasOriginals.com>

233 Hwy 232, Wilson, KS

(785) 658-2602

A showcase of exceptional work of Kansas artists, craftsmen, and food producers.

## **Hays**

### **7. Sternberg Museum of Natural History**

Walk-through a land and sea diorama with a life-sized animated model of a T-Rex and other creatures of the period. You will also see one of the most significant Cretaceous Period fossil collections in North America, including the unique fish-within-a-fish fossil and how Kansas and Colorado looked during the period in the Age of Dinosaurs, 80 million years ago.

### *Unique Dining*

#### **Gella's Diner & Lb. Brewing Co.**

<http://www.LbBrewing.com/>

117 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St, Hays, KS

(785) 621-

International award winning microbrewery and restaurant, featuring homemade food and handcrafted brews.

### *Unique Shopping*

#### **Chestnut Street District**

<http://www.DownTownHays.com/>

2700 Vine St, Hays, KS

(785) 621-4171

Over 80 businesses including specialty stores, retail shops and unique restaurants. Be sure to check out C.S. Post & Company, which has been touted as a "hip, updated version of a general store" by Elle Décor Magazine.

*Looking for more to do near Hays? May we recommend:*

#### **St. Fidelis Church (Cathedral on the Plains)\***

<http://www.StFidelisChurch.com/>

900 Cathedral Ave, Victoria, KS

(785) 735-2777

Also known as Cathedral on the Plains, this majestic church was once the largest church west of the Mississippi River.





## **Marquette**

### **8. Mushroom Rock State Park\* / Kanopolis Reservoir, State Park and Smoky Hill Wildlife Area**

One of the most unique state parks in Kansas, Mushroom Rock State Park boasts some of the most unusual rock formations anywhere. Resembling giant mushrooms rising above the horizon, these rocks served as meeting places and landmarks for Indians and early pioneers. Nearby Kanopolis State Park is situated in the rolling hills, bluffs and woods of the scenic Smoky Hills. From towering Dakota sandstone bluffs to caves and crevices of Horsethief Canyon, the park offers rugged beauty and stunning vistas to hikers, bikers and horseback riders. The 3,500-acre lake and 12,500-acre wildlife area provide anglers and hunters abundant fish and game. Be sure to explore Faris Caves, carved by early pioneers for use as milk house, school house, and living quarters.

*Looking for more to do in Marquette? May we recommend:*

#### **Kansas Motorcycle Museum**

<http://www.KSMotorcycleMuseum.org>

120 N Washington, Marquette, KS  
(785) 546-2449

Don't miss an experience dedicated to the history and preservation of motorcycles and motorcycle memorabilia. Includes the winnings of five-time National Sportsman Champion Stan "The Man" Engdahl whose collection is made up of over 600 trophies from his racing career, dozens of pictures showing motorcycling history and his famous Harley racer, old Number 46.

## **Lindsborg**

### **9. Coronado Heights\***

Located just outside Lindsborg, Coronado Heights was named after the legendary explorer who is believed to have visited this location on his way through Indian Territory in the 1500s. A castle was constructed as part of Roosevelt's WPA program and provides the visitor with a breathtaking view of Lindsborg and the Smoky Valley. Picnic tables and barbecue pits are available and hiking and biking are popular pastimes.

*Looking for more to do in Lindsborg? May we recommend:*

#### **Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery\***

<http://sandzen.org/>

401 N 1st St, Lindsborg, KS  
(785) 227-2220

Enjoy the noteworthy artwork of Swedish-American artist and educator Birger Sandzen.

#### *Unique Lodging*

##### **Swedish Country Inn**

<http://SwedishCountryInn.com/>

112 W Lincoln St, Lindsborg, KS  
(785) 227-2985

An authentic Swedish country inn located in the heart of Kansas. Wake up to traditional Swedish breakfastfare.



### **Seasons of the Fox**

<http://www.SeasonsOfTheFox.com/>

505 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Lindsborg, KS

(785) 227-2549

At this beautifully restored three-story mansion B&B overlooking the Bethany College campus, guests can arrange for delectable lunch or dinner meals.

### *Unique Dining*

#### **OI Stuga**

119 S Main St, Lindsborg, KS

(785) 227-8762

Finalist in the "Good Morning America Best Bites College Edition" competition, OI Stuga has earned its reputation for hosting a first rate beer garden. Be sure to try the famous "Brent Nelson" sandwich.

#### **The Swedish Crown**

<http://www.TheSwedishCrown.com/>

121 N Main St, Lindsborg, KS

(785) 227-8422

Dedicated to preserving Lindsborg's Swedish heritage, the Swedish Crown features both American and Swedish cuisine.

### *Unique Shopping*

#### **Hemslojd, Inc.\***

<http://Hemslojd.com/>

201 N Main St, Lindsborg, KS

(785) 227-2983

Shop for gifts or watch local artists personalize your own Dala Horse, one of the most popular Swedish souvenirs.

#### **Small World Gallery**

<http://IbisWoman.com/>

134 N Main St, Lindsborg, KS

(785) 227-4442

See Kansas from another perspective at the gallery of *National Geographic* photographer Jim Richardson and jewelry designer Kathy Richardson.

## **Salina**

### **10. Rolling Hills Zoo**

Stroll through the 65-acre zoo, enjoy more than 100 species of animals and catch a narrated tram ride (seasonal). When finished at the zoo, take a journey around the world in the Wildlife Museum and view animals in naturalistic settings, complete with landscaping and life-like robots.

### *Unique Lodging*

#### **C and W Ranch**

<http://www.CWRanch.com/>

4000 S Halstead Rd, Smolan, KS

(785) 668-2352

Only a short drive from Salina, this working ranch is your perfect escape to the country.



## *Unique Dining*

### **Cozy Inn\***

<http://www.CozyBurger.com>

208 N 7th St, Salina, KS

(785) 825-2699

Try the renowned Cozy Burger (better known as a “slider”) at this 1922 diner. Voted Kansas’ favorite hamburger by *USA Today*.

### **Martinelli’s Little Italy**

<http://www.MartinellisOnline.com/>

158 S Santa Fe Ave, Salina, KS

(785) 826-9190

Candlelight dining and traditional Italian fare, Martinelli’s brings a slice of Italy to downtown Salina.

### **The Scheme Restaurant and Bar**

<http://www.SchemeRestaurant.com/>

123 N 7th St, Salina, KS

(785) 823-5125

The Scheme uses only the freshest ingredients to create their celebrated pizza pies.

## *Unique Shopping*

### **Ad Astra Books and Coffee**

<http://www.AdAstraBooksAndCoffee.com>

141 N Santa Fe Ave, Salina, KS

(785) 833-2235

Come for the unique selection of new or used books, the coffee, café, or entertainment. A perfect space to lose track of time.

*Looking for more to do in Salina? May we recommend:*

### **Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts**

<http://www.StiefelTheatre.org/>

151 S. Santa Fe, Salina, KS

(785) 827-1998

Big name acts and local favorites regularly fill this beautiful historic venue in downtown Salina.

## **Other Central Prairie North Side Trips**

### **Prairie Trail Scenic Byway**

<http://www.TravelKS.com/KSByways/Prairie-Trail/>

The Prairie Trail Scenic Byway offers an array of fascinating points, from scenic to historic to cultural to archeological. You’ll also find plenty of recreational amenities along the way, as well as shopping, lodging, dining and other unique experiences. The byway begins at the southern end in Canton. As you travel the byways 56 miles, you’ll pass through such towns as Roxbury, Lindsborg and Marquette.



**Post Rock Scenic Byway\***

<http://www.TravelKS.com/KSByways/Post-Rock/>

The 16-mile-long Post Rock Scenic Byway winds over and through the beautiful Smoky Hills and across the Wilson Lake dam on Highway 232 from I-70 north to Highway 18. Many of the hilltops provide spectacular views, and the byway is incredibly scenic any time of the year. At one end of the byway is Wilson, the Czech capital of Kansas, and at the other is Lucas, the Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas.