

KANSAS

NATIVE STONE *Scenic Byway*

We always welcome you to the Native Stone Scenic Byway and hope that you enjoy your stay with us. Please help preserve this beautiful land by not picking the wildflowers and native grasses or removing native stone deposits. Enter private land only with permission and help keep everyone safe by obeying posted speed limits. Don't be surprised if the locals wave to you as you pass!



photo by Marcus Stratton

For more information about the Native Stone Scenic Byway, contact:
Wabaunsee County Economic Development Council:
wcedc@earthlink.net
National Scenic Byway website: byways.org
Kansas Scenic Byways website: ksbyways.org

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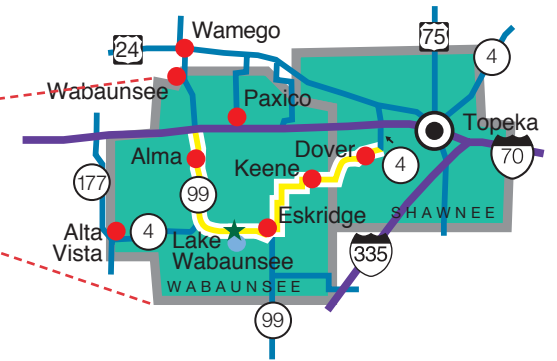
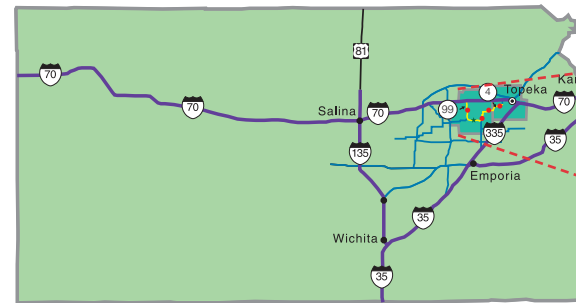


Photo by Richard Bell

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NATIVE STONE AREA MAP



Points of Interest Along the Byway

Historical and Cultural Sites

- 1878 Sage Inn and Stagecoach Station, Dover (National Register)
- 1905 Henry Sump Barn, south of Alma
- Bank of Alma, Alma
- Beecher Bible and Rifle Church, Wabaunsee
- The City of Native Stone, Alma
- Eskridge Cemetery, Eskridge
- Keene Townsite, ghost town
- Mission Creek Township Cemetery, Underground Railroad Site, Keene
- Security State Bank Building, Eskridge
- Wabaunsee Cemetery, Underground Railroad Site
- Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma (National Register)
- Wabaunsee County Historical Museum, Alma

Side Excursions

- Ag Heritage Park, Alta Vista
- Buffalo herds, Auburn, Alta Vista and Eskridge
- Columbian Theatre, Wamego
- Dutch Windmill, Wamego
- Elk Herd, K-4 near Alta Vista
- Grandma Hoerner's Gourmet Foods Plant Tour
- Kansas Museum of History, Topeka
- Mt. Mitchell Heritage Prairie
- Oz Museum, Wamego
- Paxico Antique District
- Shawnee County Historical Society, Topeka
- Skyline Mill Creek Scenic Drive
- Volland, ghost town
- Wamego City Park and Historical Complex
- Wine tasting at Wyldewood Cellars

Annual Events and Activities

- 4th of July Celebration, Alma
- Alma Cheese Factory Tour
- Alma Chamber of Commerce Driving/Walking Tour
- Alma Garage Sale Days, Alma (October)
- Christmas in the Country, Dover (November)
- Eskridge Labor Day Rodeo, Eskridge
- Eskridge Fall Festival, Eskridge (October)
- Heritage Days, Dover (June)
- Lake Wabaunsee Boat Parade and Fireworks, July 4th
- Lake Wabaunsee Lakewide Garage Sale
- Mill Creek Valley Cowboys Association Events
- Native Stone Festival and Mulligan, Alma (May)
- Santa and Soup, Eskridge and Alma (December)
- Veteran's Day Parade and Celebration, Eskridge
- Wabaunsee County 4-H Fair, Alma (August)
- Wabaunsee County Christmas Tour
- Wabaunsee County Historical Society
- Spring and Fall County Tours

Recreational Opportunities

- Alma City Park, Alma – swimming
- Alma City Lake – fishing
- Echo Cliff Park, Dover – fishing, picnicking
- Eskridge City Park, Eskridge
- Maisie DeVore Public Swimming Pool, Eskridge
- McKnight Park, sports complex, Alma
- Railroad Park Historic Buildings, Alma
- Wabaunsee County State Park, Lake Wabaunsee
- Bicycling, motorcycling, bird watching, fishing, boating, swimming, camping

Wineries, antiques, food and Kansas arts and crafts shops are also in the area.



Sunrise at
Lake Wabaunsee

photo by Cindy Manz

“The Road Less Traveled” Beckons

Like the poet Robert Frost’s “road less traveled,” the Native Stone Scenic Byway beckons the modern-day traveler to abandon the numbing hum of the Interstate and explore a unique American landscape, the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie.

Coming from I-70 at Kansas Highway 99, the Native Stone Scenic Byway contrasts the area’s rich history with the vitality of life in rural Kansas today.



An native
stone
fence
built by
pioneer
stone
masons

photo by Nancy Miller

The elemental forces of nature, sun, wind, fire and rain have shaped the landscape you see as you drive the Byway. The limestone from which the Byway gets its name was formed from the sediments of shallow seas that existed 240 million years ago.

This ancient building material can be seen today along the Byway in the stone fences, barns, outbuildings, homes and businesses built by pioneer stonemasons from Sweden and Germany. Alma, one of the communities along the Byway, is called the City of Native Stone.

Discover the Native Stone Scenic Byway



photo by Debbie Divine

1878 Sage Inn and Stagecoach Station is on the National Register of Historic Places

Shaped by Time and People

For 10,000 years, humans have inhabited this tallgrass prairie region shaping the landscape and the culture. Paleo-Indians harvested clams and mussels from the local creeks. The prosperous Munkers Creek culture lived along these creeks and in these hills. Early American Indian residents of the Flint Hills appreciated the remarkable views from the area’s high points, so much that they chose these places to lay their family members to rest. More recently, the Osage, Kansa, Shawnee and Potawatomi lived here.

Early explorers marveled at these grasslands. In 1724 young French officer Étienne Véniard de Bourgmont passed through the hills along the Byway. Free-State immigrants arrived from the Old Northwest and New England and voted to make Kansas free from slavery. Former slaves settled in Dover, Eskridge and Wabaunsee with the hope of putting the horrors of slavery behind them and realizing the promises of freedom in the West.

Farming, ranching and livestock production are the main activities along the Byway. Picturesque stone fences reflect the closing of the open range in 1867. The cowboy culture survives and is celebrated each year at the Eskridge Labor Day Rodeo and the ranch rodeos held in Alma.

Rural America Welcomes You Home

Travelers of the Byway discover that rural America is alive and well today. The village of Dover, named for the white cliffs of Dover, England, and the towns of Eskridge and Alma continue to serve as vital centers for those who call the Kansas Flint Hills region home.

The town cafés remain the center of life in rural America and along the Byway. Enjoy a cup of coffee and pie and get a ringside seat to life in the country. Visit the Wabaunsee County Historical Museum and view artifacts of the human activity in this landscape. Explore the area shops for treasures from another time.

Serene beauty is created
as snow settles on a farm
along the Byway



photo by Nancy Miller



photo by Marcia Stralgen

One of many streams that showcase
the natural beauty of the area