



Grand Central USA! Trails

Day 1 – Brinkley AR – Little Rock AR – Hot Springs AR

We begin this morning in Brinkley AR at the **Louisiana Purchase Historical State Park** the starting point for surveyors who explored and mapped the area in 1803 when President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. The park's **Louisiana Purchase Boardwalk** lets us walk above the swampy area and experience the sights and sounds of the



wilderness where the surveyors began. We arrive in Little Rock and enjoy lunch on our own at the Rivermarket District before arriving at **The Big Dam Bridge** the longest pedestrian/bicycle bridge ever built. The bridge is part of the dam that spans the Arkansas River and connects 14 miles of trails on the Little Rock and North Little Rock sides of the river and encourages health, fitness and recreation activities

in the area. We depart Little Rock and travel to Hot Springs where we find the **Grand Promenade**, a National Recreation Trail that offers views of historic downtown Hot Springs. The Grand Promenade started as a Public Works project in 1930 and was completed in 1957. We'll overnight this evening in Hot Springs, AR.

Day 2 – Hot Springs AR – Tahlequah OK

Arkansas has some wonderful golf courses that create a **Golf Trail** across the state from the Ozarks to the Deltas and this morning we have the option of an early tee time at Hot Springs Country Club nestled in the heart of America's first resort area or time to explore historic downtown and Bath House Row. This afternoon we depart Hot Springs and travel across the Oklahoma border for our overnight in Tahlequah.



Day 3 – Tahlequah OK – Oklahoma City OK

This morning we visit the **Cherokee Heritage Center** to learn about the **Trail of Tears** where members of the Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, and Choctaw nations were relocated to Oklahoma's



Indian Territory in the 1830's. Over 15,000 Cherokees were removed from the Choctaw Nation with many suffering disease, starvation and exposure while enroute resulting in many deaths. The Cherokee Heritage Center tells the story of the Trail of Tears through its exhibits and artifacts while the **Ancient Village**, a replica of a Cherokee Village, presents the Cherokee lifestyle before European contact. In

the village we will see demonstrations of flint knapping, basketry and participate in a game of stickball. This afternoon we travel to Oklahoma City for our overnight.

Day 4 – Oklahoma City OK – Duncan OK – Kingfisher OK – Ponca City OK

In the late 19th century cattle drives crossed Oklahoma as herds were moved from ranches in Texas to the railway in Kansas where they would be sold and shipped east. The trail was known as the Chisholm Trail named after Jesse Chisholm who built trading posts along the trail in western Oklahoma. This morning we visit the **Chisholm Trail Heritage Center** in Duncan where will experience what it was like on the trail. The center's theater brings the trail to life

with the smell of bacon and coffee from the chuck wagon, the feel of the wind blowing and lightning flashing and the feel of the ground shaking as the cattle stampede. The center's exhibits give tribute to the cowboys that drove cattle up the Chisholm Trail. As the trail headed north we will also travel north to Kingfisher where the **Chisholm Trail Museum** here sits directly in the trade route of the



trail. Not only does the museum feature exhibits on Jesse Chisholm and the trail but also contains a frontier village with church, bank, and schoolhouse. Our overnight this evening is in Ponca City.

Day 5 – Ponca City OK – Hutchinson KS



Oklahoma's **Oil Trail** encompasses many towns from Ponca City east to Bartlesville and today we get a glimpse into Oklahoma's oil boom as we visit the **Conoco Museum**. Exhibits span the 125 years of Marland Oil and Conoco's history and technology with interactive exhibits. Next, we visit the **Marland Grand Home**, the first home of E.W. Marland, oil man, philanthropist, and 10th governor of Oklahoma. The home was completed in 1916 and had the first indoor swimming pool in

Oklahoma. In 1925 Marland began construction on a second home know as the “Palace on the Prairie” or the **Marland Mansion** with 55 rooms, Waterford crystal chandeliers, gold leaf covered ceilings, a buffalo lined elevator, seven fireplaces, and three kitchens. We will enjoy a catered lunch at the mansion before a tour of the home where we learn of the rise and fall of Marland Oil and hear the story of Marland’s adopted daughter, Lydie, who became his second wife. We depart Ponca City this afternoon and travel to Hutchinson KS for our overnight.

Day 6 – Hutchinson KS – Larned KS – Council Grove KS – Manhattan KS

This morning we depart Hutchinson and head to the **Santa Fe Trail Center** near Larned KS. Here we will learn more of the Santa Fe Trail and its significance as a transportation route and also the blending of cultures that evolved because of the trail. We head east stopping in McPherson for lunch before continuing on to Council Grove which was once a major point along the Santa Fe Trail which stretched 800 miles from Independence MO to Santa Fe NM. A guided tour of the areas **Santa Fe historic sites** will tell how this trail served as a major commercial trade route.



Dinner is included at the **Hays House** one of the oldest continuously operating restaurants west of the Mississippi. We depart Council Grove and head to Manhattan KS for our overnight.

Day 7 – Manhattan KS – Hanover KS – Blue Rapids KS – Olathe KS

This morning we head north to the **Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site**, a



National Historic Landmark. Not only was this a stop for the Pony Express it served as a way station for travelers on the Oregon and California Trails. See the original building and the visitor’s center to hear more of the Hollenbergs and pioneer life. Next we’ll visit **Alcove Springs** a beautiful site located along the Oregon Trail. This afternoon we head to Olathe KS and **Lone Elm Park** where the Santa Fe, Oregon

and California trails converged. This historic site today is utilized for hiking, camping, and picnics. Our overnight this evening is in Olathe KS.

Day 8 – Olathe KS – Kansas City MO

This morning we begin at the **Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Historic Site**. This is the last remaining stagecoach stop along the Santa Fe Trail that is open to the public. See the Mahaffie family home and stagecoach stop, a two story icehouse, and a wooden peg barn. After lunch we’ll visit the **Arabia Steamboat Museum**. The museum tells the story of a group of men that

uncovered the Arabia which had been lost over 100 years earlier when it sank in the Missouri River just north of Kansas City. As the river changed courses the steamboat was buried under a cornfield. The men were amazed when they found that the 200-tons of cargo had been preserved in a remarkable condition. Fine china, clothing, tools, canned food, buttons, cloth, and perfume were among the cargo that the Arabia had on board. This evening we will enjoy a second night in Olathe KS.



Day 9 – Olathe KS Independence KS – Arrow Rock MO – Hermann MO

Today we are on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails as we visit the **National Frontier Trails Museum** in Independence. This area was the “jumping off” point for all three trails and this morning we hear local history as we take a covered wagon ride before exploring the museum. This afternoon we arrive in **Arrow Rock**, once a thriving river port, today the entire town is designated a National Historic Landmark. We will find hand carved limestone gutters



lining main street and wooden sidewalks in front of the store fronts. A walking tour of the site will take us to the old courthouse, a stone jail, a doctor’s home, and other historic buildings. Visit the Bingham Home that has been restored and furnished as it might have been when George Caleb Bingham, an artist of the 1800’s, lived in it. Missouri is known for its many wineries and vineyards and **Wine Trail**

that extends from Hermann to New Haven. We arrive in Hermann at the **Stone Hill Winery**, Missouri’s oldest and most awarded, for a guided tour that will take us thru the cellars, production facility and end in the tasting room for some sampling before dinner at **Stonehill’s Vintage Restaurant** in the carriage house. Our overnight this evening is in Hermann, MO.

Day 10 – Hermann MO – St Louis MO

Hermann is a picturesque German community with lots of Old World charm and this morning a local guide joins us a **city tour of Hermann**. We’ll stop at **Hermannoff Winery** downtown Hermann to find not only a full line of wines but locally made sausages, cheeses, and baked breads. After lunch and some free time in Hermann we head to the St Louis Archway and the **Museum of Westward Expansion**. The museum is about those that helped shape the history of the American West from the Native Americans, to the pioneers, and the journey of Lewis and Clark. Take a seat in the



Odyssey Theater to see “Lewis and Clark’s Great Journey West” produced by National Geographic on the theater’s enormous screen. Then this evening sit back and relax with an elegant dinner and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Mississippi River as we cruise aboard one of the **Gateway Arch Riverboats**. Overnight this evening in St Louis.



Grand Central USA! Trails

Day 1 – Brinkley AR – Little Rock AR – Hot Springs AR

10:00 am – Louisiana Purchase Boardwalk – Brinkley AR
11:00 am – Depart
Noon – Arrive Little Rock – lunch on own
1:30 pm – Big Dam Bridge
2:30 pm – Depart
3:30 pm – Grand Promenade – Hot Springs
Overnight Hot Springs

Day 2 – Hot Springs AR – Tahlequah OK

Morning – Free time for Golf or exploring Historic Bathhouse Row
2:00 pm – Depart
6:30 pm – Overnight Tahlequah

Day 3 – Tahlequah OK – Oklahoma City OK

9:00 am – Cherokee Heritage Center & Ancient Village
11:30 am – Depart
Lunch on own
1:00 pm – Depart
4:00 pm – Overnight Oklahoma City

Day 4 – Oklahoma City OK – Duncan OK – Kingfisher OK – Ponca City OK

8:30 am – Depart OKC
10:00 am – Chisholm Trail Museum – Duncan
11:30 am – Depart – lunch on own
1:00 pm – Depart Duncan
3:00 pm – Chisholm Trail Museum – Kingfisher
4:30 pm – Depart
6:30 pm – Overnight Ponca City

Day 5 – Ponca City OK – Hutchinson KS

9:00 am – Conoco Museum
10:30 am – Marland Grand House

Noon – Marland Mansion with lunch at Mansion
3:00 pm – Depart
5:00 pm – Overnight Hutchinson KS

Day 6 – Hutchinson KS – Larned KS – Council Grove KS – Manhattan KS

8:00 am – Depart
10:00 am – Santa Fe Trail Center – Larned
11:00 am – Depart
1:00 pm – Lunch on own – McPherson KS
2:00 pm – Depart
4:00 pm – Santa Fe Trail Historic Sites – Council Grove
5:30 pm – Dinner included at Hays House – Council Grove
6:30 pm – Depart
7:30 pm – Overnight Manhattan KS

Day 7 – Manhattan KS – Hanover KS – Blue Rapids KS – Olathe KS

8:00 am – Depart
9:30 am – Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site – Hanover
10:30 am – Depart
11:00 am – Alcove Springs – Blue Rapids
Noon – Depart – Lunch on own
4:00 pm – Lone Elm Park – Olathe
Overnight Olathe KS

Day 8 – Olathe KS – Kansas City MO

10:00 am – Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop Farm – Olathe
11:30 am – Depart
Lunch on own
1:30 pm – Arabia Steamboat Museum – Kansas City MO
3:30 pm – Depart
Overnight Olathe KS

Day 9 – Olathe KS - Independence KS – Arrow Rock MO – Hermann MO

9:00 am – National Frontier Trails Museum – Independence MO
10:30 am – Depart
Lunch on own
1:30 pm – arrive Arrow Rock MO – free time to explore
2:30 pm – Depart
4:30 pm – Stone Hill Winery – Hermann MO
5:30 pm – Dinner included at Stone Hill Winery
Overnight Hermann MO

Day 10 – Hermann MO – St Louis MO

8:00 am – Hermann City Tour
10:00 am – Hermannoff Winery – Hermann MO
11:00 am – Depart

Lunch on own in Herman

1:00 pm – Depart Herman

3:00 pm – Museum of Westward Expansion – St Louis

Evening – Gateway Arch Riverboat Dinner Cruise

Overnight St Louis MO