



## African American Heritage in GRAND CENTRAL USA!

### Day 1 – Lakeport AR



We begin our Grand Central USA! adventure this afternoon in Lakeport, AR at the **Lakeport Plantation**, one of Arkansas’s newest attractions. We will get a feel of what it was like living and working on a Southern Delta cotton plantation as the buildings and museum showcases all aspects of the plantation’s lifestyle. Our overnight this evening is in Lakeport, AR.

### Day 2 – Lakeport AR – Arkansas City AR – Helena AR – Little Rock AR

After breakfast we depart for Arkansas City where we visit the **John H. Johnson Museum**. A tour of Johnson’s boyhood home tells the success story of John H. Johnson who founded the Johnson Publishing Company in Chicago in 1942 which eventually became the country’s largest African American-owned publishing business. Besides magazines the company also owned a book division and Fashion Fair Cosmetics. This afternoon we arrive at the **Delta Cultural Center and Blues Corner** in historic downtown Helena, Arkansas. The center is dedicated to the history of the Arkansas Delta and interprets the history of the Delta’s blues music and the mighty river that runs through it. We continue on to Little Rock for dinner and our overnight.



### Day 3 – Little Rock AR– Oklahoma City OK

This morning tour the **Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site**. The center opened in 2007 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the high school’s desegregation, when nine African-American students entered the school under federal troop protection. The “Little Rock Nine” drew national attention with the government’s commitment to eliminate segregation in public schools. We depart Little Rock and head west on I-40 to



the Oklahoma border. We will stop for lunch enroute before arriving at **Boley, Oklahoma** an all black town founded in 1905. In its day Boley once was a very wealthy black town which had the first black owned bank and black owned electric company in the states. This evening we arrive in Oklahoma City and check into one of the many hotels the city has to offer before selecting a restaurant for dinner.

#### **Day 4 – Oklahoma City OK – Chickasha OK – Tulsa OK**

After breakfast we meet our local guide for a city tour to include the **Deep Deuce District**. Located near downtown this area was a black commercial district known for its many jazz and blues clubs. Jimmy Rushing was born here and Charlie Christian learned his chops here. If visiting in June you will not want to miss the Charlie Christian International Festival. This afternoon we visit the **African American Museum and One Room School** in Chickasha. The one room African American school which was known as the Verden Separate School was moved to this site next to the African American Museum. We depart Chickasha and head to Tulsa, OK for our overnight this evening.



#### **Day 5 – Tulsa OK – Diamond MO – Ft Scott KS**

This morning we depart with a local guide for tour of Tulsa's historic **Greenwood District**, once known as the "Black Wall Street" of America. We will see a photographic exhibit of the tragic 1921 riot as we tour the area. The Greenwood District is home to the **Mabel B. Little Heritage House, Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, and the Greenwood Cultural Center**. The Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame is Oklahoma's only facility devoted to Oklahoma gospel, jazz and blues musicians. This afternoon we cross into Missouri and visit the **George Washington Carver Site** in Diamond, MO. Learn more of the young boy known as the "Plant Doctor" who tended his secret garden while observing the operations on the farm. It was this love of nature and nurture that began his journey to becoming a renowned scientist of agriculture. We will visit the Carver Museum, Carver Science Discovery Center for students and the Historic Moses Carver house as we tour this 210-acre national park. After departing the Carver site we cross another state line and overnight this evening in Fort Scott, Kansas.



#### **Day 6 – Ft Scott KS – St Louis MO**

After breakfast at the hotel we depart for the **Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity** at Fort Scott Community College. The center focuses on the life of Gordon Parks and how he escaped poverty and bigotry. His story brings a message of hope in the

face of adversity as it tells the challenges of racism and discrimination and the importance of persistence and hope. This afternoon we arrive in St. Louis and visit the **Old Courthouse** which was the scene of the Dred Scott trial. We overnight this evening in St Louis, MO.



### **Day 7 – St Louis MO – Leavenworth KS**

This morning we head to the **Busch Stadium** for a guided tour of the St. Louis Cardinals home turf. Then we will visit the **Cardinals Hall of Fame** which houses the mementos and trophies of the Cardinals. This museum also features galleries celebrating the history of profession bowling. You may want to roll a few balls down the antique or modern bowling lanes and take your picture alongside the giant bowling pin car. Next stop is the **Black World History Museum** which presents the lives and contributions of African-Americans in this country from slavery days to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. See a replica of quarters on the ships which brought African slaves to America and see exhibits that document the history and brutality of slavery. This afternoon we depart St. Louis and head to Leavenworth, Kansas for our overnight.



### **Day 8 – Leavenworth KS – Kansas City – Lecompton KS – Topeka KS**

After breakfast we will enjoy a tour of the **Richard Allen Cultural Center** which offers a glimpse into the rich heritage of African-Americans. Learn of accomplishments and view memorabilia from General Colin Powell, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The museum is located across the street from the historic Bethel Church which was part of the Underground Railroad. We depart Leavenworth and head to **18<sup>th</sup> & Vine** in Kansas City. **The Negro League Baseball** covers the entire history of the Negro Leagues from their beginning after the Civil War through their end in the 1960s and looks at the contributions the leagues made to the history of athletics. Jazz was abundant around 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine during the 1920s and 1930s and the **American Jazz Museum** is dedicated to these Jazz musicians. We now depart Kansas City and head to Lecompton, Kansas to visit the **Constitution Hall State Historic Site**. It is here where James Henry Lane had an impact on Kansas history as he marched into Lecompton to protest at the pro-slavery Lecompton Constitutional Convention in 1857. Our overnight this evening is in Topeka, KS.



**Day 9 – Topeka KS – Nicodermus KS – Hays KS**



This morning we visit the **Brown v Board National Historic Site** which ended legal segregation in public schools. The story of Brown v. Board of Education is a story of hope and courage that changed history. We depart Topeka now and travel to the **Nicodemus National Historic Site** to see historic buildings of this all Black town that was settled in the 1800's by former slaves fleeing the south. Our last night on this adventure through Grand Central USA! exploring the

history and heritage of African-Americans is in Hays, Kansas.



## **African American Heritage in GRAND CENTRAL USA!**

### **Day 1 – Lakeport AR**

Aftn – Lakeport Plantation

O/N Lakeport AR area

### **Day 2 – Lakeport AR – Arkansas City AR – Helena AR – Little Rock AR**

8:00 am – Depart

9:00 am – John H Johnson Museum – Arkansas City

10:00 am – Depart

Lunch enroute

2:00 pm – Delta Cultural Center & Blues Corner

4:00 pm – Depart

6:30 pm – Check into hotel – Little Rock

### **Day 3 – Little Rock AR– Oklahoma City OK**

8:30 am – Depart

9:00 am – Central High School Historic Site

10:00 am – Depart

Lunch enroute

3:30 pm – Boley OK tour

4:15 pm – Depart

6:00 pm Check into hotel – OKC

### **Day 4 – Oklahoma City OK – Chickasha OK – Tulsa OK**

8:00 am – Depart hotel with guide for tour of Deep Deuce

10:00 am – Depart for Chickasha

11:00 am – African American Museum and One Room School House – Chickasha

Lunch in Chickasha

1:30 pm – Depart Chickasha

4:30 pm – Arrive Tulsa for O/N

### **Day 5 – Tulsa OK – Diamond MO – Ft Scott KS**

8:00 am – Depart with guide for tour of Greenwood District and Black Wall Street  
11:00 am – lunch on own in Tulsa area  
12:30 pm – Depart  
2:30 pm – George Washington Carver Site – Diamond MO  
4:00 pm – Depart  
6:00 pm – Arrive in Ft Scott KS for overnight

**Day 6 – Ft Scott KS – St Louis MO**

8:30 am – Depart hotel  
8:30 am – Gordon Parks Exhibit  
9:30 am – Depart  
Lunch enroute  
3:30 pm – Old Courthouse – St Louis  
4:30 pm – Depart  
5:30 pm – Check into St Louis MO for overnight

**Day 7 – St Louis MO – Leavenworth KS**

8:30 am – Depart  
9:00 am – Cardinals Hall of Fame – St Louis  
10:00 am Depart  
10:30 am – Black World History Museum – St Louis  
12:00 pm – Depart  
Lunch on own  
1:30 pm – Depart St Louis  
6:30 pm – Arrive Leavenworth KS for overnight

**Day 8 – Leavenworth KS – Kansas City – Lecompton KS – Topeka KS**

8:30 am – Depart  
9:00 am – Richard Allen Cultural Center – Leavenworth KS  
10:00 am – Depart  
11:00 am – 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine Negro League Baseball & American Jazz Museum – Kansas City  
12:30 pm – Depart – lunch on own  
2:00 pm – Depart  
3:00 pm – Constitution Hall State Historic Site – Lecompton KS  
4:00 pm – Depart  
4:45 pm – Arrive Topeka KS for overnight

**Day 9 – Topeka KS – Nicodermus KS – Hays KS**

8:30 am – Depart hotel  
9:00 am - Brown v Board NHS – Topeka KS  
10:00 am – Depart  
Lunch enroute  
3:30 pm – Nicodemus National Historic Site  
4:30 pm – Depart  
5:30 pm – Arrive in Hays KS for overnight