

Holiday Season in GRAND CENTRAL USA!

<u> Day 1 – Great Bend KS – Wichita KS</u>

Arrive mid afternoon in Great Bend, KS to view a unique exhibit of **"Santas Around the World."** See twenty-two life size Santas handcrafted by a local artist, each with their



own story and costume. Arriving in Wichita we will check into our hotel and freshen up before departing for our evening at **Crown Uptown Dinner Theater**, Wichita's most popular and only year round professional theater in the area. Enjoy a buffet meal before a production full of professional talent. Overnight Wichita, KS area.

Day 2 – Wichita KS - Ponca City OK – Oklahoma City OK - Chickasha OK

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing and traveling south to Oklahoma where our first stop of the day is at **Marland Mansion** in Ponca City, built in the 1920's by Oklahoma's 10th Governor and oil baron E.W. Marland. After touring the mansion decorated for the holiday season we will understand why it was known as the "Palace on the Prairie". Visit the Angel Store downtown Ponca City for a unique shopping

experience full of Christmas decorations and gift items. As we travel thru Oklahoma City we will stop at **North Pole City** a store with thousands of collectibles, Christmas decorations and ornaments. Enjoy dinner in Chickasha before meeting our guide for a Christmas light tour. Our guide will show us lighted neighborhoods before arriving at Shannon Springs Park's **Festival of Light** which is lit with 2,000,000 lights. Overnight Chickasha, OK.



<u> Day 3 – Chickasha OK – Muskogee OK</u>

After breakfast we depart with a guide that will tell us more about the **Festival of Light** as we arrive at the warehouse where all of the displays are made. See how the decorations are designed from a picture to the finished project some as tall as twenty-five feet. One

lucky person from the group will go home with a yard decoration to remember their trip to Chickasha. Our next stop will be in Norman, OK at **The Jacobson House**, to see their annual **Scandinavian Cultural Christmas Exhibition**, showcasing the artistic and



cultural traditions of Iceland. Norman offers many restaurant choices for a lunch stop before we head east to Muskogee. We'll check into one of Muskogee's hotels with time to freshen up before dinner. Honor Heights Park is known for their brilliant Azaleas in spring time but in December it comes alive with color again. The **Garden of Lights** is designed to enhance the natural beauty of the park and around every turn we discover

azalea bushes lit with colored lights, twinkling lights that follow a stream down the hillside, and reflecting lights shimmering in the ponds. Overnight Muskogee, OK.

<u> Day 4 – Muskogee OK – Pine Bluff AR</u>

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing Muskogee. This morning we travel to Arkansas where lunch is included at **Marlsgate Plantation** in Scott, AR. Experience southern living and hospitality as we dine in the home of David Garner Jr. After lunch we

will hear stories of David's family and plantation living as he takes us on a tour of his home. Mid afternoon we arrive in Pine Bluff AR and check into one of the area hotels then enjoy dinner before another evening of lights. Over 3.5 million lights create **The Enchanted Land of Lights and Legends,** so sit back and enjoy over 100 displays many of which are animated as we drive thru the park. Overnight Pine Bluff, AR.



<u> Day 5 – Pine Bluff AR – Blytheville AR</u>

After breakfast we depart the hotel with a local guide for a driving tour of **Pine Bluff's Murals**. With thirteen murals painted on downtown business in Pine Bluff we find an outdoor gallery that depicts the history of the area. The murals include: Main Street 1888, the Movie Mural, the Medical Mural, Delta Heritage Mural, the Old Fire Station, Steam



Engine 819 Cotton Belt Railroad and many more. We depart Pine Bluff and head to **Blytheville**, **AR** for yet another Christmas display of lights. The entire city of Blytheville is transformed into a winter fantasy with their **Lights of the Delta** celebration. At Blytheville's historic Kress Building we find the **Parade of Trees**, featuring over 40 trees decorated by local school groups, organizations and business. Take some time to shop

downtown Blytheville and visit the renowned "That Bookstore" before a French cooked dinner at a local restaurant, The Sharecropper. Then this evening our guide will take us thru the **Lights of the Delta**, an award winning light extravaganza! Overnight Blytheville, AR.

<u> Day 6 – Blytheville AR – Eureka Springs AR</u>

After breakfast we depart Blytheville and spend the day traveling to **Eureka Springs**, a 19th century Victorian village nestled in the Ozark Mountains of northwest Arkansas. Check into one of Eureka Springs hotels then head to **The Great Passion Play**. Enjoy dinner at the Great Passion Play buffet restaurant then learn how countries all over the world celebrate Christmas and the birth of Christ with a visit to the special "**God Bless Us Everyone**" exhibit of nativities from around the world. We'll step pack in time

"Beyond Dickens" to the first Christmas, to the town of Bethlehem with an interactive Christmas experience. Join those traveling to Judea to register for the census decreed by Caesar Augustus, pay the tax collector, mingle with the Roman soldiers and citizens of Bethlehem, meet the innkeepers, and follow the Star and the three Kings to visit Mary and Joseph in the stable and become a part of the First Christmas. Overnight Eureka Springs, AR.



<u>Day 7 – Eureka Springs AR – Branson MO</u>

After breakfast at the hotel we'll visit **Thorncrown Chapel** a 48-foot tall majestic glass chapel that blends into the natural beauty of the Ozark woods. Then get a closer look at the winding mountainside streets lined with Victorian houses and the historic downtown aboard the **Eureka Springs Trolley** with a narrated tour of this Victorian village where



the entire downtown area is on the National Register of Historic Places. Spend some time exploring the many shops downtown, with everything from antiques, art, boutiques, jewelry, candy, quilts, or Ozark souvenirs. Enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants downtown before departing for Missouri. Upon arrival in **Branson** the music capital of the ozarks we find this popular destination blanketed with holiday decorations and lights.

Check into one of Branson's hotels before an evening full of song, dance, and comedy at one of Branson's theaters. Overnight Branson, MO.

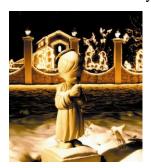
Day 8 – Branson MO

After breakfast at the hotel, spend the morning enjoying one of the many morning shows that the theaters offer. Then with Christmas list in hand arrive at one of Branson's three outlet malls or Branson Landing located on the waterfront of Lake Taneycomo for a shopping extravaganza. Take in another Christmas show this evening then visit the **Branson Area Festival of Lights** to complete your Ozark Mountain Christmas experience. Overnight Branson, MO.



Day 9 – Branson MO – Carthage MO – Joplin MO

We depart Branson after breakfast and travel to Carthage, MO. We arrive at the **Precious Moments Park** where we will tour the **Chapel** that Sam Butcher designed and constructed as his way of sharing his faith with the world. See beautiful stained glass



windows and Precious Moments characters in hand-painted murals that Sam has used to tell well known stories of the Bible. Visit the **Precious Moments Visitors Center** that houses the most complete selection of Precious Moments figurines, gifts and dolls. What would the holidays be with out candy? Upon arrival in Joplin we will visit the **Candy House** to watch the candy makers in action and sample some of the sweets. Dine at one of Joplin's restaurants before checking into the hotel for the night. Overnight Joplin, MO.

<u>Day 10 – Joplin – Return home</u>

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing Joplin with many memories of a holiday to remember in Grand Central USA!



Holiday Season in GRAND CENTRAL USA!

<u> Day 1 – Great Bend KS – Wichita KS</u>

1:00 pm – Santas Around the World – Great Bend KS
2:00 pm – Depart
4:00 pm – Arrive Wichita KS – check into hotel
Evening – Dinner and show at Crown Uptown
Return to hotel after show

Day 2 – Wichita KS – Ponca City OK – Oklahoma City OK – Chickasha OK

Breakfast at hotel 8:30 am – Depart 10:00 am – Tour Marland Mansion – Ponca City Lunch on own 1:00 pm – Depart 3:00 pm – Shopping at North Pole City - OKC 3:30 pm – Depart 4:30 pm – Arrive Chickasha OK – Check into hotel 6:00 pm – Dinner 7:00 pm – Festival of Light with guide

Day 3 – Chickasha OK – Muskogee OK

Breakfast at hotel 8:00 am – Depart – day tour of how lights are made 10:00 am – Depart Chickasha 11:00 am – Jacobson House – Norman OK Noon – lunch on own Norman area 1:30 pm - Depart 4:00 pm – Arrive Muskogee OK– Check into hotel Garden of Lights in Honor Heights Park Overnight Muskogee OK

Day 4 – Muskogee OK – Pine Bluff AR

Breakfast at hotel 8:00 am – Depart Muskogee Noon – Arrive Marlsgate Plantation – Lunch & Tour 2:30 pm – Depart 3:30 pm – Arrive Pine Bluff AR – Check into hotel 5:00 pm – Dinner 6:00 pm – Enchanted Land of Lights

Day 5 – Pine Bluff AR – Blytheville AR

Breakfast at hotel 8:00 am - Mural Tour 10:00 am - Depart Pine Bluff Lunch enroute 2:00 pm - Arrive Blytheville AR - Parade of Trees 3:00 pm - Shopping Downtown - That Bookstore 4:00 pm - Check into hotel 5:00 pm - Dinner at Sharecropper 6:00 pm - Lights of the Delta Overnight Blytheville AR

Day 6 – Blytheville AR – Eureka Springs AR

Breakfast at hotel 8:30 am – Depart hotel 3:30 pm – Arrive Eureka Springs AR – Check into hotel Evening – Beyond Dickens at The Great Passion Play

Day 7 – Eureka Springs AR – Branson

Breakfast at hotel 8:30 am – Depart hotel 9:00 am – Thorncrown Chapel 10:30 am- Eureka Springs Trolley Tour 11:30 am - Free time for shopping & lunch downtown Eureka Springs 1:30 pm – Depart 3:00 am – Arrive Branson – check into hotel 5:30 pm – Dinner 8:00 pm – Evening Show

Day 8 - Branson

Breakfast at hotel 10:00 am – Morning show Free time Lunch & Shopping Matinee Show Dinner Evening Show Overnight Branson MO

<u>Day 9 – Branson – Carthage – Joplin</u>

Breakfast at hotel 9:00 am – Depart Branson 11:00 am – Lunch in Carthage 12:30 pm – Precious Moments Visitor Center & Chapel – Carthage MO 2:30 pm – Depart 3:00 pm – Richardson Candy – Joplin MO 4:00 pm – Check into hotel – Joplin MO Dinner

Day 10 - Joplin

Breakfast at hotel