



## Grand Oklahoma Mystery

### **Day 1 – Grove, OK**

11:00 am – Begin with a **guided tour of Grove** in northeast Oklahoma.

Start the tour off with your bus being hijacked by an unusual character “Willamae” then proceed as she insists on showing you around Grove

12:00 pm – **Lunch on own or included**

1:30 pm – **HarBer Village**

Here your group will see one of the largest antique museums in the United States, located on the shores of Grand Lake O' The Cherokees. Har-Ber Village was built as a gift to the public from Harvey and Bernice Jones, founders of Jones Trucking. The village began with the construction of a church that Harvey built for Bernice and from there continued to grow into a reconstructed turn-of-the century village of over one hundred buildings which are full of antiques and collections.

3:00 pm – **Lendonwood Gardens**

Lendonwood showcases over 1,500 species of plants in six distinct gardens with winding paths that connect the different gardens. The gardens include a Display Garden, Oriental Garden, Japanese Pavilion Garden, English Terrace Garden, American Backyard Garden, and the Angel of Hope Garden. Groups can make special arrangements for tea at the Japanese Tea House.

4:30 pm – **Cayugh Mission**

This church was built in the late 1800s by Mathais Splitlog and is the first church built in Oklahoma by a Native American with his own funds to serve the religious needs of the area.

6:00 pm – **Check into Grove hotel**

6:45 pm – **Dinner in Grove**

### **Day 2 – Grove, OK – Sallisaw, OK – Poteau, OK, Broken Bow, OK**

8:00 am – **Depart Grove for Sallisaw, OK**

10:00 am – Arrive in Sallisaw at **Sequoyah’s Cabin**

The Cherokee learned to read a written language with a Syllabary that Sequoyah developed between the years 1809 and 1921. Here you will see the cabin that Sequoyah lived in, as well as artifacts from Sequoyah and the Cherokees. Ask the curator about having your passenger’s names written in the Cherokee Syllabary.

10:15 am – **Depart Sallisaw for Poteau, OK**

11:15 pm – **Arrive at Poteau for included Lunch at Kerr Conference Center**

Your group will enjoy lunch at the Kerr Conference Center which was the personal home of Senator Robert Kerr in the 1960s. Built with native stone this 11,000 square foot mansion seems to blend into the natural surroundings as it sits overlooking the Poteau River Valley.

12:45 pm – **Depart Poteau for Broken Bow, OK**

2:45 pm – **Arrive Beavers Bend State Park**

Enjoy a drive through one of Oklahoma’s most popular state parks with its crystal clear streams, lakes, and 100 foot pine trees.

3:30 pm – **Forest Heritage Center and Museum**

Located inside the state park this museum is dedicated to the workers of the forest industry one of the largest industries in the area.

4:30 pm – **Check into Lakeview Lodge in Beavers Bend State Park or a Broken Bow hotel**

### **Day 3 – Broken Bow, OK – Idabel, OK – Hugo, OK – Durant, OK**

9:30 am – **Depart Broken Bow for Idabel, OK**

10:00 am – Arrive Idabel, OK at **Museum of the Red River**

See archaeological artifacts of the Caddo and Choctaw tribes, as well as contemporary native arts. See a cast skeleton of a dinosaur that was found in southeast Oklahoma and Pre-Columbian items from South America.

11:00 am – **Depart Idabel for Hugo, OK**

12:00 pm – Arrive in Hugo at the **Frisco Depot Museum**

Once a bustling train depot today it serves as a museum and preserves the history and heritage of the area. Hugo has a major tie to circuses and at the depot you can see a miniature three ring circus. For years Hugo has been a winter home for many circuses. Currently Kelly Miller Circus, Carson & Barnes Circus, and Culpepper & Meriweather winter in Hugo.

12:30 pm – Lunch on own or included at **Taylor's Harvey House Restaurant**

The depot also contained a Harvey House restaurant that has been restored to preserve the history of the Harvey Girls. Next, to this area is the Taylor's Harvey House Restaurant where the group will enjoy lunch.

1:30 pm – Depart

1:45 pm – **Mt Olivet Cemetery**

See the magnificent monuments in the area designated as the “Showmen’s Rest” where a number of circus owners and performers are laid to rest with detailed etchings on their headstones that give tribute to their years with the circus. The cemetery is also the final resting place for Ed Ansley who was Buster Brown and rodeo greats Freckles Brown, Lane Frost, and Todd Watley.

2:30 pm – **Endangered Ark Foundation**

Here the group will see up close the second largest herd of Asian elephants in America. Learn about the Asian elephants as you tour the facility.

3:45 pm – **Depart Hugo for Durant, OK**

4:30 pm – Arrive Durant and **check into the Choctaw Casino Resort Hotel**

Free time this evening to enjoy the resort, dine in one of the several restaurants, or try your luck in the casino.

#### **Day 4 – Durant, OK – Sulphur, OK – Pauls Valley, OK - Oklahoma City, OK**

9:00 am – **Depart Durant for Sulphur, OK**

10:00 am – Arrive Sulphur at **Chickasaw Cultural Center**

Opened in July 2010 the cultural center showcases and preserves the heritage and traditions of the Chickasaw Nation. Your group will start with an introductory film before touring the museum and visiting the Traditional Village with council house, summer and winter houses, and a ceremonial mount. Then, enjoy lunch at the Aaimpa Café and be sure to have the grape dumplings for dessert.

12:30 pm – **Depart Sulphur for Pauls Valley, OK**

1:15 pm – **Field’s Pie Factory Tour**

Groups can make special arrangements to tour the Fields factory and see the production process that goes into the pies. Field’s makes a variety of pies and are famous for their pecan pie.

2:15 pm – **Depart Pauls Valley for Oklahoma City**

3:00 pm – **Arrive Museum of Osteology**

Here you will find the only museum in the world dedicated to osteology, the study of bones and skeletons. The museum has a diversity of specimens from around the world that include a 45 foot humpback whale, giraffe, elephant, and much more.

4:00 pm – **Depart**

4:30 pm – **Check into one of Oklahoma City’s hotels**

5:30 pm – **Arrive Remington Park Racing and Casino**

Enjoy a leisurely evening with a dinner buffet at Remington before trying your hand at the slots with some free play.

#### **Day 5 – Oklahoma City, OK**

8:00 am – **Oklahoma City Tour**

9:00 am – **Oklahoma City National Memorial**

Begin with a tour of the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial and see the Field of Empty Chairs, Gates of Time, Reflecting Pool, and Survivor Tree. Special arrangements can be made for a First Person-Story of Hope presentation as the group tours the museum, to hear accountings from a survivor, rescue worker, or family member.

11:00 am – Depart

11:15 am – **American Banjo Museum**

You will find no other museum like this one in the world. With the largest collections of banjos on public display in the world, the facilities interpretive exhibits will take your group thru the history of the banjo from its humble beginnings, to the Roaring 20s, to its present day in Bluegrass and Folk music. Upstairs you will find a replica of a Shakey's Pizza Parlor where groups can make arrangements for pizza and a special performance.

1:00 pm – Depart

1:15 pm – **Oklahoma History Center**

The atrium at the Oklahoma History Center offers a spectacular view of the State Capitol, with a replica of Wiley Post’s Winnie Mae hanging above. The group will gather in the

atrium for a quick orientation of the facility before time to explore on their own. The five galleries present Oklahoma's history and heritage with Smithsonian quality exhibits that include areas on Oklahoma's oil industry, Native American, transportation, film and much more.

2:30 pm – Depart

3:00 pm – **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is world renowned for its collection of fine western art and galleries that give tribute to the American cowboy, western film performers, and rodeo heroes. You group will see works of Charles Russell, Frederic Remington, and Albert Bierstadt. They will also walk the streets of Prosperity Junction a turn-of-the-century Western town and enjoy the gardens.