



Quirky Grand Central USA!

Day 1 – Goodland KS – Lucas KS – Cawker City, KS – Salina KS

We begin in Goodland, Kansas this morning with an attraction that can't be missed due to its incredible size. Upon an eight foot easel sits a 24 by 32 foot rendition of **Vincent Van Gogh's Sunflower masterpiece**. Then we are on to see another largest with a photo op in Lucas, KS at the **World's Largest Souvenir Travel Plate** that measures 14 foot in diameter. Lots of local help went into this project that presents a visual history of the town. After lunch we arrive at the



Garden of Eden which is recognized as a monument to individualism. Created by Civil War Veteran Samuel Perry Dinsmoor between 1907 and 1932 the collection of religious, political and other figures crafted from concrete have attracted visitors for over 100 years. We have one more world's largest today as we stop in Cawker City at the **World's Largest Ball of Sisal Twine**. While visiting you may want to add your own piece of twine to the ball. Our overnight this evening is in Salina, KS.

Day 2 – Salina KS – Nickerson KS – Wichita KS – Wakita OK – Enid OK

We depart Salina this morning and head to Nickerson to visit the **Hedrick's Exotic Farm** where we can get up close with camels, kangaroos, even a giraffe. We cross into Oklahoma today and visit the town of Wakita and the **Twister Museum** to hear the local's stories from when the movie Twister was filmed in the town and how the town was transformed into the aftermath of a tornado. Dinner is served this evening in Enid at **Simpson's Mercantile**. Not only does the mercantile hold a variety of historical items it also contains many movie sets used in the Westerns the Simpson's have produced in recent years. Then check into one of Enid's hotels for the evening.



Day 3 – Enid OK – Guthrie OK – Pauls Valley OK – Oklahoma City OK

This morning we arrive in Guthrie OK to visit the **Frontier Drugstore Museum** that will take you back to the medicines of the 1800s and Indian Territory where a variety of medicinal remedies were sold. See walls filled with shelves and shelves of apothecary of the past. After

lunch we travel to Pauls Valley to **The Action Figure Museum** which is the creation of Pauls Valley native Kevin Stark, action figure designer and artist. The museum houses Kevin's life collection of action figurines and is home to the Oklahoma Cartoonists Collection, which features artist and writers in the comics field from Oklahoma, such as Chester Gould the creator of Dick Tracy as well as Jack and Carole Bender, who currently work on Alley Oop. Our overnight this evening is in Oklahoma City. OK.

Day 4 – Oklahoma City OK – Arcadia OK – Catoosa OK – Nowata OK – Foyil OK – Adair OK – Big Cabin OK – Vinita OK

Today we travel a portion of Route 66 as we visit of the “Mother Road's” newest icons, **Pops**. A 66-foot neon pop bottle greets us as we arrive at this unique convenience store that has a soda flavor to fit everyone's tastes as the coolers are filled with over 400 varieties of sodas. After lunch we arrive in Nowata, OK to visit the **Glass House**, a turn-of-the-century, four story home of an early day resident, J. Wood Glass and his wife Eva Payne Glass the house is filled with original antiques and remains today the same as it was when Mrs. Glass died at the age of 101. Chris Barbee, of Nowata, has found a unique art form in bowling balls. We will be amazed and maybe amused with 80 feet of his **fence decorated with bowling balls** and bowling accessories. We continue our journey on Route 66 today to visit a unique landmark in Catoosa, **The Blue Whale**. This former water park remains open for photographing and picnicking and is one of a kind. In Foyil, OK we visit **Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park** to see the totem poles that Galloway spend his retirement years building as a monument to the American Indian. The centerpiece is a giant Totem Pole building which is supported by a concrete turtle. Next stop is a nutty place with a unique “crooked house”, the **Crooked Little House Pecan Orchard** offers a variety of pecans and other nuts, as well as candies, fudge, jams and jellies. As we come into Vinita for our overnight we will stop for a photo op at the **Chief Standing Brave** statue standing 46 feet tall that has greeted travelers on Route 66 for many years.



Day 5 – Vinita OK – West Mineral KS – Branson MO



Today we visit **Big Brutus** in West Mineral, KS. During the 60's and 70's this sixteen story electric earth moving machine worked around the clock mining coal. Today it stands as a landmark and museum to preserve the history of southeast Kansas' mining industry. Then we are on to Branson, Missouri known for its theaters and entertainment it is also home to **Ripley's Believe It or Not!** The building itself is an oddity. Looking like it has been in an earthquake it holds a collection of odd and amazing items that will amuse and astound us.

Overnight this evening in one of the many hotels that Branson has to offer.

Day 6 – Branson MO – Richland MO – Weldon Spring MO – St Louis MO

We depart Branson this morning and head to Richland, MO for lunch 100 feet down in an actual cave at **The Caveman Restaurant**. This afternoon near Weldon Spring, MO we visit the **Nuclear Waste Adventure Trail and Museum**. Nuclear and weapon production clean up created this huge mountain of radioactive waste that today is safe enough to visit with a museum that explains the process and how it all came about. Before we settle into our hotel for the evening we make a stop to see hundreds of shoes, made into a piece of art, which is none other than a large shoe. Overnight this evening in one of St Louis hotel properties.



Day 7 – St Louis MO – Excelsior Springs MO – St Joseph MO



Today we will quench our thirst at **The Hall of Waters** in Excelsior Springs, MO. Built in 1937 as a health resort which offered bath houses, a spa, therapy pools, and the World's Largest Water Bar where different mineral waters could be purchased for healing purposes. Next, on today's agenda is **The Glore Psychiatric Museum** in St Joseph, MO. Once known as the State Lunatic Asylum this building now houses exhibits that tell how our knowledge and treatment of mental illness has changed over the years. Enjoy dinner and overnight in St Joseph, MO.



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Day 1 – Goodland KS – Lucas KS – Cawker City KS – Salina KS

9:00 am – VanGough Sunflower Reproduction

9:30 am – Depart Goodland

Note time change from Mountain to Central

12:00 pm – Photo Op at the World's Largest Souvenir Plate – Lucas KS

Lunch in Lucas KS

1:45 pm – Garden of Eden – Lucas KS

3:00 pm – Depart Lucas

4:15 pm – World's Largest Ball of Twine – Cawker City KS

4:45 pm – Depart

6:30 pm – Arrive Salina KS for dinner and overnight

Day 2 – Salina KS – Nickerson KS – Wichita KS – Wakita OK – Enid OK

8:00 am – Depart hotel

9:15 am – Arrive Hedrick's Exotic Farm – Nickerson KS

10:15 am – Depart

11:30 – Lunch in Wichita KS

3:00 pm – Twister Museum – Wakita OK

4:00 pm – Depart

5:00 pm – Arrive Simpson's Mercantile for Dinner – Enid OK

6:30 pm – depart and check into hotel for the evening

Day 3 – Enid OK – Guthrie OK – Pauls Valley OK – Oklahoma City OK

8:30 am – Depart Enid

10:00 am – Frontier Drug Store Museum – Guthrie OK

11:00 am – Lunch and shopping Guthrie

1:00 pm – Depart

2:30 pm – Action Figure Museum – Pauls Valley OK

3:30 pm – Depart

4:30 pm – Arrive Oklahoma City for overnight

Day 4 – Oklahoma City OK – Arcadia OK – Catoosa OK – Nowata OK – Foyil OK – Adair OK – Big Cabin OK – Vinita OK

8:00 am – Depart Oklahoma City
8:30 am – Pops – Arcadia OK
9:00 am – Depart
10:30 am – Blue Whale – Catoosa OK
11:00 am – Depart
12:00 noon – Lunch – Nowata OK
1:15 pm - The Glass House – Nowata OK
2:15 pm – Depart
2:30 pm – Bowling Ball Fence – Nowata
2:45 pm – Depart
3:45 pm – Totem Pole Park – Foyil OK
4:30 pm – depart
4:45 pm – Crooked House – Adair OK
5:30 pm – Depart
5:45 pm – Photo Op - Indian Chief – Big Cabin OK
6:30 pm – Arrive Vinita OK for overnight

Day 5 – Vinita OK – West Mineral KS – Branson MO

8:00 am – Depart Hotel
9:30 am – Big Brutus – West Mineral KS
10:30 am – Depart
Lunch Springfield MO Area
2:00 pm – Ripley’s Believe It Or Not Museums – Branson MO
3:00 pm – Overnight Branson MO

Day 6 – Branson MO – Richland MO – Weldon Spring MO – St Louis MO

10:00 am – Depart
11:30 am – Caveman Restaurant – Richland MO
12:30 pm – Depart
3:00 pm – Nuclear Waste Adventure Trail and Museum – Weldon Spring MO
4:00 pm – Depart
4:30 pm – Big Shoe - Clayton MO
3:30 pm – Depart
4:00 pm – Overnight St Louis MO

Day 7 – St Louis MO – Excelsior Springs MO – St Joseph MO

8:00 am – Depart hotel
Lunch
1:30 pm – Hall of Waters – Excelsior Springs MO
2:30 pm – Depart
3:30 pm – Glore Psychiatric Museum – St Joseph MO
4:30 pm – Depart
Overnight St Joseph MO