



Grand Central USA's Pioneering Spirit

Day 1 – St Louis – St Charles MO



We begin this morning with a visit to **Gateway Arch** in St. Louis and visit the **Odyssey Theatre** for a larger than life glimpse of Lewis and Clark's Great Journey West and visit the **Museum of Westward Expansion** which preserves rare artifacts from the days of Lewis and Clark along with exhibits of early day pioneers who helped shape the history of the American West. We depart St Louis and arrive in Saint Charles for lunch before a guide in period dress joins us for a **city tour** of this historic town located on the banks of the Missouri River. It was here in 1804 where Lewis and Clark met to begin their westward expedition. We'll take time to stop at the **Lewis & Clark Boat House and Nature Center** which houses several full-scale replicas of the boats used by Lewis & Clark. The museum above the boats includes a diorama illustrating the highlights of the expedition along with Native American displays. Enjoy dinner at one of St. Charles many restaurants before settling into a hotel for the evening.

Day 2 – St Charles MO – St Joseph MO

Depart St. Charles this morning and travel west to St Joseph, MO where the Pony Express began. This afternoon we'll start with a guided tour of the **Pony Express National Museum** before visiting the **Patee House**, a luxury hotel, which served as the Pony Express Headquarters from 1860 to 1861. Enjoy dinner at one of St Joseph's many restaurants before checking into one of St. Joseph's hotels for the evening.



Day 3 – St Joseph MO – Independence MO – Kansas City MO – Olathe KS

After breakfast depart St. Joseph and travel to Independence, MO where we can relive a saga of American history at the **National Frontier Trails Museum**. Hear stories of

traders who made fortunes by crossing the plains and families who traveled the western trails. This afternoon we arrive in Kansas City at 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



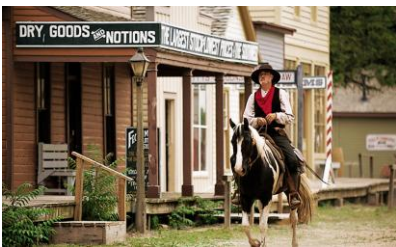
among the cargo that the Arabia had on board. Then continue to Olathe, Kansas where we'll stop at the **Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Historic Site**. This is the last remaining stagecoach stop along the Santa Fe Trail that is open to the public. See the Mahaffie family home and stagecoach stop, a two story icehouse, and a wooden peg barn. Overnight this evening in Olathe, KS.

Day 4 – Olathe KS – Topeka KS – Council Grove KS – Wichita KS

After breakfast we depart Olathe and travel to Topeka the Capitol of Kansas to visit the **Kansas History Museum**. Explore exhibits that present Kansas history from the Civil War, Native American heritage, railroads, to fast food. Be sure to see the 1880 locomotive and a full sized Cheyenne tipi while touring the museum. We depart Topeka and head to Council Grove, KS where we will enjoy lunch at **Hays House** one of the oldest continuously operating restaurants west of the Mississippi. After lunch we are in for an adventure that will be sure to take us back to pioneer days as the **County Boys Carriage and Prairie Adventures** takes us on a Covered Wagon adventure thru the Kansas Flint Hills. Our evening meal and overnight will be in Wichita, KS tonight.



Day 5 – Wichita KS – Dodge City KS



Enjoy a leisurely morning at the hotel before departing for Wichita's **Old Cowtown Museum**. Here we visit a living history museum where costumed interpreters tell us of life during the mid 1800's as we walk thru the frontier town at Old Cowtown. After lunch we travel west to Dodge City where the west began. Step back in time with a walk down the boardwalk of Front Street at the **Boot Hill Museum**. Located on the original site of

Boot Hill Cemetery in downtown Dodge City, this museum interprets life in the 19th century through exhibits and a reconstruction of Dodge City in 1876. During the summer you can take a **stagecoach ride** thru downtown then go to the **Long Branch** for a **Chuckwagon dinner and gunfight re-enactment**. Our overnight will be in Dodge City, KS this evening

Day 6 – Dodge City KS – Ponca City OK

We depart Dodge City this morning and head to Oklahoma where we will enjoy lunch and a tour of **Marland Mansion**. Known as the “Palace on the Prairie” oil baron E.W. Marland built this magnificent home in the mid 1920’s at a cost of \$5.5 million. As we tour the home you will enjoy the fine details such as Waterford crystal chandeliers, gold leaf covered ceilings, an elevator lined in buffalo skin, and much more. Hear the story of how Marland’s adopted daughter Lydie became his second wife and learn about the rise and fall of the Marland Oil Company. Then visit the **Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue**. The 30-foot bronze of a young, sun bonneted pioneer women leading her son by the hand was dedicated in 1930 to all pioneer women of the United States in appreciation of their heroic character that contributed so much to the development of our country. Check into one of Ponca City’s hotels for the evening.



Day 7 – Ponca City OK – Oklahoma City OK

After breakfast we depart Ponca City and travel to Oklahoma City where our first stop will be at the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**. Enjoy a guided or self guided tour thru the museum and see works by master artists such as Charles Russell, Frederic Remington and Albert Bierstadt. The museum complex also contains Prosperity Junction a turn-of-the-century Western town, a gallery dedicated to the western performers, a gallery honoring the American Cowboy, and a gallery focusing on Rodeos. Enjoy lunch at Persimmon Hill before departing the museum. This afternoon we visit the **Oklahoma History Center**. As we enter the Oklahoma History Center we are presented with a spectacular view of the Oklahoma State Capitol and a replica of Wiley Post’s Winnie Mae hanging overhead. As we visit the different galleries we find Smithsonian quality exhibits that share the spirit and adventurous history and heritage of Oklahoma.



Next, we visit **Harn Homestead** which sits on a portion of land run property owned by William Harn, a claims adjuster after the Oklahoma Land Run of 1889. Tour the home built in 1904 and other historical buildings that present how live was in Territorial Oklahoma. Oklahoma City has many restaurants to choose from for dinner before settling into a hotel for the evening.

Day 8 – Oklahoma City OK – Ft Smith AR – Little Rock AR

We depart Oklahoma City and travel east on I-40 to the **Ft. Smith Historical Site** to see the restored courtroom of the famed “Hangin’ Judge Parker,” it is here that he presided for 21 years as U.S. District Judge. See the frontier jail named “Hell on the Border,” and see the original Commissary building which was a



major military supply in the 1850's. Then enjoy lunch in Ft. Smith before continuing on to Little Rock the capitol of Arkansas for our overnight.

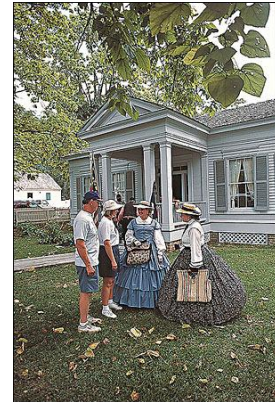
Day 9 – Little Rock AR – Stuttgart AR – Gillette AR – Pine Bluff AR



This morning we visit the **Historic Arkansas Museum** where we will see the oldest home still standing in Little Rock and the site where William Woodruff once printed the Arkansas Gazette. We depart Little Rock for Stuttgart, AR to learn about farming, crop dusting, and rice milling as we visit the **Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie**. In Gillette, AR we visit the **Arkansas Post National Memorial** that gives honor to the Post which was an important part of history for the French, Spanish, American and Confederate military. Our overnight this evening is in Pine Bluff, AR.

Day 10 – Pine Bluff AR – Washington AR

After breakfast a local guide will join the group for a driving tour of **Pine Bluff's Downtown Murals** where thirteen murals tell the history of Pine Bluff. Then we are off to **Historic Washington State Park**, a National Historical Landmark, which contains over 30 historic structures that represent the town of Washington as it was from 1824 to 1900. Visit with the guides in period costume, ride a surrey around town, and explore the collections of antiques as you visit Washington State Park the last stop on this journey thru Grand Central USA! which has brought the Pioneering Spirit of our forefathers alive.





Grand Central USA's Pioneering Spirit

Day 1 – St Louis – St Charles MO

10:00 am – Museum of West Expansion – St Louis
11:30 am – Depart for St Charles
Noon – Arrive St Charles – Lunch on own
1:30 pm – Tour of St Charles with step on guide
2:30 pm – Capitol tour
3:30 pm – Depart
3:45 pm – Lewis & Clark Center
4:45 pm – Depart
5:15 pm – Check into hotel – St Charles
Dinner TBD

Day 2 – St Charles MO – St Joseph MO

8:00 am – Depart St Charles
Lunch enroute
2:00 pm – Pony Express Museum – St Joseph MO
3:00 pm – Depart
3:15 pm – Patee House
4:45 pm – Depart
5:15 pm – Check into hotel
Dinner TBD

Day 3 – St Joseph MO – Independence MO – Kansas City MO – Olathe KS

9:00 am – Depart St Joseph
10:00 am – National Frontier Trails Museum
11:00 am – Depart
Lunch
1:00 pm – Arabia Steamboat Museum
3:00 pm – Depart
3:30 pm – Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop
5:00 pm – Depart
5:30 pm – Check into hotel – Olathe KS

Day 4 – Olathe KS – Topeka KS – Council Grove KS – Wichita KS

8:00 am – Depart
9:00 am – Kansas History Museum – Topeka KS
10:15 am – Depart
11:45 am – Lunch included at Hays House – Council Grove KS
1:00 pm – Depart
2:00 pm – Country Boys Carriage and Prairie Adventures
5:30 pm – Depart
6:00 pm – Arrive Wichita – Check into hotel

Day 5 – Wichita KS – Dodge City KS

10:00 am – Old Cowtown Museum
1:00 pm – Depart Wichita
4:00 pm – Arrive Boothill Museum – Dodge City
Evening in summer months at Boothill include: Gunfights, Saloon Show, Chuckwagon
Dinner

Day 6 – Dodge City KS – Ponca City OK

8:00 am – Depart Dodge City
12:30 pm – Arrive Ponca City – Lunch & Tour at Marland Mansion
3:30 pm – Depart
3:45 pm – Pioneer Woman Museum & Statue
5:00 pm – Depart
5:30 pm – Check into hotel – Ponca City

Day 7 – Ponca City OK – Oklahoma City OK

8:00 am – Depart
10:00 am – National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center – Oklahoma City
11:30 am – Lunch at Persimmon Hill
12:30 pm – Depart
1:00 pm – Oklahoma History Center
2:30 pm – Depart
3:00 pm - Harn Homestead
4:00 pm – Depart
4:30 pm – Check into hotel – Oklahoma City
Dinner TBD

Day 8 – Oklahoma City OK – Ft Smith AR – Little Rock AR

8:00 am – Depart OKC
11:00 am – Ft Smith National Historic Site
12:30 pm – Depart
Lunch in Ft Smith
2:00 pm – Depart
4:30 pm – Arrive Little Rock AR – check into hotel
Dinner – TBD

Day 9 – Little Rock AR – Stuttgart AR – Gillette AR – Pine Bluff AR

9:00 am – Historic Arkansas Museum

10:30 am – Depart

11:30 am – Arrive Stuttgart AR – Lunch on own

1:00 pm – Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie – Stuttgart AR

2:00 pm – Depart

3:00 pm – Arkansas Post National Memorial – Gillette AR

4:00 pm – Depart

5:30 pm – Arrive Pine Bluff AR for overnight

Day 10 – Pine Bluff AR – Washington AR

8:00 am – Pine Bluff Mural tour with guide

9:30 am – Depart Pine Bluff

Noon – Arrive Washington AR – lunch on own

1:30 pm – Historic Washington State Park