Flint Hills • Frontier Military • Glacial Hills • Gypsum Hills • Native Stone • Post Rock

BYWAYS OF KANSAS

Prairie Trail • Route 66 • Smoky Valley • Western Vistas • Wetlands & Wildlife
Kansas

Western Vistas
Smoky Valley
Wetlands & Wildlife
Gypsum Hills
Post Rock
Prairie Trail
Glacial Hills
Native Stone
Flint Hills
Frontier Military
Route 66

Legend:
- Flint Hills (pg. 2)
- Gypsum Hills (pg. 8)
- Prairie Trail (pg. 14)
- Glacial Hills (pg. 6)
- Post Rock (pg. 12)
- Western Vistas (pg. 20)
- Frontier Military (pg. 4)
- Native Stone (pg. 10)
- Wetlands & Wildlife (pg. 22)
- Smoky Valley (pg. 18)
- Route 66 (pg. 16)
Like apple pie and pioneers, there’s something so American about taking to the road and exploring new places. We share a sense of adventure and freedom meandering through historic settings, undisturbed nature and welcoming towns. Traveling byways take us off the charts – and into a fresh reality. Kansas is home to 11 byways, two of which are officially designated National Scenic Byways. In each of them, you’ll discover stories better than fiction.

Besides exploring breathtaking natural surroundings, you’ll be sharing celebrations and festivals, spotting wildlife, and learning about uniquely Kansas lifestyles. This book offers glimpses into each of our matchless byways, along with maps and suggestions on what to see. We look forward to seeing you on the road!
Across the Grassland Sea

With its sweeping grasses and tawny limestone bluffs, the Flint Hills just might be the most famed landscape in Kansas. It’s certainly the most revered, as the area represents the largest remaining tract of tallgrass prairie in North America.

Kaw Mission State Historic Site
– Council Grove
The Kaw Mission served as home and school to 30 Kaw boys from 1851 to 1854. It stands as a tribute to the Kaw (or Kansa) Indians, who gave our state its name. They lived in the Neosho Valley when, despite an impassioned plea by Chief Allegawaho, the U.S. government relocated the Kaw to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve
– Strong City
The 10,894-acre reserve is an amazing combination of unspoiled prairie grasses and subtly hued wildflowers. The rare, rich biome boasts more than 400 species of plants, 40 species of grasses, 200 species of birds, 30 types of mammals, plus reptiles and amphibians.
The endless vistas have remained unchanged for thousands of years, while a variety of people, plants and wildlife have called the Flint Hills home. The Plains Indians once lived here and used the flintlike chert they found for tools and weapons. These days, residents of the Flint Hills include: red-tailed hawks, cottontail rabbits, fox, coyote and the occasional massasauga rattlesnake.

History abounds in Council Grove – the northernmost point of the byway. Explore the Kaw Mission State Historic Site, Council Oak and the Cowboy Jail. Further south is the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and its late-1800s, native-stone ranch house and three-story barn, plus the 1882 Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse. Down in Cottonwood Falls, you’ll find the Chase County Courthouse, two museums and the historic Cottonwood River Bridge.

**W I L D F L O W E R S**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cobaea Beardtongue</th>
<th>Carolina Anemone</th>
<th>Blue Wild Indigo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Penstemon cobaea</em></td>
<td><em>Anemone caroliniana</em></td>
<td><em>Baptisia australis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-June</td>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>May-June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Frontier Military

Marching Through History

The Frontier Military Historic Byway offers a journey through Kansas’ pre-Civil War history. The byway extends roughly 167 miles, linking Fort Leavenworth in the north to Fort Scott and, finally, former-cowtown Baxter Springs in the south.

Fort Leavenworth
– Leavenworth
Established in 1827, Fort Leavenworth is the oldest fort in continuous operation west of the Mississippi River. It was originally opened to protect fur trade, safeguard commerce and maintain peace among the region’s residents and westbound travelers. Visit the Frontier Army Museum, the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery and the Buffalo Soldier Memorial – a tribute to the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry Regiments, made up of black soldiers.

Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site
– Pleasanton
Walk the actual battlefield and creek banks to learn more about one of the largest cavalry battles in the Civil War. Prairie and timber trails are flanked by interpretive signs. A welcoming visitor center features displays on the Battle at Mine Creek, the Price Campaign of 1864 and other aspects of the Civil War.

Points of Interest

- Frontier Army Museum, Fort Leavenworth
- Fort Scott National Historic Site, Fort Scott
- Baxter Springs Heritage Center, Baxter Springs
- Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm State Historic Site, Olathe
- Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial Amphitheater, Pittsburg

Festivals & Events

- Little Balkans Days, Pittsburg (Labor Day Weekend)
- Frontier Day, Fort Scott (October)
- Spinach Festival, Lenexa (September)
- Cider Fest, La Cygne (September/October)
- Wild West Show & Bullwhacker Days, Olathe (September)
A drive along the byway traces the 1800s military trail used to transport troops and supplies between frontier forts. Fort histories detail the stories of Army efforts to protect westbound pioneers and events leading up to the Civil War. You'll encounter a number of important historic and cultural attractions along the way, including Fort Blair in Baxter Springs, Merriam Historic Plaza, the Cato School in Arcadia, Lansing Historical Museum, and much more. But there are also plenty of outdoor settings to enjoy, from county and city parks to acres of wildflowers and lush prairie grasses.

**Wildflowers**

- **Rose Verbena**  
  *Glandularia canadensis*  
  May-June

- **Prairie Groundsel**  
  *Packera plattensis*  
  April-June

- **Lead Plant**  
  *Amorpha canescens*  
  June-August
**Glacial Hills**

**The Pioneering Spirit**

Glaciers in Kansas? Obviously not any more, but during the last Ice Age, thousands of years ago, Kansas was covered by gigantic glaciers. As the formations advanced and retreated, they carved out the gorgeous rolling hills and rock-strewn valleys that we see today.

---

**Lewis and Clark Trail**

– Atchison, Leavenworth and White Cloud

The Lewis & Clark Expedition is one of America’s greatest adventure stories, inspiring many to follow the famous trail the explorers forged. Visit informative kiosks, historic highway markers and special sites along the route.

---

**Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum**

– Atchison

Overlooking the Missouri River bluffs, this is the birthplace of the internationally famed aviatrix. See family heirlooms, historic photos, turn-of-the-century antiques, special exhibits and more at this award-winning museum.

---

**SCENIC PLACES**

- Amelia Earhart Earthwork at Warnock Lake, Atchison
- Four-State Lookout, White Cloud
- Independence Park, Atchison
- Leavenworth Landing Park, Leavenworth

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- C.W. Parker Carousel Museum, Leavenworth
- Carroll Mansion, Leavenworth
- Lincoln Monument, Troy
- Santa Fe Depot, Atchison
- Tall Oaks Indian Monument, Troy

**FESTIVALS & EVENTS**

- Amelia Earhart Festival, Atchison (July)
- Buffalo Bill Days Festival, Leavenworth (September)
- Oktoberfest, Atchison (October)
- Pioneer Days, Troy (September)
- White Cloud Flea Market, White Cloud (Spring and Fall)
The receding glaciers also left behind some of the most farmable and fertile land in the state, which attracted farmers and settlers from back east and across the seas. Perhaps the most famous people to pass through were the explorers Lewis and Clark. On July 4, 1804, their expedition made camp and celebrated Independence Day in the area now known as Atchison.

Several other people who helped shape American history have been a part of this region. Abraham Lincoln practiced his renowned Cooper Union Address in 1859 in Atchison, Doniphan and Leavenworth Counties. Amelia Earhart’s childhood home is also found on this byway. Today, Kansas-born crop artist and muralist Stan Herd maintains a 42,000-square-foot, living earthworks image of Earhart, in Atchison, “painted” with grasses, soil and stone.

**Wildflowers**

- **Pitcher Sage** *Salvia azurea* July-October
- **Rosinweed** *Silphium integrifolium* July-September
- **Stiff Goldenrod** *Solidago rigida* August-October
Gypsum Hills

A Colorful Heritage
Named for the landscape’s underlying layers of gypsum, this unique byway boasts an incredible variety of geographic features. Also known as the Red Hills, the area is marked by flat mesas, deep canyons, sharp high hills and caprock formations, all within a 42-mile drive.

Lake Coldwater
– Coldwater
The only southwest Kansas waterway welcoming water sports, Lake Coldwater is a 250-acre lake nestled in a 930-acre park. Visitors enjoy ample facilities and opportunities for bird watching, boating, camping, fishing, hiking and swimming.

Carry A. Nation Home & Stockade Museum
– Medicine Lodge
A forceful promoter of the anti-alcohol Temperance Movement, Carrie Nation launched her saloon-smashing crusade while living in Medicine Lodge in 1900. Her home – plus, a nearby replica stockade and an 1877 cabin – provide displays of historical artifacts. Nation’s house is a National Historic Landmark.

SCENIC PLACES
- Barber State Fishing Lake, Medicine Lodge
- Flower Pot Mound, Medicine Lodge
- Red Cedar Nature Trail, Barber County Lake, Medicine Lodge
- Scenic Byway Overlook and Turn Out, Medicine Lodge
- Twin Peaks, Medicine Lodge

POINTS OF INTEREST
- Comanche County Historical Museum, Coldwater
- Heritage Memorial Park, Coldwater
- Stan Herd Murals, Coldwater & Wilmore
- Memorial Peace Park, Medicine Lodge
- Wisner Memorial Fountain, Medicine Lodge

FESTIVALS & EVENTS
- Gypsum Hills Trail Rides, Medicine Lodge
- Barber County Wildflower Tour, Medicine Lodge (May)
- Indian Summer Days, Medicine Lodge (September)
- Kansas Championship Ranch Rodeo, Medicine Lodge (September)
- Peace Treaty Pageant, Medicine Lodge (Fall, every 3-5 years)
The Gypsum Hills blush with spring and summer wildflowers, providing blankets of color to complement the region’s red soil, mixed green prairie grasses and dark cedar breaks. The hills are also home to a variety of wildlife, including: deer, coyote, turkey, pheasant, quail and prairie chicken. You may even catch a glimpse of beaver, bobcat, porcupine and armadillo!

Yet, bison herds originally attracted people here. Prehistoric bands, Plains Indian tribes and Wild West marksmen came for the stellar hunting. Following the influx of pioneers, fifteen thousand Indians convened here in 1867 to sign peace treaties ensuring settler safety. Medicine Lodge commemorates the event with historical reenactments at the Peace Treaty Pageant.

**Wildflowers**

- **Compass Plant**
  *Silphium laciniatum*  July-September

- **Black Sampson Echinacea**
  *Echinacea angustifolia*  June-July

- **Indian Blanket Flower**
  *Gaillardia pulchella*  May-September
Native Stone

Built from Bedrock

Elements of nature – fire, rain, sun and wind – had a hand in sculpting this scenic byway. The limestone, for which the route is named, was formed from settled sediments of shallow seas that covered Kansas 80 million years ago.

1878 Sage Inn & Stagecoach Station
– Dover

Originally built in 1865, the Sage Inn opened its doors to travelers on the Southwest Trail, which connected the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. The inn was expanded to present-day size in 1878 to include a livery, a corral for horses and a blacksmith shop. Making regular stops at the inn, the stagecoach carried freight, mail and passengers westward.

The City of Native Stone
– Alma

Alma contains 26 historical native-stone structures built between the 1880s and 1930s. In fact, 98 percent of the business district is constructed with warm-toned limestone. Enjoy a walking or driving tour of the area and its architecture to see examples of the superior craftsmanship and patience of stonemasons from years past.

SCENIC PLACES
- Skyline-Mill Creek Scenic Drive
- Alma City Lake, Alma
- Echo Cliff Park, Dover
- Lake Wabaunsee, Wabaunsee County

POINTS OF INTEREST
- 1905 Henry Sump Barn, Alma
- Underground Railroad Sites, Alma & Kansas
- Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma
- Wabaunsee County Historical Museum, Alma
- Security State Bank & Waugh Law Office Building, Eskridge

FESTIVALS & EVENTS
- Native Stone Festival, Alma (May)
- Dover Heritage Days, Dover (June)
- Labor Day Rodeo, Eskridge (September)
- Fall German Meal, Alma (October)
- Veteran’s Day Celebration, Eskridge (November)
Today, you can see examples of limestone usage in the stone fences, barns, homes and buildings that dot the countryside. Alma, one of the communities along the byway, is actually called the City of Native Stone. Many of the limestone structures were built by pioneer stonemasons who hailed from Sweden and Germany. Of course, there are plenty of other cultural influences. Paleo-Indians harvested clams and mussels from the local creeks. Osage, Kansa, Shawnee and Potawatomi tribes lived here and enjoyed the remarkable views. Abolitionist immigrants from the Old Northwest Territory and New England came and voted to make Kansas free from slavery. These days, a cowboy spirit still lingers in the lifestyles of local farmers and ranchers.

**WILDFLOWERS**

- **Missouri Evening Primrose**
  *Oenothera macrocarpa*  May-July

- **Sweet Joe Pye Weed**
  *Eupatorium purpureum*  July-September

- **New England Aster**
  *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*  September-October
A Prairie Art Paradise

Sweeping around Wilson Lake and over the geological formations of the Saline River Valley, Post Rock Scenic Byway offers a picturesque pathway through postcard-perfect scenery. The endless sky and rolling hills have inspired generations of artists whose work is marked by broad vision and a uniquely Kansan perspective.

Garden of Eden

– Lucas

One of the world’s premiere grassroots arts landmarks, the Garden of Eden is a one-half-acre, cement sculpture garden created by Civil War veteran and visionary artist Samuel Dinsmoor. The sculptures grace the grounds around the artist’s cabin-style home built with hand-chiseled limestone “logs.”

Wilson Lake

– Russell County

Located in the heart of the Smoky Hills, this lake is considered by many to be the most beautiful in the state. It’s divided into two parts: Hell Creek and Otoe Park. Excellent fishing, hunting and hiking add to the area’s popularity.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Burr Oak Nature Trail, Wilson Lake
- Dakota Sandstone Rock Formations, Wilson Lake
- Lucas Mini-Park Mural, Lucas
- Overlook, Wilson Lake
- Red Cedar Trail, Wilson Lake
- Florence Deeble Rock Garden, Lucas
- Flying Pig Studio and Gallery, Lucas
- Grassroots Arts Center, Lucas
- Midland Railroad Hotel, Wilson
- Round Stone Jail, Wilson

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- Adam’s Apple Festival, Lucas (Labor Day Weekend)
- After-Harvest Czech Festival, Wilson (July)
- Oktoberfest, Wilson (October)
- Wilson Lake Area Association Poker Run, Wilson Lake (July)
- Wings Over Wilson, Wilson Lake (May)
Miles of stone fence posts stand as a tribute to the ingenuity of the early settlers. Facing a lack of trees, the innovative farmers and ranchers quarried, rock posts to fashion fences, which today have become a trademark of the Smoky Hills region. That creative essence certainly carried on, as the town of Lucas is considered the Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas. In town you'll find the Grassroots Art Center, Florence Deeble Rock Garden, Bowl Plaza as well as S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Near the town of Wilson is the Kansas Originals Market, where you can find hand-crafted, Kansas-made products. And throughout the entire byway you may encounter more than 225 species of birds, including waterfowl and bald eagles.

**Wildflowers**

- **Yucca**
  - Yucca glauca
  - May-June

- **Resinous Skullcap**
  - Scutellaria resinosa
  - May-July

- **Prairie Spiderwort**
  - Tradescantia occidentalis
  - May-August
A Trail of Adventure

Spanning 56 miles in north-central Kansas, Prairie Trail Scenic Byway has a little bit of everything. You’ll discover scenic, historic, natural, cultural, archeological and recreational sites and activities just about everywhere you turn.

### Points of Interest

- **Coronado Heights**
  - *Lindsborg*
  Located just outside Lindsborg, Coronado Heights was named after the legendary explorer who is believed to have passed through the area in the 1500s. You’ll encounter a castle, which affords breathtaking views of Lindsborg and the Smoky Valley.

- **Maxwell Wildlife Refuge**
  - *Canton*
  Explore 2,800 acres of native prairie and get to know the grassland biome through guided tours of buffalo herds. The refuge also features roaming elk, more than 100 species of birds and a bluebird trail.

### Scenic Places

- Kanopolis State Park, Marquette
- McPherson State Fishing Lake, Canton
- Millennium Legacy Trail, Kanopolis State Park
- Mushroom Rock State Park, Marquette
- Valkommen Trail, Lindsborg

### Points of Interest

- 1883 Pioneer Jail, Canton
- Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, Lindsborg
- Faris Caves, Marquette
- Kansas Motorcycle Museum, Marquette
- Old Mill Museum, Lindsborg

### Festivals & Events

- Fort Harker Days, Kanopolis (July)
- Millfest, Lindsborg (May)
- Midsummer’s Day Festival, Lindsborg (June)
- Prairie Days, Canton (June)
- Thunder on the Smoky, Marquette (May)
The byway begins in Canton, not far from where the Santa Fe and Chisholm Trails brought in travelers and cattle back in the 1800s. Canton is home to the Stars and Stripes Military Museum, an 1883 Pioneer Jail and the last Carnegie Library ever built in Kansas. Moving on, the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge spans 2,800 acres of native prairie and features guided tours to see roaming buffalo and elk. Prairie Trail meanders into Lindsborg, known as “Little Sweden U.S.A.,” where you’ll be greeted by four-foot-tall wooden Dala horses and discover a number of art galleries and museums. A must-see stop on the byway is the unique Mushroom Rock State Park, where you’ll find some of the most interesting rock formations in the state.

**WILDFLOWERS**

- **Common Sunflower**
  *Helianthus annuus*  July-September

- **Wild Four-O’Clock**
  *Mirabilis nyctaginea*  May-August

- **Ten-Petal Mentzelia**
  *Mentzelia decapetala*  July-September
Historic Mother Road

Get your kicks while driving the 13.2 miles of Historic Route 66 in Kansas. Relive the glory days of the Mother Road and drive over many of the original roadway structures, including the only remaining Marsh Arch Bridge on Route 66. Explore the mining, railroad, and Civil War history of the area.

4 Women on the Route
– Galena
Located in an old Kan-O-Tex service station on the north end of Main Street in Galena, this historic treasure sells sandwiches, snacks, antiques, and Route 66 items. Don’t forget to take your picture with the rusty old tow truck that inspired the character “Tow Mater” in the movie Cars.

Marsh Arch Bridge
– Baxter Springs
Drive over the last remaining Marsh’s Reinforced Arch Bridge, or Rainbow Bridge, on Route 66. Built in 1923, this bridge is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places after being saved and restored in 1992. Engineer James Marsh patented the unique bridge design in 1912. Of roughly 70 Rainbow Bridges erected in the Midwest, most were built in Kansas, where some still remain in use.

SCENIC PLACES
• Field of Dreams, Baxter Springs
• Hell’s Half Acre, Galena
• National Cemetery, Baxter Springs
• Schermerhorn Park, Galena
• Spring River, Riverton

POINTS OF INTEREST
• Baxter Springs Heritage Center and Museum, Baxter Springs
• Fort Blair, Baxter Springs
• Galena Mining Historical Museum, Galena
• Nelson’s Old Riverton Store, Riverton
• Route 66 Historic District, Galena

FESTIVALS & EVENTS
• Cowtown Days, Baxter Springs (August)
• Galena Days, Galena (June)
• Mother Road Marathon, Baxter Springs, Riverton, Galena (October)
• Octoberfest, Galena (October)
• Steel Guitar Rendezvous, Baxter Springs (October)
Route 66 is still going places. Found on the Ozark Plateau in the southeast corner of the state, the byway offers travelers opportunities to visit artifact collections, museums, murals and more. Take your picture with the tow truck that was the inspiration for the character “Tow Mater” from the Cars movie, then explore Schermerhorn Park and the Southeast Kansas Nature Center. Stop at Nelson’s Old Riverton Store – in what was once a 1920s, Route 66 gas station – for a bite to eat. Find out where Bonnie and Clyde committed crimes and how Fort Blair impacted the Civil War. While there are only 13.2 miles of Route 66 in Kansas, the sights and attractions along the way are as remarkable today as they were in their heyday.

**Wildflowers**

**Maximilian's Sunflower**
*Helianthus maximiliani*  August-September

**Purple Poppy Mallow**
*Callirhoe involucrata*  April-August

**Snow-on-the-Mountain**
*Euphorbia marginata*  June-October
Into the Valley

Named for their hazy appearance at sunrise and sunset, the Smoky Hills provide an interesting transition between the mixed-grass and short-grass prairie of the plains. Native wildflowers thrive in the region, including coneflowers, yucca and sky-blue pitcher sage.

Cedar Bluff State Park & Reservoir
– Trego County
A great place to camp, hike, fish, bird watch and boat. The reservoir hosts a number of fishing tournaments and other events throughout the year, including “Th’ Gatherin’” – a Celtic celebration with food, games and music.

Threshing Machine Canyon
– Cedar Bluff State Park
This historic site was the location of an 1867 Native American Indian attack on a wagon train, which was transporting a threshing machine to Salt Lake City. The remains of the machine could be seen for years.

Smoky Valley scenic byway

Points of Interest

- Emanuel Lutheran Church, Ogallah
- Kansas Veteran’s Cemetery, WaKeeney
- Trego County Courthouse, WaKeeney
- Trego County Historic Museum, WaKeeney
- Wilcox Schoolhouse, Trego County

Festivals & Events

- Christmas City of the High Plains, WaKeeney (December)
- Th’ Gatherin’, WaKeeney (May)
- Trego County Fair, WaKeeney (July)
- Wildflower Tours, WaKeeney (June)
Throughout the hills you’ll be greeted by a multitude of picturesque windmills. The area’s rich history is exemplified elsewhere too, from the limestone markers identifying the Butterfield Overland Despatch to the names carved into limestone bluffs, still legible after nearly two centuries. The croplands provide a panorama of vegetation, from the emerald green of winter wheat to the rich reds of milo. Smoky Hill chalk is known the world over for the fossils of swimming reptiles and other sea life that have been discovered in these deposits. At Cedar Bluff Reservoir, a trip to the top of the 100-foot-tall bluffs makes for a stunning view of the area below, and an ideal way to spot wildlife.

**Wildflowers**

**White Beardtongue**  
*Penstemon albidus*  May-July

**Scarlet Globe Mallow**  
*Sphaeralcea coccinea*  May-August

**Curly-Cup Gumweed**  
*Grindelia squarrosa*  June-September
Western Vistas

Fresh Perspective on the Past
You are invited on a 102-mile historic journey into what was once an ancient ocean. Discover breathtaking pinnacles of chalk rising above the plains, trace the trails of early pioneers and follow the road once traveled by buffalo hunters.

Buffalo Bill Sculpture
– Oakley
Oakley is the “Birthplace of the Legend” of Buffalo Bill. A twice-life-sized bronze sculpture honors William F. Cody, who won his title in a buffalo hunting contest with William Comstock in 1868 and later became world renowned for his “Wild West Show.”

Monument Rocks
– Gove County
Rising above the plains, you will find a series of large chalk formations, rich in fossils. These magnificent monoliths were created when chalk was deposited during the Cretaceous Period, approximately 80 million years ago. The region is known as the source of some of the best Cretaceous marine fossils that have been discovered anywhere in the world.

Points of Interest

- Butterfield Trail Museum, Russell Springs
- El Quarte lejo Museum and and the Jerry Thomas Gallery and Collection, Scott City
- Fick Fossil and History Museum, Oakley
- Fort Wallace Museum, Wallace
- Keystone Gallery, Scott City

Scenic Places

- Battle Canyon, Scott County
- Garden of the Gods, Logan County
- Lake Scott State Park, Scott County
- Mount Sunflower, Wallace County
- The Nature Conservancy, Logan County

Festivals & Events

- Buffalo Bill Days, Oakley (June)
- Butterfield Trail Ride, Russell Springs (June)
- Fort Wallace Rodeo, Wallace (May)
- Kansas State Cornhusking Contest, Oakley (October)
- Whimmydiddle Arts & Crafts Fair, Scott City (September)
The badlands of Western Kansas are visually breathtaking, with chalk towers rising above the plains. These vast, open plains provided herds of migrating bison rich grasslands for grazing and ample space for what would become known as “America’s Breadbasket.” The success of the region’s early farmers and ranchers helped draw additional immigrants from the East. They came on horseback, by wagon train and, eventually, by rail as Americans continued to explore their destiny in the West. The press of immigration soon began to intrude on the hunting grounds of tribes of America’s Plains Indians. This led to a series of battles and the establishment of several forts along the Smoky Valley Trail, including the “wildest Fort in Kansas” – Fort Wallace. This geographic area is world renowned for its fossil discoveries and fossils continue to be found today.

**WILD FLOWERS**

- **Stenosiphon**  
  *Stenosiphon linifolius*  
  July-September

- **Grayhead Prairie Coneflower**  
  *Ratibida pinnata*  
  June- August

- **Woolly Verbena**  
  *Verbena stricta*  
  June-September
Time to Fly

Stretching some 76 miles, the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway brings you up close and personal with the Central Flyway – North America’s most important bird migration route. It’s undoubtedly one of the most subtly beautiful, natural regions in the country.

Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

– Great Bend

Each year, Cheyenne Bottoms attracts anywhere from 45 to 90 percent of North America’s shorebirds during the spring and fall migrations. This 64-square-mile marsh is a surprising interruption of the prairie landscape, as well as a critical resting and feeding place for migrating birds.

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

– St. John

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is comprised of 22,135 acres of prairie grass, salt marshes, sand dunes, canals, dikes and timber. Little Salt Marsh and Big Salt Marsh are ancient basins that play host to more than 500,000 birds during spring migration. The refuge features a visitors center, as well as several hiking trails to bring you closer to nature.
The byway is anchored by two of the largest wetland systems in the world – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Preserve and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. These giant marshes host incredible numbers of sandhill cranes, avocets, pelicans, whooping cranes, sandpipers, ducks, geese and many more species bringing sound, motion and color to the inland marshes. In fact, many naturalists believe Cheyenne Bottoms is the most important migration stopover point in the Western hemisphere. Birds aren’t the only inhabitants you’ll encounter. The Bottoms is home to 23 species of mammals, 19 species of reptiles and nine species of amphibians. At the Refuge, the shallow water teems with crabs, crayfish and frogs. Nearby, in drier digs, prairie dogs are alert to coyotes, red foxes, bobcats and badgers.
### State & Federal Recreation Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State &amp; Federal Recreation Areas</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Byway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atchison State Fishing Lake &amp; Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(913) 367-7811</td>
<td>Glacial Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barber State Fishing Lake &amp; Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(620) 895-6446</td>
<td>Gypsum Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benedictine Bottoms Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(913) 367-7811</td>
<td>Glacial Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bourbon State Fishing Lake &amp; Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(620) 449-2539</td>
<td>Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Bluff State Park, Lake &amp; Wildlife Area*</td>
<td>(785) 726-3212</td>
<td>Smoky Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chase State Fishing Lake &amp; Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(620) 767-5900</td>
<td>Flint Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(620) 793-7730</td>
<td>Wetlands &amp; Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Grove Lake</td>
<td>(620) 767-5195</td>
<td>Flint Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Grove Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(620) 767-5900</td>
<td>Flint Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawford State Park</td>
<td>(620) 362-3671</td>
<td>Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsdale Lake</td>
<td>(913) 783-4366</td>
<td>Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsdale State Park &amp; Wildlife Area*</td>
<td>(913) 783-4507</td>
<td>Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanopolis Lake</td>
<td>(785) 546-2294</td>
<td>Prairie Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanopolis State Park</td>
<td>(785) 546-2565</td>
<td>Prairie Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Cygne Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(913) 352-8941</td>
<td>Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leavenworth State Fishing Lake &amp; Wildlife Area*</td>
<td>(913) 845-2665</td>
<td>Glacial Hills/Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(785) 726-3212</td>
<td>Western Vistas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisburg-Middle Creek State Fishing Lake &amp; Rutlader Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(913) 783-4507</td>
<td>Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>(913) 352-8956</td>
<td>Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(913) 352-8941</td>
<td>Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxwell Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>(620) 628-4592</td>
<td>Prairie Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McPherson State Fishing Lake</td>
<td>(620) 628-4592</td>
<td>Prairie Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mined Land Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(620) 431-0380</td>
<td>Frontier Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushroom Rock State Park</td>
<td>(785) 546-2565</td>
<td>Prairie Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quivira National Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>(620) 486-2393</td>
<td>Wetlands &amp; Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott State Park, Lake &amp; Wildlife Area*</td>
<td>(620) 872-2061</td>
<td>Western Vistas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoky Hill Wildlife Area</td>
<td>(785) 658-2465</td>
<td>Prairie Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve</td>
<td>(620) 273-8494</td>
<td>Flint Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Lake</td>
<td>(785) 658-2551</td>
<td>Post Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson State Park &amp; Wildlife Area*</td>
<td>(785) 658-2465</td>
<td>Post Rock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The wildlife areas within the state parks might not have some amenities. Please call for information.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fishing</th>
<th>Hunting</th>
<th>Full Utility</th>
<th>Electrical Only</th>
<th>Electric &amp; Water</th>
<th>Dump Station</th>
<th>Primitive Campl</th>
<th>Campground Comm</th>
<th>Reserveable Sites</th>
<th>Picnic Shelters</th>
<th>Model Nearby</th>
<th>Drinking Water</th>
<th>Trails</th>
<th>Equestrian Trails</th>
<th>Historic Features</th>
<th>Swimming Beach</th>
<th>Boating</th>
<th>Boat Rental</th>
<th>Marina</th>
<th>Boat Ramp Lanes</th>
<th>Courtesy Docks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Byway Etiquette

Kansas Byways are home to some of the great natural landscapes in the United States. Please help us preserve this beautiful land of flowers and native grasses and refrain from disrupting natural geological features. These magnificent lands are home to many Kansas residents who welcome you to their communities, shops and restaurants. Please respect their privacy by not straying onto private land, climbing fences or gates or photographing residents and their families. Stay out of the way of wild animals, and please help keep everyone safe by obeying posted speed limits and sharing the roadways with large vehicles.

Acknowledgments

This book has been funded in part by the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways Program through the Kansas Byways Program.

For more information on the Kansas Byways, visit www.ksbyways.org.

For hunting and fishing opportunities, visit www.outdoorks.com.

Contact Information

Kansas Department of Transportation
700 SW Harrison Street
Topeka, KS 66603-3754
800-684-6966
www.ksbyways.org

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
Topeka, KS 66612-1354
785-296-2009
www.TravelKS.com

Tour Kansas Byways by GPS

Now you can enjoy touring Kansas Byways from the comfort of your own car. Download a tour to your GPS or mobile devices by visiting ksbyways.org/gpstours. Media-rich content includes visual images, point-of-interest data, maps, GPS waypoints and tracks for guiding you through unique travel experiences along each byway.

Photo Credits

Bob Gress
Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau
Harland J. Schuster
Jerry Segraves

Mike Haddock, Kansas State University
Richard Smalley
Ted Eubanks