



**Cris Collier**  
Byway Marketing Coordinator  
Great Bend CVB  
P.O. Box 274  
3007 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530

P: 620-792-2750  
F: 620-792-7959  
cvb@visitgreatbend.com

[www.KansasByway.com](http://www.KansasByway.com)

**Barton County**  
Claffin  
Ellinwood  
Great Bend  
Hoisington

**Stafford County**  
Hudson  
Stafford  
St. John

**Byway Anchors**

Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area  
The Nature Conservancy  
Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve  
Quivira National Wildlife Refuge



## Prairie Surprise

Tour the Kansas Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway and discover something unexpected. Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge are international treasures nestled in the heart of America. What you discover here will change your view of Kansas.

### 1. Early Bird in Great Bend, Kansas.

Arrive early so you will have time to truly explore Great Bend. Take in the Birdhouse Art tour, vibrant downtown area, Raptor Center, and the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo. Get a copy of the [Great Bend itinerary](#) to help you plan your day. Grab breakfast and some coffee at Perks or Great Bend Coffee Company downtown on your way to the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms.

*(Insider's Tip: Great Bend Coffee is inside a historic Masonic Lodge. Look for the gargoyle heads.)*

### 2. Kansas Wetlands Education Center/Cheyenne Bottoms.

The crescent-shaped museum curves around the marsh, offering great wildlife viewing. Guided tours of Cheyenne Bottoms are available.

### 3. Hoisington, Kansas

Stroll down Main Street where award-winning, locally crafted metal art banners hang from the street lights. Stop at the Post Office for the WPA era mural inside, and the WPA constructed city auditorium with its impressive sundial. Hoisington sits in the Cheyenne Bottoms basin and the Nature Conservancy's Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve is only minutes away. (Buffalo wallows are still visible here.) (Insider's tip: Pick up a picnic lunch at Town & Country Market. Next door, pick up a cold Dairy Queen treat. Both businesses were destroyed in the 2001 F-5 tornado and are rebuilt.)

### 4. Cheyenne Bottoms Scenic Overlook

Stop here for a "bird's eye" view of Cheyenne Bottoms. From this vantage point it's easy to see the Cheyenne Bottoms is a giant 64 square mile depression in the prairie.

*(Insider's tip: Before you leave Great Bend, pick up a GPS tour and an audio tour CD. They will entertain and educate you as you travel the byway.)*



**Cris Collier**

Byway Marketing Coordinator  
Great Bend CVB  
P.O. Box 274  
3007 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530

P: 620-792-2750  
F: 620-792-7959  
cvb@visitgreatbend.com

[www.KansasByway.com](http://www.KansasByway.com)

**Barton County**

Clafin  
Ellinwood  
Great Bend  
Hoisington

**Stafford County**

Hudson  
Stafford  
St. John

**Byway Anchors**

Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area  
The Nature Conservancy  
Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve  
Quivira National Wildlife Refuge



**5. Ellinwood, Kansas.**

A tour of Ellinwood's Tunnels is a must. Built under that town buildings and sidewalks, the tunnels were home to a barber shop, a brewery, soiled doves, cowboys & gamblers. After the tour, shop in 7 downtown antique stores then enjoy supper at the American Legion in the town's Santa Fe Railroad station.

*(Insider's tip: Dozier's Vineyard & Winery just outside of Ellinwood has a beautiful picnic area and nature walk along with wine tasting & a retail store in a historic and allegedly haunted train depot.)*

**6. Quivira National Wildlife Refuge**

Stop at the Visitor's Center to get your bearings and find out what's on the marsh. The Big Salt Marsh Loop Drive is a perfect place to do some wildlife watching from your car and the Migrant's Mile and Birdhouse Boulevard trails will get you out and into the wetlands.

**7. St. John, Kansas.**

The town square is a real retreat and the perfect place for a picnic lunch. A 100 year old fountain, miniature Statue of Liberty, and beautiful buildings make this an interesting stop. Plan to stop at the historic Martin Cemetery south of town and prepare to learn about the history of the Exodusters in the area.

**8. Stafford, Kansas**

Plan for some late afternoon birding at Quivira or a visit to downtown Antique Mall. Enjoy coffee at The Gathering Place and a tour of the Stafford County Historical Society and Museums to see their outstanding collection of glass negatives and learn more about the post-Civil War African American exodusters. Consider an additional overnight in Stafford, Great Bend, or Hoisington for some extra time to explore the region.

**Discover More – The Byway Will Continue to Surprise You!**

- Start Your Day Right at **Granny's Kitchen** in Great Bend, Kansas - serves breakfast & lunch!
- Shop at **Kindscher's Mule Barn** - farm & home store in Hoisington, Kansas.
- See beautiful **WPA limestone bridges** near Clafin, Kansas.
- Enjoy Sunday brunch buffet at **Wheatland Café** in Hudson, Kansas.
- Got Flour? - Tour the **Stafford County Flour Mill** in St. John, Kansas.
- Vintage Neon - **Curtis Café** in Stafford, Kansas has a great sign.... And great pie!
- **Unique golf courses** in Ellinwood, Great Bend, & Stafford, Kansas!