



## GRAND CENTRAL USA! Gardens Galore

### Day 1 – El Dorado AR – Camden AR – Hot Springs AR

We begin today in El Dorado, Arkansas at the **South Arkansas Arboretum State Park**



for a tour thru the park full of walking trails and native flora. In March, Camden, AR is thriving with daffodils spreading over many acres of four large daffodil gardens. Check the calendar for special events during **Camden’s Daffodil Festival**. Also, ask about arranging a tour of private gardens in the area for your group. After departing Camden we continue north to Hot Springs, AR for our overnight.

### Day 2 – Hot Springs AR

After breakfast at the hotel we depart for **Garvan Woodland Gardens**. Located on a peninsula of Lake Hamilton the gardens showcase floral landscapes, streams and waterfalls along with a natural woodland setting. After lunch tour **Hot Springs National Park** the smallest and oldest park in the National Park System. The area was federally protected in 1932 to protect the 47 natural thermal springs on the southwestern slope of Hot Springs Mountain. Explore Bathhouse Row and tour Fordyce Bathhouse to learn more about the history of the area. Overnight a second night in Hot Springs, AR.



### Day 3 – Hot Springs – Fayetteville – Bentonville AR

We depart Hot Springs this morning and head to Fayetteville, AR where we visit **The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks** this afternoon. Here we find beautiful themed gardens and a unique timber-framed Totemeier Horticulture Center. In Bentonville, AR we find **Compton Gardens** with 6.5 acres of native plants, state champion trees, streams, bridges and walking trails. Then visit **Peel Mansion’s Heritage Gardens** with heirloom roses, perennials and native plants. After walking thru the gardens tour the mansion built in 1875



by Col. Samuel West Peel. Enjoy dinner at one of Bentonville's restaurants before checking into a hotel of your choice for the evening.

#### **Day 4 – Bentonville AR – St Louis MO**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing Bentonville for St. Louis, MO. This afternoon we arrive at the **Missouri Botanical Garden** one of the top three botanical gardens in the world. Time to rest our feet and relax as we take a narrated tram tour thru the various themed gardens before we visit the Climatron, one of the first geodesic dome conservatories built in the US. Next stop **Citygarden**, an oasis in the City with multi-dimensional appeal — marrying art and nature, stone and water, architecture and design. It features fountains and pools, a waterfall, places to sit and even stretch out, and a café. No walls or fences surround it. Admission is free. Dinner and overnight is in St. Louis, MO this evening.



#### **Day 5 – St Louis MO – Fulton MO – Kingsville MO – Overland Park KS**

This morning we head west to Fulton, MO and the **Sculpture Garden at Gladys Woods Kemper Center for the Arts** at Woods University. This massive sculpture garden was created by California sculptor Will Nettleship. The sculpture garden creates a walkway and twists down a hill with benches to allow us to sit and enjoy the beauty of the campus. This afternoon we visit **Powell Gardens** in Kingsville, MO. This botanical garden is full of color and beauty no matter what time of year you visit. An interactive fountain in the garden brings a cool reprieve in the summertime as the fountain's changing water patterns dance amid a backdrop of colorful paintings. Tonight our dinner and overnight is in Overland Park, KS.



#### **Day 6 – Overland Park KS - Topeka KS – Emporia KS**

After breakfast at the hotel we are off to **Overland Park's Arboretum and Botanical Garden** which was developed as an educational, recreational and cultural resource for the area. We depart Overland Park and travel west to Topeka, Kansas where we are in for a fragrant experience as we arrive at the **Ingwerson Lavender Farm** located on the bluffs of the Kansas River. Daylilies and iris are in abundance at the **Toad Hollow Daylily & Iris Farm** in Emporia, KS. With over 300 varieties of iris this English style garden is an array of amazing colors. Enjoy dinner at one of Emporia's restaurants before checking into a hotel for the evening.



### Day 7 – Emporia KS – Hutchinson KS - Wichita KS

This morning we will travel to Hutchinson, Kansas and **Dillon Nature Center**. The center has more than 3 miles of nature trails winding thru native prairie, woods, marsh and ponds. The area is a discovery center of native plants and wildlife. After lunch travel to Wichita to visit **Botanica, The Wichita Gardens**. Visit Botanica's Butterfly House and walk among hundreds of butterflies then visit the Shakespeare Garden or the Rose and Wildflower Garden. This evening's meal and overnight is in Wichita, KS.



### Day 8 – Wichita KS – Shidler OK – Tulsa OK

After breakfast we say goodbye to Kansas and hello to Oklahoma as we travel to **Biven Gardens** in Shidler, OK. What began as a landscaped flower garden is now six acres of flower beds, trees, shrubs, and ornamental ponds. In Tulsa, we visit **Linnaeus Teaching Garden** designed to teach the homeowner what could be done in their backyard. A short stroll from the Linnaeus Teaching Garden is the **Tulsa Municipal Rose Garden** with more than 3,000 rose plants and more than 200 varieties of roses. Take a guided tour to hear the history of the Rose Garden. With many hotels to choose from Tulsa is our home this evening with dinner at a restaurant of our choice.



### Day 8 – Tulsa OK – Oklahoma City OK



After breakfast at the hotel we travel to Oklahoma City for a guided tour of the **Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden** this afternoon. The zoo features natural settings for many of the animals which brings us a variety of landscapes to experience. The zoo also hosts a butterfly garden which is a color extravaganza with more than 15,000 plants fashioned to sustain the life cycle of a butterfly. Enjoy dinner at one of Oklahoma City's many restaurants before settling into a hotel for the evening.

### Day 9 – Oklahoma City – Carnegie OK – Lawton OK – Oklahoma City OK

This morning we head to Carnegie for a tour of **Horn Canna Farm**. Horn is one of the world's largest exclusive canna growers featuring 28 varieties of cannas on 130 acres. The farm can be viewed during blooming season which begins in July and continues until the first of October when the bulbs are harvested and prepared for shipping. We continue to the Lawton area and visit **Dream Valley Farm** to tour their



computerized greenhouse and hear about the process of growing and manufacturing aloe vera. Then visit **Cosmetic Specialty Labs** to learn about the line of cosmetics manufactured with the aloe vera juice and the health benefits of aloe vera. Now it is time to return to Oklahoma City for dinner and our overnight.

### **Day 10 – Oklahoma City**



This morning we depart the hotel and head downtown Oklahoma City to the **Myriad Botanical Gardens**. **The Crystal Bridge**, a tropical conservatory, is the showpiece of the Myriad Botanical Gardens. The Crystal Bridge is home to exotic plants from around the world and takes us from the rainforest to a desert setting. A tour of the Crystal Bridge gives us a unique view of the garden as we walk behind the waterfall and also walk among the tree tops as we view the garden from the catwalk high up in the trees. It is now time to return home with memories of the many gardens we have visited in **Grand Central USA!**



## **GRAND CENTRAL USA! Garden Tours**

### **Day 1 – El Dorado AR – Camden AR – Hot Springs AR**

10:00 am – South Arkansas Arboretum State Park – El Dorado AR

11:00 am – Depart

Noon – lunch on own in Camden followed with private garden tours and Daffodil Festival

4:00 pm – Depart

6:00 pm – Arrive Hot Springs for overnight

### **Day 2 – Hot Springs AR**

Bkft at hotel

9:00 am – Garvan Woodland Gardens

11:00 am – Depart

Lunch on own downtown Hot Springs

12:30 pm – Guided Tour of Hot Springs National Park

Overnight and Dinner in Hot Springs

### **Day 3 – Hot Springs – Fayetteville – Bentonville AR**

8:00 am- depart Hot Springs

11:30 am – Arrive Fayetteville – lunch

1:00 pm - Botanical Garden of the Ozarks

2:00 pm – Depart

3:00 pm – Compton Gardens & Peel House & Gardens

5:00 pm – Check into hotel – Bentonville AR

### **Day 4 – Bentonville AR – St Louis MO**

8:00 am – Depart hotel

Lunch enroute

2:30 pm – Missouri Botanical Gardens

5:00 pm – Depart

5:15pm – Citygarden – St. Louis

6:30 pm – Check into Hotel – St Louis

Dinner in St Louis

**Day 5 – St Louis MO – Fulton MO – Kingsville MO – Overland Park KS**

8:00 am – Depart hotel  
10:00 am – Sculpture Garden at Gladys Woods Kemper Center – Fulton MO  
11:00 am – Depart  
Lunch enroute  
3:00 pm – Powell Gardens – Kingsville MO  
5:00 pm – Depart  
6:00 pm – Arrive Overland Park KS for overnight & Dinner

**Day 6 – Overland Park KS - Topeka KS – Emporia KS**

9:00 am – Depart hotel  
9:30 am – Arboretum & Botanical Gardens – Overland Park  
10:30 am – Depart  
11:30 am – Lunch in Topeka KS  
1:00 pm - Ingwerson Lavender Farm – Topeka KS  
2:00 pm – Depart  
3:30 pm – Toad Hollow Daylily & Iris Farm – Emporia KS  
5:00 pm – Depart  
5:30 pm – Check into hotel – Emporia KS  
Dinner in Emporia

**Day 7 – Emporia KS – Hutchinson KS - Wichita KS**

8:00 am – Depart  
10:30 am- Dillon Nature Center – Hutchinson KS  
12:00 pm – Depart Lunch in Hutchinson  
1:00 pm – Depart Hutchinson for Wichita  
2:00 pm – Botanica, The Wichita Gardens  
4:00 pm – Depart  
Evening and overnight Wichita KS

**Day 8 – Wichita KS – Shidler OK – Tulsa OK**

8:00 am – Depart  
10:30 am – Biven Gardens – Shidler OK  
11:30 am- Depart  
Lunch enroute  
2:30 pm – Linnaeus Teaching Garden and Tulsa Municipal Rose Garden – Tulsa  
5:00 pm – Depart  
Overnight and Dinner in Tulsa OK

**Day 8 – Tulsa OK – Oklahoma City OK**

8:30 am – Depart  
11:30 am – Lunch in OKC  
1:00 pm – Botanical tour at OKC Zoo  
4:00 pm – Depart  
Overnight and Dinner in Oklahoma City

**Day 9 – Oklahoma City – Carnegie OK – Lawton OK – Oklahoma City OK**

8:00 am – Depart OKC

10:00 am – Horn Canna Farm – Carnegie OK

11:00 am – Depart

Lunch

1:30 pm – Dream Valley Farm – Lawton

3:00 pm – Cosmetics Specialty Labs- Lawton

6:00 pm – Arrive back in OKC at hotel

Dinner in OKC

**Day 10 – Oklahoma City**

8:45 am – Depart

9:00 am - Myriad Gardens – Crystal Bridge – Oklahoma City OK

10:30 am - Depart