



## Alive on I-35 thru Grand Central USA!

### Day 1 – Thackerville OK - Ardmore OK – Sulphur OK - Pauls Valley OK



Begin the day at **Winstar Casino** at I-35 and Exit 1 near Thackerville, OK. Enjoy a breakfast buffet in the restaurant before visiting one of the two themed casino rooms. Next, stop is in Ardmore to find a hidden treasure located inside the Ardmore Public Library, **The Eliza Cruce Hall Doll Museum**. The collection features over 300 rare and antique dolls representing a wide range of historical periods from the US and Europe. We'll spend the afternoon at the **Chickasaw Cultural Center** in Sulphur beginning at the Chikasha Poya Exhibit Center with a short film in the Council House that tells of the Chickasaw people before entering the museum. From the museum it's a short walk to a recreation of a traditional village with winter and summer homes as well as council house and ceremonial mound. We depart Sulphur and continue north arriving in Pauls Valley, OK and checking into a local hotel before selecting a restaurant for dinner. Overnight Pauls Valley, OK

### Day 2 – Pauls Valley OK – Norman OK

Begin the day with a tour of **Fields Pies** locally owned and operated this family business is known for their Pecan pies. The **Action Figure Museum** 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. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting **Bedre Chocolate** to satisfy our sweet tooth. Weekdays we can watch these gourmet chocolates being manufactured before sampling the gourmet chocolate. Our first stop in Norman is at the **Crucible Foundry and Gallery**. Visit the gallery and gardens to see stunning creations of artists from around the country. The Crucible had the honor of pouring The Guardian, the statue that now adorns the Oklahoma State Capitol dome. Check into one of Norman's hotels



before enjoying dinner at one of the local restaurants or spend some free time at **Riverwind Casino**. Overnight Norman, OK.

### **Day 3 – Norman OK – Oklahoma City OK**

This morning begin with a driving tour of the University of Oklahoma campus' historical buildings, parks, and sculptures including a stop at Heisman Park where five OU



Heisman trophy winners are honored in bronze. After a campus tour we arrive at the **National Severe Storm Laboratory** to see how the center monitors severe weather conditions. Learn about storm chasers and the advancing technology of the National Weather Center. Then dinosaurs await us at the **Sam Noble Museum of Natural History**. The museum includes archaeological exhibits and realistic nature dioramas including a walk-thru a limestone cave. Visit a historical homestead claimed during the Great Land Run of 1889 as we arrive at **Harn Homestead** in Oklahoma City. Tour the Sears Catalog home of the Harns then explore seven other historic buildings on the property. Check into one of Oklahoma City's many hotels before going to Bricktown and enjoying dinner at one of the many restaurants you will find in this warehouse district which has become the entertainment center of Oklahoma City. Overnight Oklahoma City.

### **Day 4 – Oklahoma City OK – Guthrie OK**

After breakfast we depart the hotel for a driving tour of Oklahoma City with a local guide before arriving at the **Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum**. The Memorial honors all 168 Oklahomans who lost their lives, those who survived and those whose lives were changed forever with the tragic bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The museum is a self guided tour thru the days, months, and years that followed the bombing. Stop at the **Oklahoma**

**Land Run Statue** and see this magnificent bronze that captures the pioneering spirit of those that came to Oklahoma with the Land Run. Visit the **45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Museum**, the largest National Guard Museum in the United States. With displays and artifacts from 1541 thru Dessert Storm the museum honors those that have served our country in military service. After lunch, visit the **Oklahoma State Firefighters Museum**. Owned and operated by firefighters the exhibits include: The last Alarm mural; the



Patch Collection; and located on the western hill of the museum we will find the memorial dedicated to those that gave the supreme sacrifice on the Wall of Valor. Continue north on I-35 to Oklahoma's first capitol, **Guthrie** which captures the Victoria era of early Oklahoma. This afternoon a visit to the **Oklahoma Territorial Museum** highlights the events leading up to the land run and the lifestyle of homesteaders. Then enjoy a walking tour of Guthrie's historic downtown and spend time exploring the shops on our own before checking into a local hotel. Freshen up before dinner at one of Guthrie's restaurants and a theatrical performance or musical play at **Pollard Theater**. Overnight Guthrie, OK.

### Day 5 – Guthrie OK – Wichita KS

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before touring the world’s largest **Scottish Rite Masonic Temple**. This Greco-Roman building cost the masons \$3 million to build in the 1920s and is currently estimated at a value of \$65 million. The center features several great



halls, with furnishings by European artisans and stained glass windows. We bid Guthrie farewell and continue north crossing the Kansas State Line to enter the “Sunflower State”. Our first stop in Kansas will be at **Wyldeewood Cellars Winery** in Mulvane, KS where we’ll stop for complimentary tasting of international award-winning wines. Then browse the shop for gourmet foods and their famous elderberry products. In Wichita, we discover

dinosaurs, Egyptian Mummies and much more at the **Museum of World Treasures**. Check into one of Wichita’s hotels and get ready for a **Chuckwagon dinner** and some cowboy entertainment by the **Diamond W Wranglers at Old Cowtown**, a living history museum that celebrates life in the Southern Plains during the late 1800’s. Overnight Wichita, KS.

### Day 6 – Wichita KS – Emporia KS

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we explore the Aviation history of Wichita. We begin with a tour of the **Kansas Aviation Museum** which houses over 40 historically significant aircraft. Get up close as we visit “Doc”, a B-29 manufactured in Wichita in late 1944 and delivered to Army Air Forces in 1945. Then visit **Exploration Place**, which has a special exhibit area that celebrates the world of aviation – from its very beginnings to today’s aircraft industry, to flight found in nature, and more. A stop in Emporia, Kansas at the **National Teachers Hall of Fame** pays tribute to our teachers. The Hall of Fame also features a one-room school, old school desks, class attendance records, antique textbooks, and other artifacts representing the early days of teaching. This afternoon see the chiseled pylons that reflect Emporia’s history and role as the “Gateway to the Flint Hills”. Our overnight this evening will be Emporia, Kansas.



### Day 7 – Emporia KS - Olathe KS – Lawson MO



Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing and continuing our travel along I-35 towards Kansas City. We will stop in Olathe, Kansas 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. After lunch we arrive at Kansas City’s 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine district. Here the smooth melodies of a tenor sax nurtures Kansas City’s jazz legacy of the 1920s and 1930s at the **American Jazz Museum**. Then the **Negro Leagues**

**Baseball Museum** covers the history of Negro Leagues from their beginning after the Civil War thru the end of the 1960s. We depart Kansas and cross into Missouri as we continue our travel along I-35. It is just a short distance to Lawson, Missouri where we stop at **Watkins Woolen Mill State Park**. It took Watkins nearly half a century to build this small community which included a three-story woolen mill, smokehouse, brick kiln, sawmill, and gristmill. The visitor's center gives us an introduction to the Watkins family and their many business ventures before we walk the path to the Woolen Mill which is the only 19<sup>th</sup> century textile mill in the country with its original machinery still intact.



## **Grand Central USA! – Alive on I-35**

### **Day 1 – Thackerville OK – Ardmore OK – Sulphur OK – Pauls Valley OK**

9:00 am – Breakfast and gaming at Winstar Casino – Thackerville OK  
11:00 am – Depart  
11:30 am – Eliza Cruce Hall Doll Museum – Ardmore  
1:00 pm – Lunch on own  
2:00 pm – Depart  
3:00 pm – Chickasaw Cultural Center – Sulphur OK  
5:00 pm – Depart  
5:30 pm – Check into hotel - Pauls Valley OK  
6:30 pm – Dinner included in Pauls Valley

### **Day 2 – Pauls Valley OK – Norman OK**

9:00 am – Fields Pie Factory Tour  
10:30 am – Action Figure Museum  
Noon – Lunch  
1:15 pm – Bedre Chocolate  
2:15 pm – Depart  
3:00 pm – Arrive Norman – Cruicible  
4:00 pm – Depart  
4:15 pm – Check into hotel  
Optional evening at Riverwind Casino

### **Day 3 – Norman OK – Oklahoma City OK**

8:30 am – Depart hotel  
8:45 am – Tour OU Campus – Norman OK  
10:00 am – Natl Weather Center Tour - Norman OK  
11:45 am – Sam Noble Museum of Natural History - Norman OK  
1:00 pm – Lunch on own  
2:00 pm – Depart Norman  
3:00 pm – Harn Homestead – Oklahoma City OK  
4:00 pm – Check into Hotel – Oklahoma City OK

#### **Day 4 – Oklahoma City OK – Guthrie OK**

Bkft at hotel

8:00 am – Depart hotel with local guide for city tour & visit to Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum – Oklahoma City OK

11:00 am – 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Museum – Oklahoma City OK

Noon – Lunch – TBD

1:00 pm – OK State Firefighters Museum – Oklahoma City OK

2:00 pm – Depart OKC

3:00 pm – Arrive Guthrie – Oklahoma Territorial Museum – walking tour

5:00 pm – Check into hotel – Guthrie OK

6:30 pm – Dinner included

8:00 pm – Pollard Theater – Guthrie OK

#### **Day 5 – Guthrie OK – Wichita KS**

Bkft at hotel

9:00 am – Scottish Rite Masonic Temple Tour – Guthrie OK

10:00 am – Depart Guthrie

Lunch on own

1:00 pm – Wyldewood Cellars Winery – Mulvane KS

2:00 pm – Depart

2:45 am – World Treasure Museum – Wichita KS

4:30 pm – Depart

5:00 pm – Check into hotel – Wichita KS

6:00 pm – Chuckwagon and Diamond W Wranglers at Old Cowtown – Wichita KS

#### **Day 6 – Wichita KS – Emporia KS**

Bkft at hotel

8:00 am – Depart

8:30 am – Kansas Aviation Museum – Wichita KS

9:45 am – Exploration Place – Wichita KS

11:00 am – Depart

12:30 am – Arrive Emporia Lunch on your own

1:45 pm – National Teachers Hall of Fame – Emporia KS

3:00 pm – Emporia City Tour – Murals & Pylons

4:30 pm – Check into hotel – Emporia KS

#### **Day 7 – Emporia KS - Olathe KS – Kansas City MO – Lawson MO**

Bkft at hotel

8:30 am – Depart hotel

10:00 am – Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Historic Site – Olathe KS

11:30 am – Depart

Noon – Lunch on your own

1:30 pm – 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine Historic District – American Jazz Museum – Negro Leagues  
Baseball Museum – Kansas City MO

2:30 pm – Depart

3:30 pm – Watkins Mill State Park – Lawson MO