



Group Tour Information

Centrally located between Denver and Topeka, off I-70 at exits 70 and 76, and highways US 83 and US 40, Oakley is in the heart of northwest Kansas and a convenient stop whether you are going east or west, north or south. With almost 200 hotel/motels rooms and 2 RV/camping parks, we can also accommodate your overnight needs. Visit www.DiscoverOakley.com for dining and lodging information.

Trip Planning: Oakley is 4 hours to Denver, 5 hours to Kansas City, 6 hours to Oklahoma City, 5 hours to Amarillo and 2 ½ hours to North Platte. The town of Oakley is located at the apex of Kansas' first designated historic byway. The Western Vistas Historic Byway covers 102 miles of history going west from Oakley on US 40 and south from Oakley on US Hwy 83. Maps and information about all the sites along the byway are available at www.westernvistahistoricbyway.com.

Buses, organizations, clubs and groups, large and small, are welcome to stop and visit these sites along the way to your final destination. If Oakley is your final destination, we can assist you with your trip planning needs. We will work with you to create a tour itinerary for a half day, one day, or two or more days. We can also help arrange your overnight lodging and meal needs. Contact Oakley Tourism & Convention Board at 785-671-1000 or email tourism@discoveroakley.com.

Tour Sites

Oakley – Local sites and sites along the Western Vistas Historic Byway (WVHB)

Buffalo Bill Statue (WVHB) – US Hwy 83 & Second St, Oakley. **GPS: N 39° 07.609' W 100° 52.169'**

Stop for the legend! It was here in Logan County in 1868 that William F. Cody won his title of Buffalo Bill in a buffalo-hunting contest with William Comstock. Our twice life-sized bronze sculpture of Buffalo Bill on his horse in pursuit of a running buffalo, by local sculptor Charlie Norton, is one of the largest bronzes of its kind anywhere in the world and is one of the “8 Wonders of Kansas Art”. Enjoy the Buffalo Bill Cabin, outdoor storyboard, and picnic area.



Tour time: 15-13 minutes. Statue and Story board open to public 24 hours year round. Self-guided. No charge. Donations accepted. Visitor center and gift shop is open year round. Open Memorial Day-Labor Day, Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Holidays. After hours, by appointment, call 785-671-1000 or email info@buffalobilloakley.org.

Fick Fossil & History Museum (WVHB) – 700 West Third Street, Oakley

Come explore a world of fossils! The Fick Fossil and History Museum is home to many world-class fossils including the bones of the oldest documented mosasaur skull in the world. Enjoy exhibits detailing the Smoky Hill Trail, Kansas Pacific Depot, and a real “soddie” house. One of America’s top 25 museums, according to the San Francisco Chronicle, makes this a must see attraction.

Tour time: 30 minutes to 1 hour. Self-guided. No charge. Donations accepted. Open Memorial Day-Labor Day, Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Holidays. To schedule a guided tour, contact the curator of the museum at 785-671-4839 or email fickmuseum@st.tel.net.



Western Plains Energy – 3022 County Rd 18, Oakley

See first-hand how ethanol is produced. WPE began producing fuel grade ethanol and distiller’s grain in 2004. As of September 30, 2011, WPE was producing at the rate of approximately 50,000,000 gallons of denatured ethanol annually.

Tour time: 30 minutes. No charge. Guided tours are available for small groups by appointment only. It is best to plan this tour a week or two in advance to ensure tour time availability. Call 785-672-8810 or email wpe@wpellc.com to schedule.

Logan County & Scott County - South from Oakley on US Hwy 83 – Sites along the Western Vistas Historic Byway

Monument Rocks & Keystone Gallery (WVHB) – 25 miles south of Oakley

Monument Rocks - East on Jayhawk Rd **GPS: N 38° 44.578' W 100° 76.236'**

“Monument Rocks” and “the Kansas Pyramids” are names used interchangeably for this historic landmark. Formally called Monument Rocks, they were inducted as the first National Natural Landmark in Kansas by the Department of Interior on October 31, 1968. In 2006, Monument Rocks was voted by the public one of the “8 Wonders of Kansas”.

Tour time: 30 minutes. Self-guided drive. No charge. Access is available to the public year round, however the county roads can also be extremely muddy when it is wet. Please use caution during wet weather. There are no public restroom facilities or restaurants in the immediate Monument Rocks area. Please be respectful as this is private property.



The Keystone Gallery & Museum – 401 US 83, Scott City **GPS: N 38° 44.578' W 100° 52.116'**

Located at the south end of Monument Rocks at US 83 and Dakota Road.

The museum houses a permanent collection of local Kansas Cretaceous fossils, international fossils and a great gift shop.

Tour time: 30 minutes to 1 hour. Self-guided. No charge. Donations accepted. The Gallery is open most days in the summer from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Schedule varies in the winter. Call Barb or Chuck at 620-872-2762 or email keystone@keystonegallery.com.

Duff's Buffalo Ranch Tour – 980 W. Rd 100, Scott City

GPS: N 38° 44.578' W 100° 52.116'

See a herd of 300-400 buffalo on 3,800 acres of western Kansas rangeland.

There are sure to be many photo opportunities on this up close and personal experience with the beautiful bison on the ranch. With a small tour group guests will load up in a pickup truck – cab or bed as desired - and drive through canyons & ravines to approach the herd even in the rougher portions of the range. For larger tours there is a lead pickup which can carry five guests comfortably followed by a 25' flatbed trailer loaded with bales that can seat around thirty-five people.

Tour time: 1, 2 or 3 hour guided tours. Tours are available for small groups (1-5 people), medium groups (6-15 people) and large groups (16-40 people). Pricing and scheduling is available at www.duffmeats.com or by calling Richard at 620-874-5120.



Lake Scott State Park (WVHB) – 101 W Scott Lake Drive, Scott City **GPS: N 38° 40.765' W 100° 54.720'**

Lake Scott State Park lies along picturesque Ladder Creek. This oasis-like setting is very popular for wildlife watching, camping and fishing. The homestead of the Steele's, the original settlers of this area, is preserved much as it was 100 years ago. The park also includes El Cuartelejo ruins, the northernmost pueblo site in the US.

Tour time: Approximately 1 hour, driving and exploring. Self-guided. Guided tours are available Monday through Friday. Check in at the visitor center. Motor vehicle permit required. Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Patsy Lisenby or Greg Mills at 620-872-2061.



El Cuartelejo Museum and the Jerry Thomas Gallery (WVHB) – 902 W. 5th Street, Scott City

The El Cuartelejo Museum traces the history of this region of western Kansas through the stories told by the fossil discoveries on exhibit to present day Scott County. Visitors can choose to either follow the story line, or simply browse in areas which are of interest to them. Separate displays are set up in several different rooms, and rotating exhibits change often. Exhibits allow youngsters, and oldsters, to touch and even “dig” for their own fossils. Two distinct areas of the museum house local Indian and Pioneer History, while a third room has antique farm machinery, along with horse-drawn buggies from the early 1900's.



The Jerry Thomas Gallery and Collection was added to the museum in 2010. The gallery displays the work of nationally recognized Wildlife and Western Artist, Jerry Thomas. These collections include beautiful Native American, Civil War, Indian War, and cowboy trail items. The Jerry Thomas Gallery and Collections is definitely a must see destination point for wildlife and western art enthusiasts and those who appreciate the stories and memorabilia of the old west.

Tour time: 1-2 hours. Self-guided. No charge. Donations accepted. Summer hours open Tuesday through Saturday 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. Guided tours, and after hour tours are available by calling 620-872-5912.

Logan County & Wallace County - west from Oakley on US Hwy 40 – Sites along the Western Vistas Historic Byway

The Nature Conservancy (WVHB) GPS: N 38° 51.641' W 100° 58.960'

Smoky Valley Hiking Trails. On this land, you'll see a sight that has almost vanished from America — bison roaming a short grass prairie as they did hundreds of years ago. But Smoky Valley Ranch is more than prairie. Dramatic chalk bluffs overlook large expanses of grassland, rocky ravines and Smoky Hill River. Breaks along the upper reaches of the river represent a transition zone between mixed grass and short grass prairie environments. Prairie vistas and chalk bluffs greet hikers as they wind their way around the two trail loops.

Tour time: Varies depending on route chosen. The first loop is one-mile hike. The second loop is five mile hike. Hiking trails are open year round. No charge. Because of the rough terrain, boots are recommended. Any items brought in like water bottles or food wrappers must be taken out. Directions to the ranch and trail map can be downloaded from www.nature.org.



Butterfield Trail Museum (WVHB) – 515 Hilts Box 1, Russell Springs GPS: N 38° 54.750' W 101° 10.129'

The museum preserves and displays the rich history of the Butterfield Overland Despatch stage line, as well as the human and natural history of this corner of the Great Plains.

Tour time: Approximately 1 hour. Self-guided. No charge. Donations accepted. Museum is open from the first Tuesday in May through Labor Day weekend. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The annual Butterfield Trail ride takes place the first weekend in June. Call 785-751-4242 for more information.



Fort Wallace Museum & Cemetery (WVHB) – Hwy 40, Box 53, Wallace

Fort Wallace Museum offers a main museum building, two historic side buildings and a large-exhibit building housing a chuck wagon, Conestoga, fire engines and barb-wire sculpture. During the period of 1866 – 1881, Wallace was one of the most important towns on the Smoky Hill Trail and Fort Wallace was known as the “fightin’est fort in the west”. The recently restored Pond Creek Stage Station (1865) is the oldest building in western Kansas.

Tour time: 2 hours to tour all 4 buildings/sites. Self-guided. For a guided tour, call 785-891-3564 or email museum@ftwallace.com. One week notice is recommended for a guided tour. No charge. Donations accepted. Summer: Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. NOTE: Mountain Time Zone.

Fort Wallace Cemetery

GPS: N 38° 54.363' W 101° 33.595'

Platted in 1866, the original cemetery retains its distinctive wall of bright limestone. A rare relic of Custer's Seventh Cavalry also stands tall, an obelisk honoring those of the 7th that died in the Indian War during the summer of 1867.

Eighty-eight remains of soldiers from the Fort were removed and relocated to the National Cemetery at Fort Leavenworth in 1885. A few are still buried here, along with other people connected with the Fort. Sixty-four engraved wooden headboards telling how each person died mark their graves. The burial plot of members of the German Family, massacred on the plains in the fall of 1874, is also marked here by a reddish-brown granite headstone.

Tour time: 30 minutes to 1 hour. Self-guided. Open year round. The cemetery is easily accessible on the dirt road off US 40. For more information, or directions, inquire at the museum.

Mount Sunflower – ***GPS: N 38° 51.947' W 101° 51.016'***

Located at 4,039 feet above sea level, Mount Sunflower is the highest point in Kansas. Though not a true mountain, at 4,039 feet, it is 3,300 feet above the state's topographic low point located in Montgomery County in Southeastern Kansas. The state of Kansas gradually increases in elevation from the east to the west. While it is the highest point in the state in terms of elevation, is indistinguishable from the surrounding terrain. Located in Wallace County, Mount Sunflower is less than 1/2 of a mile from the Colorado state border and close to the lowest point in Colorado.

Tour time: 10 minutes. Mount Sunflower is located on private land owned by Mike and Rae Marie Jones, who encourage visitors to the site. Amenities include a picnic table, a sunflower sculpture made from railroad spikes. Access is via county dirt roads to the property. Be sure to sign the guest book!



Thomas County – North from Oakley off US HWY 83

McCarty Dairy -



Geocaching Tours – Self Guided <http://www.geocaching.com>

There are over 40 caches within a 30 mile radius of Oakley, including one of the oldest and most famous, in Mingo, Kansas, as well as many along the beautiful Western Vistas Historic Byway route. Plan a Geocaching Tour while in our area by entering our zip code **67748** or GPS location **N 39° 07.609' W 100° 52.169'**. Have fun!

TOUR SITE LINKS

Some of the information presented in this guide has been reprinted, with permission, from the following websites:

Western Vistas Historic Byway <http://www.westernvistahistoricbyway.com>

Buffalo Bill Oakley <http://www.buffalobilloakley.org/>

Discover Oakley <http://www.discoveroakley.com/visitors>

Western Plains Energy <http://www.westernplainsenergy.biz>

Keystone Gallery <http://www.keystonegallery.com/>

Duff's Meats <http://duffmeats.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=63>

Scott Lake Park <http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/State-Parks/Locations/Scott>

El Quartejejo Museum & Jerry Thomas Gallery <http://www.elquartejejomuseum.org/>

The Nature Conservancy

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/kansas/placesweprotect/smo-ky-valley-ranch.xml>

Butterfield Trail Museum <http://www.butterfieldtrailmuseum.org/>

Ft. Wallace Museum <http://www.ftwallace.com>

Wallace County, KS <http://www.wallacecounty.net/>