



# “Gunsmoke Trail”

August 14 – 20, 2025

7 Days / 6 Nights



## Day #1 – Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>:

**6:15 AM** Depart Peoria from Peoria Charter, 2600 NE Adams Street

**6:45 AM** Depart Morton from Wal Mart, 155 E Courtland Street, behind Culvers

**7:15 AM** Depart Lincoln from Beck’s Travel Plaza, I-55, Exit 126, park behind Arby’s. The Shuttle Bus/Van will transfer our Normal & Urbana passengers to the main coach in Lincoln.

**8:00 AM** We arrive in Springfield at Capitol City Shopping Center (park behind McDonalds). We’ll make a ½ hour break stop at McDonalds before departing for Olathe, Kansas.

**8:30 AM** We depart Springfield traveling a little south and west to our first overnight stop at the **Hilton Garden Inn\*** in Olathe, Kansas. Dinner is on your own tonight and there is a Johnny’s Italian Steakhouse on site.

## Day #2 – Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>:

Breakfast\* is served at the hotel this morning before checking out. We check out and depart for Wichita, Kansas. En route we’ll visit the **Old Cowtown Museum for a tour\***. The museum is home to over 25,000 historical artifacts and 54



buildings which span 23 acres nestled in Wichita’s Museums on the River District. Only Wichita has the one-and-only, never-to-be-duplicated-again Cowtown. Wichita’s storied past is vividly brought to life through daily activities, special events and education programs. Next, you’ll experience a **Tour with Lunch\***. You’ll discover the history of the Plains Indians through their culture, art, music and food at the Mid America All Indian Museum. Learn about the amazing legacy of

Blackbear Bosin, from the Comanche-Kiowa tribe who united the community and left a lasting legacy with his iconic Keeper of the Plains monument. Afternoon finds us visiting the **Wichita Art Museum\*** The mission is to connect people,

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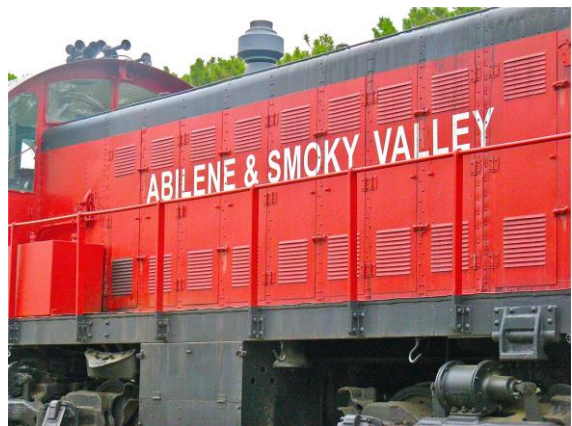
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ideas, and American art through remarkable experiences. With a permanent collection showcasing over 10,000 artworks, spanning historical to contemporary pieces, celebrating the essence of American artistic heritage. Following the Art Museum, you'll have "Free Time" at Historic Delano District. Rowdy rough necks, loud dance hall saloons and cowboys driving cattle through town make the Historic Delano District a sight to see in the early 1870's. Drovers pushed steers along the Chisholm Trail north from Texas to railhead markets, the population of the area increased making it a bustling business district along Douglas Avenue. **Dinner\*** is included this evening at the **AVI Seabar & Chophouse\***. Located in the same building as the Drury Plaza, the restaurant is named after the Arkansas Calley Interurban Railroad. The railroad operated I this location until the 1930's. If you look just to the South of the front doors, you'll see the marble arch entrance that still bares the name. Experience a unique industrial atmosphere rich with history in the heart of Wichita, KS. Our overnight lodging will be at the **Drury Plaza Wichita\***. The Historic Broadview Hotel opened in 1922 on the Arkansas Riverbanks in Wichita.

### **Day #3 – Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included at the hotel.

Our day begins with checking out and departing on our journey towards our next destination – Abilene, KS. Upon arrival we'll Visit Old Abilene Town with a **boxed lunch\***. See the Chisolm Trail Museum and Interpretive Center in the Way Station at Old Abilene Town. Stroll the boardwalk, just as Wild Bill Hickok did during Abilene's wild and woolly days. Get a taste of the Old West by drinking and ice-cold sarsaparilla and watching can-can dancers as they perform o state and on the bar from the original Alamo Saloon, Gunfighters Stage mock during the summer travel season. Enjoy live cattle drivers through Old Abilene Town, reenactors, country music performances and more. Don't forget to check out the Great Western Cattle Co. building to see a complete re-creation of Abilene's original Texas Street. Following lunch, we're off to **Ride the Abilene & Smoky Railroad\***. The Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad was founded in 1993 as a heritage railway, dedicated to preserving the legacy of the railroad industry in Kansas by highlighting the interconnectedness of Railroads, the people, and the land in their state. An All-Volunteer organization, the A&SV operates the Flint Hills Express, their excursion train, and their popular dinner train, the Smoky Valley Limited. The afternoon has us enjoying a **Guided Tour of the City's Murals & Art Displays\***. Celebrate the Old West by visiting murals around town. You will see murals



dedicated to Wild Bill Hickock, American Bison and Longhorn. Plus, you'll also see special arts displays including Cowboy Boots and the World's Largest Belt Buckle! **Dinner\* is included tonight at Legacy Kansas.** Following dinner, we're off to the hotel for the night – the **Holiday Inn Express\* in Abilene, KS.**

#### **Day #4 – Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is served this morning before we check out and depart towards Hays, Kansas for the day.

**Visit the Frontier Park Bison Herd** – Hays first Bison herd that arrived courtesy of James “Scotty” Phillips. Scotty knew Sitting Bull and was aware of the scarcity of bison after their extensive slaughter. By 1893, the 60-million pre-European herd had dwindled to around 100 total bison. In 1913, Phillips shipped five bison from his ranch near Pierre, South Dakota, to the Experiment Station just south of Hays. In 1922, The Fort Hays Normal School took over care of the herd when the experiment station needed to reclaim the land where the herd resided. The Herd was established with a bull named Wild Bill and a cow named Calamity Jane in Frontier Park in 1953 and maintained by the Kansas State Historical Society. In the late 1970's the City of Hays took over maintenance for the herd. The herd has been in Frontier Park ever since and has grown to include a bull, Ace, and many cows. Each year the bison herd welcomes new calves to the delight of each person who stops in Frontier Park. Thanks to a local rancher a rare, white bison named Ghostbuster joined the herd in the summer of 2017. Next, we'll enjoy a **Guided Murals & Sculptures Tour\***. The murals feature historic Old West icons and elements of Hays' history throughout the Bricks in Downtown Hays. You'll also see local artist, Pete Felten's limestone sculptures that decorate the community. Among these works you'll find the familiar faces of “Buffalo Bill Cody” and “Wild Bill Hickok”. From here we'll visit the **Sternberg Museum of National History\***. Following lunch on your own, visit this intriguing museum where you'll understand and appreciate the Earth's natural history and evolutionary forces that impact it. Afterward, we'll visit **Boot Hill Cemetery\***. The Cemetery



got its name because so many of those buried there “died with their boots on”. It is marked with a limestone sculpture by local artist Pete Felten, and a bronze Plaque listing the names of those laid to rest there. **Dinner\*** is included this evening at **Hickok's Steakhouse** before checking into the **Hampton Inn in Hays for the night.**

#### **Day #5 – Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is served before we check out and depart for the famous **Dodge City, Kansas!**



Upon arrival we'll hop on the **Dodge City Trolley\*** for a trip back to the 1870s. Visit the original locations of the Longbranch Saloon, Gospel, Hill, the "deadline", Front Street and so much more. Tour Fort Dodge, follow the path of the Santa Fe Trail, and learn a few colorful stories along the way. This is a great way to get your bearings with a great view of Dodge City. Lunch will be on your own before we depart for the **Mueller Schmidt House for a tour\***. The Museller-Schmidt House is perched atop a hill northeast of town, alone in its new splendor and surrounded by a yard planted with trees. Built to be one of the most splendid homes in Ford County, "Home of Stone" lives up to this, even today. It remains the lone limestone house in Dodge City, elegant in its simplicity. It is also



the oldest building in Dodge City still on its original site. Afternoon finds us at the **Gunfighter's Wax Museum for a tour\***.

See the life-size wax figurines of famous western personalities like Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Doc Holliday, Belle Starr, Davey Crockett, Buffalo Bill, Calamity Jane, Frank & Jesse James, Billy the Kid, Doc, Miss Kitty, Festus and many, many more. Later, you'll visit **Boot Hill Museum\*** where you'll be transported to an exciting era. Boot Hill Museum is a historical museum that will take you back in time to the 1870's & 1880's on Front Street. It's a historical museum that

provides you with an exciting and interactive experience. Historical exhibits illustrate the life and time of early Dodge City and its unique characters and thriving economy. Our day ends with **The Long Branch Variety Show with Dinner\***. In addition to the nightly Long Branch Variety Show, the Museum also offers its Country Style dinner served in the Varieties Theater preceding the show. At 6:30 PM, the Boot Hill Museum Gunfighters present a reenactment of a shoot-out on old Front Street. The gunfight has been an integral part of the summer fare since the very earliest days of the show. The gunfight troupe works very hard to make sure their costuming is accurate and that their stunts are convincing (while being safe for the performers and the audiences.) After the show, we check into our hotel for the evening – the **Hampton Inn Dodge City\***.

### **Day #6 – Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is served and then we check out, board our coach and depart for Independence, Missouri. We'll make rest and meal stops along the way as needed. Upon arrival, we'll check into the **Drury Inn & Suites\*** and are able to enjoy their "**Kickback Program**" of various things to eat and drink. You can make a meal out of it.

**Day #7 – Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is served and then we check out, board our coach and depart for home. We'll make rest & meal stops along the way as needed.

**9:00 AM** We depart for home.

**4:15 PM** We arrive back in Springfield and drop passengers. We'll make a ½ hour break stop here before continuing on.

**5:30 PM** We arrive back in Lincoln where the Shuttle Bus/Van will be waiting for us to take the Normal & Urbana passengers home.

**6:00 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Morton

**6:30 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Peoria.

**6:30 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Normal.

**7:30 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Urbana.

**Cost Per Person:**

**Single: \$2570.00   Double: \$1995.00   Triple: \$1765.00   Quad: \$1650.00**

**Tour includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Hotel Accommodations, All Attractions & Meals in bold print and marked with an asterisk\***

**If you feel the Driver & Tour Hosts have done a good job, it is appropriate & appreciated if you tip them. We suggest \$4 per customer per day for the Driver & \$4 per customer per day for the Tour Hosts on this trip.**

