



SCOTT CITY, KS

Lake Scott State Park is a hidden oasis, full of rich history and beautiful scenery. One can enjoy boating, swimming, camping, hiking, hunting and fishing. Visitors also can reserve one of two cabins. The park includes two historical sites. The Steele Home Museum was the home of Herbert Steele and has been preserved much as it was 100 years ago. El Quartejo Indian Pueblo is the 1664 pueblo ru-



ins of the Taos Indians, who were fleeing Spanish rule and later used by Picurie Indians in 1701. The present site allows visitors to see the pueblo's reconstructed foundation.

The theme of El Quartejo Museum is to lead the visitor through a developing story line, one which traces the history of this region of Western Kansas through the stories told by the fossil discoveries on exhibit, to present day Scott County information. The 'must see' displays allow the visitor to take a glimpse of what life would have been like in the early Native American & Pioneer History. Separate displays are set up in several different rooms, and rotating exhibits change often which include antique farm machinery, along with horse-drawn buggies from the early 1900s. There are many more exhibits that will stir your intellect and stimulate your imagination. From young children to their grandparents, here is something for everyone to enjoy.

At the Jerry Thomas Gallery and Collection, prepare yourself to be taken on a journey into the history, wildlife, and beauty of the Old West. The

gallery is home to a beautiful array of original artwork by world renowned artist Jerry D. Thomas. Visitors also will be entertained by the fascinating and beautiful collection of western heritage items & artifacts, including items actually used by Jerry in the creation of his paintings. The collections include beautiful Native American, Civil War, Indian War, and cowboy trail items. The Jerry Thomas Gallery and Collection is a must see destination for western art and wildlife enthusiasts, especially those who appreciate the stories and memorabilia of the old west.

The last Indian battle in Kansas was fought on September 27, 1878 at Punished Woman's Fork. It is about one mile south of Lake Scott State Park. A monument overlooks the cave, canyon and the bluffs where the Northern Cheyenne hid waiting to ambush the U.S. Cavalry. To this day, this historical site gives evidence of the fierce battle that took place, with the rifle pits the Cheyenne strategically positioned still visible on the hilltops.

Take a ride on the wild side with a buffalo tour! Get up close and personal with one of the most magnificent animals ever created. Duff's Buffalo Ranch gives tours you won't soon forget on the back of a flatbed trailer in the midst of a great buffalo herd!

View the breath-taking Monument Rocks, also known as the Chalk Pyramids. The natural formations are 18 miles north of Scott City, then turn east at Keystone Gallery. These limestone formations stretch to 50 feet in height. Monument Rocks also has been chosen as one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas. The quiet beauty and scale of the Monument Rocks will be a lifetime memory.

Experience Keystone Gallery, where you can view an extensive collection of local Kansas fossils including a 20' Mosasaur, 14' Xiphactinus and a 24' mural depicting the seaway that once covered the area. This 1917 historic building was constructed using native stone, with U.S. and International fossils, rock and mineral specimens, and a gift shop with Monument Rocks souvenirs. The Gallery overlooks the Smoky Hill River valley, with a view of the Monument Rocks and chalk outcroppings of the "Badlands of Kansas" region.

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GARDEN CITY, KS

Garden City's Lee Richardson Zoo, with over 300 animals representing 110 species, attracts visitors from around the globe. This diverse collection of wildlife is housed in clean, well cared for habitats. Visitors can walk through the beautifully landscaped zoo free or for a minimal fee, drive through. Look for the blue phone emblem on the informative signage then use your cell phone to dial the number to take an audio tour. Follow the intermingled pathways through the large shade trees to see the young otters at play and in Wild Asia, check out the snow leopards. Be sure to visit the aviary and the monkeys, bears, elephants and giraffes as well as the many other species through the spacious zoo. Some special fundraising events are the annual 'Wild Affair', 'Blues at the Zoo' as well as the children's favorite 'Boo at the Zoo.' Watch for the grand opening of the newest addition; "Cat Canyon" exhibit in late summer. Call: 620-276-1250 or visit www.garden-city.org

Located in Finnpark is the "world's largest outdoor hand dug concrete municipal swimming pool" complete with water slides, abundant shade umbrellas, picnic tables, a renovated bathhouse and, new this summer the "Spray-ground," for the enjoyment of the children. The pool itself is larger than 100-yard football field. Admission.

The Finney County Historical Society Museum, located at the entrance to the Lee Richardson Zoo, features permanent, rotating and traveling historical exhibits as well as a large research library. Always available are tours of the 1884 home of founding father William Fulton and the 1890's one-room schoolhouse. Free admission. For special activities and program schedule call: 620-272-3664

Downtown Vision has many varied activities planned for this year. Stores stay open the Third Thursday each month. A new theme is chosen for each month's activities. Often there are snacks and entertainment provided. FallFest 2013 features Sandhills Art Association's 'Art in the Park', as well as Knights of Columbus 'Oktoberfest'. The fun begins at 9 a.m., September

21st. Street vendors set up along Main Street while art exhibitors are scattered throughout beautiful downtown Stevens Park. Call: 620-276-0891.

Beef Empire Days is an annual celebration of the beef



industry. The fun begins May 31 thru June 9. Established to highlight and promote production and quality of beef the event has grown into a festival for everyone. Included are a parade, carnival and rodeo as well as activities for children. Some events require admission: call: 800-879-9803.

For over 20 years the 4th weekend of August brings the Tumbleweed Festival to the west end of Lee Richardson Zoo. Promoted as 'quality family entertainment' with local, national and international musicians and entertainers, the two main stages have something going on throughout the day. In addition to the various name entertainers, a huge tent offers lots of hand-on arts and crafts for children. On

the children's stage, storytellers, musicians, puppeteers and magic shows are featured. Admission.

Balloon teams from over six states will converge on Garden City, Sept. 20-22 for the Balloon Festival. The festival weekend is packed full of music, food, children's events, and a barbecue cook-off contest. At Saturday evening's balloon glow, as dawn breaks on Saturday and Sunday mornings, watch for the colorful balloons looming overhead. Contact: 620-276-0607.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks manages oldest publicly-owned bison herd in Kansas at the Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area. Guided tours only: 620-276-9400.

Southwest Kansas Pro-Am golf tournament is a charity event for St. Catherine Hospital. It takes place at Buffalo Dunes and Southwind golf courses, two of the finest golf courses in the state. Professionals are teamed up with local golfers. Contact: 620-272-2530.

Garden City hosts many events throughout the year: livestock shows, dog shows, concerts, monster trucks and other festivals. For a current list of events, maps for a self-guided historic walking or driving tour or other information, contact: 800-879-9803.



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Finney County Convention & Visitors Bureau
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DODGE CITY, KS

Recently named number two of the Top 10 True Western Towns by **True West Magazine**, Dodge City's history is centered around the opening of the Santa Fe Trail, the railroad and cattle drives. Histor-



ic Fort Dodge, located to the east of the town, offered protection to wagon trains and served as a supply base during the Indian wars. The railroad brought more commerce to the area, making Dodge City a major shipping point for the cattle barons. To commemorate those cattle drives of the 1870s a large bronze Texas Longhorn statue was erected. "El Capitan", as he was named, greets visitors to the downtown as well as a statue of the legendary Marshal Wyatt Earp. At the Dodge City Free Zoo, visitors can view a real live "Longhorn". Visitors will want to take the downtown self-guided historical walking tour by following the sidewalk medallions on the "Trail of Fame."

Dodge City Days, July 26-August 4, 2013 is a western-themed 10-day celebration. Events include the top-rated Dodge City Days Rodeo, professional barbecue contest, a western parade, classic car show, Kid Fest, arts and craft show, and the crowning of Miss Rodeo Kansas and Miss Rodeo Kansas Princess. The American Bus Association gives top honors to Dodge City Days for group friendly events in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and again 2013.

Don't miss the old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration in Dodge City. A day packed full of activities from a watermelon feed, to sack races, ending with free live music and one of the largest fireworks displays in Western Kansas.

Boot Hill Museum strives to preserve the history of Dodge City through restorations, visual programs and interpreted exhibits. The museum is on the grounds of the original Boot Hill Cemetery. At 'high noon,' visitors are treated to a gunfight re-enactment. Have a sarsaparilla at the Long Branch

Saloon and stick around to watch the Variety Show with Miss Kitty & the Can Can Girls. Show runs from Memorial weekend through mid-August. Admission. Call: 620-227-8188.

The Wild West theme is carried out at the new Boot Hill Casino & Resort, offering visitors the highest level of comfort, service and entertainment. Recently expanded to include 800 slots, 18 gaming tables and 5 poker rooms there is plenty of casino action for everyone. The restaurant offers fine dining as well as a breakfast buffet. Select motels around town offer transportation to and from the casino.

Right next door to the casino is the newly opened United Wireless Arena. This indoor event center offers sports, concerts, conventions, meeting rooms and luxury suites.

Located to the south is the Western State Bank Expo Center offering a variety of new and exciting events as well as the annual 3i Show, one of the largest Agriculture shows in North America.

Check out the Gunfighters Wax Museum and Teachers Hall of Fame and tour Historic Fort Dodge. Step out on the Santa Fe Trail tracks, then visit the Home of Stone or the Windthorst Church. View the architecture and exhibits of the Carnegie Center for the Arts

and visit the new 2nd Avenue Art Guild, offering original art work by regional artists. Take a one-hour narrated Trolley tour to many historic sites. The historic, newly restored Santa Fe Depot, once housed the famed Harvey House and Restaurant, now offering daily tours and an opportunity to see first-rate dinner theater productions. Admission. Call: 620-225-1001

Liberty Garden, located in Wright Park, is designed to commemorate the tragedies of September 11, 2001. Historical memorabilia are on exhibit for the public along with a piece of limestone from the façade of the Pentagon, transported to the garden by the Dodge City Patriot Guard Riders. There also is a piece of sandstone from the hemlock grove next to the United Flight #93 crash site, in Pennsylvania, donated by the National Parks Service.

Dodge City Raceway Park with its 3/8-mile dirt track hosts thousands of racing fans each season and boasts an impressive racing schedule. There are featured events such as the National Sprint Tour, World of Outlaws, Midgets and Winged Sprints.

For more information on events and attractions in Dodge City, call 800-653-9378.

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DODGE CITY



LIBERAL, KS

At the junction of Hwys 54 & 83, Liberal still honors its early friendly and hospitable beginnings. When other ranchers were charging a fee to travelers for water, pioneer S. S. Rogers, never charged, and soon the area was known as the place of the "liberal well." The name was shortened to Liberal, and it stuck. Today, Liberal offers more than just a cool drink. Visitors can find a variety of things to do including museums, arts center and attractions open year-round as well as a water park, golf and semi-pro baseball team in the summer. The Liberal Bee Jays is a five-time national champion semi-pro baseball team. Ten miles northeast, off Highway 54, is the Arkalon Wildlife Area known for its birding. The park also offers campsites for RV's and tents, trails, playground and fishing. Travel a few miles further northeast to the 1,269 foot railroad bridge, "Mighty Samson of the Cimarron". Built in 1939, it was considered an engineering marvel of its day and was a finalist in the 8 Wonders of Kansas Architecture contest sponsored by the Kansas Sampler Foundation. For those who want to visit wide open spaces, Cimarron National Grasslands, Clark State Lake and Meade State Park Wildlife Area are all within an easy drive.

Named one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Customs, Dorothy's official hometown of Liberal celebrates clicking your heels three times and saying "There's No Place Like Home" at Dorothy's House, a 1907 farmhouse. The Land of Oz guides, sometimes dressed as Dorothy, escort visitors through the house and the 5,000 square feet of entertainment in the Land of Oz. At the end of the tour Oz movie memorabilia, including the original model of Dorothy's house used in the 1939 filming of the "The Wizard of Oz," is on display. Admission. Contact: 620-624-7624.

The Coronado Museum offers a collection of items dating back to 1541 when Don Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and 36 soldiers entered what is now Southwest Kansas on their quest to find the fabled "Seven Cities Of Gold." A Spanish horse bit, left behind by the group, is on permanent display at the museum. An 8' bronze statue of Coronado welcomes guests as they turn off Pancake Boulevard. Exhibits used in the settlement of the Kansas Territory during its Wild West days are on display as well as those paying tribute to the culture of the Native Americans Indian. The museum hosts special exhibits and traveling exhibits featuring artifacts of other museums. Admission is free. Call: 620-624-7624.

Mid-America Air Museum displays more than 100 aircraft and is one of the country's finest aviation exhibits. It is the largest aviation museum in Kansas and the fifth largest in the nation. An interactive educational resource, it is dedicated to preserving flight history through historically significant aircraft and artifacts, educational exhibits and public programs. A self-guided tour gives visitors a chance to see one of the smallest ever 'Air Force One' planes, used by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Celebrating Kansas' rich aviation history, the museum was a finalist in the 8 Wonders of Kansas History contest. Admission. Call: 620-624-5263.

At Baker Arts Center, local and regional artists as well as national traveling exhibits are featured in the gallery. A national juried art show is held annually. The educational studio is available for workshops and art classes. Guests are encouraged to browse through the extensive art library. Throughout the year the Center sponsors musical and theatrical productions. The French Market

and Night of Lights are annual fundraising events. Free admission. Call: 620-624-2810.

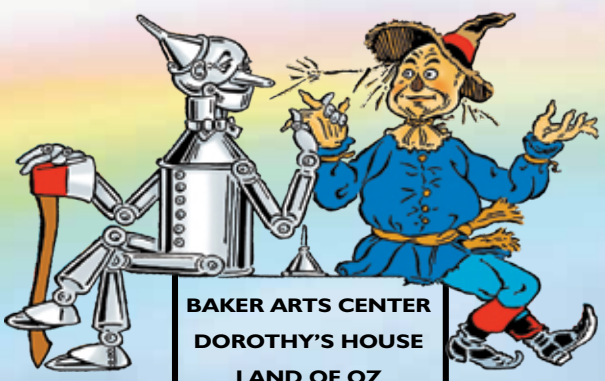
On Saturday through Shrove Tuesday, visitors can join the festivities for the "International Pancake Race". Women from Liberal compete with women in Olney, England, racing down the street with skillet and pancake in hand. Times of the winners of each race are compared during a live web chat and the international winner is announced. Activities continue throughout the day and festivities conclude that evening with the parade.

Other attractions are three golf courses, Adventure Bay Family Water Park, bowling alley, miniature golf and six screen movie theater. Be sure to see the World's Largest Book on the front of Memorial Library in Liberal. The original entrance to the library was through the book. While at the library check out the Little Sister of Liberty. This tiny replica is only 8-1/2 inches tall. These replicas were created by the Boy Scouts of America to celebrate their 40th anniversary theme of Strengthen the Arm of Liberty. In 1949 through 1950 approximately 200 replicas were made and donated to 39 states. Twenty-six of the little ladies resided in Kansas. Liberal holds several special events throughout the year. Contact: www.visitliberal.com, 800-542-3725 or tourism@cityofliberal.org.

Kismet-Little World's Fair

A visit to Southwest Kansas wouldn't be complete without attending the Little World's Fair in Kismet. This small town, 20 miles east of Liberal on Highway 54, puts on a really big celebration every Labor Day weekend. Truly a family event, the fair is sponsored by the Kismet Lions Club. The weekend often includes a horseshoe tournament, street dance, parade, 5 and 10k runs, sack races, etc. There is a free ham and bean feed at noon on Labor Day and it is followed by many family friendly activities in the afternoon.

LIBERAL



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