



## Region: Western High Plains – North

Note: Attractions marked with an asterisk (\*) were recognized as part of the 8 Wonders of Kansas contests, sponsored by the [Kansas Sampler Foundation](#). Don't miss them!



### 1. Arikaree Breaks\*

212 E Washington, St Francis, KS  
(785) 332-2961

### 2. Giant Van Gogh Painting

Cherry and E 19th St (Hwy 24) Goodland, KS  
(785) 890-3515

### 3. Prairie Museum of Art and History\*

[PrairieMuseum.org](http://PrairieMuseum.org)  
1905 S Franklin Ave, Colby, KS  
(785) 460-4590

### 4. Lake Scott State Park and El Quartejejo Pueblo Ruins\*

[KSOutdoors.com](http://KSOutdoors.com)  
520 W Scott Lake Dr, Scott City, KS  
(620) 872-2061

### 5. Castle Rock\*

15 miles S and 4 miles E of I-70, Quinter, KS  
(785) 754-3538



#### **6. Monument Rocks National Landmark\***

Jayhawk Rd, South of Oakley off of US-83  
Oakley, KS  
(785) 672-4862

#### **7. Nicodemus National Historic Site\***

NPS.gov/Nico  
510 Washington Ave #B1, Nicodemus, KS  
(785) 839-4233

### Region: Western High Plains – North

This adventure is perfect for those who enjoy unique natural formations and history.

## **St. Francis**

### **1. Arikaree Breaks\***

The Mini-Grand Canyon of the High Plains, the "Breaks" are a marked contrast to the plains generally associated with the area. The geological curiosities were formed by wind deposited sand, silt and clay particles, called loess. Traveling north from Devils Gap is "Three Corners" where the states of Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska meet. This driving tour gives the visitor some outstanding viewing sites of this rugged wonder.

## **Goodland**

### **2. Giant Van Gogh Painting**

Take in this giant Van Gogh Sunflower reproduction painting on an 80-foot easel – part of a project intended to reproduce all seven of Vincent van Gogh's sunflower paintings in seven different countries around the globe.

### *Unique Dining*

#### **Butterfly Cafe**

[ButterlyAviation.net/cafe](http://ButterlyAviation.net/cafe)

602 Renner Field Rd, Goodland

(785) 890-7531

Homemade pies and an airport next door make this "fly-in" restaurant popular with travelers from around the region.

## **Colby**

### **3. Prairie Museum of Art and History\***

Welcome to Smithsonian quality, done Kansas style. An international collection of porcelain includes Messien, rare dolls, furniture and textiles. The complex also includes a sod house, a 1930s farmstead, country church, one-room school and Big Cooper Barn – the largest barn in Kansas.



## **Scott City**

### **4. Lake Scott State Park and El Quartejejo Pueblo Ruins\***

Rich with natural wonder, artesian springs, deep wooded canyons and craggy bluffs, this 100-acre lake and 1,180-acre park and wildlife area is great for outdoor enthusiasts. Hunting, fishing, nature, and equestrian trails - plus boating, fishing, RVing and tent camping - are among the most popular activities. Listed in National Geographic as one of the top 50 lakes. It's located in Lake Scott State Park, the site of the northern-most Pueblo known in North America.

*Looking for more to do in Scott City? May we recommend:*

#### **Battle of Punished Woman's Fork/Battle Canyon**

902 W Hwy 96, Scott City, KS  
(620) 872-5912

Travel to the place where the last Indian battle in Kansas was fought on September 27, 1878. Punished Woman's Fork 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. Even today 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.

#### **Keystone Gallery**

[KeystoneGallery.com](http://KeystoneGallery.com)

401 US 83, 26 miles S of Oakley, Scott City, KS  
(620) 872-2762

Kansans dig dinos! Visit this fascinating museum full of Kansas fossils, a 24-foot prehistoric sea mural, art gallery, rock shop and guided fossil hunts. Check out the 20-foot Mosasaur and 14-foot Xiphactinus, as well as many other fish, turtle and bird fossil specimens. The gift shop offers U.S. and international fossils, minerals and other items not usually found in this region.

## **Quinter**

### **5. Castle Rock\***

A pinnacle rising from the prairie 20 miles southeast of Quinter, Castle Rock is a fossil hunter's paradise. Thousands of years ago, the area was covered by a chalk ocean, which accounts for the chalk bluffs and beds. The lofty calcareous limestone bluff has the appearance of an old English castle, earning the attraction its name.

#### *Unique Dining*

##### **Western Kansas Saloon & Grill**

[WKSaloon.com](http://WKSaloon.com)

121 N Main, WaKeeney, KS  
(785) 743-2050

Steaks, seafood and pasta served in a historic hardware store in downtown.



### *Unique Lodging*

#### **Butterfield Trail Bunkhouse**

[ButterfieldTrailBunkhouse.com](http://ButterfieldTrailBunkhouse.com)

23033 T Rd, WaKeeney, KS

(785) 743-2322

This nontraditional bed & breakfast is nestled among the trees in a small working farm and cattle setting.

## **Oakley**

### **6. Monument Rocks National Landmark\***

Kansas' first national natural monument, this landmark features cretaceous chalk formations rising majestically from the seemingly flat prairie. The setting makes an excellent spot for photographers to get some wonderful prairie shots of these magnificent reminders of the past. The rocks stand where a large inland sea was located some 200 million years ago.

*Looking for more to do in this area? May we recommend:*

#### **Buffalo Bill Cultural & Visitor Center\***

[BuffaloBillOakley.org](http://BuffaloBillOakley.org)

US Hwy 83 & 2nd St, Oakley, KS

(785) 671-1000

The bronze Buffalo Bill sculpture, created by Kansan Charlie Norton and his wife Pat, is a bigger-than-life-size commemoration of the 1868 contest between William F. Cody and William Comstock where the winner became "Buffalo Bill." The site has a tourist information center and a gift shop.

#### **Fick Fossil Museum**

[DiscoverOakley.com](http://DiscoverOakley.com)

700 W 3<sup>rd</sup>, Oakley, KS 67748

(785) 671-4839

This museum focuses on local fossils and local history – with items of interest for all ages. See an extensive historic photo display and Mrs. Fick's creative folk-artwork crafted from fossils and other mediums. Please call to schedule a tour.

## **Nicodemus**

### **7. Nicodemus National Historic Site\***

Established in 1877, Nicodemus is the only remaining town west of the Mississippi River founded and settled by African Americans at the end of Reconstruction. This National Historic Site consists of five historic structures: A.M.E Church, First Baptist Church, Nicodemus School District #1, St. Francis Hotel and Township Hall. A Visitor Center is located in the Township Hall where park rangers, orientation videos, interpretive displays and book sales are available. This site is a unit of the National Park System.

*Looking for more to do in this area? May we recommend:*

#### **Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site**

[KSHS.org/Cottonwood\\_Ranch](http://KSHS.org/Cottonwood_Ranch)

US 24, RR 1, Box 57M, Studley, KS



(785) 272-8681

Walk the grounds of this relatively unchanged rural ranch and take in the austere beauty of the South Solomon River. Constructed from 1885 to 1896 by John Fenton Pratt, Cottonwood Ranch incorporates architectural elements from his English homeland. Explore the ranch where the Pratt family flourished and John Fenton became a successful sheep rancher and businessman.

## Other Western High Plains – North Side Trips

### Western Vistas Historic Byway

[KSByways.com](http://KSByways.com)

Explore the El Quartejeo Pueblo ruins, tour unique rock formations such as Monument Rocks and immerse yourself in the various cultures and events that played a central role in America's western expansion. Be sure to visit some of the seven National Historic sites and six museums or take time to spot turkey, prairie dog, deer, buffalo or pronghorn.

### Smoky Valley Scenic Byway

[KSByways.com](http://KSByways.com)

Encounter picturesque windmills, grazing cattle, unique limestone bluffs and wonderful wildflowers as well as various wonders of the past. Named for their "hazy, blue-gray" appearance at sunrise and sunset, the Smoky Hills provide a transition between the mixed-grass prairie and the short-grass prairie of the plains.