



Discovering Dinosaurs & Sea Monsters Yellow Brick Road Trip

Eighty million years ago, Kansas was an inland sea. The ground we now walk on was once an ocean floor filled with huge fish, swimming birds, and reptiles. Gigantic meat-eaters called mosasaurs ruled the ocean. The remains of the animals that swam and flew during this era were remarkably preserved and are on display at several attractions in Kansas.

- 1. Museum at Prairiefire**
5801 W 135th St, Overland Park
(913) 333-3500
[Website](#)
- 2. KU Natural History Museum**
1345 Jayhawk Blvd, Lawrence
(785) 864-4450
[Website](#)
- 3. Rock City Park***
1051 Ivy Rd, Minneapolis
(785) 392-2092
[Website](#)
- 4. Sternberg Museum of Natural History***
3000 Sternberg Dr, Hays
(785) 628-4286
[Website](#)
- 5. Fick Fossil & History Museum**
700 W 3rd St, Oakley
(785) 671-4839
[Website](#)
- 6. Monument Rocks***
N 38° 44.578'
W 100° 76.236'
[Website](#)



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!



Overland Park

1. Museum at Prairiefire

In the Great Hall, discover everything from who found the very first *Tyrannosaurus rex* to how scientists use technology and scientific method to better understand our surroundings. Children are invited on a completely hands-on journey through six areas of science, from Paleontology to Astronomy, in the Discovery Room. Visitors can also view the latest rotating world-class traveling exhibition from the American Museum of Natural History.

Looking for more unique opportunities near Overland Park? May we recommend:

Fat Brain Toys

5601 W. 135th St, Overland Park
(913) 305-4894

[Website](#)

Single largest selection of American-made toys found anywhere that educate and entertain!

Lawrence

2. KU Natural History Museum

See Annabelle, an impressive 50-foot-long, 140-million-year-old camarasaurus dinosaur. You can also view wildlife dioramas, dinosaur bones, and Comanche, the preserved 7th Cavalry horse that survived Custer's Last Stand. Be sure to download one of the scavenger hunts from their website so you can explore the galleries with an eye for discovery!

Looking for more unique opportunities near Lawrence? May we recommend:

Ladybird Diner

721 Massachusetts, Lawrence
(785) 856-5239

[Website](#)

Settle in for a delicious meal like you were at mama's house – just be sure to save room for pie!

Prairie Park Nature Center

2730 Harper St, Lawrence
(785) 832-7980

[Website](#)

See a wide variety of native Kansas wildlife on a 100-acre nature preserve including beavers, deer, bobcats and birds of prey.

Minneapolis

3. Rock City Park*

Called concretions by geologists, the spheres weathered out of the sandstone in the Dakota Formation, were deposited about 100 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. Over 200 huge concretions remain. Kids (and parents!) can climb on the rocks the size of houses.

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!



Looking for more unique opportunities near Minneapolis? May we recommend:

Ottawa County Museum

110 S Concord St, Minneapolis
(785) 392-3621

[Website](#)

Don't miss the dinosaur exhibit relating to *Silvisaurus condrayi*, the most famous Kansas dinosaur, found in Ottawa County.

Hays

4. Sternberg Museum of Natural History*

Walk-through a land and sea diorama with a life-sized animated model of a T-Rex and other creatures of the period. You will see one of the most significant Cretaceous Period fossil collections in North America, including the unique fish-within-a-fish fossil and how Kansas and Colorado looked during the period in the Age of Dinosaurs, 80 million years ago.

Looking for more unique opportunities near Hays? May we recommend:

Gella's Diner & Lb. Brewing Co

117 E 11th St, Hays
(785) 621-2739

[Website](#)

Sleek, bustling international award winning microbrewery and brewpub with live music & an open kitchen dispensing modern American grub.

Oakley

5. Fick Fossil & History Museum

Among its more than 11,000 sharks teeth and many fossils there is the world's oldest known mosasaur fossil, a 15 foot *Xiphactinus Audax* prepared by well-known fossil-hunter George Sternberg, and other rare fossils. Most of the fossils in the museum were found within the vicinity of the Fick's homestead near Oakley.

6. Monument Rocks*

Rising majestically from the seemingly flat prairie are the Monument Rocks or Chalk Pyramids as most local folks call them. At a distance they maintain a stately elegance as they tower above the plains over 100 feet into the air. Silent..... still... they bear a testimony to the ancient past of the inland sea that once covered them in water.

Looking for more unique opportunities near Oakley? May we recommend:

Buffalo Bill Sculpture*

3083 US-83, Oakley
(785) 671-1000

[Website](#)

Take a selfie with the twice life-size bronze sculpture that commemorates the 1868 contest between William F. Cody and William Comstock where the winner earned the name "Buffalo Bill".

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!



Keystone Gallery

N 38° 44.578'
W 100° 52.116'
(620) 872-2762

[Website](#)

Explore the extensive, scientific collection of local Kansas fossils including a 20-foot Mosasaur and 14-foot Xiphactinus. Many other fish, turtle and bird fossil specimens are also on display.

The Bluff

210 S. Freeman, Oakley
(785) 672-8892

[Website](#)

A popular lunch and dinner spot with great daily specials. Prime Rib is featured every Saturday night!

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!