Family Fun Yellow Brick Road Trip

It should come as no surprise to learn that Kansas, a state steeped in family tradition, is a great place to adventure with your loved ones. Take a trip into outer space, back in time, and across the plains of Africa -- all without leaving our borders. If it's fun you're after, you've come to the right place...

1. Museum at Prairiefire
   5801 W 135th St, Overland Park
   (913) 333-3500
   [Website](#)

2. Schlitterbahn Waterpark
   9400 State Ave, Kansas City
   (913) 312-3110
   [Website](#)

3. KU Natural History Museum
   1345 Jayhawk Blvd, Lawrence
   (785) 864-4450
   [Website](#)

4. Kansas Children’s Discovery Center
   4400 SW 10th St, Topeka
   (785) 783-8300
   [Website](#)

5. Flint Hills Discovery Center
   315 S 3rd St, Manhattan
   (785) 587-2726
   [Website](#)

6. Rolling Hills Zoo
   625 N Hedville Rd, Salina
   (785) 827-9488
   [Website](#)

7. Strataca*
   3650 E Ave G, Hutchinson
   (620) 662-1425
   [Website](#)

8. Exploration Place
   300 N McLean Blvd, Wichita
   (316) 660-0600
   [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:*

   **Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead**
   13800 Switzer, Overland Park
   (913) 897-2360
   [Website](#)
   Bringing the charm of the farm to children living in the city. Children will treasure such memories as bottle feeding baby goats, milking a cow and taking a horse drawn wagon ride through the woods.

   **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!

   **Fritz Railroad Restaurant**
   13803 W 63rd St, Shawnee
   (913) 375-1000
   [Website](#)
   Order your food by telephone and it's brought to your table by an overhead train. Amazing!

Kansas City

2. **Schlitterbahn Waterpark**
   Experience over a mile of the interconnected river that goes from mild to wild, challenge yourself on towering waterslides, catch a thrill on water coasters, ride a wave on the Boogie Bahn Surfing Ride, let the kids splash and play on 13 mini slides, or relax on beaches, in private cabanas or a heated pool with a swim-up refreshment bar. FREE parking, tubes and life jackets. Picnics are welcome inside the park.

   *Looking for more unique opportunities near Kansas City? May we recommend:*

   **Adventure Zip KC**
   12829 Loring Road, Bonner Springs
   (913) 302-8881
   [Website](#)
   Experience a 300 elevation change, which is almost unheard of in Kansas! From the highest point at the park, the 65 foot tower allows you to see for miles.

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Great Wolf Lodge
10401 Cabela Dr, Kansas City
(913) 299-7001
Website
Indoor waterpark resort that features 8 water slides, 3 activity pools, a 1,000 gallon tipping bucket and two large whirlpools.

Kansas City T-Bones Baseball
1800 Village West Pkwy, Kansas City
(913) 328-5618
Website
Minor league professional baseball offering affordable family entertainment. Season runs May-September. Ticket's starting at $6.50, $2 hot dogs and parking is always free!

Moon Marble Company*
600 E Front St, Bonner Springs
(913) 441-1432
Website
Unique store that features handmade art glass marbles, marbles for play and collecting, and specialty toys and games. Marble-making demonstrations occur several days each week.

Sporting KC
One Sporting Way, Kansas City
(913) 387-3400
Website
Home to MLS team Sporting KC, Sporting Park combines the best attributes of European and South American soccer stadium with amenities that American Sport Fans desire.

T-REX
1847 Village West Pkwy, Kansas City
(913) 334-8888
Website
A place to eat, shop, explore, and discover. Face-to-face encounters with life-size dinosaurs, geysers, ice caves, hands-on educational activities, delectable food, a waterfall and an actual dinosaur dig.

Lawrence

3. KU Natural History Museum
See 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:

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Mass Street Soda
1103 Massachusetts, Lawrence
(785) 409-1767
Website
Choose from over 1,300 varieties of craft soda from around the world.

Midland Railway
1515 W High St, Baldwin City
(913) 721-1211
Website
Scenic train rides feature an 11-mile round trip from Baldwin City to Norwood and a 22 mile round trip from Baldwin City to Ottawa. Be sure to check out the special event excursions as well!

Wheatfields Bakery Café*
904 Vermont St, Lawrence
(785) 841-5553
Website
Artisan breads handcrafted daily; fine pastries; cafe’ menu featuring sandwiches, salads, and soups.

Topeka

4. Kansas Children’s Discovery Center
Located on 9 acres within Gage Park, the Discovery Center provides a wonderful landscape for children to experience SERIOUS FUN! Conduct science experiments, construct amazing towers, take an x-ray, change a tire, create messy, artistic masterpieces, perform, dance, compose musical melodies…and explore the great outdoors!

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

Gage Park – Mini Train & Carousel
635 SW Gage, Topeka
(785) 368-3838
Website
Ride the 1908 carousel and then hop aboard the mile-long train ride through the park.

Kansas Museum of History*
6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka
(785) 272-8681
Website
Kids will enjoy the children’s gallery where they can crawl into a tepee, try on pioneer clothes, and visit a re-created 1950s county fair.

Via’s Pizza
738 SW Gage, Topeka
(785) 215-8421
This family-friendly pizza restaurant offers delicious authentic stone-baked pizzas, calzones, soups, salads, and a bar.

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Manhattan

5. **Flint Hills Discovery Center**
   The Flint Hills Discovery Center explores the geology, biology and cultural history of the Flint Hills – the last remaining tallgrass prairie in North America. This is a must see attraction that will educate and entertain visitors of every age, with our multi-media, interactive exhibits, outdoor terrace, gift store and traveling exhibits that change throughout the year.

*Looking for more unique opportunities near Manhattan? May we recommend:*

**Cox Bros BBQ**
223 McCall Rd, Manhattan
(785) 539-0770
Choose from four delicious choices of BBQ: KC, Texas, Memphis and Carolina on a variety of meats.

**KSU Dairy Bar**
144 Call Hall, Manhattan
(785) 532-1292
Website
Choose from over 35 favors of ice cream produced by KSU students. Purple Pride is a local favorite!

**KSU Insect Zoo**
1500 Denison, Manhattan
(785) 532-2847
Website
Experience the sights, sounds, and smells of live creepy crawlies, including giant cockroaches, beetles, centipedes, scorpions, tarantulas, walking sticks, and praying mantises.

**Sunset Zoo**
2333 Oak St, Manhattan
(785) 587-APES
Website
Open 360 days a year, Sunset Zoo’s 26-acre park is your passport to over 200 amazing animal species from anteater to zebu.

Salina

6. **Rolling Hills Zoo**
   Both a world-class zoo with over 300 animals and an immersive museum with seven world regions from the tropical rainforest to the polar regions. Children can even crawl through a tunnel and into a dome-covered observation room that puts them right in the middle of the bobcat exhibit.

*Looking for more unique opportunities near Salina? May we recommend:*

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Kenwood Cove
701 W Kenwood Park Dr, Salina
(785) 309-5765
Website
Plunge 35 feet from one of the park’s four adventure slides. Drop 12 feet then swirl around the tornado slide before falling into a pool below. Hop on an inner tube and glide 275 feet down the river slide into the Lil’ Smoky Lazy River.

Martinelli’s Little Italy
158 S Santa Fe, Salina
(785) 826-9190
Website
Located in the heart of downtown, Martinelli’s has some of the best Italian cuisine to offer. All sauces are handmade!

Rock City Park
1051 Ivy Rd, Minneapolis
(785) 392-2092
Website
A national natural landmark comprised of over 200 huge concretions. Kids (and parents!) can climb on the rocks the size of houses.

Salina Art Center
242 S Santa Fe, Salina
(785) 827-0686
Website
Choose from a menu of guided art making exercises, including activities related to the current exhibition, or simply explore on your own.

Hutchinson

7. Strataca*
Hutchinson sits atop one of the world’s largest salt deposits, which still is being mined. At the Kansas Underground Salt Museum, the first stop on your tour will be at the above ground visitor’s center, then you will descend 650 feet into a mineshaft. Exhibits will tell the story of salt, touching history, mining, science, geology, and business.

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

Airport Steakhouse
1100 Airport Rd, Hutchinson
(620) 662-4281
Website
Watch aircraft take off and land while devouring the lunch buffet or the best homemade onion rings in town.

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**Cosmosphere***
1100 N Plum St, Hutchinson
(620) 662-2305
[Website](#)
Experience and learn the drama and suspense, the tragedies and triumphs of the most important scientific events in human history – the race to the moon through the Hall of Space Museum.

**Toy Depot**
127 S. Main, Hutchinson
(620) 259-8284
[Website](#)
Filled with over 40,000 vintage toys from the 1940's to the 1990's. Toys that have withstood the test of time and technology and appeal to every generation.

**Wichita**

8. **Exploration Place**
Experience your world in a new and fun way at Exploration Place. Discover extraordinary hands-on experiences. Immerse yourself in 4 exhibit areas focusing on flight, health, Kansas, and imaginative spaces for young children. Travel to faraway destinations in the CyberDome Theater.

*Looking for more unique opportunities near Wichita? May we recommend:*

**Flying Stove – Food Truck**
Wichita Area
(316) 609-9016
[Website](#)
A nationally recognized food truck serving high-end street cuisine since 2011.

**Museum of World Treasures**
835 E 1st St, Wichita
(316) 263-1311
[Website](#)
Find surprises around every corner, including Ivan the T.Rex, two Egyptian mummies, and an expansive military history exhibit.

**Nifty Nut House**
537 N St Francis, Wichita
(316) 265-0571
[Website](#)
Who doesn't love a candy store? Choose from over 3,000 items including: fresh Nuts roasted daily, Dried Fruit, Chocolate Covered Nuts, Gourmet Chocolates, Fresh Fudge, and Candies.

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Old Cowtown Museum
1865 W Museum Blvd, Wichita
(316) 219-1871
Website
Watch presses turn at the printer's shop and a blacksmith hammer red-hot iron. Take a covered wagon ride to the farm where you can visit with costumed interpreters that bring the rural 1880s to life.

Tanganyika Wildlife Park
1000 S. Hawkins Lane, Goddard
(316) 794-8954
Website
Voted “Best Place to Take the Family” three times, TWP is one of the most interactive zoos in US. See the new Pygmy Hippos! #WildlyDifferent