

Hays

KANSAS

ITINERARY

HAYS, KANSAS



STERNBERG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY 9:00 AM

Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History is named in honor of two generations of the Sternberg family that collected some of the most spectacular fossils in the world, including the famous "fish-within-a-fish." Visitors can walk among semi-automated life-sized dinosaurs and experience the lives of some of the most spectacular prehistoric creatures that ever lived.

In addition, the Dr. Howard Reynolds Nature Trails provide outdoor enthusiasts, students, and naturalists a sanctuary to view nature as it exists in west-central Kansas. The two miles of winding trails through the upland prairie, along the riparian corridor, over the stream, and underneath the trees will immerse you in our home on the range. This tour lasts approximately one to two hours.



OPTION 1

BISON HERD & BOOT HILL CEMETERY 10:30 AM

The original Boot Hill Cemetery is located in the heart of Hays. The cemetery got its name because so many of the inhabitants "died with their boots on." It is marked with a

limestone sculpture by local artist Pete Felten, whose works can be found throughout the community. On the outskirts of town, Frontier Park has been home to a bison herd since 1952, when it began with a bull named "Wild Bill" and a cow named "Calamity Jane." The first town in the area was not Hays City, but the short-lived town of Rome, established in May of 1867 – some say by "Wild Bill" Hickok. Today, the only remnant of Rome is a historical marker. This driving tour with a step-on-guide lasts approximately one to two hours.

OPTION 2

HISTORIC FORT HAYS SITE 10:30 AM

Fort Hays, originally named Fort Fletcher, was a United States Army Fort near Hays, Kansas. It was home to the 7th U.S. Cavalry commanded by Colonel George A. Custer. In addition to the visitors center, four of the original structures – the stone block house, guardhouse, and two officer's quarters – are open for guided tours. This tour lasts approximately one hour and thirty minutes.



EXPLORE THE BRICKS OF DOWNTOWN HAYS

2:00 PM **OPTION 1**

Recently named "The Most Beautiful Main Street in Kansas," Downtown Hays is home to local boutiques offering everything from clothing and accessories to jewelry and home decor. Among art galleries and day spas, you'll find historical markers that tell of the saloons and shootouts of Hays' "Wild West" days. Visit Gella's Diner and Lb. Brewing Co. to experience award-winning brews and a sampling of German cuisine, or try the family-owned Paisley Pear Wine Bar, Bistro & Market for small plates and Kansas-made products and gifts.



HISTORIC CHURCHES

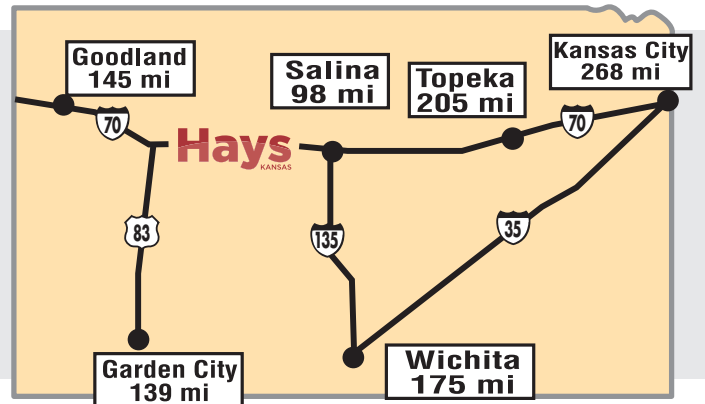
2:00 PM **OPTION 2**

Ellis County is known as the "German Capital of Kansas," and has a thriving German heritage that dates back to the 1870s. Many of the people of Ellis County are descendants of German immigrants who came from the Volga River region of Russia and the Bukovina region of Europe. Tour any of the 19 historic churches in the area including one of the "8 Wonders of Kansas," The Basilica of St. Fidelis, which was decreed by Pope Francis to be a Minor Basilica in 2014. This tour can last from two hours to a full day, depending on number of churches visited.

Hays is located on I-70 and Hwy. 183 (Exit 159), 5 hours east of Denver and 4 hours west of Kansas City.

DISTANCE TO HAYS, KANSAS

Albuquerque, NM	526 miles	Little Rock, AR	629 miles
Atlanta, GA	1,068 miles	Phoenix, AZ	1,027 miles
Colo. Springs, CO	320 miles	St. Louis, MO	528 miles
Dallas, TX	556 miles	Chicago, IL	790 miles
Lincoln, NE	279 miles	Minneapolis, MN	721 miles



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