

TELL ME A STORY... OF THE PRAIRIE.

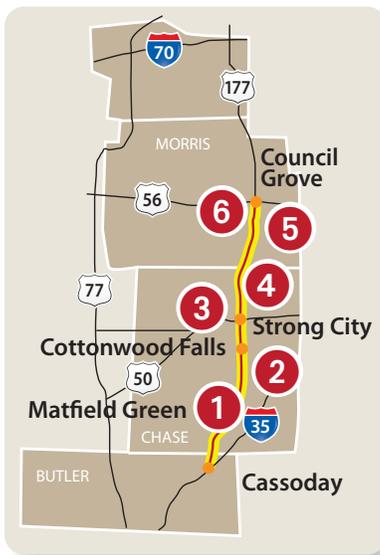
Traveling Flint Hills National Scenic Byway &
Kansas' Native Stone & Prairie Trail Scenic Byways



This four day/three night itinerary originates in Wichita at I-35 and winds north along one National Scenic Byway and two state designated byways to offer spectacular scenery, charming gateway communities, historically significant sites and museums, local dining, handicrafts and distinctive lodging. After traversing the three Kansas Scenic Byways, the loop tour returns to Wichita.

Day One: The Flint Hills National Scenic Byway

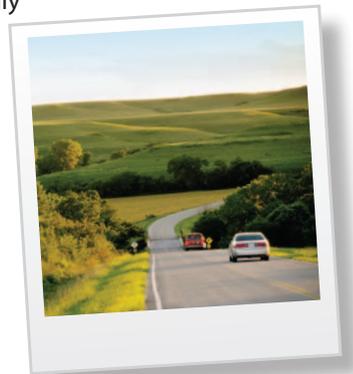
CASSODAY • MATFIELD GREEN • COTTONWOOD FALLS • STRONG CITY • COUNCIL GROVE



Directions: From I-35 (Kansas Turnpike), travel north toward Topeka to exit 92 at Cassoday. Take Kansas 177 – Flint Hills National Scenic Byway – north to Matfield Green and Cottonwood Falls (26 miles), then to Strong City (Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve – 1.7 mile) and north to Council Grove (20 miles). Total Distance: 47 Miles

The Story – Flint Hills National Scenic Byway (47 miles)

As Conestoga wagons rolled west through Kansas, seemingly endless prairie stretched out before them, carpeted in rich grasses, wildflowers and sunflowers. Vast herds of bison grazed here and the hills gleamed in the sunlight. Those who decided to settle here discovered the hills were laden with limestone, shale and flint. The Plains Indians who inhabited the region prized the flint, shaped by them for arrowheads, spear points and knives. Too rugged for plowing, they turned to cattle ranching and their herds grew fat on the abundant grasses. Today, cattle, many shipped to the Flint Hills for the nutritious grasses, contentedly graze in Kansas pastures, still home to nearly half of America's original prairie.



The Byway Experience Today

Beautiful, wide-sweeping vistas of wildflowers, sunflowers, rolling hills of grasses and prairie; pastureland; the historic towns of Matfield Green, Cottonwood Falls, Council Grove and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.



View from the Car Window:

There are more than 90 native species of grasses in Kansas. A "turkey foot," or three-to-five spike-like projections on the top of the grass, indicates the big bluestem. It can grow up to ten feet, but typically grows in the range of three to six feet, depending on where it is growing – upland or bottomland prairie. Roughly two-thirds of the grass is found underground, with only one-third above ground!



On Your MP3 Player or Radio:

Flint Hills Heritage Story Collection Project – MP3 downloads about ranching life at <http://kansasflinthills.travel/heritage>; 1680AM radio broadcast with traveler information.



1 The Story – Pioneer Bluffs

Charles Rogler, an Austrian immigrant, walked from Iowa to homestead here in 1859. This ranch, nestled along the south fork of the Cottonwood River one mile north of Matfield Green, was in the Rogler family until 2007.

The Byway Experience Today

Pioneer Bluffs Ranch is a 12-acre National Historic District, now operated by a local non-profit organization to celebrate the Flint Hills and its ranching heritage. The historic house and barns serve as gathering places for residents and visitors to enjoy regularly scheduled programming, events and guest lectures. A gallery featuring the works of many local artists is open to the public. Want to help preserve and sustain this significant place? Plan to visit the first Saturday of the month... Volunteer Workday!

2 Scenic overlook

Located one mile south of Cottonwood Falls, this turnout has beautiful views and informational signs about the Flint Hills and prairie. Walk up to the overlook's highest point for the best view!

3 The Story – Cottonwood Falls

Settlement came to Cottonwood Falls in 1854 when Seth Hays founded his cattle ranch on the Cottonwood River. Originally two towns, North Cottonwood and Cottonwood Falls, eventually merged into one at Union Street. Broadway, the main street of the downtown, is a wide avenue paved in red brick. In 1873, the county courthouse was erected here, anchoring one end of the brick boulevard.



The Byway Experience Today

The restored 1873 French Renaissance-style courthouse, the oldest in continuous use in Kansas, provides a sweeping view of the city and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve from the third-floor oval window. Other attractions include two museums and unique shopping including Jim Bell and Son, "Dressing the West at its Best since 1927," antiques, galleries, and hand-woven items from the Fiber Factory. Typically, when you see flags flying along Broadway, the door is open for visitors. Emma Chase Café serves home-style cooking during the week, Friday-night jam sessions and Sunday dinners. The 1884 Grand Central Hotel & Grill – Kansas' only winner of the AAA Four Diamond award in 2010 – offers fine dining, particularly steaks! Local lodging is also available.



Don't Miss:

Take a tour of the open range on horseback, ride a covered wagon onto the prairie to see how pioneers traveled 150 years ago, and sleep under the stars after a bowl of pioneer stew at the Flying W Ranch.



Famous People:

Knute Rockne's plane crashed 10 miles south of Cottonwood Falls – a monument to the crash is on private property.

4 The Story – Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Of the more than 140 million acres of original prairie, less than 4% remains, mainly in the Flint Hills. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve houses the largest contiguous piece of tallgrass prairie with nearly 11,000 acres outside Strong City. This is a unique kind of National Park – cooperatively owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service by National Park Service standards, with additional assistance from the Kansas Park Trust. Formerly a ranch, the original 1880s buildings are still on the property. A small herd of bison was just reintroduced.



The Byway Experience Today

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve has nearly 11,000 acres of native grassland. A visitor contact station is located in a massive limestone barn. Scheduled bus tours provide access to the prairie; hiking trails are signed and marked for limited access to the prairie. Self-guided tours through the historic house and schoolhouse are encouraged; guided house tours are offered, as staffing allows. A superb film about the Flint Hills is available for viewing in the house.

5 The Story – Council Grove

When a meeting was convened with the Osage Nation in 1825 to sign a treaty with the United States, the tribe met under a grove of trees to prepare for the long journey ahead. Later, wagon trains would assemble in this grove before heading southwest on the Santa Fe Trail. The town that grew here was named Council Grove. Letters to be picked up by travelers were pinned to what became known as the Post Office Oak. The city now has more than 13 sites listed with the National Register of Historic Places.

The Byway Experience Today

Many monuments to the town's historic significance as part of the Santa Fe Trail can be seen on a self-guided tour of 24 sites, 13 of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The last house wagons passed before heading out into the prairie was recently restored by the Historic Preservation Corporation. It is now the Trail Days Café, serving foods made from scratch so you experience food the way it used to be, with all proceeds supporting preservation efforts. Also in town, there's a visitor's center, retail shops and a soda fountain.



Famous People:

Seth Hays, great-grandson of Daniel Boone and cousin to Kit Carson, not only established a ranch near Cottonwood Falls, but came to Council Grove to trade with the Kaw Indians. He eventually opened the Hays House Restaurant, said to be the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi.

6 Kaw Mission State Historic Site

Kaw Mission State Historic Site is located in Council Grove. Here you can learn about the Original Kansans – the Kaw – considered the 'Guardians of the Plains.'



Don't Miss:

Enjoy dinner at the Saddlerock Café or the Hays House 1857 Restaurant and Tavern. Take an evening stroll along the Neosho Riverwalk.

Day Two: Prairie Trail Scenic Byway

CANTON • LINDSBORG • MARQUETTE

Directions: From Council Grove, take US-56 West to Canton for the beginning of the Prairie Trail Scenic Byway. Total distance: 127 miles

The Story – Prairie Trail Scenic Byway (56 miles)

Preserving the prairie as it was before Kansas was settled is not a new idea. When John Gault Maxwell drove a small herd of buffalo into what would be come his homestead, he dreamed of preserving both the prairie and the buffalo herds for future generations to experience. The Maxwell Wildlife Preserve is adjacent to the hub for the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails and the beginning of this byway. As emigrants began to settle Kansas in the 1860s, the hunters, trappers, traders and Indians who had ranged the area gave way to organized land claims for ranchers and farmers. In the late 1800s, more than 100 Swedish settlers, looking to establish a pure Lutheran church, established the community of Lindsborg, which still celebrates the life and culture of their heritage.



The Byway Experience Today

The towns of Canton, Lindsborg and Marquette offer unique dining, shopping and lodging – a perfect complement for the natural wonders and attractions found along this byway: the Maxwell Wildlife Game Preserve; rolling hills of pasture and farmland; Coronado Heights; the Kanopolis Reservoir and Mushroom Rock State Park.



1 The Story – Canton & the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge

Back in the 1960s some teenagers with too much time on their hands climbed one of Canton's two water towers and painted "Hot" on it, large enough for the town to see. Wanting in on the joke, the citizens soon painted "Cold" on the other tower and a legend was born. Pioneers, looking for a place to settle, found the rolling carpets of grasses, wildflowers and creeks irresistible, and began farming and ranching. This included the herd of buffalo at the Maxwell homestead, now the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge. Thanks to the Friends of Maxwell, a non-profit organization, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, buffalo and elk roam free on more than 2,800 acres.

The Byway Experience Today

In Canton, must-see attractions include the hot and cold water towers, the last Carnegie Library built in Kansas, the Stars and Stripes Museum and the Three Sisters Victorian Tea and Treasures restaurant and shop. At the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, drive to the visitor's center for information, exhibits and a gift shop. From here, you can take guided tours on trams to various parts of the refuge. Drive to McPherson State Lake to enjoy picnic areas, fishing, birding and nature trail. Cabins now available for overnight rental.



Don't Miss:

The climb to the top of the viewing tower at the refuge offers a great 360° view.

2 The Story - Lindsborg

Kansas was the "land of the future." "Amerika fever" became a rallying cry among people in Sweden seeking a place to practice religious freedom, satisfy an adventurous spirit, and recover from crop failures by starting over where land was plentiful. So they came in groups to what is now Lindsborg, bringing their skills as builders, farmers, musicians, teachers and artisans. Take Oscar Gunnarson. He worked as a paint salesman, but was also an accomplished artist whose landscapes still hang in galleries. He must have had quite the adventurous spirit, though – in his free time at the paint store, he sculpted images of many of the town citizens out of cement! His sculptures are on display at the Old Mill Museum.



The Byway Experience Today

Take a self-guided art tour to learn about the decorative Dala horses located outside storefronts and attractions. Self-guided tour of historic homes is also available. Other sites to visit: Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, the Red Barn Studio, the Old Mill Museum, Roller Mill and Heritage Square. Many galleries have friendly artisans in residence; gift shops sell all items Swedish, antiques, Kansas-made objects, wearable art, and other specialty goods. Stop at The Old Grind for coffee, baked goods and art; have lunch at The Butcher, Baker and Candlestick Maker.



Don't Miss:

At the Blacksmith Coffee Roastery in the old Blacksmith Shop, they specialize in premium beans and will also teach you to brew a perfect cup of coffee. If you are traveling in August/September, drive past the fields of sunflowers and take a picnic up the winding drive to Coronado Heights, just outside Lindsborg. Raised above the valley floor, this is a unique place to capture a 360° vista of the prairie, farmland, pastures and the Prairie Trail Scenic Byway. The Works Progress Administration built a castle, grills, fireplaces and picnic tables from Dakota limestone. Cycling? Take the three-mile mountain bike trail.

**On Your MP3 Player or Read Ahead:**

Little Sweden USA at www.lindsborg.org or on iTunes.

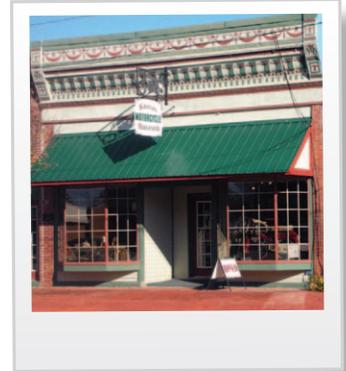
**Worth a Detour:**

Overnight in Lindsborg at the Swedish Country Inn and enjoy their Swedish buffet breakfast, or stay at the Seasons of the Fox Bed and Breakfast. Take in an evening performance at Broadway RFD, the longest running outdoor theatre in Kansas.

Directions: From Lindsborg, continue west on K-4 to Marquette (10 miles).

3 The Story – Marquette

At the turn of the century, most of the western half of Marquette was destroyed by a tornado. Since then, the pride and resilience of the citizens have restored and maintained the downtown Victorian buildings as well as many of the Victorian-style houses that survived the tornado. Volunteers recently repainted the 1880s decorative trim in original Victorian colors. Murals on the north end of town depict the tornado.

**The Byway Experience Today**

In Marquette, visit the Kansas Motorcycle Museum and its collection of motorcycles and racing memorabilia. The Valley Café is open for lunch and features the British owner's specialties. Artspace is a contemporary gallery, with decorative lamp post outside. Painted murals adorn sides of historic buildings. City Sundries has a great vintage soda fountain with diner menu and desserts, emporium and local crafts.

Directions: From Marquette, continue west on K-4 to K-141 north to Kanopolis State Park and Mushroom State Park (approximately 18 miles).

4 The Story – Kanopolis State Park & Mushroom Rock State Park

A fort, caves and ghost towns are scattered throughout the 80-mile Legacy Trail Self-Guided tour at Kanopolis, the first Kansas state park. Kansas' smallest state park is Mushroom Rock State Park. Wind and erosion weathered softer parts of sandstone away, leaving "stalk" bases with rounded spheres on top of these giant mushroom-shaped rock formations.

The Byway Experience Today

Kanopolis State Park features camping, cabins, 25 miles of trails through canyons, trees, high prairie and water crossings, marina, swimming, horse rentals. A 25.9 Millennium Legacy Trail is available for hikers, horseback riders and bicyclists. Take a picnic to Mushroom Rock State Park, where the mushrooms are definitely not edible!

**Worth a Detour:**

Overnight at Kanopolis State Park for time to explore the natural beauty of Kansas and enjoy the recreational activities available.

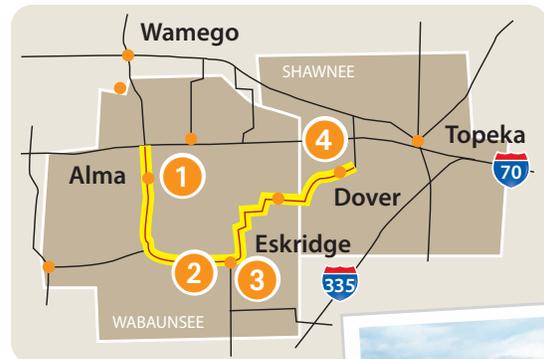
Day Three: Native Stone Scenic Byway

DESTINATIONS: ALMA • ESKRIDGE • DOVER

Directions: From K-141 at Mushroom State Park, drive east on K-140 through Brookville to intersection of I-135 near Salina (approximately 10 miles). Go north 2 miles on I-135, then take exit 95-A to I-70 East toward Topeka. Travel on I-70 East to exit 328, K-99 (76 miles) toward Alma to join the Native Stone Scenic Byway. Total distance: 96 miles

The Story – Native Stone Scenic Byway (48 miles)

In 1867, Kansas passed a law giving settlers 40 cents per rod for building a stone fence to mark property boundaries. Limestone was plentiful – trees were not! Using the available limestone and flint, settlers dry-stacked stone about waist high along their land claims in return for payment. Thus ended the open range. Dry-stack stone fences began appearing around homesteads.



The Byway Experience Today

Bridges, homes, barns and fences—all made of native limestone—frame the course of the byway as it winds through rolling hills, winding creeks, and wide vistas of wildflowers and prairie. Recognizing the need to preserve this part of Kansas history, the local byway committee hosts Stone Fence Restoration Workshops for people interested in learning the art of dry stone stacking fences. Not only do participants learn how to build the fences, they actually repair a fence on a local farm, helping in the conservation effort. To date, almost 200 feet of fences have been restored along the byway between the towns of Alma, Eskridge and Dover. Limestone buildings and bridges, rolling hills of farmland and pastureland, and signs indicating restored and rebuilt native stack-stoned fences are just a few of the scenic and historic sites to experience along this byway. Enjoy a variety of recreational activities at Lake Wabaunsee.



1 The Story – Alma

The German, Swedish and Irish immigrants who settled near Alma found stone quarrying and cattle ranching to be big business. The town began to grow and in 1867 became the county seat. Businesses flourished and, needing buildings, owners used what they had—limestone. As a testament to the durability of the material and craftsmanship, Alma is now known as the “City of Native Stone” where the business district, built in the 1800s and 1900s is 98% limestone structures.

The Byway Experience Today

On the walking tour, note the historical markers on the beautiful downtown limestone buildings. Visit Alma Creamery, where cheese is produced and sold along with other Kansas products. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays you will find the local ladies quilting Wabaunsee County Historical Museum. Other Alma attractions include Railroad Park; locally owned restaurants serving home-style cooking, pizza, hamburgers and sweets; numerous antique stores.



Don't Miss:

Skyline Mill Creek Scenic Drive – the portion around Alma – is on paved and unpaved roads, but travels through the rolling Flint Hills blanketed with wildflowers and native grasses.

Directions: Continue on the Native Stone Scenic Byway heading south along K-99 to K-4 to Lake Wabaunsee and Eskridge (19 miles).

2 The Story – Lake Wabaunsee

The south branch of Mill Creek, five miles from Eskridge, was seen as a future source of water and recreation to some forward-thinking citizens in the 1920s. Approval to build the lake, though, was slow in coming. Permission was granted in the 1930s to create the lake along with barracks and other support buildings for men who could not qualify for the Civilian Conservation Corps. By World War II, soldiers from Fort Riley were using the lake for water training. The barracks were used to house German prisoners of war captured in Africa.



The Byway Experience Today

Detour for a scenic drive around Lake Wabaunsee, or get out and enjoy the recreational facilities available here. Prisoner of War barracks have been renovated as cabins at Lake Wabaunsee; the dormitory is now a restaurant; masonry stone arch bridges are found along the lake.



Worth a Detour:

Beecher Bible and Rifle Church in Wabaunsee is open for Sunday services only. During the settlement of Kansas, New Englanders headed to the prairie to support the free-state cause and Rev. Henry Ward Beecher thought they needed help. He challenged his Connecticut neighbors to purchase rifles, and raised \$625 to purchase the guns and a box of bibles. The rifles were put in crates marked “Bibles” for the trip to the frontier.

3 The Story – Eskridge

As ranches and farms flourished, towns grew to support the settlers. Every town needed a bank. Eskridge’s bank was built with double arches, tile floors, pressed-tin ceilings and stained glass windows. Owned by the Waugh family since 1904, it is now home to their law practice.

The Byway Experience Today

Stop in for a meal at one of the locally owned restaurants. Residents are particularly proud of Maisie Devore’s Community Swimming Pool; the pool’s namesake collected aluminum cans for 30 years to raise the money to build the pool for her fellow citizens.

Directions: continue east on K-4 to Keene and Dover to conclude your trip on the Native Stone Scenic Byway (Total distance: 28 miles).

4 The Story – Dover

The Southwest Trail was a two-day ride on horseback, connecting the Oregon Trail and the Santa Fe Trail. Dover was not only the halfway point, but one of only two places where a wagon could cross Mission Creek. An inn was soon built at this ideal stopping point by the Sage brothers, stone masons of local renown. They worked on the original Kansas Capitol in Topeka. By 1900, the railroad bypassed Dover and stagecoach travel rapidly declined. Today, Kansas Highway 4 roughly follows the route of the Southwest Trail.



The Byway Experience Today

Since 1902 the Oddfellows Lodge members have been meeting upstairs at Somerset Hall, but the building is best known for the Somerset Hall Café, a meeting place for townspeople, travelers and cyclists. There is also a general store.



Don’t Miss:

Pie at the Somerset Hall Café – winner of Good Morning America’s “Country’s Best Pie” contest in 2008. The café only bakes a few pies daily, so visit early!



On Your MP3 Player:

Podcasts of "Cool Things" from the Kansas State Historical Society, www.ksks.org
Native Stone fence restoration video on Kansas Scenic Byways Facebook page.



Relax overnight at the 1878 Historic Sage Inn & Stagecoach Station. After a hearty breakfast, take a bike ride along the rolling hills of K-4 or drive out to the sandstone cliff at Echo Cliff Park. Be back before noon for lunch and pie!

Day Four: Return to Wichita

Directions: from Dover, continue 15 miles north on K-4 to K-99. Turn left, go 14.4 miles, then left on US-56. Travel 3.5 miles and take ramp to I-335 south to Wichita (97 miles). Total distance: 141 miles

Flint Hills National Scenic Byway (47 miles) <http://ksbyways.org/pages/Flint>

1 Pioneer Bluffs

695 Kansas Highway 177
Matfield Green, KS 66862
Phone: (620) 753-3484
<http://www.pioneerbluffs.org>

2 Scenic overlook

<http://ksbyways.org/pages/Flint>

3 Cottonwood Falls

Chase County Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (620) 273-8469
Toll Free: (800) 431-6344
<http://www.chasecountyks.org>

Emma Chase Café

317 Broadway
Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845
Phone: (620) 273-6020
<http://www.emmachasecafe.com>

Grand Central Hotel & Grill

215 Broadway
Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845
Phone: (620) 273-6763
Fax: (620) 273-8381
<http://www.grandcentralhotel.com>

4 Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

2480 Ks. Hwy 177
Strong City, KS 66869
Phone: (620) 273-8494
<http://www.nps.gov/tapr>

5 Council Grove

Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (620) 767-5413
Toll Free: (800) 732-9211
<http://www.councilgrove.com>

Trail Days Café & Museum

803 W Main St
Council Grove, KS 66846
Phone: (620) 767-7986
<http://www.traildayscafeandmuseum.org>

Hays House 1857 Restaurant & Tavern

112 W Main St
Council Grove, KS 66846
Phone: (620) 767-5911
<http://www.hayshouse.com>

Cottage House Hotel (Bed & Breakfast)

25 N Neosho St
Council Grove, KS 66846
Phone: (620) 767-6828
Toll Free: (800) 727-7903
<http://www.cottagehousehotel.com>

6 Kaw Mission State Historic Site

500 N Mission
Council Grove, KS 66846
Phone: (620) 767-5410
<http://www.ksks.org/places/kaw/>

Prairie Trail Scenic Byway (56 miles)

1 Canton & the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Friends of Canton, Inc.

Phone: (620) 628-4484
<http://www.skyways.org/towns/Canton>

Maxwell Wildlife Refuge

2565 Pueblo Rd
Canton, KS 67428
Phone: (620) 628-4455
<http://www.cyberkraft.com/maxwell/>

McPherson State Fishing Lake

2565 Pueblo Rd
Canton, KS 67428
Phone: (620) 628-4592
Toll Free: (800) 324-8022
<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us>

2 Lindsborg

Lindsborg Convention and Visitors Bureau
Phone: (785) 227-8687
Toll Free: (800) 227-2227
<http://www.visitlindsborg.com>

Old Mill Museum

120 Mill Street
Lindsborg, KS 67456
Phone: (785) 227-3595
<http://www.oldmillmuseum.org>

Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

401 N 1st St
Lindsborg, KS 67456
Phone: (785) 227-2220
<http://www.sandzen.org>

Swedish Country Inn

112 W Lincoln St
Lindsborg, KS 67456
Phone: (785) 227-2985
Toll Free: (800) 231-0266
<http://www.swedishcountryinn.com>

Seasons of the Fox Bed and Breakfast

505 N 2nd St
Lindsborg, KS 67456
Phone: (785) 227-2549
Toll Free: (800) 756-3596
<http://www.seasonsofthefox.com>

3 Marquette

The Amazing 100 Miles Tourism Coalition
Phone: (785) 658-2602
<http://www.amazing100miles.com>

Kansas Motorcycle Museum

120 N Washington
Marquette, KS 67464
Phone: (785) 546-2449
<http://www.ksmotorcyclemuseum.org>

4 Kanopolis Lake & Mushroom Rock State Park Kanopolis Reservoir, State Park, and Wildlife Area

200 Horsethief Rd
Marquette, KS 67464
Phone: (785) 546-2565
<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us>

Mushroom Rock State Park

200 Horsethief Rd
Marquette, KS 67464
Phone: (785) 546-2565
http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/state_parks/locations/mushroom_rock

Native Stone Scenic Byway (48 miles)

1 Alma

Alma Chamber of Commerce
Phone: (785) 765-3327

Alma Creamery

509 E 3rd
Alma, KS 66401
Phone: (785) 765-3522
Toll Free: (866) 765-3522
<http://www.almacreamery.com>

2 Lake Wabaunsee

Phone: (785) 449-2507
<http://www.wabaunsee.org>

Beecher Bible and Rifle Church

Main Street
Wabaunsee, KS 66547
Phone: (785) 765-2200
<http://www.wabaunsee.org>

3 Eskridge

City of Eskridge
Phone: (785) 449-2621
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/towns/Eskridge>

4 Dover

clo 1878 Sage Inn & Stagecoach Station
13553 SW Hwy 4
Dover, KS 66420
Phone: (785) 256-6050
Toll Free: (888) 466-1878
<http://www.historicsageinn.com>

Somerset Hall Café

5701 SW Douglas Road
Dover, KS 66420
Phone: (785) 256-6223
<http://www.doverkansas.com/businesses/somerset-hall-cafe>

