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Check Out What’s Tops on Kansans’ Bucket Lists

TOPEKA, KS - When Kansas Tourism asked residents to share their must-see-and-do Kansas experiences, the tourism experts got an earful. They learned that Kansans like Ike, they fancy the Flint Hills, and love to visit Wichita’s Botanica, Dodge City’s Boot Hill Museum, Atchison’s Amelia Earhart Festival and attractions tucked in every corner of the state.

 “To celebrate the 70th anniversary of KANSAS! Magazine, we wanted to find out the top 70 experiences on Kansans’ bucket list,” explained Linda Craghead, Assistant Secretary for Kansas Parks and Tourism. The tourism division asked the magazine’s readers and other Kansas enthusiasts to submit their must-do lists, and the top 70 results were recently announced in the winter issue of KANSAS! Magazine, on its 70th birthday.

 After the bucket-list submissions poured in, an editorial board pared the list down to the 70 finalists. Some are among the state’s acclaimed attractions, such as Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge near Great Bend, Chicken Mary’s and Chicken Annie’s restaurants in the Pittsburg area, Abilene’s Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum and the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka. Other more-surprising ones range from the 1950s All-Electric House in Shawnee and the Home on the Range Cabin near Smith Center to Guy & Mae’s Tavern in Williamsburg and Clark Drug, Soda and Ice Cream Parlor in Cimarron.

 While eateries, museums and artsy attractions are among the favorites, Kansans seek out outdoorsy, sporty and festival fun, too. The toughest tackle the grueling, 200-mile Dirty Kanza, hikers trek the trails at Konza Prairie, paddlers ply the Kansas River and bluegrass fans world-wide flock to Winfield’s annual Walnut Valley Festival.

 “We’re hoping to get the word out about all the unique, scenic and fun experiences the state offers,” said Craghead. “And while 70 choices is just a start, it’s a great introduction to what’s special about Kansas!”

 Kansas Tourism is continuing the Bucket List promotion in 2016 with a monthly social media contest. People visiting any of the 70 locations can take a photo at the site and post it to Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #KSBucketList (one entry per person per location). One winner will be drawn at random each month and awarded a prize, and a grand prize winner will be announced at the end of 2016.

 The Bucket List is available in the current issue of KANSAS! Magazine, at the state’s Travel Information Centers or at [www.KSBucketList.com](http://www.KSBucketList.com).

The top 70 experiences (in alphabetical order) include:

 1950s All Electric House, Shawnee; Alcove Springs Park, Blue Rapids; Amelia Earhart Festival, Atchison; Arikaree Breaks, St. Francis; The Bartlett Arboretum, Belle Plain; Basketball Game at Allen Fieldhouse, Lawrence; Big Brutus, West Mineral; The Big Well, Greensburg; Boot Hill Museum, Dodge City; Botanica, Wichita; Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, Topeka; Camping at a State Park or Lake, Statewide; Castle Rock and Monument Rocks, Quinter and Oakley; Cathedral of the Plains, Victoria; Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Great Bend; Chicken Mary’s and Chicken Annie’s, Pittsburg; Cimarron National Grassland, Elkhart; Clark Drug, Soda and Ice Cream Parlor, Cimarron.

Constitution Hall, Lecompton; Cruising the Backroads, Statewide; C. W. Parker Carousel Museum, Leavenworth; Deer Hunting, Statewide; Dirty Kanza 200, Emporia; Downtown Lawrence; The Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, Abilene; Emma Chase Friday Night Music, Cottonwood Falls; Fishing, Statewide; Flint Hills, Central Kansas; Flint Hills Discovery Center, Manhattan; Fort Riley, Junction City; Free State Brewery, Lawrence; Garden of Eden and Grassroots Art Center, Lucas; Gella’s Diner & Lb. Brewing Co., Hays; Guy and Mae’s Tavern, Williamsburg; The Gypsum Hills, Barber County.

 Haskell Indian Art Market, Lawrence; Home on the Range Cabin, Smith Center; Kansas Museum of History, Topeka; Kansas Sampler Festival, various locations; Kansas State Capitol, Topeka; Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson; Konza Prairie, Manhattan, K-State Football Game, Manhattan; Lewis and Clark, Atchison to Kansas City; Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum, Chanute; Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, Canton; Kansas Motorcycle Museum, Marquette; Mushroom Rock State Park, Marquette; Nicodemus National Historic Site, Nicodemus; NOTO Arts District, Topeka; Oktoberfest, Hays; Ol Stuga, Lindsborg.

Oz Museum, Wamego; Paddle the Kansas River, Junction City to Kansas City; Pawnee Indian Museum, Republic; The Pony Express, Marysville; Porubsky’s, Topeka; Prairie Museum of Art and History, Colby; Rails-to-Trails, Statewide; RowHouse Restaurant, Topeka; Scott State Park, Scott City; Sporting KC Soccer Match, Kansas City; Stargazing at Coronado Heights, Lindsborg; Strataca, Hutchinson; Svensk Hyllningsfest, Lindsborg; Switchgrass Trail, Wilson State Park; Symphony in the Flint Hills, Central Kansas; Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Chase County;Walnut Valley Festival, Winfield; Wichita Art Museum, Wichita.

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