

# It's in our nature... to Discover!



**Hidden Treasure in the Heartland.** Tour the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway and discover something unexpected. The byway reveals a surprise hidden in the flat plains of Kansas. The road moves through wetlands exploding with wildlife; prairie vistas with immense blue skies; and seven rural communities shaped by nature and pioneer spirit. Cheyenne Bottoms & Quivira National Wildlife Refuge are international treasures nestled in the heart of America and the communities that line the byway are charming, hospitable, and iconically Midwestern. What you discover here will change your view of Kansas. Scan the QR code and check out our interactive map for more information.



**1. Early Bird.** After your **Great Bend** overnight, get up early for a spectacular morning at Cheyenne Bottoms. Grab breakfast & some great coffee at Perks or Great Bend Coffee Company in downtown Great Bend on your way to the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms. (*Insider's Tip: Great Bend Coffee is inside a historic Masonic Lodge. Look for the gargoyle heads.*)

**2. Kansas Wetlands Education Center/Cheyenne Bottoms.** The crescent-shaped museum building curves around the marsh, offering great wildlife viewing. Learn the story of Cheyenne Bottoms from the museum's interpretive displays. A naturalist-guided van tour starts here and takes you into the Bottoms for bird and nature watching. When you return from your marsh experience, browse the gift shop for a souvenir.

**3. Hoisington, Kansas.** As you drive up the brick Main Street, check out the vintage neon sign at Manweiler's Chevrolet. Park & stroll Main Street, where award-winning, locally crafted metal art banners hang from streetlight poles. Stop at the Post Office for the WPA era mural inside, and the WPA constructed city auditorium with its impressive Sun Dial. Hoisington sits in the Cheyenne Bottoms Basin and The

Nature Conservancy's Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve is only minutes away (buffalo wallows are still visible here). (*Insider's Tip: Pick up lunch at Town & Country Market. Great fried chicken. Next door pick up a Dairy Queen treat. Both businesses were destroyed by a 2001 tornado.*)

**4. Cheyenne Bottoms Scenic Overlook.** Stop here for the best view of Cheyenne Bottoms. From this vantage point it's easy to see that Cheyenne Bottoms is a giant 64 square mile depression in the prairie.

**5. Ellinwood, Kansas.** When you arrive in this perfect little town, a tour of Ellinwood's Tunnels is a must. Built under the town's buildings, sidewalks and streets, the tunnels were home to a barber shop, a brewery, soiled doves, cowboys & gamblers. After the tour, shop in seven downtown antique shops. Head back to Great Bend for a hotel room or take advantage of Ellinwood's Wolf Pond or Ringering Campground where you can pitch a tent or park an RV and enjoy the natural beauty. (*Insider's Tip: Enjoy a meal at the Lone Wolf Restaurant or the American Legion in the town's Santa Fe Railroad station.*)





6. **Back on the Byway.** Today you will travel south on the byway through prairie grass, shelter belts, and cultivated farm land. Keep an eye out for hawks perching on fenceposts and wild turkeys in the fields. The byway Audio CD will keep you company and explain some of the crops and sights you will see on the road.

7. **Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.** Stop at the Visitors Center to get your bearings and find out what's on the marsh. The rangers can tell you where you might see whooping cranes or eagles and what bird species are abundant. The Big Salt Marsh Loop Drive is a perfect way to do some wildlife watching from your car and the Migrants Mile and Birdhouse Boulevard trails will get you out of your vehicle and into the wetlands. In contrast to Cheyenne Bottoms, which is a fresh water wetland with no trees, some of Quivira's wetlands are salt marshes, and large, impressive, old Cottonwood trees thrive here.

8. **St. John, Kansas.** The town square is a real retreat and the perfect place for a picnic lunch (you can get the fixings on the square at Dillons Market - one of the first in the nation). A 100-year old fountain, miniature Statue of Liberty and beautiful buildings (including a striking Courthouse) make this an interesting stop. After lunch, take a tour of the Science Museum and then a short drive to see the site where the town was founded by a group of Pennsylvania Mormons.



9. **Stafford, Kansas.** Visit downtown's Antique Mall, coffee at Taste and See Coffee Shop or a milk shake at the old fashioned soda fountain in the Stafford Mercantile, or grab a bite at The Gathering Place. Be sure to tour the Stafford County Historical Society & Museums and the seven buildings on the National Historic Register. For an evening treat take in a movie at the restored Ritz Theatre.



## Discover More!

The Byway will continue to surprise you!

### Start Your Day Right

- Great Bend's Great Bend Coffee serves breakfast & lunch.
- Unique Shopping in Hoisington
- Kindscher's Mule Barn farm & home store

### Stay in the Bottoms

- Hoisington's new Cheyenne Bottoms Inn & Suites
- Stone Bridges
- Beautiful WPA-built stone bridges near Clafin

### Sunday Buffet in Hudson

- The Wheatland Restaurant is a Sunday tradition.
- Got Flour? Tour the Stafford County Flour Mill in Hudson

### Historical Buildings

- Stafford boasts seven buildings on the National Historic Register.
- Play a Round  
Ellinwood, Great Bend & Stafford have unique golf courses

Plan a Byway Discovery!



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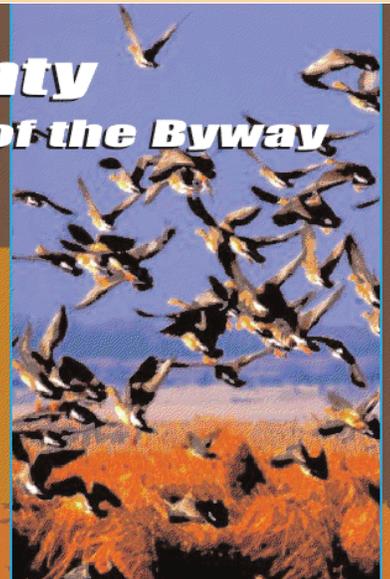
Visit our mobile website here.



## Barton County Proud Supporter of the Byway

*The Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway will reshape your image of the Sunflower State*

This Kansas Byway connects two of the world's most significant wetlands — Cheyenne Bottoms & Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. The wetlands host millions of migrating birds each year, including eagles & whooping cranes. The Byway offers more than wetlands & wildlife. You'll see native stone buildings, underground tunnels, WPA art & bridges, a flour mill, part of the Santa Fe Trail, & more. Travel the Byway & discover the unexpected.



Wetlands & Wildlife  
NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY



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