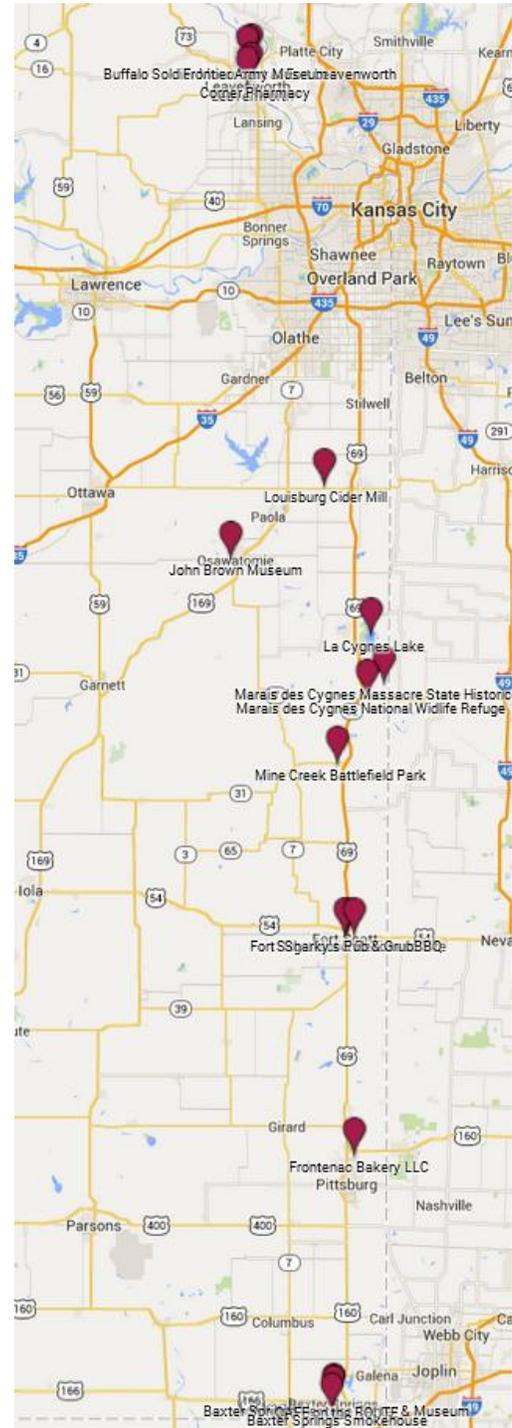




Historic Yellow Brick Road Trip

From 1854 to 1861, the tumultuous [Bleeding Kansas](#) years, the Kansas Territory was embroiled in conflict over whether to enter the Union as a free state or a slave state. Activists from both sides flooded the territory to attempt to sway the outcome, and the opposing factions engaged in conflict, violence and psychological warfare. Trace the state's history from the early military developments that protected westward pioneers to the years leading up to the Civil War.

1. **Fort Leavenworth***
Hwy 73, Fort Leavenworth
[Website](#)
2. **Frontier Army Museum**
100 Reynolds Ave, Fort Leavenworth
(913) 684-3191
[Website](#)
3. **Buffalo Soldier Monument**
290 Stimson Ave, Fort Leavenworth
[Website](#)
4. **John Brown Museum**
1000 Main St, Osawatomie
(913) 755-4384
[Website](#)
5. **Marais des Cygne Massacre State Historic Site**
20485 Hwy 52, Pleasanton
(913) 352-8890
[Website](#)
6. **Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site**
20485 Hwy 52, Pleasanton
(913) 352-8890
[Website](#)
7. **Fort Scott National Historic Site***
Old Fort Blvd, Fort Scott
(620) 223-0310
[Website](#)
8. **Fort Blair Historic Site**
6th & Military, Baxter Springs
(620) 856-2385
[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!



9. **Baxter Springs Heritage Center**

740 East Ave, Baxter Springs

(620) 856-2385

[Website](#)

Fort Leavenworth

1. **Fort Leavenworth**

Many of the historic sites date back to the early days of the post. Follow the historical waysides tour, starting at the Frontier Army Museum. NOTE: Picture ID (driver's license) required upon entering Fort.

2. **Frontier Army Museum**

Tells the story of Fort Leavenworth from 1827-1917, and the history of the frontier Army from 1804 when Lewis & Clark passed by present day Leavenworth and Fort Leavenworth.

3. **Buffalo Soldier Monument**

Impressive monument and surrounding reflecting pool and statue busts of several renowned African American soldiers was dedicated in 1992. Monument constructed after General Colin Powell, while stationed at Fort Leavenworth, noticed that only two short streets were dedicated to the 9th & 10th Cavalry, which were the black regiments.

Looking for more unique opportunities near Fort Leavenworth? May we recommend:

Downtown Leavenworth

416 Cherokee St, Leavenworth

(913) 682-3924

[Website](#)

Enjoy the modern life of the First City of Kansas. A full service downtown with over 275 businesses including 22 restaurants offering international cuisines, unique and specialty retailers, lively entertainment and fun at every turn.

Corner Pharmacy*

429 Delaware St, Leavenworth

(913) 682-1602

Prettiest downtown Victorian building in Leavenworth. Features an old-fashioned lunch counter and pharmacy.

Osawatomie

4. **John Brown Museum State Historic Site**

Witness pioneer life where Reverend Samuel and Florella Adair struggled to survive on the Kansas frontier while maintaining their Abolitionist principles. The Kansas career of Florella's legendary half brother, John Brown, and his Abolitionist efforts are featured in an exhibit gallery. Here John earned the sobriquet 'Osawatomie Brown' as he fought for the free-state cause.

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

Louisburg Cider Mill & Country Store

14730 W Hwy 68, Louisburg, KS

(913) 837-5202

[Website](#)

Louisburg Cider Mill has apple cider and its famous cider doughnuts, of course, but also has a country store full of other wonderful products. Depending on the season, the Louisburg Cider Mill lets you watch cider being made, or has a hay ride, corn maze and pumpkin patch for the kids to enjoy.

Pleasanton

5. Marais des Cygne Massacre State Historic Site

In May 1858, proslavery men gunned down 11 free-state men in a ravine that is now an important landmark. The shootings shocked the nation and became a pivotal event in the Bleeding Kansas era. A few months later, abolitionist John Brown came to this site on a military trail to build a fort. Take a drive through this now beautiful natural setting and experience the site through outdoor exhibits. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

6. Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site

At Mine Creek in 1864 a large body of Union calvary swept down on the rear of Confederate General Sterling Price's supply train that was returning south after a long raid through Missouri and Kansas. Today you can walk the battlefield guided by signage to indicate specific areas of interest. Walk the prairie loop and the timber loop trails, both guided by interpretive signage, and visit the newly-constructed visitor center which houses displays on the Battle at Mine Creek, the Price Campaign of 1864, and other aspects of the Civil War.

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

Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area

16382 Vail Rd, Pleasanton

(913) 352-8941

[Website](#)

Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area (7,654 ac) lies in the floodplain of the Marais des Cygnes River and is unique for its quantity of managed wetlands and bottomland hardwood forest. The array of wetland units are managed for a diversity of habitat types, producing abundant food and cover for migratory waterfowl and other wetland species.

La Cygne Wildlife Area

22809 E 1700 Rd, Pleasanton

[Website](#)

2,000 acres of mostly wooded uplands, with some grass meadows and crop fields. The wildlife area has excellent opportunities for deer, wild turkey, and squirrel hunting.

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Fort Scott

7. Fort Scott National Historic Site*

Each of the site's 20 historic structures, furnished rooms, exhibits, costumed interpreters, and special event weekends help you experience the events that shaped the nation. First Kansas Colored regiment was mustered at the Fort in 1863.

Looking for more unique opportunities near Fort Scott? May we recommend:

Sugarfoot & Peaches BBQ

1601 E Wall St, Fort Scott
(620) 224-2888

Sugarfoot and Peaches BBQ is proud to serve authentic slow smoked BBQ. They start with choice meats, seasoned with their own dry rub or dijon chipotle wet rub. The meat is then slow smoked over various seasoned wood.

Sharky's Pub and Grub

16 N National Ave, Fort Scott
(620) 223-4777

[Website](#)

Located in downtown Fort Scott, you'll find sports on the big screen, great food, fabulous service and good company!

Frontenac Bakery*

221 N Crawford, Frontenac
(620) 231-7980

The Frontenac Bakery was established in 1904 by Italian immigrant George Vacca. His original no-preservatives recipe is still used today, the bread is served at all chicken restaurants in Crawford County.

Baxter Springs

8. Fort Blair Historic Site

Replicated frontier Civil War Fort includes breastworks, block house, brush harbor and extensive signage. This fort was attacked by William Quantrill's forces in 1863.

Looking for more unique opportunities in Baxter Springs? May we recommend:

Café on the Route

1101 Military Ave, Baxter Springs
(620) 856-5000

[Website](#)

Cafe on the Route features from scratch cooking! Our Burgers are house ground Certified Angus Beef, not a frozen patty. Our Fries are hand cut Idaho Potatoes, our Onion Strings and Chicken Fried Steak are hand battered, our Marinara Sauce and Meatballs are house made and we have our own smoker for our Brisket, Sausage, and Ribs. We make our own Sauces, our own Dinner Rolls and even our own Mayonnaise.

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Baxter Springs Smokehouse

2320 Military Ave, Baxter Springs
(620) 856-3287

[Website](#)

Established in December of 2006, the Smokehouse has been serving the 4 states area with the best smoked meats, steaks and seafood around.

Other Historic Side Trips:

Frontier Military Historic Byway

www.travelks.com/ksbyways/frontier-military/

Journey through Kansas' pre-Civil War history. The byway links Fort Leavenworth in the north to Fort Scott and finally, former Cowtown Baxter Springs in the south. Drive along traces of the 1800s military trail used to transport troops and supplies during the turbulent times of "Bleeding Kansas" and the Civil War. Also Along the route, hear legends and see monuments that memorialize history across the Kansas landscape.

Kansas' Historic Route 66 Byway

www.travelks.com/ksbyways/route66/

Route 66 is still going places. While only 13.2 miles of the Mother Road pass through the Southeast corner of Kansas, the sights and attractions along the way remain as remarkable as they were in their heyday. Expect to be in and out of the car a lot during this trip down memory lane.

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