



GOVERNOR J. KEVIN STITT AND FAMILY

Oklahoma is home to many notable people, from pioneering astronauts and athletes to renowned authors and actors. Regardless of their roles, they have left an indelible mark on our state that has helped weave the fabric of our culture.

Many stops along our highways and byways offer a look into where these folks made their mark. Explore a variety of locations such as the Three Rivers Museum in Muskogee to learn of legendary lawman Bass Reeves; The Outsiders House Museum in Tulsa, made famous by the movie inspired by S.E. Hinton's novel; or Oklahoma's contributions to aviation and spaceflight at the Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford.

Whether you're looking to explore the rich history of Oklahomans, enjoy one of our bustling metropolises or spend time in the great outdoors, our state has it all. Be sure to visit one of our newly renovated state parks and our more than 200 lakes. Anglers can chase the big catch by following any of the state's six-loop Oklahoma Fishing Trail.

We're already making plans for the 100th anniversary of historic Route 66 in 2026. Visitors can get a free Oklahoma Route 66 Passport from any Tourism Information Center or TravelOK.com to find recommended stops.

Whether you were born and raised in Oklahoma, or you're making a stop in the Sooner State, learning Oklahoma's heritage is worth the trip.

Sincerely,
Governor J. Kevin Stitt

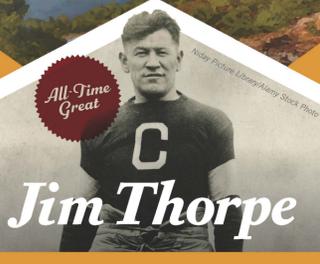
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LARGER-THAN-LIFE OKLAHOMANS

Welcome to a place where the people dream big. In Oklahoma, tales of some of the country's most exceptional individuals loom larger than life. Their accomplishments might make them sound like folk heroes, but they're not. They're real-life, flesh-and-blood Oklahomans whose impact has been felt not just around the state but around the world.

Imagine that.



One of the greatest athletes of all time was born in 1887 near Prague, OK. Jim Thorpe, a Sac and Fox Nation citizen, spent his early years in the area before being sent to Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. Thorpe played professional baseball, football and basketball and won gold in the decathlon and pentathlon at the 1912 Olympics. His medals were taken away after it was found that he had violated amateurism rules. They were reinstated in 2022, decades after his death in 1953.

Places to See

- 1 Jim Thorpe Museum & Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City
- 2 Mural, monument and birth site plaque, Prague
- 3 Jim Thorpe Home, Yale



Chickasaw storyteller and actress Mary "Te Ata" Thompson Fisher performed on stages around the world. Fisher, who was born in 1895 near the tiny community of Emet, shared Chickasaw legends, myths and chants with audiences that included President Franklin D. Roosevelt, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Fisher was named Oklahoma's first Cultural Treasure in 1987. She died in 1995 at the age of 99.

Places to See

- 1 Chickasaw Council House Museum, Tishomingo
- 2 Te Ata Memorial Auditorium and statue at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha
- 3 Oklahoma Hall of Fame at Gaylord-Pickens Museum, Oklahoma City



Some Oklahoma icons seem mythical because they actually are mythical — at least as far as anyone knows. The creature known as Bigfoot has long been rumored to roam southeastern Oklahoma, and the richly wooded area does seem like an ideal residence for a forest wanderer who appreciates solitude. The town of Honobia even hosts a yearly festival and research conference in Bigfoot's honor.



Places to See

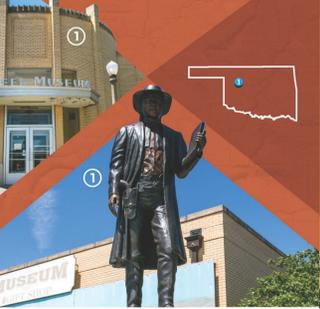
- 1 Beavers Bend State Park, Hochatown
- 2 Honobia Bigfoot Festival & Conference, Honobia



He might have been the son of one of Texas' favorite sons — Sam Houston — but Temple Lea Houston chose to live his life in Oklahoma, landing in Woodward after participating in the Land Run of 1893. Houston developed quite the reputation on the frontier as a lawyer, a politician, a gunfighter and a snazzy dresser. He died in Woodward in 1905, just two years before statehood.

Places to See

- 1 Plains Indians & Pioneers Museum, Woodward



One of the country's most legendary fast pilots and astronauts was born and raised in Weatherford. NASA selected Thomas P. Stafford as part of the second group of astronauts to participate in the Gemini and Apollo projects. Lt. Gen. Stafford flew on four space flights, co-piloting the first manned space rendezvous on Gemini 6 and serving as commander on Apollo 10, the final test before the first crewed landing on the moon.



Places to See

- 1 Stafford Air & Space Museum, Weatherford
- 2 Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 3 Oklahoma Hall of Fame at Gaylord-Pickens Museum, Oklahoma City



A spiritual and war leader of the Chiricahua Apache, Geronimo fought fiercely to protect his tribe's way of life. In raids and fights with the United States and Mexican governments, he became famous for his ability to evade capture. He outwitted the U.S. military for years before finally surrendering in 1886. He was eventually sent to Fort Sill, where he lived until his death in 1909.

Places to See

- 1 Fort Sill National Historic Landmark & Museum, Fort Sill
- 2 Geronimo's gravesite at the Beef Creek Apache Cemetery, Fort Sill
- 3 National Hall of Fame for Famous American Indians, Anadarko



In the 1960s, a teenager at Tulsa's Will Rogers High School began writing the novel that would revolutionize young-adult literature and sell more than 15 million copies. S.E. Hinton was still in her teens when "The Outsiders" was published in 1967. It became a hit and inspired a 1983 film adaptation of the same name that was filmed in Tulsa. Hinton, who still lives in Tulsa, would go on to write four more young-adult novels as well as fictional novels for children and adults.



Places to See

- 1 The Outsiders House Museum, Tulsa
- 2 Circle Cinema, Tulsa
- 3 Admiral Twin Drive-In, Tulsa



In 1875, a man who had been born into slavery in Arkansas became the first Black deputy marshal west of the Mississippi River. He would go on to become a frontier legend. Bass Reeves was tasked with bringing order to what was then known as Indian Territory, and he delivered, apprehending some of the territory's most wanted men. Reeves is believed to have helped inspire main characters in "The Lone Ranger," "True Grit" and "Django Unchained."

Places to See

- 1 Three Rivers Museum, Muskogee
- 2 Bass Reeves Western History Conference, Muskogee



OKLAHOMA Turnpike Authority

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ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL

In 2026, Oklahoma will celebrate the centennial of Route 66. The state is home to more than 400 drivable miles of the iconic highway, which stretches across Oklahoma and seven other states.

An Oklahoman helped dream up the idea for the legendary roadway. Tulsa businessman Cyrus Avery lobbied strongly for a highway linking Chicago to Los Angeles — and for it to pass through his home state. Avery got both his wishes, and U.S. Highway 66 was commissioned in 1926. Avery called it the Main Street of America.

The Mother Road's heyday came during America's years of prosperity after World War II ended in 1945. This era gave rise to the family vacation. With 2,400 miles of attractions big and small, Route 66 was an ideal fit for this phenomenon.

Nearly 100 years after the highway got its start, Oklahoma's stretch of Route 66 still makes for a perfect road trip. Travelers who choose to cruise the Mother Road will find a mix of historic icons and new destinations.

Those who explore Route 66 during the centennial in 2026 will be treated to even more Mother Road fun than usual. Plans are underway for special projects and celebrations in Oklahoma and beyond.