

EXPLORING

Southeastern Oklahoma



» DAY 1: Robbers Cave, Krebs

MORNING – We begin our time in **Southeastern Oklahoma** at **Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center**. These mounds were used by Caddoan speaking Indians between 850 and 1450 AD. Learn about the area and see artifacts with a guided tour of the site (allow 1 hour).

AFTERNOON – Lunch is included at the **Kerr Conference Center & Museum**, which was the former home of U.S. Senator Robert S. Kerr. The center offers a beautiful view as it sits on a ridge overlooking the foothills of the **Kiamichi Mountains**. After lunch, visit the **Kerr Museum** for more information about Senator Kerr and eastern Oklahoma (allow 2 hours). Travel to **Robbers Cave State Park** in the woodlands of the **San Bois Mountains**. The park is most noted for the cave and the legend it holds as being a hideout for outlaws including Belle Star and Jesse James (allow 1 hour). Coal mining has been an important part in southeast Oklahoma development. The small community of **Krebs** was developed by Italian immigrants that worked the coal mines. Stop at **Lovera's Grocery**, which has a variety of imported Italian foods and enjoy samples of Lovera's handmade Italian cheeses and sausages (allow 45 minutes). **The Krebs Heritage Museum** contains artifacts from the mining industry, early day tools, and a rare collection of musical instruments (allow 45 minutes).

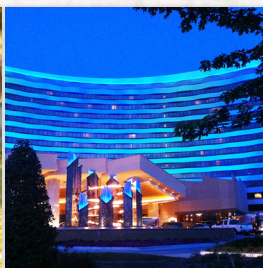
EVENING – Enjoy dinner at one of Krebs' Italian restaurants before checking into a hotel in **McAlester** for the evening.

» DAY 2: McAlester, Hugo, Idabel

MORNING – Depart **McAlester** for the **Fort Washita Historic Site** that was built in 1842 to protect the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes from the Southern Plains Indians (allow 45 minutes).

AFTERNOON – Enjoy some free time for lunch and gaming at the **Choctaw Casino Resort** (allow 2-3 hours) before heading east to **Hugo**, which is the winter home of many circuses. The **Hugo Frisco Depot Museum** contains memorabilia from "Circus City, USA" and a miniature circus display (allow 1 hour). Visit the **Showman's Rest Area of Mount Olivet Cemetery** to see unique headstones and gravesites of circus performers and owners (allow 1 hour).

EVENING – Dinner and overnight is in **Idabel**.



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» **DAY 3: Red River, Broken Bow**

MORNING – After breakfast at the hotel, depart for the **Museum of the Red River**. The museum introduces us to the cultural heritage of the North, Central, and South Americans. See the reconstructed skeleton of a dinosaur which was found 12 miles from the museum. **The Garner Museum and Mansion** was the home of Chief of the Choctaws and holds a large collection of Indian artifacts and fossils (allow 1 hour).

AFTERNOON – After lunch in **Broken Bow**, we will enjoy a wine tasting at **Girls Gone Wine** (allow 45 minutes). Select from 16 varieties of wine and visit the gift shop before heading to **Beavers Bend State Park**. The forests of southeast Oklahoma are the number one industry in the area with over 60-million cubic feet of lumber harvested each year. Visit the **Forest Heritage Center** where 14 dioramas tell stories of the forestry industry. The center also gives honor to forest firefighters with an eight-foot bronze of Jim Burnett, the first forest firefighter from Oklahoma to lose his life fighting forest fires (allow 1 hour).

EVENING – Stay at Lakeview Lodge in **Beavers Bend State Park** on **Broken Bow Lake**.



» **DAY 4: Talihina**

MORNING – Travel to **Talihina** where we begin our drive across the **Talimena National Scenic Byway** that is built specifically for its view, that winds atop the ridges of the **Ouachita National Forest**. It is known for its beauty in the fall, as well as spectacular scenery any time of the year. There are many pull out areas along the 54-mile byway for panoramic views and photo opportunities (allow 2-3 hours for the byway drive with scenic stops).

» **DAY 5: Durant, Fort Towson**

MORNING – Enjoy breakfast at the casino along with some additional free time to relax or play. Depart mid-morning and head east.

AFTERNOON – Visit **Fort Towson** that was established in 1824 to protect the Choctaws. It was the ending point for the Choctaw's Trail of Tears in 1832-1834 (allow 45 minutes). Near **Millerton** is the **Wheelock Academy** that served for more than a century as a Female Seminary for Native American girls and was operated by the Choctaw Nation (allow 45 minutes).

» *Consider extending your tour by combining this tour with the Tulsa itinerary.*

