

## Oklahoma's Rhythm and Routes Itinerary

### Six-Day Itinerary

Music has long been an integral part of the Oklahoma experience. From the songs of the common man written by legendary folk singer Woody Guthrie to the chart-topping hits of country superstars Garth Brooks and Blake Shelton, Oklahomans have long been churning out tunes that touch the world. This tour takes travelers around the state to explore the state's unique musical past and present.

#### Day 1

You'll kick off your tour in northeastern Oklahoma, starting in Miami at the **Coleman Theatre**. Opened in 1929 as a vaudeville theater, this stunning building features a Spanish Colonial Mission-style exterior and opulent Louis XV interior. On your tour, you'll get to explore the ornate theater, see the restored 2,000-pound chandelier and hear its legendary Mighty Wurlitzer organ play.

After lunch, you'll move on to Bartlesville. For one week each June, the city is home to the **OKM Music Festival**, which features concerts from Oklahoma and national artists at venues around the city. If you can't make it for a festival week performance, you can take a tour or watch a performance at the **Bartlesville Community Center**, a state-of-the-art venue that hosts a wide range of live productions.

Then you'll move on to Pawhuska for dinner at **The Pioneer Woman Mercantile**, Food Network star Ree Drummond's restaurant and store. Then it's on to **Ponca City** for the night.

#### Day 2

Start the day with a Roaring '20s-themed breakfast at the **Marland Mansion & Estate**, then tour the 1920s-era, Italian-inspired home whose elegance earned it the nickname of "Palace on the Prairie." You'll hear the stranger-than-fiction tales of the life of E.W. Marland — the late oil baron and Oklahoma governor — and Lydie, his adopted daughter who went on to become his second wife.

Then you'll depart for Stillwater, where your first stop will be a photo opportunity in front of the former home of one of music's biggest stars: Garth Brooks. The country superstar, who attended Oklahoma State University, lived with his first wife in the yellow, two-story home near campus in the late 1980s.

No stop in Stillwater is complete without a visit to **Eskimo Joe's**. The restaurant is one of the nation's most well-known college bars and regularly hosts live music, earning

it the nickname "Stillwater's Jumpin' Little Juke Joint."

Enjoy a delicious charbroiled burger with a plate of the famous cheese fries, then head over to the gift shop to pick up souvenirs that feature the restaurant's recognizable logo: a grinning cartoon boy and his dog.

Next you'll head to the outskirts of town to **The Farm**. The former home of late songwriter Bob Childers is considered the birthplace of red dirt music, a genre that takes its name from the color of the Oklahoma soil. While Childers' home burned years ago, the garage that he turned into a performance space remains. Enjoy live music from local artists before you head into Oklahoma City.

After checking into your hotel in the Bricktown Entertainment District, head over to the **American Banjo Museum**. There, you'll enjoy dinner along with an exclusive performance, then tour the museum, which houses the largest public display of banjos in the world. Afterward, you can return to the hotel or explore Bricktown on your own.

#### Day 3

Start the day at Oklahoma City's **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**, a fascinating attraction that tells the story of the American West. It contains a massive collection of Western and Native American art and artifacts, and the museum's Hall of Great Western Performers includes musicians (and Oklahoma natives) Gene Autry, Vince Gill and Reba McEntire.

After lunch, move on to tour the theater that is home to the **Rodeo Opry**, Oklahoma's official country music show. You'll learn about the history of the show, which has played host to legends and up-and-comers since it launched in the 1970s.

Afterward, stop by **Northwest Classen High School** for a photo with a statue of one of the school's most famous alumni: country singer Vince Gill. The school honors Gill

with a 9.5-foot statue featuring him with his beloved 1952 Fender Telecaster.

#### Day 4

Travel southwest to start the day in Duncan. You'll gather for a group picture at the town's **Rhythm & Routes Mural**, which honors two former area residents who penned legendary tunes. Then you'll head over to the **Stephens County Historical Museum** to learn their stories. One is Mae Boren Axton, who co-wrote the Elvis Presley hit "Heartbreak Hotel," and the second is her son Hoyt Axton, a singer and songwriter who wrote hits like the Kingston Trio's "Greenback Dollar" and Three Dog Night's "Joy to the World" and "Never Been to Spain."

Then head to Ardmore for lunch at **Two Frogs Grill**. With autographed guitars and rare photos of music legends filling the walls, this restaurant exudes some serious rock-and-roll vibes. Listen to stories about the restaurant's history, which has included visits from some big-name musicians, while you dine on Southern favorites with a Cajun twist.

Afterward, you'll travel to downtown Tishomingo, the adopted hometown of Blake Shelton, to visit the country superstar's newest venture. With a name inspired by one of Shelton's early hits, **Ole Red** is a restaurant, live music venue and retail space that opened in 2017. Try a slice of pecan pie or an ice cream sandwich while you listen to live music.

Next, you'll travel to Ada to visit the **McSwain Theatre & Art Gallery**. Built in the 1920s, this magnificent building has been restored and hosts concerts, plays, movies and other events. Shelton, who grew up in Ada, was once a regular performer at the McSwain. You'll take in a performance and enjoy dinner before heading to McAlester to check in to your hotel for the night.

#### Day 5

You'll start the morning in the small community of Rentiesville at the **Down Home Blues Club & OK Blues Hall of Fame** to sit in on one of its frequent jam sessions. Started by blues musicians D.C. and Selby Minner in D.C.'s childhood home, the hall of fame contains photos and memorabilia celebrating Oklahoma blues musicians.

Your next stop is Muskogee, the town that Merle Haggard made famous with his hit, "Okie From Muskogee." Start out with a photo op at the **Ed Edmondson United States**

**Courthouse**, where, as the Hag said in his lyrics, they do still wave Old Glory out front.

Then visit the **Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame & Museum**, where you can see memorabilia and learn about the history of Oklahoma music from a knowledgeable tour guide.

After lunch at one of Muskogee's delicious restaurants, you'll move on to Broken Arrow. This city is the hometown of singer and actress Kristin Chenoweth. You'll stop by the **Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center** for a tour of the state-of-the-art venue whose main theater is named after Chenoweth.

Next, you'll travel on to Tulsa and the **Woody Guthrie Center**, where you'll learn about another Oklahoma native, folk singer Woody Guthrie. You can follow Guthrie's journey across America through the center's interactive exhibits, hear his music at listening stations and view memorabilia from his life.

Afterward, enjoy a performance of the **Cherokee National Youth Choir**, a group that performs traditional songs in the tribe's native language, and then have dinner at one of Tulsa's many restaurants.

#### Day 6

Head out for Claremore to start the day at the **Claremore Museum of History**, where you'll see exhibits on Claremore natives Lynn Riggs and Patti Page. Riggs wrote the play "Green Grow the Lilacs," which was used by Rodgers and Hammerstein as the basis for the musical "Oklahoma!" Among the museum's treasures is the surrey with the fringe on top from the movie version of "Oklahoma!" Page, who died in 2013, became a pop legend in the 1950s thanks to hits like "Doggie in the Window" and "Tennessee Waltz."

After lunch, move on to the **Will Rogers Memorial Museum**, where you can watch the famous humorist's movies, see memorabilia from his life and pay your respects at his tomb. Then you'll enjoy dinner while listening to an impersonator sing some of Page's biggest hits.

## Oklahoma's Rhythm and Routes

### Point to Point

#### Day 1

12:00 pm Arrive Miami, OK Coleman Theatre (tour and lunch)  
3:30 pm Bartlesville, OK — OKM Music Festival performance or Bartlesville Community Center tour  
5:30 pm Dinner at The Pioneer Woman Mercantile  
8:00 pm Arrive Ponca City for Overnight

#### Day 2

8:00 am Roaring '20s breakfast at Marland Mansion with tour  
11:30 am Arrive Stillwater Photo op at Garth Brooks' former home  
12:00 pm Lunch at Eskimo Joe's — Stillwater's Jumpin' Little Juke Joint  
2:00 pm The Farm — Birthplace of Red Dirt Music  
5:30 pm Check in hotel — Bricktown  
6:30 pm Dinner and performance at American Banjo Museum  
7:45 pm Return to hotel or explore Bricktown on own  
Overnight Oklahoma City

#### Day 3

Oklahoma City  
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum  
Rodeo Opry  
Photo op at Vince Gill statue at Northwest Classen High School  
Overnight Oklahoma City

#### Day 4

9:30 am Arrive Duncan, OK Photo op at Rhythm & Routes Mural  
Elvis story at Stephens County Historical Museum  
12:30pm Arrive Ardmore, OK Lunch at Two Frogs Grill with story from owner  
1:45 pm Arrive Tishomingo, OK Dessert and music at Ole Red  
4:30 pm Arrive Ada, OK McSwain Theater – performance and dinner  
7:300 pm Arrive McAlester, OK  
Overnight McAlester

#### Day 5

9:00 am Arrive Rentiesville, OK  
Performance at Down Home Blues Club and OK Blues Hall of Fame  
11:00 am Arrive Muskogee  
Photo op at "Old Glory at the Courthouse"  
Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame & Museum  
Lunch  
1:45 pm Arrive Broken Arrow, OK Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center  
3:30 pm Arrive Tulsa  
Woody Guthrie Center  
Cherokee National Youth Choir  
Overnight Tulsa

#### Day 6

Tulsa, OK  
Claremore Museum of History  
Dinner Claremore – Patti Page at Will Rogers Memorial  
Overnight Claremore, OK