



## West on Grand Central USA's I-70 Corridor

### Day 1 – St Louis MO



We begin the afternoon in St Louis at the **American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog**. This fine arts museum is devoted to man's best friend and home to one of the largest collections of dog art in the country. Next, we visit the **Eugene Field House and St Louis Toy Museum**. This historic row house was home to attorney Roswell Field the attorney for Dred Scott in his famous freedom lawsuit. Fields' son Eugene was an avid toy collector and his collection is housed in the home where he spent most of his childhood. Check into one of St Louis' many hotels for the evening before selecting a St Louis restaurant for dinner.

### Day 2 – St Louis MO – St Charles MO

This morning we begin with a visit to the **Griot Museum of Black History & Culture** which features life-size wax figurines of African-Americans who had a connection to Missouri. The museum also contains a slave ship section, other artifacts and documents. Now we enter into a world of butterflies and watch thousands of tropical butterflies fly freely in the **Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House** located in St Louis' Faust Park. After lunch we arrive at the **Museum of Transportation** and one of the largest collections of transportation vehicles in the world. We will enjoy seeing the many steam, diesel and electric locomotives, railroad cars, automobile, street cars, buses and aircraft. Next, we head to St. Charles to visit the **First Missouri State Capitol Building** and hear about Missouri's government in the early 1800's. Then we will have time to stroll the brick sidewalks and visit the variety of stores in historic St Charles downtown before dinner and checking into one of St. Charles hotels for the evening.



### Day 3 – St Charles MO – Fulton MO – Columbia MO

This morning we visit the **Lewis and Clark Boat House and Nature Center** on the Missouri River to see a full-size replica of the keelboat used by Lewis and Clark. Now it time to depart St. Charles and continue west on I-70 to Fulton, MO for lunch. This afternoon we take in 100 years



of automobile history at the **Auto World Museum** which houses Studebakers, a Ford Quadracycle, and a 1903 English Hummerette along with many other automobiles. Then visit the **Winston Churchill Memorial and Library at Westminster College**. This museum chronicles the life of Churchill who led the free world's fight for freedom and is one of the world's most memorable political leaders. Our overnight this evening is in Columbia, MO.

#### **Day 4 – Columbia MO – Boonville MO – Booneville MO – Independence MO**

A **city tour of Columbia** this morning highlights the city's history, architecture and art. We find a showcase for contemporary Midwest farming and gardening at **Jefferson Farm and Gardens** which includes a children's barn, gardens, demonstration fields, seven acre lake, orchard, and walking trails. Then enjoy lunch at one of Columbia's restaurants and then head to **Bucks Ice Cream Shop** for dessert. The MU Food Science Department makes and serves some of the best ice cream and yogurt to be found in the area. A local favorite is their Tiger Stripe ice cream. This afternoon we'll visit **Les Bourgeois Vineyard** located on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River and the Katy Trail for some wine tasting and a tour of the vineyard. A family style dinner is included in a log cabin at **Settlers Inn** in Boonville, MO before we continue on to Independence, MO for our overnight.



#### **Day 5 – Independence MO**

This morning we begin with a **guided city tour of Independence, MO** that takes us on a journey into the eventful and triumphant life of Harry S. Truman. We will see the **Truman Home** where Truman and Bess enjoyed life in Independence before and after his presidency. See the **Independence Square Courthouse** where Truman was county judge. Then we will visit the **Truman Presidential Museum & Library** where we begin with an Academy Award winning film on Truman before visiting the exhibits that focus on Truman's Presidential Years. See Truman's office in Independence, a replica of the Oval Office during his years in the White House, and the final resting place of Truman and his beloved wife Bess. Tour the **Vaile Mansion** which was built in 1881 and is one of the finest examples of Second-Empire Victorian architecture according to Architect magazine. A tour of this 30 room mansion showcases colorful ceiling murals, hand painted murals and lavish furnishings. We will enjoy lunch in the carriage house at the **Bingham-Waggoner Estate** before touring the house which was once home to George C. Bingham, famed Civil War artist. Next we'll board a **Covered Wagon for a ride** that will take us to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** which presents the history of the Santa Fe, California and Oregon Trails and the pioneers that traveled them. Overnight a second night in Independence, MO.



### **Day 6 – Independence MO – Kansas City MO – Bonner Springs KS – Lawrence KS**

This morning visit the **Arabia Steamboat Museum** which tells the story of a group of men that uncovered the Arabia which had been lost over 100 years earlier when it sank in the Missouri River just north of Kansas City. As the river changed courses the steamboat was buried under a cornfield. The men were amazed when they found that the 200-tons of cargo had been preserved in a remarkable condition. Fine china, clothing, tools, canned food, buttons, cloth, and perfume were among the cargo that the Arabia had on board. Next, we arrive at the Liberty Memorial towering 250 feet above a hilltop in Kansas and home to the **National World War I Museum**. This museum dedicated to World War I features highly interactive technology that brings history to life. We depart Kansas City and continue west to Bonner Springs for a visit to **Moon Marble Company** to watch marbles being made and learn of nostalgic marble games. Our overnight this evening is in Lawrence, KS.



### **Day 7 – Lawrence KS – Topeka KS**

Enjoy breakfast before arriving at the **Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics**. Located on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence this facility features state of the art exhibits that honor World War II veterans, a World Trade Center Memorial, and the largest stained glass American flag that provides a breathtaking backdrop to two ten-foot steel columns retrieved from the World Trade Center in New York and placed here as a memorial to the victims of September 11.



At the **Kansas Museum of History** we'll learn more about Kansas and enjoy the display on the Oregon Trail that includes a covered wagon ready for the trail and a fully restored 1880 steam locomotive. After lunch we'll learn the story of John Steuart Curry's murals as we tour the **Kansas State Capitol**. For the adventurous it is 296 steps to the top of the copper dome. See the elaborate architecture of the inner and outer dome. View Topeka from the outer dome windows or take a few more steps and go outside on the dome balcony for a spectacular view of Topeka. At the interactive **Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site** we will gain an understanding and appreciation for the role this 1954 Supreme Court decision played in the Civil Rights Movement. Enjoy dinner and a show at the **Topeka Civic Theatre**, which is the oldest continuously running

community dinner theatre in the country. Our overnight this evening is in Topeka, KS.

### **Day 8 – Topeka KS – Abilene KS**

We depart Topeka this morning and head to Junction City for a stop at the **Milford Nature Center and Fish Hatchery**. This is the state's only warm water fish hatchery and visitors are welcomed to walk around the outside tanks. Nature trails, a birds of prey exhibit, and a backyard habitat area are also found at the center. Next, we tour the **Seelye Mansion** in Abilene, KS. This 25 room mansion was built in 1905 by a patent medicine entrepreneur and preserves this era. Abilene is also home to our 34<sup>th</sup> President, Dwight D Eisenhower. Visit the **Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library**



which depicts the military and civilian careers of Eisenhower. Visit the Place of Mediation, the final resting place of Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower and their young son Doud located on the site of the family home. At the **American Indian Art Center** we will find Native American fine art that represents over 30 tribes in the region. A fried chicken dinner awaits us this evening at the **Brookville Hotel**, before checking into one of Abilene's hotels for the night.

### **Day 9 – Abilene KS – Salina KS – Hays KS**



Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for **Salina, KS** and arriving at **Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure** for two unforgettable experiences. A tram will take us thru the 65 acre zoo with more than 100 species of animals. Then journey around the world in the Wildlife Museum with naturalistic settings and traveling exhibits. Enjoy lunch at **Martinelli's Little Italy** before some free time to explore historic downtown Salina. The **Deines Cultural Center** in Russell, KS showcases the work of printmaker E. Hubert Deines whose work has been exhibited in the Library of Congress and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Our overnight this evening is in Hays, Kansas where we will enjoy dinner at **Gella's Diner and Brewing Company**.

### **Day 10 – Hays KS – WaKeeney KS – Oakley KS – Colby KS**

This morning we visit **Fort Hays State Historic Site** which was established in the late 1800's to protect the construction workers of the Union Pacific Railroad. We will tour the original blockhouse, guardhouse, and officers' quarters. Then we will walk thru a land and sea diorama that includes a life size model of T-Rex at the **Sternberg Museum of Natural History** as we learn about the Age of Dinosaurs 80 million years ago. We arrive in WaKeeney, KS for lunch at the **Western Kansas Saloon & Grill** which is housed in a restored hardware store. Then get the cameras ready for a photo op at the larger than life **Bronze of Buffalo Bill Cody** on his horse Brigham in Oakley, KS. At the **Fick Fossil and History Museum** we are sure to enjoy the creative fossil artwork of Fick. We'll check into a Colby KS hotel and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.



### **Day 11 – Colby KS – Goodland KS**

We depart Colby this morning and cross a time zone from central to Mountain Time before arriving in Goodland, Kansas where we will stop for a photo op at the **Giant Van Gogh Painting**. This sunflower reproduction is on a 24 foot by 32 foot canvas and sits on an eighty foot

easel. Spend some time shopping at the **Antique Warehouse** in Goodland before ending our time in Kansas.



## **West on Grand Central USA's I-70 Corridor**

### **Day 1 – St Louis MO**

2:00 pm – American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog – St Louis MO  
3:00 pm – Depart  
3:30 pm – Eugene Field house & St Louis Toy Museum  
4:30 pm – Depart  
5:00 pm – Check into St Louis Hotel

### **Day 2 – St Louis MO – St Charles MO**

9:00 am – Griot Museum of Black History & Culture – St Louis MO  
10:00 am – Depart  
10:30 am – Butterfly House  
11:30 am – Depart – Lunch on own  
1:30 pm – Museum of Transportation  
2:30 pm – Depart  
3:30 pm – First Missouri State Capitol Historic Site  
4:30 pm – Shopping downtown  
5:30 pm – Dinner downtown  
7:00 pm – Check into St Charles hotel

### **Day 3 – St Charles MO – Fulton MO – Columbia MO**

9:00 am – Lewis & Clark Boat House & Nature Center  
10:00 am – Depart St Charles  
11:30 am – Arrive Fulton MO – Lunch  
1:00 pm – Auto World Museum – Fulton MO  
2:00 pm – Depart  
2:30 pm – Winston Churchill Memorial & Library  
4:00 pm – Depart  
4:30 pm – Check into hotel – Columbia MO  
Dinner in Columbia

### **Day 4 – Columbia MO – Boonville MO – Independence MO**

8:30 am – Columbia City Tour  
10:30 am – Jefferson Farm & Gardens

12:00 pm – Depart  
12:30 pm – Lunch followed with a stop at Bucks Ice Cream Shop  
3:00 pm – Depart Columbia  
3:30 pm – Les Bourgeois Vineyards  
4:30 pm – Depart  
5:00 pm – Dinner at Settlers Inn - Boonville, MO  
6:00 pm – Depart  
7:30 pm – Check into hotel – Independence MO

#### **Day 5 – Independence MO**

8:00 am – Independence City Tour  
9:00 am – Truman Museum & Library  
10:30 am – Depart  
11:00 am – Vaile Mansion  
Noon – Depart  
12:30 pm – Lunch and tour at Bingham-Waggoner Estate  
2:30 pm – Covered Wagon Ride  
3:15 pm – National Frontier Trails Museum  
4:30 pm – Depart  
Return to hotel  
Dinner – Independence MO

#### **Day 6 – Independence MO – Kansas City MO – Bonner Springs KS – Lawrence KS**

10:00 am – Arabia Steamboat Museum – Kansas City MO  
11:30 am – depart – lunch on own  
1:00 pm – National World War I Museum – Kansas City MO  
2:30 pm – Depart  
3:00 pm – Moon Marble - Bonner Springs KS  
4:00 pm – Depart  
4:30 pm – Check into hotel – Lawrence KS

#### **Day 7 – Lawrence KS – Topeka KS**

9:00 am - Dole Institute of Politics – Lawrence KS  
10:00 am – Depart  
11:00 am – Kansas Museum of History – Topeka KS  
12:15 pm – Depart for lunch  
2:00 pm – Kansas State Capitol – Topeka KS  
3:00 pm – Depart  
4:00 pm – Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site – Topeka KS  
5:00 pm – Depart and check into a Topeka hotel  
6:00 pm – Topeka Civic Theatre

#### **Day 8 – Topeka KS – Abilene KS**

8:00 am – Depart hotel  
9:00 am – Milford Nature Center/Fish Hatchery - Junction City KS  
10:00 am – Depart

10:30 am – Seeyle Mansion – Abilene KS  
11:30 am – Depart for lunch  
1:00 pm – Eisenhower Center – Abilene KS  
3:00 pm – Depart  
3:30 pm – American Indian Art Center – Abilene KS  
5:00 pm – Check into Abilene hotel  
6:30 pm – Dinner Brookville Hotel – Abilene KS

**Day 9 – Abilene KS – Salina KS – Hays KS**

8:30 am – Depart hotel  
9:00 am – Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure – Salina KS  
11:30 am – Depart  
Noon – Lunch at Martinelli’s Little Italy – Salina, KS  
1:00 pm – Time to explore historic downtown Salina  
1:45 pm – Depart  
3:00 pm – Deines Cultural Center – Russell Ks  
4:00 pm – Depart  
4:30 pm – Check into hotel – Hays KS  
6:30 pm – Dinner included at Gella’s Diner – Hays KS

**Day 10 – Hays KS – WaKeeney KS – Oakley KS – Colby KS**

9:00 am – Fort Hays State Historic Site – Hays KS  
10:00 am – Depart  
10:30 am – Sternberg Museum of Natural History – Hays KS  
11:30 am – Depart  
12:30 pm – Lunch at Western Kansas Saloon & Grill – WaKeeney KS  
2:00 pm – Depart  
3:00 pm – Buffalo Bill Bronze Statue – Oakley KS  
3:30 pm – Depart  
4:00 pm – Fick Fossil & History Center – Oakley KS  
5:00 pm – Depart  
5:30 pm – Check into hotel – Colby KS

**Day 11 – Colby KS – Goodland KS**

8:00 am – Depart Colby  
Time Change before arriving in Goodland – back one hour  
8:00 am – Giant Van Painting – Goodland KS  
8:45 am – Antique Warehouse – Goodland KS