



Right place. Right reason. Right *now*.

## Tour Planner Guide

Salina Profile  
Escort Notes & Fun Facts  
Itineraries

*September 2016*

## Fun Facts & Escort Notes

### SALINA

- was founded in 1858 along the Smoky Hill River by settlers drawn to the fertile soil
- celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2008!
- is the sixth largest city in Kansas, and serves as the regional trade center for North Central Kansas
- has a population of nearly 50,000 and is the county seat of Saline County, population 52,000
- is positioned near the geographic center of the U.S. – located 1,490 miles from New York City or Los Angeles
- is the hometown of former Kansas Governor Bill Graves, astronaut Steve Hawley, actors George Murdoch, Patrice Wymore, and Tyrees Allen professional sports figures including Pat Mears (major league baseball), Terence Newman (National Football League), and H.D. Lee, former Salinan, businessman, and founder of the Lee Jeans Company
- is among the Kansas communities where the 1956 movie *Picnic* was filmed
- presents impressive, and diverse examples of architectural design, particularly in the downtown area; Salina native Charles Shaver was one of the first architects registered in Kansas, and many examples of his design are still evident in Salina
- served as the launch and return site and Mission Control for the successful March 2005 Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer flight by pilot Steve Fossett; This was the first non-stop, non-refueled solo flight around the world
- is home of one of the longest runways in the U.S. – at more than 13,000 feet – at the Salina Regional Airport\*
- is home to Kansas State Polytechnic University\*, a technology campus for Kansas State University with curriculum in aviation and tech sciences; and Kansas Wesleyan University, a four-year private institution now offering Master's programs
- is home to Kansas State University's Bulk Solids innovation center
- has a diverse economic base, with major industries including:
  - ElDorado National, Inc. – **largest** manufacturer of commercial buses in North America\*
  - Exide Batteries – **largest** manufacturer of auto batteries in the world
  - Philips Lighting Co. – **largest** producer of fluorescent lamps in the world
  - The Schwan Global Supply Chain – **largest** producer of frozen pizza (Tony's, Red Baron, Freschetta) in the world\*; also produces Mrs. Smith's frozen foods, Edwards, Asian Sensations and more!

Other products from Salina include:

- custom cabinetry (Crestwood Manufacturing & Ovation Cabinetry\*)
- agricultural machinery (Great Plains Mfg.)
- industrial gate valves (Salina Vortex Corp.)
- pneumatic conveyance systems (Coperion K-tron)
- paving equipment (Bergkamp Inc.)
- office furniture (Triad Mfg.)

\*Located at Salina Airport Authority, an Industrial/Business Park located on the former Schilling Air Base (SAC) site, closed in 1965.



See the following pages for suggested itineraries in the Salina area!

**Group Tour Planners:**

SALINA, KANSAS welcomes you! Whether you need overnight accommodations, suggestions for meal or break stops, service locations, activities, attractions, area escort notes, step-on guides, or a fully customized itinerary, we're ready to serve!

For group travel, Salina really *is* the Right place. Right reason. Right now!

**LOCATION...LOCATION...LOCATION**



Centrally located in Kansas, the heart of the Midwest, **SALINA's** immediate access to I-70 and I-135 (US 81) provides a convenient location for overnight accommodations, meals and entertainment.

Halfway between Los Angeles and New York, your mid-point traveling from Oklahoma City to Omaha...  
SALINA is on your way!

<u>Mileage from Salina, KS</u>	
Branson, MO	397
Chicago, IL	669
Dallas, TX	455
Denver, CO	427
Kansas City, KS	178
Oklahoma City, OK	248
Omaha, NE	235
St. Louis, MO	423

**COMFORT!**

Choose from more than 2,000 rooms in Salina! Of these national chains, several properties are new within the past five years, and several others have been renovated extensively.

- AmericInn
- Baymont Inn & Suites
- Best Western Plus-Midwest Inn & Suites
- Candlewood Suites
- Comfort Suites
- Country Inn & Suites
- Courtyard by Marriott
- Days Inn
- Hampton Inn
- Holiday Inn
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites
- La Quinta Inn & Suites
- Quality Inn & Suites
- Sleep Inn
- Super 8

Many have motor coach packages in place, featuring the group services **YOU NEED** – inclusive breakfast, on-board welcome and registration, and baggage handling, combined with the warm hospitality **YOU DESERVE** – and SALINA is known for! Contact our office for more specific information.

**Contact us today for more information!**

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**Visit Salina**

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Toll Free 877.725.4625 – Fax 785.827.1081 – [www.VisitSalinaKS.org](http://www.VisitSalinaKS.org)

## Suggested Itineraries

Customized Itineraries are available with these, or other, themes.  
See the Grandparent – Grandchild Tour to follow, as an example!

### Ag Tour

Experience a Kansas prairie lavender farm, and then explore our unique Yesteryear Museum, exhibiting items of our agricultural heritage.



### Discover Downtown Tour

Gorgeous architecture, art center, museum, cathedrals, antiques, unique specialty shops & eateries, and live theatre highlight your time spent in our historic downtown. SculptureTour Salina presents an annually changing exhibit of sculptures!



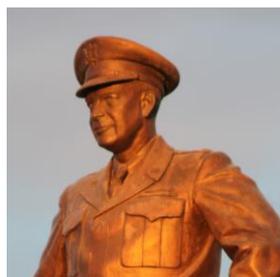
### Central Kansas Heritage Tour

Including...



**Lindsborg**  
*Little Sweden, USA, just to the south of Salina;*

**Abilene**, the home of the Eisenhower Presidential Library & Boyhood Home, 27 miles to the east.  
*and more...*



### The Arts! Tours

Salina is a strong arts community. Enjoy public art installations, Visit area galleries, including the Earl Bane Gallery at Rolling Hills Zoo.

Tour the Salina Art Center, our Public

Art Collection, or the historic Stiefel Theatre See a play at Salina Community Theatre, enjoy a concert, watch a film, soak it all in!



**Customized itinerary possibilities are endless!**

**Professionalism & Ease...** We have all the resources you need to plan an exciting tour through Kansas. Contact Sylvia or Andi to start the process TODAY!

- **Salina Tour Planners Guide**
- **Customized Itinerary Planning**
- **Escort Notes**
- **Welcome Gift for Passengers**
- **Step-On Guide Referral**
- **On-board Welcome**

[www.VisitSalina.org](http://www.VisitSalina.org)

1-877-725-4625

### Grandparent & Grandchild Itinerary - “Memories in the Making”

Find your own favorites from our a la Carte menu especially for Grandparents and the special kids in their lives.

#### Rolling Hills Zoo

One admission price provides TWO engaging experiences in this unique setting, nestled in the Kansas prairie! Walking tours of the park can be taken on your own, and guided tours are available on the public tram during peak season. Private trams can be booked for group tours, spring through fall, with advance arrangements. Enjoy the beautiful **zoological park** and meet the ‘residents’. Don’t miss the **wildlife museum**, where a trip around the world is presented in vibrant diorama exhibits which feature one of the world’s largest full mount collections. The Earl Bane Gallery often houses special traveling exhibits as well.

Grab a memento at the Elephant’s Trunk gift shop. Great concession food is available at The Overlook Restaurant, or groups can plan a special catered meal in the Conference Center.



#### Create, Imagine & Enjoy

Artistic expression crosses every generation, and Salina is well known for our many opportunities in the arts. Whether you want to enjoy the work of other artists, or create your own, we can make that happen!



**Salina Art Center** presents changing exhibitions of modern art. While you are there, spend some time creating your own masterpieces in The Artery. Paint your own pottery at **On The Pot**, another creative outlet downtown. The **Salina Public Library** features a wonderful children’s library with story areas and special activities year-round. While you are downtown, pick up a **SculptureTour** brochure/ballot and enjoy the pieces on display as you choose YOUR favorite! In fact, Salina has a large collection of **Public Art** that you can enjoy throughout the community.

Salina offers a very enthusiastic array of performances. The **Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts** is the home of the **Salina Symphony** and **Youth Symphony**. The Stiefel also presents diverse entertainment throughout the year including dance, comedy and music of every genre.

If theatre is more to your liking, **Salina Community Theatre** has just the ticket! Productions vary from the classics and modern drama, to beloved musicals and theatre presented BY children FOR children.

If the timing is right, try to be in Salina for our ‘signature event’, the **Smoky Hill River Festival**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> full weekend of June. The Festival brings it all together with music, fine arts, fine crafts, children’s activities and FOOD!



## Explore & Discover

Learning about our history, heritage and environment can be a great bonding experience...and FUN!

**Bruce Zamrzla Aquarium in Central Mall:** Take a break while you sit and watch the many varieties of Kansas fish in this wonderful exhibit near the play area and food court. Free admission.



**Lakewood Discovery Center:** Park setting creates and nurtures curiosity and interest of nature. Learning stations include bird identification, insect life, geology, prehistoric life and urban wildlife habitat. There are also hiking, canoeing, Frisbee golf, fishing, and picnic areas. Fun for all ages. Ask about special programs involving seniors and children. Free admission to the Discovery Center.

**Smoky Hill Museum:** Features a full-size sod dugout and operating flour mill. The main gallery has changing exhibits every six months. Explore the new *Curiosity Shop* and learn about Kansas weather, the Dirty 30s, Radio Days, Town Building, and Light Brights for kids. Shop the Museum Store for lots of Kansas-made items, souvenirs, and books on Kansas history, some by local authors. Free admission.



**Yesteryear Museum:** Step back in time at this 20-acre complex featuring indoor and outdoor displays of agricultural and industrial machinery. A one-room school house, country church, early gas station and playground equipment on site. Admission by donation.

