

Fort Smith: Still Wild, Still West!

Itinerary Summary

Experience Fort Smith, Arkansas' colorful history as The United States' original Gateway to The West. It sets the stage for the popular film, "True Grit," and is one of True West Magazine's, "Top Western Towns." Visit Fort Smith – Still Wild, Still West!

Day One

Arrive in beautiful **Fort Smith** and then experience a one-of-a-kind prelude to the adventures waiting.

Afternoon: A guided tour through **Miss Laura's Visitor Center** – the first former-bordello to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Out of seven houses of ill-repute on "The Row" of Fort Smith's red-light district during the early 1900's, Miss Laura's is the only one still remaining. With prior arrangements, Miss Laura will be in costume to greet the group and give the tour. Refreshments of sarsaparilla and peanuts are available, by request.

Fort Smith Museum of History – 150 years of Fort Smith history and its role in the early frontier, Civil War and lawlessness of the Old West. Experience the Darby Room and discover Fort Smith's famous son and **World War II hero, William O. Darby and, "Darby's Rangers."** Enjoy an old-fashioned soda at the working drug store and soda fountain.

Evening: **Barbecue dinner served on the banks of the Arkansas River** at the River Park Events Building. **Miss Laura's Players** will perform **The Medicine Show on Hanging Day**, an original comedy skit. Step back into a colorful past, both novel & entertaining.

Day Two

Morning: Driving tour of Historic Fort Smith with a step-on Guide. You'll learn more about the rough and tumble days of early Fort Smith, and see the 22-square block **Belle Grove Historic District**, spanning 150 years of architecture. The entire area was added to the National Register of Historic Places in the 1970's. Some blocks are still paved with the original bricks. Tour the Clayton House (circa 1850's), which was the home of Judge Parker's Prosecuting Attorney.

Fort Smith National Historic Site – tour Hangin' Judge Isaac C. Parker's Courtroom, the old jail known as "hell on the border" and see a replica of the famed gallows where 79 men met their fate.

Afternoon: Lunch will be at **Taliano's Italian Restaurant**, in the restored J. M. Sparks home, built in 1887. This Romanesque Victorian style home includes hand-carved fireplaces and original chandeliers.

Following lunch, it's time to shake things up, Elvis Presley style! Visit the Chaffee Barber Shop and

Military Museums. Learn the history of Fort Chaffee, built in 1941 to train World War II recruits. See the restored barber shop where many got their "buzz" cut, including Elvis Presley in 1958!

BrickCity Emporium – laidback atmosphere. Over 160 unique shops in one building, including: artisans, crafts, gifts, food & specialty items, and a café with sitting area.

Farm Tour – Always a favorite, visit a working farm that has been in operation for over 60 years by three generations of a family. Stroll through pecan groves and see how honey bees do their work. Learn about regional farming and growing crops such as soybeans, rice and corn.

Evening: Dinner at **Calico County** – a landmark of the Fort Smith area where you'll enjoy tastes of down-home Southern cooking served in an environment of American memorabilia that provides for a nostalgic ambiance.

Or:

A & M Railway: Excursion north through the beautiful Ozark Mountains. One-way or roundtrip available. Box

Lunch can be pre-arranged.

Head to Arkansas Wine Country! Tour St. Mary's Church on St. Mary's Mountain. Arrive at Wiederkehr's Wine Cellar for a tour of the winery followed by tasting the wines and visiting the Gift Shop.

Fort Smith Regional Art Museum (RAM) – The Fort Smith Regional Art Museum (RAM) is a state-of-the-art facility that exhibits permanent as well as traveling exhibitions and works by regional artists.