



Visit the Wild West of *True Grit* on the Path of the Butterfield Stagecoach!

Go back in time with John Butterfield and hear the story of the Butterfield Stagecoach route that ran from Tipton, Missouri to San Francisco, California right through Northwest Arkansas and Fort Smith, Arkansas, the setting of *True Grit*.

Day 1: Start in Fayetteville, Arkansas

The Butterfield Stagecoach had stops every 20 miles, and Fayetteville was one of them. Let us take you on a journey and see how hard it was to receive mail back in the 1800s.

Tour the old courthouse where the stagecoach made its stop.

Lunch at Mermaids.

Visit Headquarters House to hear about the Battle of Fayetteville and journey down the bloody corner of Dickson Street to include the Fayetteville Historical Driving Tour.

Tour the Confederate Cemetery.

Enjoy a Cooking Class on how they prepared meals in the 19th Century.

Check into hotel.

Dinner at the Catfish Hole.

Day 2: Experience Fort Smith, Arkansas!

Ride the rails from Northwest Arkansas through the Ozark Mountains for a scenic excursion aboard the A&M Railroad to historic Van Buren (which is near the route of the Butterfield Stagecoach), then continue to Fort Smith, "Where the West was FUN!"

Miss Laura's Visitor Center – "Miss Laura" will be in costume to greet the group and give the tour of this famous former bordello, which was part of Fort Smith's legalized red-light district in the early 1900s.

Fort Smith National Historic Site – Tour Judge Isaac C. Parker's Courtroom (the "Hanging Judge"), step inside the old jail known far and wide as "Hell on the Border," hear about the dozens of Deputy U.S. Marshals who scoured Indian Territory to bring the outlaws in to Judge Parker, and visit the Fort Smith gallows where 79 outlaws met their fate at the end of a rope. People all over the world are discovering Fort Smith thanks to the popularity of *True Grit*, which is all about Fort Smith and this historic area. Walk in the boot steps of infamous western outlaws like Belle Starr, Cherokee Bill and a horse thief named Wyatt Earp.

Driving Tour of Historic Fort Smith – Follow the route of the Butterfield Stagecoach in Fort Smith and see where it stopped while in town, take in the architecture and colorful stories of old-time Fort Smith. The Butterfield Stagecoach routes came South from Missouri and West from Memphis, then converged in Fort Smith before entering Oklahoma and heading west. Fort Smith was one of the biggest stops on the entire route, and the last chance for many types of provisions before entering the Wild West.

Fort Smith National Cemetery – This National Cemetery is one of the few to bury both Confederate soldiers and Union troops side by side. Judge Isaac Parker is also buried here, as well as General William O. Darby, famed leader of Darby's Rangers during World War II. Fort Smith is the boyhood home of General Darby, also open for tour.

Check into hotel.

Dinner at the Riverfront Park Events Building along the Arkansas River – BBQ Brisket & Ribs with all the trimmings

Miss Laura's Players will entertain the group with "The Medicine Show on Hanging Day", a musical comedy show now in its 22nd year of production.

Day 3: Fort Smith, Pottsville and Little Rock, Arkansas

Ride the Fort Smith Electric Trolley, one that ran in downtown Fort Smith in the 1920s and has been restored and back on the tracks. Learn about early transportation at the Fort Smith Trolley Museum.

Fort Smith Museum of History – See exhibits and displays on early Fort Smith life, including an old-fashioned Drug Store where you can still enjoy a hand-mixed soda, malt or sundae from the vintage soda fountain.

Lunch at Taliano's Italian Restaurant.

Fort Chaffee – tour the 1950's style Chaffee Barbershop Museum where Elvis Presley got his famous first "buzz cut" after entering the U. S. Army in 1958, and visit the Chaffee Military Museum to learn about the fascinating and dramatic history of Fort Chaffee that began in 1941 with new recruits getting ready to fight in WWII.

Continue east to Pottsville, Arkansas and visit the Potts Inn Museum, one of the best-preserved stagecoach stations on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route. A restored antebellum home circa 1850, it was built with slave labor and was an overnight Butterfield Stagecoach stop. Five log structures located on the grounds now house hat and clothing collections from 1870. The museum also has antique farm equipment on display.

Continue east to Little Rock for overnight.