

Michiganders  
on the Road



# Gateway to the West Tour

## OCTOBER 5-13, 2019



Our nine-day, eight-night tour explores historic sites in Missouri and Kansas: the Gateway to the West. We'll visit Cahokia Mounds, the Old Cowtown and National Frontier Trails Museums, Fort Larned National Historic Site, the Great Plains Nature Center, the homes of U.S. Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, the National WWI Museum, and much more. We'll also enjoy a chuck wagon dinner, a railroad dinner train, and a steamboat dinner cruise!



**9-DAY,  
8-NIGHT  
TOUR**  
**\$1,995\***



**To register for this tour,  
call (800) 692-1828 or visit [hsmichigan.org/programs](http://hsmichigan.org/programs)**

\*Price is per person based on double occupancy. Includes motor coach transportation; all lodging; all dinners and breakfasts; and all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. Historical Society of Michigan membership required.

**The American West** is part of American heritage, from Horace Greeley's admonition "Go West, Young Man" to the TV westerns of our youth. Our October 2019 tour explores the Missouri and Kansas region that served as the gateway to the American West.



**October 5,  
Saturday**

## ON THE ROAD

We depart Lansing aboard Compass Coach, with pickup stops in Kalamazoo and Stevensville. Compass 56-passenger coaches boast all the comforts of home, including a restroom, DVD player, and wireless Internet.

On the way, we'll pry our eyes from the scenic Midwest cornfields to play "Bob's Useless Trivia Games." For lunch, we'll enjoy the deliciousness of whatever Illinois eatery we can find.

Dinner tonight is at Ravanelli's Restaurant in Collinsville, Illinois, with lodging at the Fairfield Inn & Suites. Like all our hotels, it includes a complimentary breakfast.



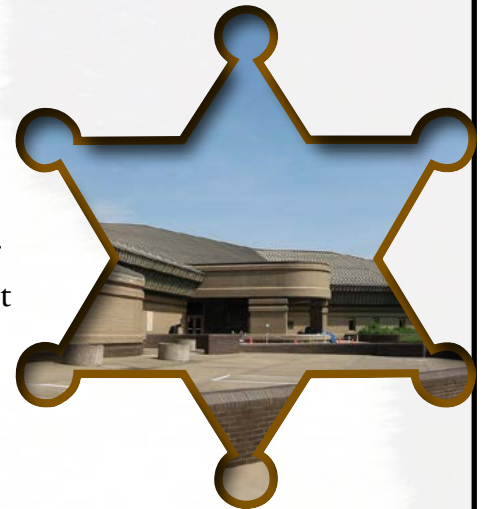
**October 6,  
Sunday**

## CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE

Today, we'll tour the amazing Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. This pre-Columbian Native-American city stood across the Mississippi River from present-day St. Louis, Missouri. Settlement peaked around the year 1050 with a population of approximately 20,000 people.

Cahokia covered six square miles and included 120 earthen mounds. The community included residential and specialized activity areas as well as a palisade. The 100-foot-tall Monks Mound dominated the site and was the largest prehistoric earthen structure in the "New World." Cahokia also included an astronomical observatory composed of wooden posts, called "Woodhenge."

The Mississippian culture of Cahokia developed advanced societies across much of the present-day United States. Centuries later, astounded Anglo-



European settlers thought Cahokia must have been the work of Phoenicians or Vikings. By then the city had lain abandoned for centuries.

Cahokia's fate remains a mystery. Its residents may have failed to raise enough food, or deforestation may have caused its decline. Today, Cahokia Mounds is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a National Historic Landmark.

We'll tour the visitor's center museum, watch an introductory video, and then explore the mounds themselves. You can climb Monk's Mound for a spectacular view of the area, and we'll also visit Cahokia's Woodhenge.



**October 7,  
Monday**

## MUSEUMS, HISTORIC HOUSES, AND A COVERED WAGON RIDE

Our day in Independence, Missouri, starts with the National Frontier Trails Museum and the Bingham-Waggoner Estate historic house.

The Frontier Trails Museum focuses on the three trails leading west: the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California. Independence was the “jumping off point” for all three. Countless Americans took the trails westward—some to Californian gold fields and others to build new lives on farms and cattle ranches.



Not everyone just passed through Independence—some stayed and made their homes there. The 1852 Bingham-Waggoner House was home to many prominent families, including famed Civil War artist George Bingham and the founders of the Waggoner Gates Flour Mill. The mansion has served as a house museum since 1976 and includes many original furnishings.

In the afternoon, we'll visit the **home** of the city's most famous resident: Harry S Truman. The Truman **Home**, which is part of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site, served as Harry and Bess Truman's residence from 1919 until Harry's death in 1972. In 1919, after Truman returned from service in World War I, the couple held their wedding reception on the lawn and moved into the house with Bess's mother and grandmother.

During Truman's presidency, the house served as the “Summer White House.” After Dwight Eisenhower's inauguration in 1953, Truman took a train to Independence and walked home from the railroad station. He and Bess lived in the house for the rest of their lives.

*Photo courtesy  
of Wikimedia  
Commons/  
Melissa Kothe*





We'll also tour the historic Jackson County Courthouse, where Truman served as presiding judge from 1926 to 1934. Now a museum, it includes Truman's office and the courtroom in which he heard cases.

After touring the Truman Home and the courthouse, we'll take a driving tour of Independence, riding "Old West style" in mule-drawn covered wagons. The Pioneer Trails Wagon Ride will take us on a narrated tour to discover the colorful characters of Independence, including Kansas "Jayhawkers," Quantrill's Raiders, and gunfighter "Wild Bill" Hickok.



Afterward, we'll enjoy a chuck wagon dinner, where we can imagine ourselves on the trail just like on *Rawhide* or *Wagon Train*. It's a real western barbeque, served up near the Santa Fe Trail and next to the historic Chicago & Alton Railroad Depot.

Will we sleep like cowboys around the campfire, next to the chuck wagon and horses? No—we're city slickers, so it's back to the Comfort Suites for us.



**October 8,  
Tuesday**

## THE NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM & STEAMBOAT ARABIA

Kansas City, Missouri, is home to the National WWI Museum and Memorial. In 1998, construction began on the 80,000-square-foot museum, and it opened eight years and \$102 million later. It tells the story of the Great War from its outbreak in 1914 through the 1919

Paris Peace Conference. Exhibit galleries include a French Renault tank, a Ford Model T ambulance, replica trenches, two film theaters, and much more. We'll tour the museum and have lunch in the Over There Café.

In the afternoon, we'll visit the *Arabia* Steamboat Museum. In 1856, the Missouri River side-wheeler *Arabia* hit a snag and sank with 220 tons of merchandise bound for 16 frontier towns. The Missouri River soon shifted course, leaving the





*Arabia* and its cargo buried deep underground. In 1988, a group of salvagers located the wreck in a Kansas cornfield.

River silt preserved hats, shoes, dishes, and even jars of pickles, so the museum exhibits the *Arabia* as a time capsule of antebellum America. We'll take in exhibits and the preservation laboratory and walk a 171-foot-long reproduction of the *Arabia's* main deck.



Afterward, it's off to dinner at the Brookville Hotel restaurant in Abilene, an institution since 1870.



**October 9,  
Wednesday**

## "I LIKE IKE," A MANSION TOUR, AND A DINNER TRAIN

Dwight Eisenhower is arguably the most famous Kansan of all. Today, we'll tour the Eisenhower Museum, Presidential Library, and Boyhood Home.



Eisenhower's parents bought their modest wood-frame home in 1898. Dwight and his family lived there until 1911, when he left for West Point. "Ike" served in World

War II as the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe, and then as president of the United States from 1953 to 1961. In 1946, he donated his boyhood home to a foundation to serve as a historical site. We'll learn about Eisenhower's military and political life in the home and the adjacent museum and library.



In the afternoon, we'll tour the Seelye Mansion. Dr. A.B. Seelye made a fortune selling patent medicines. In 1905, he built a 25-room Georgian-style home and stocked it with furniture purchased at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. Those furnishings remain, as do alterations made to the house by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

For dinner, we'll board a train at the 1887 Rock Island Depot for a two-hour excursion on the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad. The train takes passengers across the scenic Smoky Hill River countryside between Abilene and the village of Enterprise. The Abilene & Smoky Valley's rolling stock includes a century-old wood-sided diner car, observation cars, and a caboose. The train ambles along at 10-15 mph, so we can enjoy the meal, the views, and the experience of travel in a bygone age.





**October 10,  
Thursday**

## COWTOWN AND THE GREAT PLAINS NATURE CENTER

Many Michiganders only know the American West through TV westerns and John Wayne movies. Today, we'll experience frontier Kansas at a living history museum: Old Cowtown.



The Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita recreates an 1860s-1870s cattle town and boasts 54 historic buildings on 23 acres along the original Chisholm Trail. Wichita once served as a railhead and earned the nickname "Cowtown," but as railroads extended west, the cattle drives disappeared and Wichita turned into an agricultural and manufacturing center. Cowtown features farmhouses, stores, saloons, a blacksmith shop, and even a town jail. It is fully accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

In the afternoon, we'll discover Kansas flora and fauna at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. Naturalists will give us an introduction, and then we'll be free to explore the 280-acre grounds and 3,500 square feet of exhibits, including a 2,200-gallon aquarium. You can walk the trails or stay indoors to observe the surrounding wetlands, streams, and flowers through picture windows in the Bob Gress Wildlife Observatory.

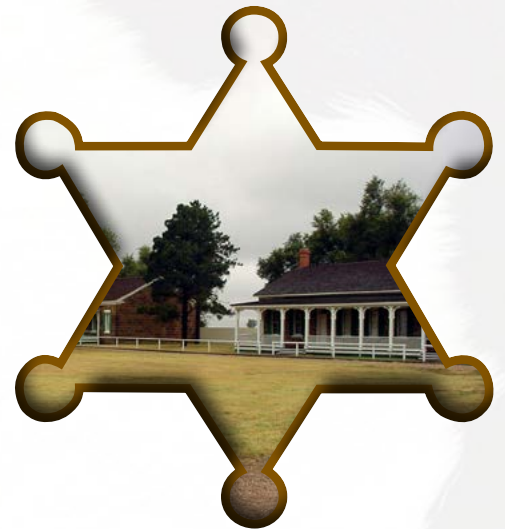


**October 11,  
Friday**

## FORT LARNED AND THE BLIND TIGER

Today, we'll visit an Old West military post: Fort Larned National Historic Site. Fort Larned, established in 1860, served as a U.S. Army base during the tragic Indian Wars period of the 1860s and 1870s.

Generals Winfield Scott Hancock and Philip Sheridan, operating out of Fort Larned, drove the Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Comanche tribes onto reservations. After that, wagon trains traveling the Santa Fe Trail no longer needed a military escort, so the Army abandoned the post.





Fort Larned's nine historic buildings include the barracks, commissary, and officers' quarters—all furnished to their original appearance. We'll also enjoy a ranger-guided tour and living history demonstrations.

Dinner tonight is in Topeka at the Blind Tiger Brewery & Restaurant. Why "Blind Tiger"? During Prohibition, illegal drinking establishments displayed stuffed tigers to alert patrons to the availability of booze. The "tigers" were "blind" because the police—officially—did not know they existed.



**October 12,  
Saturday**

## A DINNER CRUISE ON THE MISSISSIPPI

We have a real treat in store tonight: a riverboat dinner cruise on the Mighty Mississippi. The stern-wheeler *Celebration Belle* sails out of Moline, Illinois, and is the largest non-gaming riverboat on the Mississippi. The "Dinner and Dance Cruise" for our Michiganders on the Road group includes a fabulous banquet and a dance band.

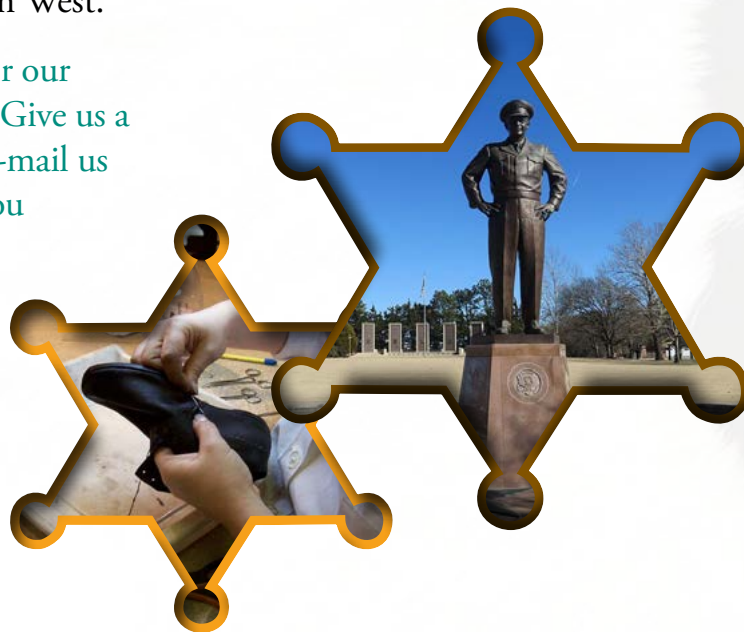


**October 13,  
Sunday**

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Our last day returns us to Michigan. We'll take with us photographs, souvenirs, some extra weight, and great memories. We'll have time en route to play Bob's Useless Trivia Games, watch a movie, and reflect on all we've learned about the American West.

We hope you can join us for our Gateway to the West Tour! Give us a call at (800) 692-1828 or e-mail us at [hsm@hsmichigan.org](mailto:hsm@hsmichigan.org) if you have any questions.





**Yes! I (we) want to join Michiganders on the Road for the Gateway to the West Tour for \$1,995\* per person.**

\*Includes motor coach transportation; all lodging; all dinners and breakfasts; and all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. Historical Society of Michigan \$39.95 membership required. Price is per person based on double occupancy. We encourage the purchase of travel insurance in case unforeseen events force you to cancel at the last minute. Deposits or payments made after the reservation deadline of August 24, 2019, cannot be refunded.

**OCTOBER 5-13, 2019**

**PERSON 1**

**PERSON 2**

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
E-MAIL
PHONE (     )

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
E-MAIL
PHONE (     )

- I would like to pay the full tour price of \$1,995 per person. Price is based on double occupancy.
- I would like to pay the \$250 per person deposit for the tour. The balance of \$1,745 per person will be due on or before the reservation deadline of August 24, 2019. Deposits are fully refundable on or before August 24, 2019. Deposits or payments made after the reservation deadline cannot be refunded.

**Are you a member of the Historical Society of Michigan? (Membership is required to participate in this tour.)**

- Yes, I am already a member.
- I want to become a member for \$39.95 so I can go on this tour. This membership includes *Michigan History* magazine.

- I am a single person and would like single-room accommodations. I understand there will be a \$500 surcharge for this service.
- I am a single person and would like to be paired with another single of the same gender so that my reservation can be based on double occupancy.
- I am a single person, and I am traveling with \_\_\_\_\_ so that my reservation can be based on double occupancy.
- I would like to have vegetarian meals.
- A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed, payable to Historical Society of Michigan.
- Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card listed below.

CREDIT CARD NUMBER		EXP. DATE	PAYMENT METHOD <input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed. Made Payable to: Historical Society of Michigan <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (see form on left)
NAME ON CARD	SECURITY CODE	BILLING ZIP CODE	

**Mail or fax this form to:**

**Historical Society of Michigan • 5815 Executive Drive • Lansing, MI 48911 • Fax: (517) 324-4370**