

This list is of some very explorer items; places that people maybe wouldn't normally go to. This is NOT a complete list. This is just some fun ideas to get you started. You create your adventure. Have fun and ALWAYS stop and take pictures while enjoying the scenery. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. When traveling, stop into a small town, whether you think there is something there or not. I challenge you to look for something in these 8 categories: architecture, art, geography, history, commerce, cuisine, customs, and people. My only requirement is that you share your travels to your friends to show the beauty of Kansas. Keep your eyes and heart open to exploring and dare to do dirt roads!

-Joe Hirsch, Sunflower State Tours

• Ellis County

- Hays
 - Restaurants (There are many great ones, but these 3 are our favorites, so far.)
 - 1. Al's Chickenette
 - Some of the best fried chicken in the state.
 - Prices are very reasonable for quality.
 - 2. Gella's Diner
 - Classic diner food but with a twist.
 - Great food and reasonable prices.
 - 3. Peter Mandy's
 - Greek and Italian food are paired beautifully here.
 - The gyros are fantastic and prices are great for the quality & quantity.
 - Activities
 - Art Gallery's – There are many in the area. Here is a link to a list of them: <http://www.haysusa.net/Index.aspx?NID=159>
 - My favorite, though, is the Pete Felten gallery. He carves out of native limestone. His pieces can be seen all over the state, even the state capital. A trip to his gallery is quite cool.
<http://www.haysusa.net/index.aspx?nid=261>
 - Museums
 - Sternberg Natural History – Great museum if you like fossils and dinosaurs.
 - Fort Hays State Historic Site – If you like visiting restored old western forts, this place is a neat travel back in time.
- Ellis
 - There are a few things to do in Ellis.
 - One of my favorites is the home where Walter P. Chrysler lived, yes the same guy who founded the Chrysler car company. It is a cute little museum.
 - Also there are some beautiful churches and homes here. Take a drive around.

These next few options are tiny towns, BUT they all have gorgeous churches and awe inspiring cemeteries. <http://www.germancapitalofkansas.com/index.asp>

There are also tons of gorgeous stone arch bridges around all of these little towns. There is nothing cooler to do while exploring than finding these awesome bridges. Check out this website to find them: <https://bridgehunter.com/ks/ellis/>

- Catharine
 - Beautiful church and cemetery with traditional German iron crosses.
 - Also there is a very cool scenic drive to see the gorgeous Smoky Valley. Also on this scenic drive is the remains of an old church in the ghost town of Emmeram.
 - Here are the directions for the scenic drive: Drive north of Catharine on the Codell Road towards Rooks County, and you will see some of the most wide open ranges in Ellis County. The area in northeast Ellis County features miles of vast ranch land, large bluffs, hills, streams and rugged valleys. The website that Jackie Langholz has created features many of the historic sites, landmarks and points of interest along the Saline River Valley and provides interesting historical facts, photos, maps and stories associated with the area in Northeast Ellis County. As you depart from Catharine and then go north on the Codell Road, you can take a side trip to drive by the ghost town of Emmeram and see the ruins of the Sacred Heart Church. The church was built during 1899 to 1901 with the first Mass on Christmas day 1901. Due to declining population at the parish, it was closed on August 6, 1967. On October 12, 1998, the church was destroyed by fire. The cause of the fire was suspicious and only the limestone walls remained. Directions to Emmeram – from Catharine drive 1 ½ miles east to Codell Road. Go north two miles to Emmeram Road and turn right to go east 3 miles to the intersection of Emmeram Road and 350th Ave. The remains of the church are on the north side of the road.
- Munjor
 - Beautiful church and cemetery with traditional German iron crosses.
 - Many other cool limestone buildings throughout town.
- Antonino
 - There is a church, but not to the same grandeur of the other churches around.
 - The cemetery is full of those beautiful, traditional German crosses.
 - Smoky Valley Scenic Drive
 - The Smoky Hill River is located four miles south of Antonino and provides a scenic drive by going south on 210th Road to the Smoky Hill River Road. Turn west and follow the road along the river and then go back north and west on the county roads to Chetolah Gold Road to drive past the Ghost town of Chetolah. Plains Indians once hunted and established campsites along its banks. With the discoveries of gold in California and Colorado in the mid-1800s, white travelers used the river as a convenient western route and often met their deaths along what some called "the starvation trail." In 1865, the Butterfield Overland

Despatch (B.O.D.) opened a stage and mail service along the route, connecting Kansas City to Denver. Travelers along Grants Villa Road can imagine the once-flowing Smoky as it appeared to these early migrants. Directions: 1 mile west of Antonino and turn south on 200th Ave. Proceed 3 miles south on 200th Ave to Chetolah Gold Road. Turn right (west) and drive one mile west. To the left is the view of the beautiful Smoky Hill River Valley.

- Pfeifer
 - Gorgeous church. It is one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Architecture
 - <http://www.kansassampler.org/8wonders/architectureresults.php?id=48>
- Schoenchen
 - Historic church and iron crosses in the cemetery
 - Post Office
 - The post office is one of the smallest in the state. It literally looks like an outhouse. If open go buy a stamp or two to keep it alive.
- Victoria
 - “Cathedral of the Plains” – St. Fidelis Church
 - One of the 8 Wonders of Kansas
 - Absolutely breathtaking church.
 - Around are some neat hand carved statues out of limestone that help tell the history of Victoria’s settlers.
 - Also, the church does have a gift shop.
 - And of course the historic cemetery with beautiful iron crosses.
 - George Grant Villa - 2680 Grants Villa Road, Victoria, KS 67671
 - You can drive around this gorgeous stone house.
 - Victoria was originally going to be an all English colony. The people even had polo courts, a hunting club, and other traditional English fancies.
 - He also brought the first Angus cattle to America.
 - There is also a memorial to him and a cemetery that has the last remains of the English and Scottish settlers to the area.
Address: 100 Angus Drive, Victoria, KS 67671
 - Railroad Workers cemetery – Corner of 3rd street and old highway 40, as well as being near Cathedral Ave. There is also a Railroad Bridge nearby that should have some artwork on it. It is on the Southwest part of town; nearly outside of it.
 - In 1867, 7 railroad workers were killed by a Native American attack. This cemetery commemorates them, and is probably one of the oldest cemeteries in the state.
 - Restaurant
 - Library Bar and Grill – Great place for a simple hamburger and other diner food.
 - There is also a great swimming pool and park to hang out at.

- Walker
 - Gorgeous church and cemetery with the traditional German handmade iron crosses.
 - Stone Arch Bridge – A very cool and traditional Limestone Bridge. It is huge.
 - Located 4 ½ miles south of Walker where Big Creek flows under Walker Avenue is a historic four arch stone bridge. The bridge is constructed of native limestone blocks and was built in 1935-36. On May 18, 2001, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This location is an interesting place to visit not only because of the impressive construction of the four arch bridge that is over 75 years old, but because of the historical significance of Fort Fletcher that was located just to the east of this area.
- Liebenthal (While in Rush County and not Ellis County, it's too close by not to go to.)
 - Beautiful church and cemetery with iron crosses
 - Pat's Beef Jerky
 - Some of the best beef jerky. Make sure to try and get some.
https://www.facebook.com/Pats-Beef-Jerky-166891520028584/info?tab=page_info