

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

## ● Flint Hills: Florence to Council Grove

- Flint Hills National Scenic Byway
  - Most of this trip is on this amazing national byway.
  - Check out this video for a good look:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwGF-Esh2AA>
- Florence
  - This quaint town has some gorgeous architecture. Take a drive around.
  - Attractions
    - Florence is known for its water. I know that sounds funny, but the town's water supply is from 99.96 spring water. When you get to town you will see the cool water tower. By that is a little roadside park that has some information on the town. But also is a water spigot that you should fill all available water bottles with its amazing substance.
    - Original Harvey House
      - The Harvey House was the original fast food restaurant. When people got on a train they would order their food. And the train would send a message to the restaurant to have it ready for them. This place is just a walk around, but is still pretty cool.
    - Water Spring Pumping Station
      - This is a really cool place that is a fun find. It really is worth it.
      - Directions from US-50 W-Turn north on 130th Street (Landmarks: Hillcrest Cemetery sign and water treatment building)After crossing two bridges, take the next right on Whitetail Road (Landmark: White house) Take the first right turn—this access road dead ends at Crystal Spring
  - Restaurant
    - Flint Hills Market and Bakery
      - Great little bakery and they make amazing sandwiches and pizza. Check out this place. It's one of our favorites in the entire state.
- Cedar Point
  - There is a really cool old mill next to the river that is being restored
    - <http://www.cedarpointmill.com/>

- Clements
  - There is a gorgeous 1880's Stone Arch bridge near this town. There should be historic site signs.
    - <http://www.kansastravel.org/clementsbridge.htm>
- Cottonwood Falls
  - In my opinion, this is one of the best towns in the state. It is so small town, rural Kansas. There are many shops to wander through.
  - Make sure to go to the north side of town to see the beautiful bridge and water falls
  - Chase County Lake
    - There is a very cool, secluded water fall at this lake. It is very much worth the detour.
      - Here is a link to its location: <http://www.kansastravel.org/chaselakefalls.htm>
      - And do keep in mind depending on the rainfall, this could be quite impressive or a little trickle, but either way it is still cool to go to. Soak your feet in the water if it's hot out.
  - Chase County Courthouse
    - This is THE most breathtaking courthouse in the state. It is also the oldest operation one in the state. If you can go inside and take a look. The gorgeous stairs will leave your mouth wide open when admiring. Also try to find the old jail in the back upper part of the courthouse.
  - Restaurants
    - Keller Wine and Feed
      - A great atmosphere and food that is farm to table.
    - Grand Central Grill
      - This is an elegant old hotel that is still in operation both as a Bed and Breakfast and restaurant. Great steaks and burgers.
- Strong City
  - Restaurant
    - Ad Astra Food and Drink
      - Great restaurant that has a farm to table atmosphere.
- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve
  - <https://www.nps.gov/tapr/index.htm>
  - This place is truly incredible. Watch the video at the visitor center to get a feel of the land. Then go check out the awesome 3 story barn and gorgeous farmhouse mansion.
  - Also there are MILES AND MILES of hiking trails that are open dawn to dusk. So go get some exercise.
  - There is also an air conditioned bus tour of some of those spots if you don't want to walk. ;) <https://www.nps.gov/tapr/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm>

- Council Grove – This is an extremely historic town. It was a major stop on the Santa Fe Trail.
  - There are lots to see and do here. Here is a complete list and guide to the area: [http://media.wix.com/ugd/4bb1ab\\_387fc42daebb40a68f4e82f35db9240b.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/4bb1ab_387fc42daebb40a68f4e82f35db9240b.pdf)
  - There is a great walking area near downtown with a waterfall. Very pretty walk.
  - Restaurants
    - Trail Days Café and Museum
      - If you want to know how the pioneers ate, this place gives you that chance. All the menu items are based on the different ethnic groups that settled in the area. We love the atmosphere and food in this place a lot.
    - Hays House
      - This is one, if not the, oldest continuing restaurants west of the Mississippi River. Definitely gives you that old west feel. Very good food.