

Named **Most Beautiful Main Street** in Kansas

Hays

KANSAS

ITINERARY

HISTORIC CHURCHES OF ELLIS COUNTY

Ellis County, Kansas is known as the "German Capital of Kansas," and has a thriving German heritage courtesy of the immigrants who settled the area in the 1870s. Tour any of the 19 historic churches in the area including the Basilica of St. Fidelis, also known as "The Cathedral of the Plains," which was decreed to be a Minor Basilica by Pope Francis in 2014. The Basilica is also known as one of the "8 Wonders of Kansas," and was recently awarded the American Bus Association's "Best of the Best" designation. This tour can last from two hours to a full day, depending on number of churches visited.

HISTORIC FORT HAYS SITE



Originally established in 1865 as Fort Fletcher, Fort Hays was a U.S. Army Fort that was home to the 7th U.S. Cavalry commanded by Colonel George A. Custer. Resources on the grounds allow guests to experience what frontier life was like for Native Americans on the plains and soldiers in western military outposts. In addition to the visitors center, four of the original structures – the stone block house, guardhouse, and two officer's quarters – are open for guided tours. This tour lasts approximately one hour and thirty minutes.



BISON HERD & BOOT HILL CEMETERY

The original Boot Hill Cemetery is located in the heart of Hays. The cemetery got its name because so many of those laid to rest there "died with their boots on." It is marked with a limestone sculpture by local artist Pete Felten, whose works highlighting local history can be found throughout the community. On the outskirts of town, Frontier Park has been home to a bison herd since 1952, when it began with a bull named "Wild Bill" and a cow named "Calamity Jane." This driving tour with a step-on-guide lasts approximately one hour.



EXPLORE THE BRICKS OF DOWNTOWN HAYS

Recently named "The Most Beautiful Main Street in Kansas," by MSN, Downtown Hays' brick streets are home to local boutiques offering everything from clothing and accessories to jewelry and home decor. Among art galleries and day spas, you'll find bronze historic markers that tell of the saloons and shootouts of Hays' "Wild West" days. Visit Defiance Brewing Co. for local craft beer and wood-fired pizzas, or try the family-owned Paisley Pear Wine Bar, Bistro & Market for small plates and Kansas-made products and gifts.



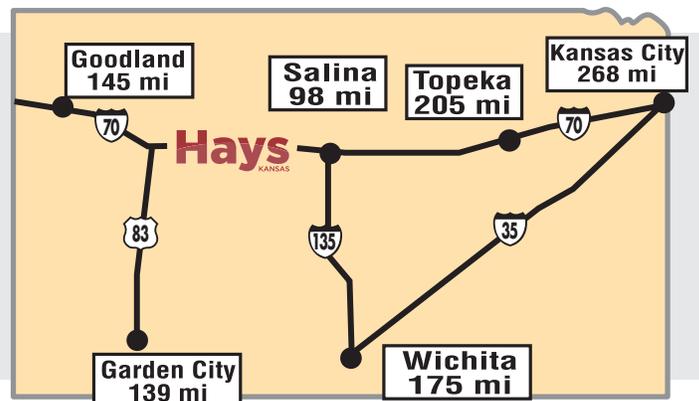
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S **STERNBERG** MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History is named in honor of two generations of the Sternberg family that collected some of the most spectacular fossils in the world, including the famous "fish-within-a-fish." See dinosaurs, prehistoric animals, and giant sea-swimming creatures that inhabited Kansas over 80 million years ago. An extensive collection of fossils from the region tells the story of the natural history of the Great Plains. Visitors can view a collection of live animals, including giant African tortoises, snakes, amphibians and fish. The Discovery Room and fossil dig pit offer fun for younger visitors, while the Dr. Howard Reynolds Nature Trails provide wide open spaces for all ages to explore. This tour lasts approximately one to two hours.

Hays is located on I-70 and Hwy. 183 (Exit 159), 5 hours east of Denver and 4 hours west of Kansas City.

DISTANCE TO HAYS, KANSAS

Albuquerque, NM	526 miles	Little Rock, AR	629 miles
Atlanta, GA	1,068 miles	Phoenix, AZ	1,027 miles
Colo. Springs, CO	320 miles	St. Louis, MO	528 miles
Dallas, TX	556 miles	Chicago, IL	790 miles
Lincoln, NE	279 miles	Minneapolis, MN	721 miles



2700 Vine St., Hays, KS 67601
800-569-4505 www.VisitHays.com

Janet Kuhn, CTIS, KDS
jkuhn@visithays.com

