



**Okie Heritage Tours**  
918-348-6648  
Okieheritage.com

**Okie Heritage Tours**, based in Muskogee, Oklahoma, can provide your group with several days of activities that can be customized to fit your group's specific interests. Muskogee has been called the epicenter of the true Wild West with a history of cowboys and Indians, lawmen and outlaws, soldiers, politicians and musicians. This small, friendly town sits at the mid-point of the Jefferson Highway in Oklahoma (Hwy 69) and is just 30 minutes from I-40 and I-44 making it very accessible by motor-coach.

## **Tour Itinerary** **The Indian Capital**

Long known as “the Indian Capital,” with 300 years of recorded history in the region, Muskogee has a rich multi-cultural past. Like its sister city Fort Smith, Muskogee has its own frontier fort, historic courthouse, and raucous tales of outlaws, lawmen and hanging judges. Born out of Native American history it is steeped in the culture and heritage of the Five Civilized Tribes. Museums, historic cemeteries, Civil War sites, beautiful parks, elegant old homes and wonderful downtown architecture are just some of what Muskogee offers. It can rightfully claim a unique blending of Southern hospitality with more than a touch of the Wild West. A half-day, one day, overnight stay or more will give guests a grand adventure exploring this historic river town.



### **Day 1 Morning or Half Day**

Get an early start on your day with a hearty catered breakfast at the **Spaulding Park Tourist Camp**. This renovated 1922 camp building has been updated with modern amenities while keeping the spirit of its origins. Before the days of the “motor hotels” or motels as they were later known, cities along the first interstate highways built camps to accommodate the motoring public. The Spaulding Park Tourist Camp is the only remaining facility on the 2300 miles of the Jefferson Highway. Located in Muskogee’s oldest park, the location is full of history your guide will share with you.

Follow breakfast with a drive to **Bacone College** Oklahoma's oldest institution of higher learning. This campus is listed on the National Register of Historic Places where the street signs are written in the Muskoke language. Tour the campus and then the **Ataloa Lodge Museum**. Filled with Native American art and artifacts, this log lodge holds the largest collection of Kachina Dolls in the country.

From Bacone travel to Muskogee's historic downtown. **The Katy District** is a shopper's delight with many small quaint shops offering antiques, vintage collectibles and boutique clothiers. Named for the Katy Railroad (M-K-T), this district is the heart of Muskogee's beginnings as a railroad town. If among the group there are those who aren't interested in shopping, your guide can provide a brief walking tour around downtown pointing out unique art deco architecture and fascinating history such as "dead man's corner."

Muskogee's downtown history museum is your next stop. **Three Rivers Museum** celebrates the fact that Muskogee is the birthplace of the Girl Scout Cookie. See Belle Starr's saddle, a vintage fire truck and a 1940s diesel train engine among other fascinating exhibits. Located in the Midland Valley Railroad Depot, this museum tells the story of Muskogee from its beginnings at the juncture of three rivers to its growth into the Indian Capital.

Next drive out to the crown jewel of Muskogee – beautiful **Honor Heights Park**. This 130-acre park is a wonderland of flowers, trees, walking trails and a butterfly house. Enjoy a catered lunch at the Papilion a teaching garden focused on providing habitat for butterflies.

### **Day 1 Afternoon**

You will follow lunch with a visit to the **Five Civilized Tribes Museum**. With both history exhibits and an art gallery, this museum features some of the greatest artists among the five large Indian Nations who were removed to Indian Territory from the southeastern states. Learn more about their Trail of Tears and their triumph over the tragic events that brought them west. The museum is housed in Muskogee's oldest building completed in 1876.

After checking into your hotel, some may want to rest while others could use a little more shopping therapy. Visit **McClain's** an antiques and vintage furniture extravaganza.

For dinner enjoy some of Muskogee's finest barbecue at **Maylon's**, a local favorite where the staff are proud to be Okies from Muskogee. Follow your wonderful meal with an evening of entertainment – perhaps a classic movie at the historic **Roxy Theater** or a concert featuring local talent at the **Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame**.

### **Day 2**

The tour's second day starts with breakfast at the **Amish Country Store**. Besides wonderful home cooking, this restaurant includes a store where you can shop for authentic foods from the nearby Amish community.

For today's tour, your group will enjoy a look at some of Muskogee's military history. A drive to the town of Fort Gibson will take you across the Bass **Reeves Memorial Bridge** dedicated to one of the greatest U.S. Deputy Marshals in history. You'll want to make a return trip to Muskogee in the future for the "**Behind a Mask of Black Tour**" that tells the history of this remarkable law officer.

Your first stop in Oklahoma's oldest town will be the **Fort Gibson Historic Site**. This re-created frontier fort will show you how soldiers on the untamed prairie lived 200 years ago. Several stone structures at the fort survive from the Civil War era when the fort was occupied by both Confederate and Union forces (but not at the same time!).

Stop for lunch in downtown Fort Gibson at **Urban Station** where unique pizzas are the specialty but other items are available on the buffet or from the menu. This restaurant is housed in one of the oldest structures downtown.

After a satisfying meal, you can stroll among the antiques shops near Urban Station for a time before continuing on to the **Fort Gibson National Cemetery**, a beautiful and solemn reminder of sacrifice and courage. This cemetery, established in 1868, gives rest to soldiers who fought in every American conflict. The Officers Circle includes graves of some famous individuals such as the fort's first Sutler John Nicks, Talihina, wife of Sam Houston and Vivia whose ghost is said to haunt the cemetery.

The final stop of the day will be at the **USS Batfish War Memorial Park** at the **Port of Muskogee**. The Batfish is a dry-docked WWII-era submarine with a stellar record in the Pacific Theater. Besides the submarine, the memorial displays a section of the mast from the *USS Oklahoma* which was sunk at Pearl Harbor.

From Muskogee your journey can continue on to Tahlequah or visit other iconic towns such as Tulsa and Fort Smith. You are just five hours from Dallas and Branson from Muskogee. Thanks for your visit to Muskogee, the Indian Capital of Oklahoma!

### **First Day Morning**

8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Tourist Camp (Chuck Wagon \$15 per person) Spaulding Park
9:30 a.m.	Ataloa Lodge Museum (\$4 per person)
10:30 a.m.	Katy District Shopping (free) or Downtown Walking Tour (Guide \$45)
11:30 a.m.	Three Rivers Museum (\$4 per person)
12:30 p.m.	Lunch at Honor Heights Park (catered \$15 per person)

### **First Day Afternoon**

1:30 p.m.	Five Civilized Tribes Museum (\$5 per person)
2:30 p.m.	Historic Neighborhoods Tour (Guide)
3:30 p.m.	Shopping at McClain's (free) Or rest at Hotel
5:00 p.m.	Barbecue Dinner at Maylon's (\$18 per person)
6:30 p.m.	Classic movie at Historic Roxy Theater (\$5 per person) Or other available entertainment

### **Second Day**

8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Amish Country Store (\$15 per person)
10:00 a.m.	Fort Gibson Historic Site (\$4 per person)
11:30 a.m.	Gourmet pizza at Urban Station (\$14 per person)
12:30 p.m.	National Cemetery (free; Guide)
1:30 p.m.	<i>USS Batfish</i> WWII Submarine (\$5 per person)

*\*All costs are estimates until confirmed reservations are made.*