

Okie Heritage Tours
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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 motorcoach.

Tour Itinerary

The Good, the Bad and the Just Misunderstood

There were lawmen and there were outlaws, but sometimes there were lawmen who became outlaws and outlaws who became lawmen. In the rough and tumble days of the Old West in Indian Territory, the lines between law breakers and peace makers were sometimes blurred.



But that just makes for fascinating stories of the lawmen and outlaws of the Wild West. Take a tour through and around Muskogee - the Indian Capital and seat of the federal government in Indian Territory. A half day, full day or overnight stay will offer a tour that leads guests to the places where history happened and the real stories are told. This Lawmen & Outlaws Tour will provide an up-close look at why Indian Territory was the most dangerous place in the Old West.

Half Day, Full Day and Two-Day Itineraries

Day 1 Morning or Half Day

As you arrive in town or after a continental breakfast at your hotel, travel to **downtown Muskegee** to a location the locals call “Dead Man’s Corner.” Your tour guide will share the stories about outlaws and lawmen, shootouts and holdups and liquor flowing in the streets.

From here travel to Fort Gibson, Oklahoma’s oldest town located in the Cherokee Nation. Because of jurisdictional issues and a hilly, wooded terrain, Cherokee Nation was a favorite hide-out for outlaws during Indian Territory days. You’ll next visit the **Cherokee National Cemetery** where Cherokee citizens have been buried for almost two centuries. The grave of Cherokee Bill, an outlaw sentenced to hang by Judge Isaac Parker is buried here.

Your next stop 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!). Soldiers stationed here were often called upon to police the wild Indian Territory.

If you only have a half day for this tour, enjoy lunch at a local favorite called **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. For the full day tour, you’ll continue on to Tahlequah, capital of the Cherokee Nation and enjoy lunch at the **Restaurant of the Cherokees**. Enjoy southern and Native American fare from a generous buffet.

Day 1 Afternoon

After lunch continue into Tahlequah for a tour of the **Cherokee Prison Museum**. Here you will learn the history of Cherokee law and order. Situated in the middle of historic Tahlequah, the prison was built in 1875 to hold the most hardened criminals in Indian Territory. Today, it is home to a two-building interpretive site exploring the history of Cherokee crime and punishment, law enforcement and an overview of famous outlaws and their activity in the area. Walk the grounds of the museum where a blacksmith shop demonstrates the trades taught to incarcerated prisoners, while a reproduction gallows stands as a reminder of the ultimate punishment.

You’ll head west on a scenic drive along Highway 51 which will take you to a brief stop at the site of the **Halfway Hotel** where a shootout took the life of Cherokee marshal Sequoyah Houston. Then continue over beautiful **Fort Gibson Lake** to downtown Wagoner and the **City Museum**. You’ll learn about Ed Reed, son of Belle Starr, who was killed in gunplay near the museum.

After touring Wagoner’s museum you’ll take the old **Jefferson Highway** (today Highway 16) through the town of **Okay** where Wyatt Earp briefly crossed over to the other side of the law. Then at a stop near the **Blackstone Switch** at Wybark your guide will regale you with stories of an audacious train robbery attempt by Texas Jack and some incredibly good shooting by U.S. Deputy Marshal Bass Reeves.

All this outlawry will have you hungry for 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

Get the second day of your visit started with a hearty chuckwagon 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 motels, cities along the first 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. Muskogee's oldest park, is full of history your guide will share with you including how the marshals used the park as their own campsite.

Muskogee's downtown history museum is your next stop. **Three Rivers Museum** remembers Bass Reeves with a tombstone kept in a featured exhibit. The grave of Bass Reeves is unknown today, so he is memorialized at the museum. See also Belle Starr's saddle, a vintage fire truck, a 1940s diesel train engine and other fascinating exhibits. Located in the Midland Valley Railroad Depot, this museum tells the story of Muskogee as the seat of the federal government for Indian Territory.

Enjoy lunch at **Colton's Steakhouse** where the flavor of the Old West is served. Then a little shopping at **McClain's Furniture & Antiques** will offer the finishing touch to your Lawmen and Outlaws Tour.

Day 1 Morning or Half Day

9:00 a.m.	Dead Man's Corner, Downtown Muskogee (Guide \$45 per hour)
10:00 a.m.	Cherokee Citizens Cemetery, Fort Gibson (free, with guide)
10:30 a.m.	Fort Gibson Historic Site (\$5 per person)
12:00 p.m.	Lunch at Urban Station or Restaurant of the Cherokees (\$15 per person)

Day 1 Afternoon

1:00 p.m.	Cherokee Prison Museum, Tahlequah (\$5 per person)
2:30 p.m.	Site of Halfway Hotel Shootout, Hulbert (free, with guide)
3:30 p.m.	Wagoner City Museum, Wagoner (free)
5:30 p.m.	Maylon's Barbecue Restaurant (\$18 per person)
6:30 p.m.	Historic Roxy Theater or other entertainment (\$5 per person or above)

Day 2

8:30 a.m.	Spaulding Park Tourist Camp (\$15 per person)
10:00 a.m.	Three Rivers Museum (\$4 per person)
11:30 a.m.	Colton's Steakhouse (\$15 per person)
1:00 p.m.	McClain's Antiques (free)

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