

Great Bend, Kansas

A ByWay Community



Great Bend KS 67530

Scores of nature enthusiasts are drawn to the Great Bend area due to the Arkansas River, the wildlife it harbors in its waters and on its banks, and for its richness of resident and migrating birds. Hikers, paddlers, bikers, birders, and nature photographers uncover a true prairie surprise as they explore this rich landscape.

The Great Bend Aspect is a historical term that identifies a Native American culture whose people lived near the great bend of the Arkansas River. Today, the term has been borrowed to describe the area surrounding the distinctive bend of this great river that provides rich natural habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Newspaper: The Tribune www.gbtribune.com
Website: www.VisitGreatBend.com
Population: 15,000

"I banded anything that had wings out there except the insects."

Ed Martinez, Great Bend resident
His banding of birds at Cheyenne Bottoms helped to establish the importance of the Central Flyway to migrating birds.

Events & Attractions

• Things To See And Do

- See a Hudsonian Godwit Cheyenne Bottoms
- Watch Treatment of an Injured Raptor
The Raptor Center at Brit Spaugh Zoo
- Drive a GPS Video Tour of Cheyenne Bottoms & the Wetlands & Wildlife National Byway
- Stand on the Santa Fe Trail Courthouse Square
- Hike/Bike/Kayak the River Paved Trail/River Access
- Visit a Lustron Home Barton County Historical Village
- Zoom Down a Water Slide Wetlands Waterpark
- Pet an Alpaca/Walk a Labyrinth Heartland Farm
- Listen to Live Music At the Back Room/Arts Council
- Explore Great Bend Cemetery (Walking Tour)
- Stroll Great Bend's Courthouse Square
Santa Fe Trail, Kilby Memorial, Songbird Habitat, Quilt Walk

• Notable People

- Oscar Micheaux African-American Film Maker
- Jack Kilby Nobel Prize Physics - Microchip Inventor
- Ed Martinez Defined Central Flyway Migratory Route

• Local Food

- Great Bend Coffee Food & Drink - old Masonic Lodge
- 4 Legs Up BBQ National Award Winning BarBQue
- Farmer's Market Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday mornings

"Any engineer worth his salt damn well better have a pocket knife."

*~Jack Kilby, Nobel Laureate. Inventor of the Microchip.
Great Bend High School Graduate*

"The GPS Unit was simple to use and complemented our trip along the byway. I recommend it to everyone who is interested in learning more about the area."

*Kay Nichols, President
Dixon Studios Inc., Exhibit
Design Fabrication and
Consulting, Tucson AZ*

"Cheyenne Bottoms is a rich animated landscape, teeming with life. The sights, sounds and even the smells create a lush sensual experience. When one considers the diversity, complexity, beauty and multiple functions and benefits of Cheyenne Bottoms one quickly realizes that truly this marsh is a miracle."

Ted T. Cable, Ph.D., Kansas State University



"Great Bend's Raptor Center is one of only a handful of such federally funded facilities in the United States."
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