

Great Bend, Kansas

A Byway Community



Great Bend, Kansas 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 in this great river that provides rich natural habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Population: 16,000

Newspaper: Great Bend Tribune

Website: www.VisitGreatBend.com

"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
 - Raptor Center at Brit Spaugh Zoo
- Stroll Courthouse Square
 - Santa Fe Trail, Kilby Memorial, Quilt Walk
- Stand on the Santa Fe Trail – Courthouse Square
- Hike/Bike/Paddle the River – Paved Trail/River Access
- Visit a Lustron Home – Barton County Historical Village
- Zoom Down a Waterslide – Wetlands Waterpark
- Pet and Alpaca/Walk the Labyrinth – Heartland Farm
- Explore Great Bend Cemetery– Self Guided Tour
- Take the Birdhouse Tour – Brochure at the CVB
- Stroll Courthouse Square
 - Santa Fe Trail, Kilby Memorial, Quilt Walk, Songbird Habitat

• Notable People

- Oscar Micheaux – African American Film Maker
- Jack Kilby – Nobel Peace Prize Winner
- Ed Martinez – Defined Central Flyway Migratory Route

• Local Food

- Great Bend Coffee – Daily Lunch Specials
- Johnson's BBQ – Mouth Watering BBQ
- Farmers Market – 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*

If your inspiration comes from biking, birding, hiking, or nature photography – Great Bend is your natural wonderland!

"Cheyenne Bottoms is a rich animated landscape, teeming with wildlife. 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 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."

-Great Bend Chamber Newsletter, 2009

Convention & Visitors Bureau • 620-792-2750 • tours@visitgreatbend.com

