

URBAN EXPLORER



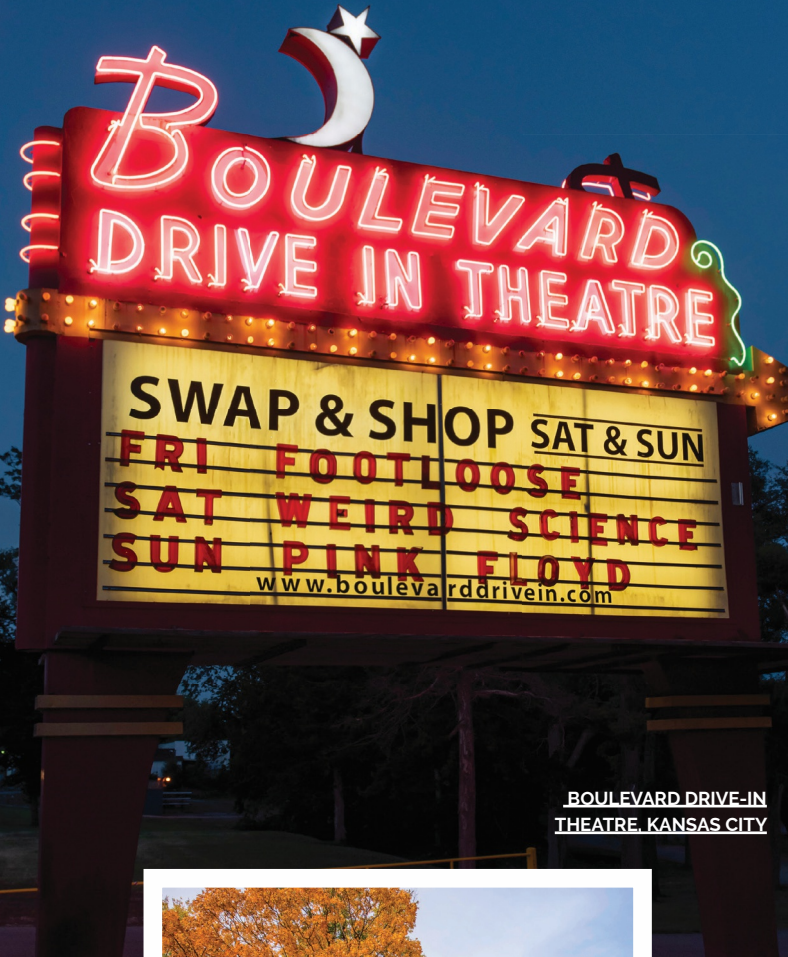
Americana and imagination play starring roles in the cities of Kansas, making them rich getaways for travelers. Play through a lineup of family favorites in *Kansas City*, meet new places and personalities in *Wichita*, and get a taste of *Topeka's* burgeoning arts and culture scene.

WRITER LAUREN SIEBEN

LEWIS AND CLARK HISTORIC PARK AT KAW POINT

FAMILY FUN IN KANSAS CITY

With classic attractions and a generous dose of thrills, Kansas City delivers a revved-up escape for the whole team, whether you're traveling with toddlers, teens or ages in-between.



BOULEVARD DRIVE-IN THEATRE, KANSAS CITY

Pack your favorite snacks and pull up for a double feature at **Boulevard Drive-In Theatre**, the world's first drive-in to install digital sound. Visit the grounds on a Saturday or Sunday morning for the Swap and Shop flea market, or get your retail fix at **Legends Outlets**, with more than 70 shops delivering solid discounts on just about any brand you can imagine, plus more than 20 dining options.

Hungry for a meal with a side of entertainment? At **Fritz's Railroad Restaurant**, you can order a burger by telephone and watch as a train chugs to the table to deliver your dish—a fitting homage to Kansas' railroad history. For the outdoors enthusiast, explore **Cabela's**, with its massive showroom, aquarium, archery range and a museum that's billed as the world's largest collection of life-size trophy mule deer.

Everyone digs a super-soaked stay at **Great Wolf Lodge**. Young guests let loose at the indoor water park, which is heated to a balmy 84 degrees year-round. Back outside, roam **Lewis and Clark Historic Park at Kaw Point**, where the explorers camped for three days in 1804. The 6-acre park features interpretive signs, trails and a boat ramp.

GAME ON

KANSAS CITY'S SPORTS SCENE CATERES TO SOCCER FANS, GEARHEADS AND BASEBALL BUFFS.

CHILDREN'S MERCY PARK

Catch a Sporting KC soccer match under the canopy roof of this venue, voted one of the most intimidating to play in all of Major League Soccer. (The fans are passionate.)

KANSAS SPEEDWAY

Be a spectator or get behind the wheel yourself during the NASCAR Racing Experience, which lets adrenaline fiends take an exhilarating ride along the oval track.

T-BONES STADIUM

The renovated home of the independent pro league Kansas City T-Bones features a craft beer garden and a Steakholders Club bar serving cocktails.



WYANDOTTE COUNTY LAKE PARK is more than a pretty picnic destination. Enjoy softball and soccer fields—plus 400 acres of water for boating and plenty of green space for Frisbee, catch and tag.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (LEWIS AND CLARK) COURTESY OF VISIT KANSAS CITY KS, (BOULEVARD DRIVE-IN THEATRE) WYANDOTTE EARL RICHARDSON, (SPEEDWAY) COURTESY OF KANSAS SPEEDWAY



KANSAS SPEEDWAY

MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN WICHITA

Give yourself plenty of time to enjoy new attractions and hang with the locals in the state's largest city.



One of Wichita's hottest new destinations, **Revolutsia** redefines what it means to eat a boxed lunch. Old building and shipping containers now house a thriving outdoor food court and retail space. Dine at innovative eateries such as **Prost** biergarten under cafe lights in the courtyard.

Root, root, root for the new home team: the **Wichita Wind Surge**. The minor league baseball stadium along the Arkansas River was designed for the ultimate fan experience, with built-in drink rails and field views from the venue's main concourse.



After the game, grab a bite at **Bite Me BBQ**, where giant fall-off-the-bone ribs cook for 16 hours. If you want to kick up the spice level a few notches, stock up on habanero-brined cucumbers at the condiment bar.

Wash things down and unwind with a tiny-umbrellaed tropical rum cocktail at **Lava and Tonic**, a colorful tiki bar that channels a Hawaiian beach hangout and slings drinks that are as stiff as they are delicious.

REVOLUTSIA



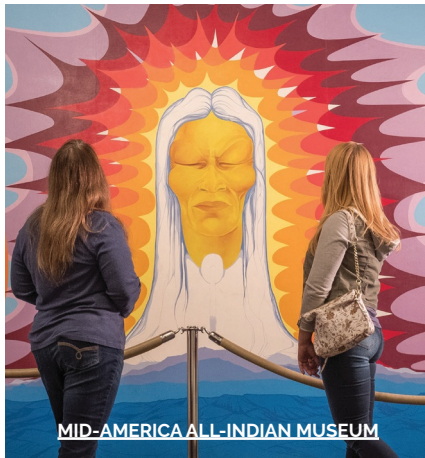
BOTANICA



EXPLORATION PLACE



KEEPER OF THE PLAINS



MID-AMERICA ALL-INDIAN MUSEUM



OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM



WICHITA ART MUSEUM

MARVELS ON THE RIVER

DISCOVER SOME OF THE STATE'S FINEST MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS AND LANDMARKS ALONG THE ARKANSAS RIVER.

BOTANICA

Wander through more than 30 themed gardens accented with sculptures, waterfalls and even a restored 1949 carousel. At the end of the year, admire the gardens aglow with more than 2 million lights.

EXPLORATION PLACE

This hands-on science museum engages all ages. Kids can inspect a three-story medieval castle, work with NASA tools and design planes. Adults marvel at *Kansas in Miniature*, an animated display with more than 125 buildings.

KEEPER OF THE PLAINS

This 44-foot-tall steel sculpture stands where the Big and Little Arkansas rivers converge. Internationally acclaimed local artist Blackbear Bosin donated the iconic Wichita landmark to the city in 1974 for the United States Bicentennial.

MID-AMERICA ALL-INDIAN MUSEUM

Near the *Keeper of the Plains*, find more of Blackbear Bosin's work at the museum that the Kiowa-Comanche artist co-founded. In rotating exhibits, learn about the roles American Indians play in society.

OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM

Dozens of buildings and 12,000-plus artifacts transport visitors to the 1800s. Learn about frontier life as you walk along dirt roads and through buildings adorned with period furnishings; actors in costume recapture life during Wichita's early days.

WICHITA ART MUSEUM

Find more than 10,000 pieces of American art, from originals by internationally known artists like Mary Cassatt and Charles M. Russell to locally prized works by the Prairie Print Makers, the Wichita collective led by C.A. Seward.

3 STOPS AT UNION STATION

A DESTINATION FOR RAIL TRAVELERS UNTIL 1979, WICHITA'S HISTORIC TRAIN STATION SHINES AGAIN AS A NEW DINING AND RETAIL HUB.

1

JENNY DAWN CELLARS is Wichita's first urban winery, offering wines blended by Jennifer McDonald. On Saturday evenings, stop in for jazz music and enjoy a flight of vinos served with an array of artisan cheeses and petite naan bread.

2

Get your hops at **THE POURHOUSE**, a restaurant and brewery serving 12 tap beers from Walnut River Brewing Company in El Dorado. Grab a seat on the patio to sip your craft brew with fried pickles.

3

With more than 35 flavors, **WICHITA CHEESECAKE COMPANY** promises to satisfy any sweet tooth. Choose from classic plain or fruit cheesecake, or pick up a slice of caramel apple or piña colada.