

**HIDDEN GEM TRIP!
SIGN UP DEADLINE
12/16/2024!**



KANSAS CITY, HERE WE COME! SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2025 KANSAS CITY, MO

Did you enjoy (or hear about) our “hidden gem” trip to Detroit a few years ago? Then you will want to join us for our next hidden gem tour - **Kansas City!** It’s more than the hometown of Taylor Swift’s Boy-friend...it’s also the City of Fountains! This little known location is chock full of fun things to do and see!

DAY 1 - Our exciting adventure will begin with a **train ride**. We will board the Amtrak in two separate locations (two separate routes) - Mendota, IL and Bloomington/Normal, IL and travel through the countryside to Kansas City. Our arrival into Kansas City will be late in the evening, so be sure to grab some zzzzs on the train! We will walk via sky-walk (enclosed and air conditioned) to our hotel, the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. This hotel is conveniently located near many of the tourist sites, across the street from the famous Kansas City Streetcar (free to ride) and the beautiful Union Station. Attached to the hotel is Crown Center Plaza, a shopping extravaganza and home to Hallmark Cards! This city within a city offers guests 85 acres of shops, restaurants and theatres—all of which can be accessed from within the hotel.



DAY 2 - Our day will begin with breakfast buffet at Harvey’s in Union Station. Then it’s time to begin our touring! We will start with a trolley tour of Kansas City. This 1.5 hour narrated tour will provide you with a great overview of the city and take you through all of the neighborhoods. Then it’s back to the hotel for a brief stop to grab a quick lunch on your own. This afternoon we will board a motorcoach and visit the Money Museum, also known as the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (*must have*

valid driver’s license on hand and pass through security check) where you will be able to lift a gold bar and look inside the cash vault! Next we travel a short distance to the National WWI Museum and Memorial. Housing the most comprehensive WWI collection in the world, this is America’s leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. Our day will end with a visit to New Theatre Restaurant in nearby Overland Park. We will enjoy a sumptuous buffet supper then experience a theatre performance (to be announced). **B, D**



DAY 3 - Begin with an included breakfast. Then it's on to the amazing Arabia Steamboat Museum! You will learn the tale of treasures lost and will hear the retelling of an uncertain journey to locate a sunken steamboat's mystery cargo. You will see the over 200 ton payload that was entombed beneath 4 stories of river mud—the largest pre-civil war collection of artifacts in the world! Following our tour at Arabia, you will have time on your own for a lunch in the Kansas City Market, where you will find a wide variety of ethnic and traditional offerings.



THIS AFTERNOON, IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

CHOOSE ONE:



Country Club Plaza - This is a 15 city block open air shopping and dining destination, home to over 120 shops and eateries with a one-of-a-kind curated mix of national and local retailers and restaurants, over 50 unique to Kansas City. Here you will not only find amazing shopping, but also architecture inspired by Spanish design and 75 unique statues, fountains and one of a kind pieces of artwork!

-OR-

Arrowhead Stadium Tour (\$75 additional fee) - This 90-minute guided tour includes the press box, Community America Club Level, Field, Hall of Honor, Locker Room, Press Conference Room, Broadcast Area and Founder's Club. (*minimum 10/maximum 20 participants to run this tour*)



-OR-

Ride the Streetcar back to Crown Plaza. The streetcar stop is directly outside the Arabia Museum and you can ride this free all the way back to Union Station and our hotel to enjoy the offerings there!

This evening we will enjoy a Kansas City must...BBQ! We will head to Jack Stack BBQ, located downtown in the historic Freight House. Jack Stack BBQ is in its fourth generation of Fiorella family ownership and has evolved into the largest wood-fired cookery in the United States. **B, D**

KANSAS CITY STREETCAR!

Unique to Kansas City is their City Streetcar! Running from the River Market (Arabia Steamboat Museum) on the north end to Union Station and Crown Center on the south, KC Streetcar connects all the downtown neighborhoods with 16 platform stops and 2 miles of track. The streetcars run daily and arrive approximately every 10-15 minutes during peak hours and it is free to ride! The city is in the process of expanding the streetcar line so hopefully by the time we visit in 2025, the line will extend farther to the south and offer more options for riders!



DAY 4 - Today you will **grab breakfast on your own**. Options include Harvey's at Union Station, Panera Bread across the street or One East right in the hotel.

THIS MORNING, IT'S YOUR CHOICE AGAIN!

CHOOSE ONE:

Stay at Crown Plaza to enjoy shopping at the mall, ride the streetcar to somewhere you would like to visit, walk across the street to Union Station to enjoy the offerings there or just relax at the hotel pool and spend the morning however you choose. You can also visit the Hallmark Visitor Center where you will discover how an ambitious teenage boy from Nebraska tucked two shoeboxes of postcards under his arms and set out to create an iconic company in Kansas City! (ever wonder where the name Shoebox Greeting Cards came from?) Be sure to grab lunch before you get back on the bus for the afternoon adventures!



-OR-

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art - This museum houses over 34,500 pieces of art from ceramic objects found in ancient Chinese tombs to whimsical sculptures of badminton birdies. This location has two restaurants so you will need to grab lunch while you are there.

-OR-

Negro Baseball League Museum & American Jazz Museum (\$20 additional fee) - These two museums are housed in the same building, so you will have an opportunity to see both, should you choose this option. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is the world's only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of African-American baseball and its impact on the social advancement of America. The American Jazz Museum is located in the Historic 18th & Vine District and showcases the sights and sounds of jazz through interactive exhibits and films. Also attached to this museum is the famous "Blue Room". No food is available at this location but Kansas City Juke House is right next door, so be sure to grab lunch there before getting back on the bus for the afternoon!



This afternoon we will travel to nearby Independence to visit the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum. Established in 1957, the museum preserves and provides access to President Truman's historical materials. Through engaging exhibits and programs, the Library aspires to reach a broad and diverse audience in a continuous effort to keep President Truman's life and legacy alive, emphasizing his ideals of citizenship, learning, and service. While visiting be sure to stop at the Truman gravesite and peek in his office. Then it's off for our next unique adventure, a narrated covered wagon tour through town! And after a long day on the trail, there's nothing like a little KC BBQ to satisfy those hunger pains! We will enjoy a chuckwagon dinner before heading back to the hotel for the evening. We have an early start tomorrow so be sure to get some rest! **D**

While visiting be sure to stop at the Truman gravesite and peek in his office. Then it's off for our next unique adventure, a narrated covered wagon tour through town! And after a long day on the trail, there's nothing like a little KC BBQ to satisfy those hunger pains! We will enjoy a chuckwagon dinner before heading back to the hotel for the evening. We have an early start tomorrow so be sure to get some rest! **D**

DAY 5 - We will start with a very early breakfast buffet at Harvey's in Union Station followed by an early boarding of the Amtrak to take us back home. **B**

MENDOTA Beth Hubbard: 815.539.1526 office / 815.985.2299 cell

PO Box 50, Mendota, IL 61342 (mailing address)

1403 13th Avenue, Mendota, IL (physical address)

BLOOMINGTON Marc Cheffer: 309.663.6300 ofc / 815.674.3613 cell

502 N. Hershey Rd, Bloomington, IL 61704

STREATOR Amy Spears: 708.967.1486 office / 815.674.7265 cell

115 Plaza Drive, Streator, IL 61364

SIGN-UP TIME: REGISTRATION OPENS IMMEDIATELY! Registration Deadline DECEMBER 16, 2024.

DEPOSIT DUE: \$200 **NON REFUNDABLE** deposit due at time of registration. Balance due June 1, 2025. **Cash, check, debit FSB account only.**

COST: \$1350 Per Person Double Occupancy/\$1900 Single Occupancy. Cancellations will be refunded **only** if we are able to fill your vacancy (minus the \$200 nonrefundable deposit)

FEE INCLUDES: Base price includes train ride, hotel, motor coach transportation, touring per itinerary, 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners, all associated taxes and tips. Additional fee for optional excursions: Arrowhead Stadium (\$75) and Negro Baseball League/Jazz Museums (\$20).

MEETING LOCATIONS ON 9/15/25: 3:00 P.M. Mendota Train Station, 683 8th Street, Mendota, IL
11:00 A.M. Bloomington/Normal Train Station, 11 Uptown Circle, Normal, IL

LUGGAGE: Mendota and Bloomington/Normal are unmanned stations, so we are not able to check luggage. All luggage must be handled by the traveler the entire duration of the trip. Allowed bag size is 28 x 22 x 14, 50 pounds maximum weight and must be carried onto the train and kept in the overhead bin above your seat. Please be sure luggage has wheels as you will be required to transport your luggage from Union Station to hotel via skywalk.

ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

What's Allowed?

Each passenger may bring:

- one personal item, 25 lbs. (12 kg) and 14 x 11 x 7 inches, and
- two carry-on items, 50 lbs. (23 kg) and 28 x 22 x 14 inches each (Pacific Surfliner: up to 28 x 22 x 11 inches each).

Make sure you have a tag with your name and address on the outside of all your bags.

1 personal item



2 carry-on items

