

SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

**IT'S FESTIVAL TIME and in KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA...  
FOLKS REALLY KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN**

Head for the Heartland states of America – Kansas and Oklahoma – and you can't fail to have a good time. For the folks there, who really know how to have fun, stage an amazing array of exciting annual festivals and events – ranging from chuck-wagon gatherings and cattle drives to state fairs and Pow Wow's.

Among these great events is Oklahoma City's **Chuck Wagon Gathering & Children's Cowboy Festival** ([www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/events/chuckwagon](http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/events/chuckwagon)). Scheduled for May 24-25 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, it will feature an Old West Show, carriage rides, storytellers, and craft demonstrations.

The same weekend, May 24-26, Larned, Kansas stages the **Fort Larned Living History Weekend** ([www.nps.gov/fols/planyourvisit/events.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fols/planyourvisit/events.htm)), when volunteers bring to life stories of the Indian Wars along the Santa Fe Trail as well as the days when General Custer and Buffalo Bill Cody rode through town.

Want to experience a cattle drive? Then head for Bucklin, Kansas's **Moore Ranch** ([www.moorelonghornranch.com](http://www.moorelonghornranch.com)) on July 3-4 to join Nancy, Laramie and Joe Moore drive about 90 head of longhorn cattle to pasture. You will sleep out under the stars in cowboy bedrolls and then breakfast from an authentic chuck wagon.

On July 27, in Pryor, Oklahoma, they celebrate the **National Day of the Cowboy** ([www.nationaldayofthecowboy.com](http://www.nationaldayofthecowboy.com)) with more than 80 stalls selling everything from antique spurs and Western saddles to cowboy memorabilia and homemade quilts. And in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on August 29-31, the **Cherokee National Holiday** ([www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.18809/type.event](http://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.18809/type.event)) will commemorate the 1839 signing of the Cherokee Nation Constitution with traditional Native American games such as cornstalk and blowgun shooting, marbles and stickball.

The Santa Fe Trail town of Council Grove, Kansas, once the site of a Kaw reservation, honours the last full-blooded Kaw chief, Washunga, on June 20-22 with a **Kaw Inter-tribal Pow Wow** including re-enactments and a classic car gathering ([www.travelks.com/includes/calendar-of-events/Washunga-Days/11479](http://www.travelks.com/includes/calendar-of-events/Washunga-Days/11479)).

And, of course, no trip to this part of the world would be complete without a visit to a typically-American state fair. **The Kansas State Fair** (September 5-14, [www.kansasstatefair.com](http://www.kansasstatefair.com)) in Hutchinson, Kansas, has been running for 100 years and is a glorious mixture of festival, demonstrations, food and music, and the **Oklahoma State Fair** (September 11-21, [www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.18505/type.event](http://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.18505/type.event)) celebrates the end of summer with carnival rides, fair food and live performances.

Other fun and fascinating events in the two states include Medicine Park, Oklahoma's **Mayor's Red Dirt Ball** music festival (May 23-25, [www.medicinpark.com/RedDirtBall.php](http://www.medicinpark.com/RedDirtBall.php)) and Kansas's **Wichita Riverfest** (May 30-June 7, [www.wichitariverfest.com](http://www.wichitariverfest.com)), which showcases 60 events on the Arkansas River waterfront of Kansas's largest city.

Rodeo season in both states is May through September. Bull riding and bronco busting events are thrilling and well worth attending ([www.travelok.com/Rodeos](http://www.travelok.com/Rodeos), [www.travelks.com/things-to-do/history-heritage/rodeos](http://www.travelks.com/things-to-do/history-heritage/rodeos)).

*For additional information, visit [www.Travelksok.co.uk](http://www.Travelksok.co.uk) or contact the Kansas/Oklahoma Travel & Tourism UK & Ireland Information Service: [info@travelksok.co.uk](mailto:info@travelksok.co.uk)*