Ozarks Uplift
Gateway to the Ozarks
MISSOURI-OKLAHOMA-KANSAS

-- Murals
-- History Museums
-- Gaming attractions
-- Outdoor attractions

Big Spring Park in Neosho, Missouri

Miner Statue in Webb City

Benton Mural in Joplin City Hall
There is a gentle uplift from the prairies of Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri into the Ozarks. For over 100 years this Uplift Region provided lead, zinc and coal for the world. Now this Region provides an Uplift for families looking for fun, history, heritage and hospitality.

Respect for mining heritage is evident in outdoor art and mining museums (see page 10 for mining museums).

The mining stopped in the mid seventies but its legacy evolved into great tourism finds. Where the ore was hoisted out of the ground, you now find unique habitats such as the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center. Imagine a place where you can hike a savannah woodland, chert glade trails or along an Ozark stream. Step inside the Audubon Center with an amazing 1,300 gallon indoor aquarium. (www.wildcatglades.audubon.org)

Joplin, Missouri, (JOMO) is the largest city in the Tri-State area...outstanding art and murals (see page 5) and outdoor art adorn this historic mining town. Tucked into downtown Joplin is the George A. Spiva Center for the Arts. This Center for the Arts features the work of nationally and internationally acclaimed artists.

Explore the world of George Washington Carver, a renowned scientist, educator and humanitarian.

The park preserves history in a hands-on discovery center which is open daily from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm in Diamond, Missouri. Admission is free.

Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri has an enrollment of over 5800 students with an active arts community including four murals. (www.crowder.edu)
The George Washington Carver National Monument near Diamond, Missouri, features a fun, hands-on discovery center honoring Dr. Carver as a scientist, educator and humanitarian. (www.nps.gov/gwca/index.htm)

A great side trip is to Newtonia, Missouri, which was the site of two Civil War battles. The first battle was historically significant because it is the only battle outside Indian Territory where Native Americans fought against each other for the Union and Confederate forces. (www.newtoncountymotourism.org)

Continue your study of Civil War history with a trip to the Carthage Civil War Museum. (www.visit-carthage.com/attraction/civil-war-museum/)

Stella, Missouri, has two murals depicting the town’s history, a Veteran’s Memorial and it is the best perch for eagle watching in the Ozarks during the winter months.

Northeast Oklahoma is also known for the town of Miami (pronounced My-am-uh). One of the town’s treasures is the Coleman Theatre where legends like Will Rogers performed.

This region was a lead and zinc mining area for years. The towns of Commerce and Picher were wide open mining towns. Picher is now abandoned.

Today, Northeast Oklahoma is also known for its tribal casinos. See page 14 for a listing of the different casinos.

Grand Lake o’ the Cherokees is called by thousands, the Crown Jewel of Oklahoma. The lake was formed with the completion of Pensacola Dam in 1940. Today, Grand Lake is a tourism destination known for its boating and fishing fun!

Southeast Kansas is known for being an area developed with the help of European immigrants during the coal mining era. Sites like Immigrant Park and events such as Little Balkan Days in Pittsburg and Fiesta Italiana in Frontenac celebrate the proud individuals who came to America for a better life.

Crawford County and Cherokee County host four major mining museums. (see page 11). There is also Big Brutus, a nickname of the Bucyrus-Erie model electric shovel. This was the second largest of its type in operation in the 1960s and 1970s. To learn more go to: www.bigbrutus.org.

Pittsburg is the largest town in Southeast Kansas and has been revitalized, offering a thriving downtown.

The town of Galena is the oldest mining town in Southeast Kansas and has a great mixture of historic buildings and new business developments. Galena also has great Route 66 attractions including a restored Kan-O-Tex gas station and the Tow-Tater. The Tow-Tater was the inspiration of the Tow-Mater from the Pixar-Disney movie “Cars” (pictured left).

Baxter Springs was known as America’s first “Cow Town” for its association with cattle drives. Both Galena and Baxter Springs are on Route 66.

At the Baxter Springs Museum Heritage Center and Museum, a rich history is brought to life including expansive mining displays. You will also learn of the days of the Osage Indians, see early photographs of Mickey Mantle, learn of Civil War History and see a 1910 farm house.

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Murals of Newton County

Newton County has magnificent murals demonstrating the charm of this rural county. You can see most of the murals of Newton County, along with descriptive audio, at www.newtoncountymotourism.org. Pictured below are four examples from four highly-recognized artists.

Native Americans at First Battle of Newtonia

This Doug Hall masterpiece hangs in the Ritchey Mansion in Newtonia, Missouri. This was a unique battle because it was the only time in the Civil War that Native Americans took up arms against each other outside Indian Territory. Indigo Sky Casino in West Seneca, Oklahoma, also has several Doug Hall paintings.

A History of Newton County

The Newton County Courthouse is adorned by an 8’8” x 7’5” mural by artist Billie Gofourth-Stewart. This one panel of the vast mural shows Thomas Hart Benton (born in Neosho) and his friend President Harry Truman. Gofourth-Stewart has another mural in Monark Springs just east of Neosho.

George Washington Carver: The Spirit of Giving

Artist Cedar J. Kindy demonstrates the life of George Washington Carver in three panels. Carver was a young boy from Diamond who grew to be a nationally-known scientist and educator. The mural is housed at the George Washington Carver National Monument near Diamond, Missouri.

Tipton Ford

Anthony Benton Gude (grandson of Thomas Hart Benton) caught the human tragedy and healing after a motor car and train collided in 1914. The mural is housed in the United Methodist Church in downtown Neosho, Missouri. Gude has a second mural in Neosho City Hall titled “Flower Box City.”

Murals of Jasper County

Located in a Joplin public park, specifically as a touchstone for US Route 66 tourists as well as for local preservers of U.S. Route 66 in Missouri. The park also features a bifurcated red sports car that anyone on pilgrimage can slide up beside and have a quickie photograph taken. The mural covers the south side of Pearl Brothers, the iconic green hardware store in downtown Joplin.

“Celebrating the Performing Arts”

This mural depicts performing arts venues and patron experiences from the history of Joplin to the present. From left to right, the mural triptych begins outside the Club Theater, a significant performing arts venue which was built in the 1890s and located on the southwest corner of 4th Street and Joplin Avenue. A reflection of the Gay Nineties, the Club Theater offered big name talent from more cultivated eastern urban centers. Live entertainment was a major entertainment outlet before motion pictures and outstanding performers, musicians, and politicians came to Joplin to perform at the Club Theater. In addition, Joplin’s proud mining heritage is highlighted by trompe l’oeil elements surrounding the depiction.

“Downtown Gateway Mural”

In collaboration with the Downtown Joplin Alliance, Missouri Southern State University art majors have been working on completing a mural that will greet visitors as they enter Downtown Joplin from the north side of town. The mural features Mr. George A. Spiva who has had a profound impact on the arts in Joplin. It also features images of the Sunshine Lamp Trolley and Main Street.
MINING MUSEUMS

**Miner’s Hall Museum**
The Miner’s Hall Museum features mining memorabilia and rotating exhibits.
- Open: Monday – Friday
- Hours: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Admission: FREE
- Website: [www.minersmemorial.org](http://www.minersmemorial.org)

**Crawford County Historical Museum**
The museum has one the largest collections of historical artifacts and displays in the region.
- Open: Thursday – Sunday
- Hours: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Admission: donations accepted
- Website: [www.crawfordmuseum.com](http://www.crawfordmuseum.com)

**Baxter Springs Heritage Center & Museum**
A huge mining exhibit joins other exhibits on Osage Indians, Civil War and more.
- Open: Monday – Sunday
- Hours: Mon – Sat (10AM–4:30PM) Sun (1PM–4PM)
- Admission: FREE
- Website: [www.baxterspringsmuseum.org](http://www.baxterspringsmuseum.org)

**Dobson Museum**
This Miami, OK museum preserves the mining and Native American history of Ottawa County.
- Open: Wednesday, Friday & Sunday
- Hours: 9:00- 11:00 AM & 1:00-3:30 PM
- Admission: FREE
- Email: ochs@dobsonmuseum.com

**Galena Mining & Historical Museum**
This museum is housed in an old railroad depot and is home to mining artifacts and oil paintings by Carol Bliss Riley.
- Open: Monday – Sunday in Summer
- Hours: 9:00- 11:00 AM & 1:00-3:30 PM
- Admission: FREE

**Joplin Museum Complex**
The Everett J. Ritchie Tri-State Mineral Museum boasts an exceptional collection of lead and zinc ores in addition to a vast mining trove of memorabilia.
- Open: Tuesday (10AM – 7PM) Wed-Sat (10AM-5PM)
- Admission: $2.00 or $5.00 per family
- Website: [www.joplinmuseum.org](http://www.joplinmuseum.org)

**Granby Miner’s Museum**
The museum documents and preserves the history of the first mining towns in Southwest Missouri. Exquisite outdoor murals.
- Open: Thursday and Friday
- Hours: 1:00–4:00 PM
- Admission: FREE
Route 66 Attractions

Route 66 Visitors Center in Baxter Springs, Kansas.

The Newman Building in downtown Joplin is home to City Hall and the "Joplin at the Turn of the Century" Mural by Thomas Hart Benton (pictured on front cover) and Anthony Benton Gude's mural pictured above, right.

Marsh Arch Rainbow Bridge is north of Baxter Springs on Route 66.

Galena welcomes drivers into Kansas on Route 66.

Route 66 - Joplin Missouri mural was painted by Anthony Benton Gude, the grandson of Thomas Hart Benton. Benton was born in Neosho and resided in Joplin.

The majestic courthouse in downtown Carthage.

The Precious Moments Chapel features 84 hand painted murals and 30 works of stained glass.

Red Oak II has over 30 buildings re-created as a turn of the century village.

The Route 66 Vintage Iron Motorcycle Museum is on Main Street in Miami.

Mickey Mantle grew up in Commerce, Oklahoma, and played baseball throughout the area.

Grand Falls is the largest continuously flowing waterfall in Missouri.

Old Streetcar No.60 is located in King Jack Park in Webb City.

The Journey at the Praying Hands statue by artist Jack Dawson is in King Jack Park.

Route 66 Mural Park features two dynamic murals on Main Street in Joplin.

Documentaries on The Ozarks Uplift,... The Story of Mining in the Tri-State Area and The Civil War Battle of Newtonia were produced and aired on PBS Stations. DVDs of the documentaries are available at most of the Mining Museums. Or you can purchase them by calling (417) 437-5974. The DVDs are $15 each plus $3 postage.
Learn about the great lengths that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service goes to preserve and replenish our National fish supply. Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, there are fun interactive exhibits for all ages. The Neosho National Fish Hatchery was established in 1888 and helps stock our lakes and streams with Rainbow Trout, Pallid Sturgeon, Ozark Cavefish and more. Admission is free.

www.fws.gov/midwest/neosho
Neosho, Missouri, is the county seat of Newton County. Neosho is known for Big Spring Park (pictured on front cover) and as Flower Box City. Throughout Newton County you will find great murals in locations including Diamond, Granby, Joplin, Newtonia, Seneca and Stella. Plan on taking a walking tour of the Neosho Murals. The murals are also on www.newtoncountymotourism.org with audio descriptions.