



History abounds in Van Buren!

Take a stroll through Van Buren's Historic District and you'll see why history is more than a memory in this town.

Steamboat captains, stagecoach passengers, elegant Victorian ladies and gentlemen, Native Americans making their way on the Trail of Tears ...all have left footprints on Van Buren's historic **Main Street** and river walks.

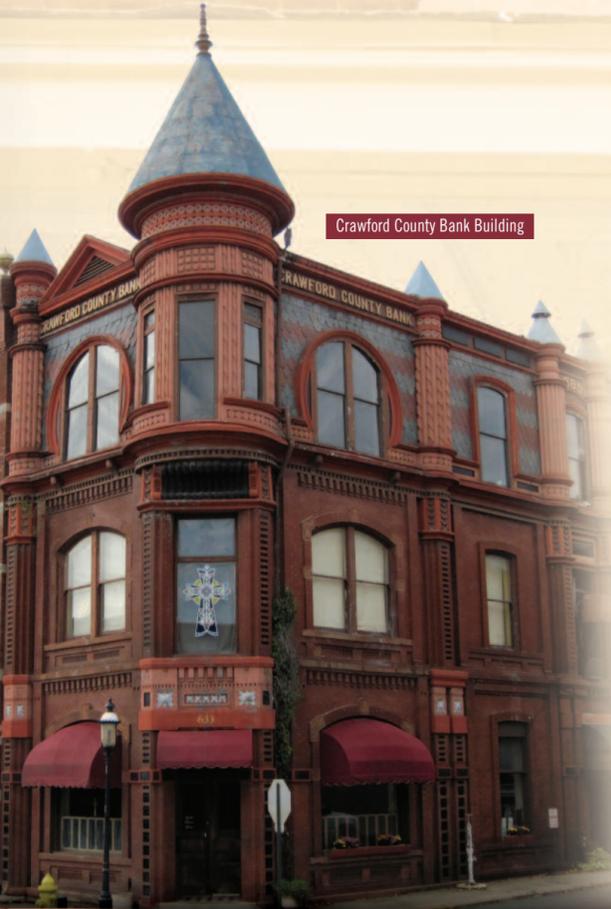


Old Timer's Day Arts & Crafts Festival

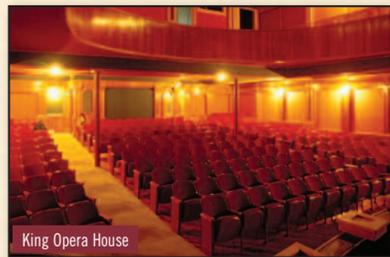
During the Civil War federal forces invaded, filling the streets with soldiers, steamboats ablaze on the river and Van Buren was left a city uncertain of Union control.

By 1876, when the first train pulled into Van Buren, the city was once again a thriving river town. The **Crawford County Bank Building** was the epitome of Victorian elegance when its doors opened in 1889.

The King Opera House, built in 1891, drew a crowd for famous performers including 1940's musician and entertainer Bob Burns and continues to hold events throughout the year. For a complete list of shows please call: 479-474-2426 or visit our calendar of events page at vanburen.org.



Crawford County Bank Building



King Opera House

The Heart of America is Main Street, Van Buren!

Our six-block **Main Street** is an award-winning National Historic District. Located on Arkansas' Antique Trail, **Main Street** is home to dozens of shops, restaurants and live music - appealing to all tastes.

Treasures of another sort await on Main Street at the **River Valley Museum of History**. Located in the Old Frisco Depot, the museum features fascinating exhibits of historic photos and artifacts.

If you're hungry for country cooking, authentic Mexican food, Asian dishes, fried Southern catfish, smoky barbeque or great steaks, then Van Buren is the place. In addition to all of these savory delights, we also have a variety of national quick service restaurant chains. Restaurant brochure available upon request.

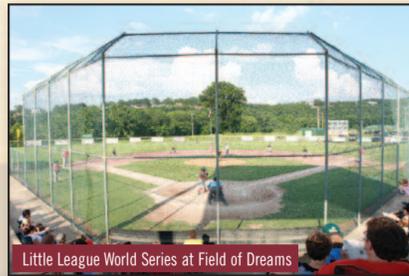


Fine Dining

End your historic stroll at **Phillips Landing**, situated at the foot of Main Street on the banks of the Arkansas River. Now imagine the travelers who have set foot there, a centuries-old point of embarkation to great adventure!

Discover Adventure!

Explore the scenic beauty of Crawford County and the Ozark National Forest and you'll find an adventure. Fish the Arkansas River, canoe the Mulberry, hike, bike or take a boat ride at Lake Fort Smith State Park.



Little League World Series at Field of Dreams



Mountain Biking at Lee Creek Reservoir

Scenic adventure awaits every visitor to the Gem of the Arkansas River Valley. Van Buren is the ultimate base camp for outdoor adventure offering comfortable and convenient lodging and great dining experiences for

travelers at the end of an exciting day trip.

All Aboard Our Excursion Train!

Experience breath-taking Ozark Mountain panorama on a magnificent antique excursion train. The 1920s rail cars exude the opulence of days gone by with shiny brass fixtures, rich mahogany paneling and plush velvet benches. Even more impressive is the view of the Boston Mountains through the train window as you make the 2-hour round trip from Van Buren to Winslow. For more information call: 1-800-687-8600 or visit: www.amrailroad.com

Take In A Show!

The Van Buren Fine Arts Center is a 1,500 seat concert hall that features state-of-the-art performing arts technology, and is uniquely designed to provide the best environment for all genres of music enjoyment. The center features two art galleries as well, which display both school exhibits and those of professional artists.

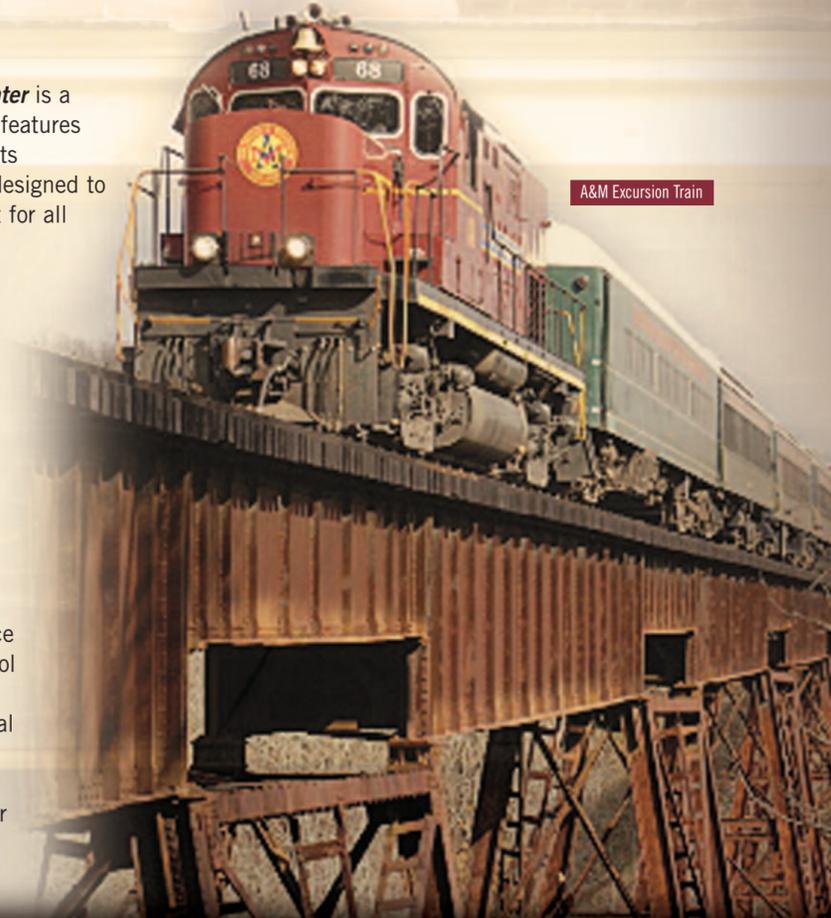
The Fine Arts Center provides a venue for school and community activities, hosting the first-class music program offered by the Van Buren School District. The venue also provides space for the Van Buren High School theater department, which produces a full-length musical production and stage play during each school year. In addition, the Fine Arts Center provides a season of professional programming

which is open to the public each year. For information on the entertainment season, visit www.centerforfinearts.org, or call 479-471-4017.



Van Buren Fine Arts Center

The Center for Art & Education serves the people of the Arkansas River Valley by hosting art and cultural exhibits and events, promoting art education, and providing a venue for local artists. They strive to create art experiences that improve the lives of children and adults through art programs that are presented in schools, in adult centers, in traveling art classes and exhibitions. Call 479-474-7767 or visit www.art-ed.org.



A&M Excursion Train



Drennen-Scott House 1895

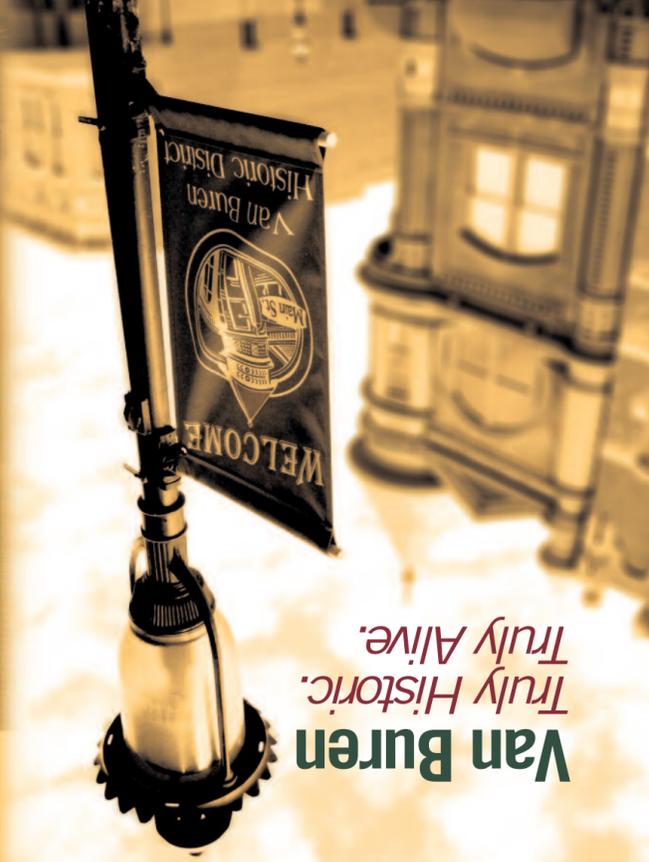
History like you've never seen

Overlooking the Arkansas River, the commanding Drennen-Scott House, initially the home of the Revolutionary War descendant, John Drennen and his family, is now a "working laboratory" for University of Arkansas students as they recreate the century- and-a-half-old home linked to The Trail of Tears, the Underground railroad and the Civil War as well as one of the preeminent stops for history enthusiasts throughout the South. Built in 1836, the beautiful home was continuously occupied by the family until the property was acquired in 2005. This magnificent sprawling single-story home and its contents that are

listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The interior of the home wonderfully illustrates the antebellum furniture of the time and has been restored to museum standards. Highlights include a frieze that was displayed at the Arkansas House in the 1893 Chicago's World Fair, a grandfather clock dating to the 1740's and a Steinway piano manufactured in 1860. Visitors to Van Buren won't want to miss the UAFS Drennen Scott Historic Site; truly a treasure worth exploring! *Open March through November - Thursdays 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.* (479) 262-6020



Drennen-Scott House 2004



Van Buren
Truly Historic.
Truly Alive.

RECREATION

Fishing ... boating ... hiking ... golfing ... the incredible scenic panorama of the Natural State offers an ideal setting for all types of recreational activities.

1 Lee Creek Boat Ramp, Van Buren. 479-474-6164

2 Lee Creek Reservoir Recreation Area, Van Buren - Boating ramps, fishing pier, restrooms, hiking trails and wildlife areas. 479-452-4598

3 Springhill Park, 8 miles south of Van Buren - Boating ramps, warm showers, water/electric hook-ups, clean restrooms, pavilions, playground and biking trails. 479-452-4598

4 Dr. Louis Peer Memorial City Park, Van Buren - Lake access, walking trail, picnic areas and playground. 479-474-1541

5 Lake Lou Emma, Van Buren - Fishing, pavilion and picnic tables. 479-929-5290

6 Haroldton Access, Public fishing access near Lock & Dam 13. 479-452-4598

7 Eagle Crest Golf Course, located just off Interstate 40 and only minutes from Van Buren. 18 holes, 6,884 yards, par 71. For information call: 1-888-966-GOLF www.golfeaglecrest.com

8 Lake Fort Smith State Park, Nestled in a scenic valley of the Boston Mountain Range of the Ozark Mountains, this state park offers outdoor adventures including camping, fishing, kayaking, swimming, mountain biking, hiking, and nature study. Group lodges and cabins available. For information call: 479-369-2469 or visit: www.arkansasstateparks.com/lakefortsmith

9 Cedars Country Club, Van Buren - Public 9-hole golf course, open year-round. For information call: 479-474-2412

10 WildCat Marina Slip Rental with 30 and 50 amp, diesel and unleaded fuel, boat rentals and sales, Wi-Fi, pump-out and ship store. Overnight accommodations available including laundry, showers and restrooms. Located within walking distance of Historic Downtown. Located at 300.5 LDB on the Arkansas River at Van Buren. For more information call 479-242-1187 or visit www.wildcatmarina.net



11 River Walk, Stroll back in time at the historic Phillips Landing site and imagine steamboats, Civil War soldiers, and travelers on the Trail of Tears.

LODGING

Van Buren has so many sights to see, shops to explore and friendly people to meet that you'll want to stay at least a few days. A variety of excellent lodging facilities -- from affordable motels to warm and cozy inns -- are conveniently located close by.

1 Quality Inn Hwy 64 & I-540, Exit 7 and then Exit 2A 1-800-4-CHOICE, (479) 474-2223. 48 rooms, 2 handicap accessible. Meeting room with capacity of 25. Discount group rates, swimming pool, laundry, king rooms with microwave/fridge, two queen beds in double rooms, truck parking, complimentary HBO, continental breakfast, outside doors to all downstairs rooms. http://www.qualityinn.com

2 Hampton Inn I-40 and Hwy 59 North, Exit 5 1-800-HAMPTON, 479-471-7447 60 guest rooms including 5 handicap rooms and 4 suites. Conference room with seating for up to 80. Indoor swimming pool and fitness room. Continental Breakfast, High Speed Internet connection. Group rates and Special rates for AARP. http://www.hamptoninn.com

3 Best Western - Van Buren Inn Exit 5, I-40 at Hwy 59 (479) 474-8100. 60 rooms, 3 handicap accessible. Meeting rooms with 40-50 capacity. Swimming pool, group discount rates, breakfast bar. www.bestwestern.com

4 Travelers Inn Hwy 64 & I-540, Exit 7 and then Exit 2A (479) 474-2378. 27 rooms, one handicap accessible. Complimentary coffee and local calls.

5 Meadors Inn Hwy 64 & I-540, Exit 7 and then Exit 2A 1-800-628-6881 (479) 474-5001. 60 rooms, 2 handicap accessible.

Group discount rates, complimentary coffee, AARP discount.

6 Motel 6 Exit 5, I-40 at Hwy 59 1-800-466-8356 (479) 474-8001. 92 rooms, two handicap accessible. Swimming pool, vending room with laundry, bus parking, small pets allowed, complimentary local calls. http://www.motel6.com

7 Super 8 Motel Exit 5, I-40 at Hwy 59 1-800-800-8000 (479) 471-8888. 46 rooms, 2 handicap accessible. Meeting rooms with capacity of 25. Indoor swimming pool, queen or king suites, continental breakfast, cable TV, HBO, laundry facilities. http://www.Super8.com

8 Holiday Inn Express 1637 North 12th Court PHONE: 479-471-7300 68 rooms total. 23 suites, 4 whirlpool rooms, and 6 ADA rooms. On site indoor pool, health/fitness center, complimentary Wi-Fi hotel, coin-operated guest self-laundry, meeting room up to 100 people, Business Center, Sweet Shop, and complimentary breakfast buffet. Website: hievanburen.com

9 Sleep Inn 1633 North 12th Court 479-262-6776, 877-424-6423 58 rooms. 11 Suites and 1 Jacuzzi Suite. All handicap rooms are adjoining to a King or Double Queen room. Indoor pool, fitness room, conference room and Wi-Fi. Group discounts. Complimentary breakfast. Complimentary local and long distance phone calls. All interior corridors. Elevator, Three stories. Website: www.sleepinn.com

RV PARKS

If you want to get a little closer to the natural beauty of our region, try one of these modern and well-maintained RV Parks.

1 Overland RV Park 50 slots, 50 full hook-ups, security fenced, LP gas available, clean showers, laundry facilities, recreation area and dump station. (479) 471-5474

2 Springhill Park - Lock and Dam 13 RV hook-ups, fishing, picnic pavilions, boat launch above and below dam on the Arkansas River, restrooms. (479) 452-4598 Gate attendant.

3 Park Ridge RV Campground Shaded pull-through sites. Located in Van Buren on Lee Creek. Full hook-ups and 50 amp, dump station, boat ramp & fishing dock, wi-fi available, restrooms with showers, laundry, playground, pavilion and clubhouse. Near Wal-Mart. Exit 3, I-40. (479) 410-GORV (4678) or 1-866-268-8103

4 Oaks Campground Just minutes away from Van Buren, Oaks offers shaded sites, full hook-ups, pull-throughs and more. (479) 632-2524. Located four miles east of Van Buren on Highway 64-71.

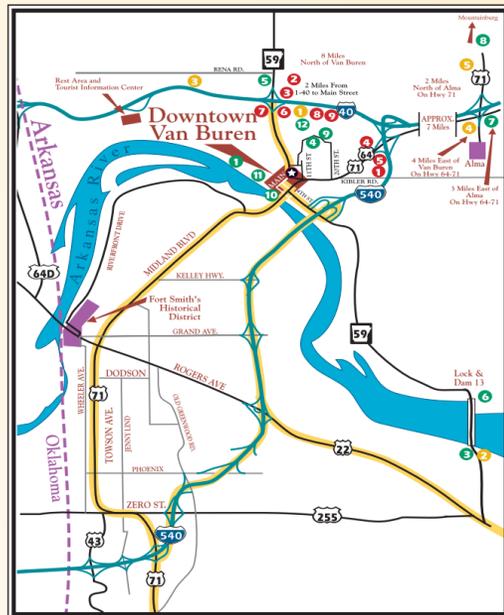
5 KOA Campground 3539 N. Hwy. 71, Alma, AR (479) 632-2704 for information - 1-800-562-2703 for reservations. www.koa.com 75 spaces with water, electric, sanitary dump, laundry facilities, swimming pool, game room, playground, horse shoes, catch & release fishing pond, paddle boats, volleyball, walking trails, cable TV. in RV sites and basketball. One room camping cabins.

WE'RE RV FRIENDLY!

For more information about directions shopping, activities and restaurants call:

1-800-332-5889.
www.vanburen.org

www.facebook.com/VanBurenArkansas



Calendar of Events

- Farmer's Market**
Open every Wednesday and Saturday mornings April - December
- Old Timers' Days Arts & Crafts Festival**
Third Weekend in May Main Street, Van Buren
- Pioneer Days Parade**
Saturday preceding Memorial Day Holiday Main Street, Van Buren
- Bargains Galore on 64**
Second Thursday, Friday and Saturday in August
- Fall Festival Arts & Crafts Fair**
Second Weekend in October Main Street, Van Buren
- Tales of the Crypt**
Third Weekend in October
- Veterans Day Parade**
Week of Veterans Day
- Main Street Christmas Open House**
Second weekend in November
- Living Windows, Festival of Trees and Courthouse Lighting**
First Saturday in December Main Street, Van Buren
- Van Buren Christmas Parade**
Second Saturday in December Main Street, Van Buren



Van Buren Advertising and Promotion Commission
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