

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

A & M Railroad Excursion Train
January – November

APRIL

Second Saturday Shopping, Dining, & Events
April - December

Art Walk on Main Street
Second Saturday in April

MAY

Old Timers Day Steampunk Festival
Third Weekend in May

Pioneer Day Parade
Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend

JUNE

CAE Glow Run
Second Saturday in June

Car Show
Third Saturday in June

JULY

City of Van Buren 4th of July Celebration
July 4th at Field of Dreams

SEPTEMBER

JunkFest
Labor Day Weekend

OCTOBER

Car Show
First Saturday in October

Fall Festival Arts & Crafts Fair
Second Weekend

Halloween on Main Street
Saturday Before Halloween

NOVEMBER

Veterans Day Parade
Week of Veterans Day

Holiday Express Pajama Train
November and December

DECEMBER

Jingle and Mingle on Main, Living Windows
Festival of Trees, & Lighting of the Courthouse
First Saturday

Christmas Parade
Second Saturday

History Like You've Never Seen

Overlooking the Arkansas River, the commanding Drennen-Scott House was initially the home of the Revolutionary War descendant John Drennen and his family. It is now a "working laboratory" for University of Arkansas – Fort Smith students as they recreate the century-and-a-half-old home. The site is linked to the Trail of Tears, the Underground Railroad, and the Civil War. Built in 1838, the home was continuously occupied by the Drennen family until the property was acquired by the university in 2005.



UAFS Drennen-Scott Historic Site

This sprawling single-story home and its contents are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The interior of the home serves as a beautiful backdrop to the antebellum furniture, which has been restored to museum standards. Highlights include a frieze that was displayed at the Arkansas House in the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, a grandfather clock dating to the 1740's, and a Steinway piano manufactured in 1860. Visitors to Van Buren will not want to miss the UAFS Drennen-Scott Historic Site; truly a treasure worth exploring! Hours of Operation: March – November Thursday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. and Friday & Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. 221 N. 3rd Street. (479) 262-2750



Freedom Park



1-800-332-5889
www.vanburen.org
www.facebook.com/VanBurenArkansas

Experience Historic **VAN BUREN**



SHOPPING • DINING • EXCURSION TRAIN

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.

Federal forces invaded during the Civil War, filling the streets with soldiers. Steamboats blazed 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.



Freedom Park

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.



King Opera House

LODGING

1 Quality Inn

3131 Cloverleaf Street
479-474-2223, 800-521-2121
48 rooms, 2 handicap accessible, outside doors to all downstairs rooms. Outdoor swimming pool, guest laundry, all rooms have microwave & fridge. Complimentary HBO, cable, Wi-Fi, full breakfast. Small pets allowed with fee. Group discount available. Truck/bus parking. www.qualityinn.com

2 Hampton Inn

1916 North 6th
479-471-7447, 800-426-7866
64 guest rooms, including 5 handicap accessible rooms and 4 suites. Conference room with seating for up to 60. Indoor swimming pool. Full Breakfast, High Speed Internet Connection. Group rates and special rates for AARP. www.vanburen.hamptoninn.com

3 Best Western Van Buren Inn

1903 North 6th
479-474-8100, 800-780-7234
56 rooms, 3 handicap accessible. Swimming pool, group discount rates, breakfast bar. Pet friendly. www.BestWestern.com
www.bwvanbureninn.com

7 Holiday Inn Express & Suites

1637 North 12th Court, 479-471-7300
All Interior corridors. 68 rooms with 23 suites, 4 jacuzzi suites, and 6 ADA rooms. On-site indoor pool, health/fitness center, complimentary premium Wi-Fi, guest laundry, meeting room up to 100 people, Business Center, 24-hour Sweet Shop, and complimentary hot breakfast buffet. Pet friendly. www.hievanburen.com

4 Motel 6

3200 Alma Hwy
479-474-5001
60 rooms, 2 handicap accessible. Group discount rates, \$3 breakfast at adjoining restaurant available, AARP discount. Pet friendly.

5 Sleep Inn & Suites

1633 North 12th Court
479-262-6776, 877-424-6423
All interior corridors. 58 rooms total. 11 Suites and 1 Jacuzzi Suite. All of our handicap accessible rooms are King or Double Queen. Complimentary breakfast, indoor pool, fitness room, conference room for up to 60 people. Group discounts. Complimentary Wi-Fi, as well as local and long distance phone calls. Pet friendly. www.sleepinn.com

6 Super 8

106 N. Plaza Court
479-471-8888 or 800-800-8000
46 Rooms, 8 Suites, 1 Jacuzzi Suite. Indoor heated pool, complimentary Wi-Fi, HBO/cable, hot breakfast. All rooms have microwave & fridge, iron & ironing board, coffee & coffee maker. Laundry facilities, bus/truck parking. Group/AAA/AARP/GOV discount available. Small pets under 40 pounds allowed. www.Super8.com

8 Travelers Inn

3109 Alma Hwy
479-474-2378
27 rooms, one handicap accessible. Complimentary coffee and local calls. Pet friendly.

9 Josselin Inn-Opening 2019

410 Drennen Street
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Continental breakfast, cable, Wi-Fi, Jacuzzi tub, No pets. lejosselininn@gmail.com

10 Freehawk Lodging and Event Center

615B Main Street
479-651-1253
479-462-5535
This historic, beautifully decorated, two bedroom apartment on Main Street, provides rare off street parking with its attached garage. It also offers a full kitchen, coffee bar, washer and dryer, WIFI and complete entertainment amenities. Pet Friendly.

RV PARKS

1 Overland RV Park

1716 Fayetteville Road
479-471-5474
49 slots, 49 full hook-ups, fence, clean showers, laundry facilities, sanitary dump for guests. Pet friendly with restrictions.

2 Springhill Park - Lock and Dam 13

1700 Lock and Dam Road; Barling, AR 479-452-4598
Open year round. 44 standard 50/30 hook-ups, 3 standard non-electric for RVs and campers. Dump station. Boat launch above and below dam on the Arkansas River. 9.8 mile "fast" moun-tain bike trail. 5 large group picnic shelters, 4 with electric, one without. Fishing, hiking, picnic shelters, 2 playgrounds, restrooms, and showers. Follow Highway 59 South toward Barling. www.recreation.gov

5 Fort Smith/Alma RV Park

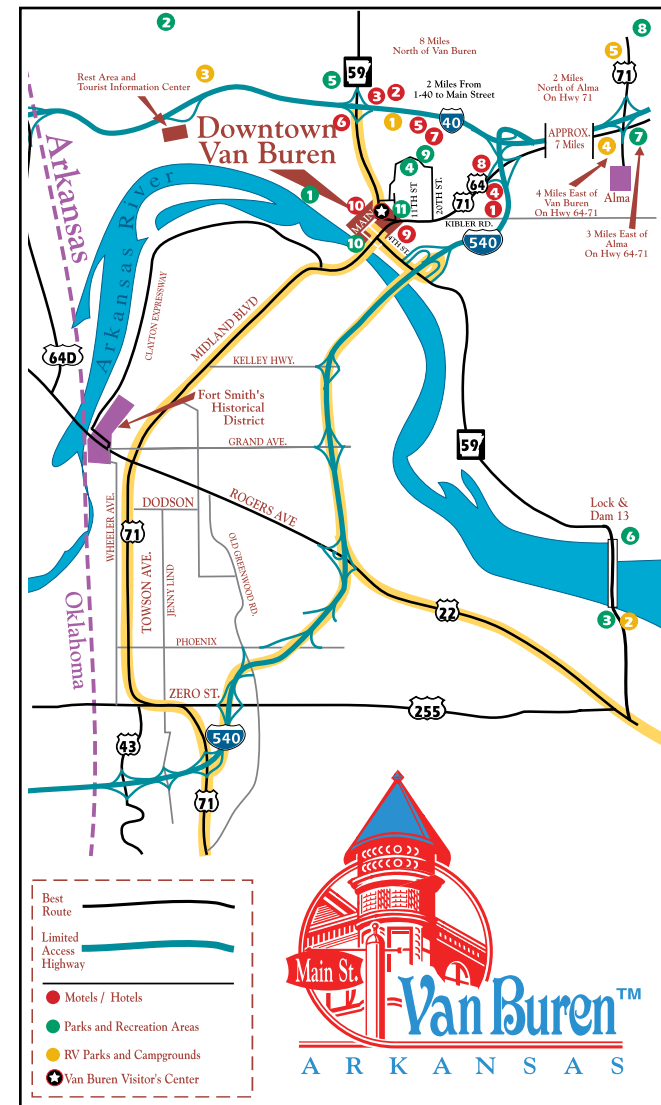
479-632-2704, 75 spaces with water, electric, sewer, and non-sewer sanitary dump, laundry facilities, swimming pool, meeting room, playground, horse shoes, catch & release fishing pond, paddle boats, basketball, walking trails, and limited cable T.V. in RV sites. Three one-room camping cabins. One cabin is pet friendly.

3 Park Ridge RV Campground

1616 Rena Road
479-410-4678 or 1-866-268-8103
57 shaded pull-through sites. Full hookups with 50/30 amps, and sewer. Located in Van Buren on Lee Creek with boat ramp & fishing dock. WI-FI avail-able, heated restrooms with showers, laundry, playground, pavilion and club-house. Sanitary dump station available. Exit 3, I-40. parkridgerv.com

4 Oaks Campground

6918 Alma Hwy; Alma, AR 479-632-2524
Just minutes away from Van Buren, Oaks offers shaded sites, full hook-ups, pull-throughs and more. Open year round. Located four miles east of Van Buren on Highway 64-71.



Discover Adventure!

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



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.



A&M Excursion Train

All Aboard Our Excursion Train!

Experience breath-taking Ozark Mountain panoramas on a magnificent vintage 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 also features two art galleries, which display both student and professional exhibits.



Van Buren Fine Arts Center

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 both a full-length musical production and a stage play each school year. In addition, the Fine Arts Center provides a season of professional programming which is open to the public. For information on the entertainment season, visit www.centerforfinearts.org, or call 479-471-4017.



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. The Center strives to create art experiences that improve the lives of children and adults through art programs presented in schools, in adult centers, in traveling art classes, and exhibitions. Call 479-474-7767 or visit www.art-ed.org.

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,
Lee Creek Park, Van Buren
479-471-5006

2 Lee Creek Reservoir Recreation Area,
3808 Gelly Drive, Van Buren
Boating ramps, fishing pier, restrooms, hiking trails and wildlife areas.
479-784-2248

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 Park,
Van Buren - Small fishing lake, walking trail, picnic areas and playground.
479-471-5006

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

6 Haroldton Access,
Public fishing access near Lock & Dam 13.

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:
479-632-8857
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 River Walk,
Mike Myer Riverfront Park
Stroll back in time at the historic Phillips Landing site and imagine steamboats, Civil War soldiers, and travelers on the Trail of Tears. 479-471-5006

11 Freedom Park
Interactive water feature, stage, pavilions, picnic tables. Seasonal Farmers market.
479-471-5006

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.



Historic Main Street Shopping and Dining

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.

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 on this centuries-old point of embarkation to great adventure!