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.

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 Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays, call for times.

221 N. 3rd Street. (479) 262-2750
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 epiphany of Victorian elegance when its doors opened in 1889.

History Abounds in Van Buren!
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.

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 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, 1-479-725-4017, or visit: www.amtrainrides.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. For more information, call 479-471-4017 or visit www.vbfac.org.

The Main Street Farmers Market located in Freedom Park meets the community’s need for healthy fresh food and provide a family friendly atmosphere with an inviting educational venue. Call 501-263-1611 for the seasonal schedule.

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. 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!