

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

Second Saturday Shopping, Dining, & Events  
*February - December*

### APRIL

Art Walk on Main Street  
*Second Saturday*

Earthday  
*April 22nd*

### MAY

Old Timers Day Steampunk Festival  
*Second Saturday Weekend*

Pioneer Day Parade  
*Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend*

### JUNE

Food Truck Festival  
*Second Saturday*

### JULY

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

### SEPTEMBER

JunkFest  
*Second Saturday Weekend*

### OCTOBER

Car Show  
Fall Festival  
*Second Saturday Weekend*  
Halloween on Main Street  
*Saturday Before Halloween*

### NOVEMBER

Veterans Day Parade  
*Week of Veterans Day*  
Van Buren Christmas at the Parks  
*mid-November thru December*

### DECEMBER

Holiday Express Pajama Train  
*December 2nd-7th*  
Jingle and Mingle on Main, Festival of Trees,  
& Lighting of the Courthouse  
*First Saturday*  
Christmas Parade  
*Second Saturday*

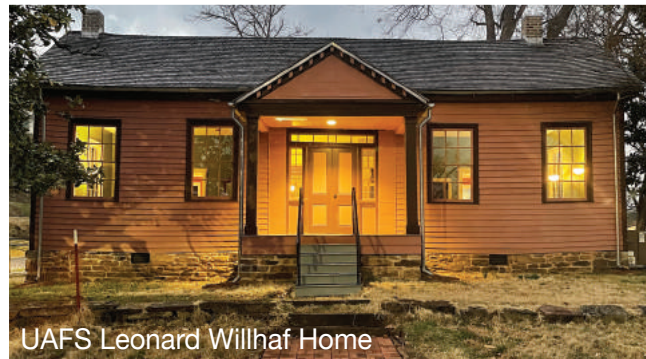
## History Like You've Never Seen

Overlooking the Arkansas River, the commanding Drennen-Scott House was initially the home of early Arkansas settler, politician and entrepreneur John Drennen and his family. Owned and operated by the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, the house is now a museum for the public and an educational site for students of all ages. 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, with highlights include a frieze 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.



UAFS Drennen-Scott Historic Site

Additionally, UAFS has recently restored the Leonard Willhaf Home, an 1850's working class house that preserves the legacy of a German immigrant family and Leonard's bakery along with his military service. Both sites are free and open to the public. For Hours of Operation: call (479) 262-2750 or email: [drennen-scott@uafs.edu](mailto:drennen-scott@uafs.edu) 221 N. 3rd Street.



UAFS Leonard Willhaf Home



Veteran's Plaza



Crawford County Courthouse



Arts On Main



1-800-332-5889  
[www.vanburen.org](http://www.vanburen.org)

[www.facebook.com/VanBurenArkansas](https://www.facebook.com/VanBurenArkansas)

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: 479-474-7767 or visit our calendar of events page at [vanburen.org](http://vanburen.org).

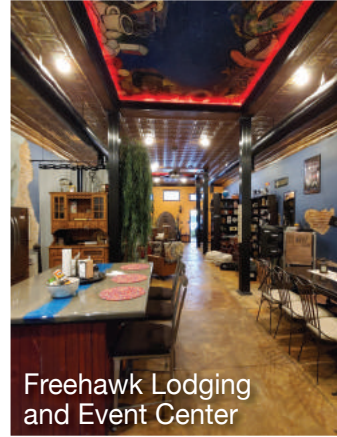


King Opera House

## LODGING

### 1 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.



Freehawk Lodging and Event Center

### 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](http://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](http://www.BestWestern.com)  
[www.bwvanbureninn.com](http://www.bwvanbureninn.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 Comfort 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](http://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](http://www.Super8.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](http://www.hievanburen.com)

### 8 Travelers Inn

3109 Alma Hwy  
479-474-2378  
27 rooms, one handicap accessible. Complimentary coffee and local calls. 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" mountain 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](http://www.recreation.gov)

### 5 Fort Smith/Alma RV Park

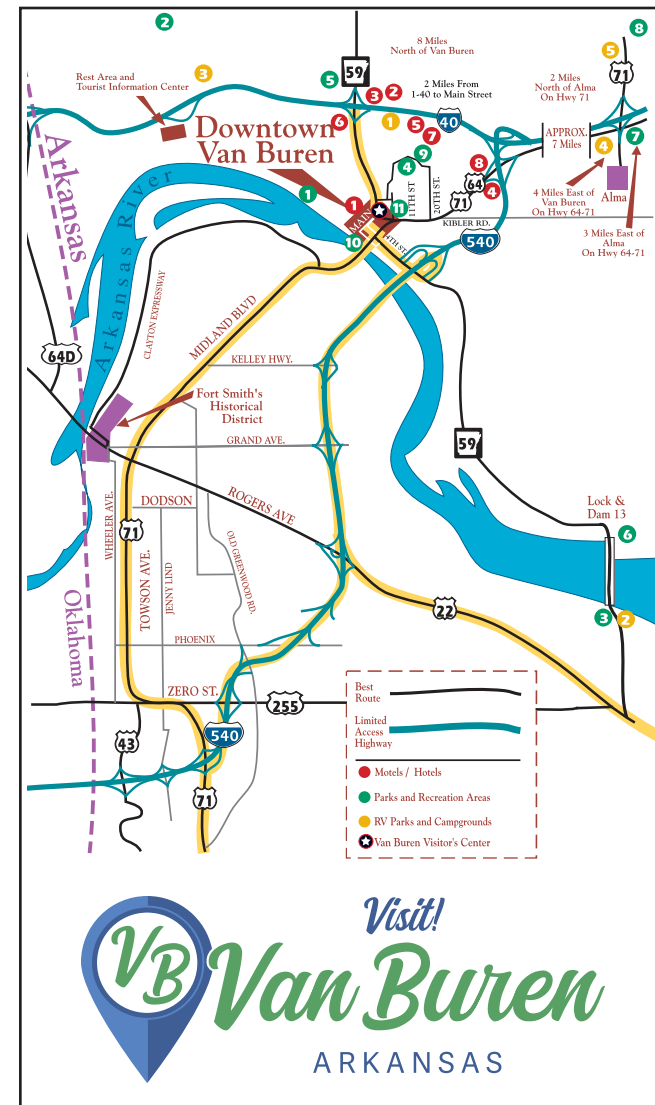
479-632-2704, 75 spaces with water, electric, sewer, and non-sewer sanitary dump, laundry facilities, swimming pool, meeting room, playground, horse shoes, catch & release fishing pond, paddle boats, basketball, walking trails, and limited cable T.V. in RV sites. Three one-room camping cabins. One cabin 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 available, heated restrooms with showers, laundry, playground, pavilion and clubhouse. Sanitary dump station available. Exit 3, I-40.  
[parkridgerv.com](http://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: 479-725-4017, or visit: [www.amtrainrides.com](http://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](http://www.vbfac.org).



Van Buren Fine Arts Center

## Engaging Life Through The Arts!

ARTS ON MAIN, opened in 2022 with the mission to provide art experiences, to help advance the arts, expand arts education and boost the creative economy in the community. AOM recently renovated two buildings on Main Street in historic downtown Van Buren. The 17,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility supports artistic creation and education through classes, exhibitions and public programs.

- Pottery Studio
- Culinary Kitchen
- Multiple Art Galleries
- Dedicated Space for Children's Art Classes & Adult Workshops
- Business & Casual Meeting Spaces
- Second Floor Veranda & Gathering Space
- Outdoor Sculpture Garden



Arts on Main

Anyone can drop in at 415 Main Street and enjoy free art experiences including a children and family interactive space, exhibitions, and more. For more information call 479-474-7767 or visit [www.artsonmainvb.com](http://www.artsonmainvb.com).

# 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](http://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.  
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

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.



Historic Main Street Dining

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!