

# Things to Do During The Day at The Okie-Tex Star Party

The area around Kenton, OK, has many things to see and do that many don't know about. Because we have been at OTSP many times and explored the area, we've found many places that are of interest.

Where possible, telephone numbers have been included. If you decide to go to one of the places, it is best if you call to verify hours, location and any fees that might be charged. Colorado and New Mexico are in the Mountain Time Zone. Kansas and Oklahoma are in the Central Time Zone.

Drive times and distances are approximate. It is best if you start any of these adventures with a full tank of gas and some bottles of water. Sunglasses and a hat are recommended.

We have been to the places marked with an asterisk (\*).

On Google Maps, Camp Billie Joe is known as Black Mesa Bible Camp.

We found a place in Boise City which is a **Self-Service Car Wash**. Our car got plenty of dust and bugs on it during our exploring the area. The location of the car wash is easy to find. Coming into town from Camp Billie Joe you will be on Main Street. Continue through the "traffic circle" about 3 blocks to Main and Murray. The Car Wash is on the Southwest Corner of Main and Murray. The price to wash is \$1 (4 quarters) per cycle. It took 3 cycles to get my car clean – a soak to soften up the bugs, a brush cycle to scrub the bugs off and soaping of the entire car, a finish soaping then rinse of the entire car. I go to a bank before coming to OTSP and get a roll of quarters, \$10, to have when I use this car wash. (I can always spend the remaining on something else on the way home.) It was worth it to have a fairly clean car to drive home. Unfortunately, from the west driving east you cannot see the Car Wash sign because that side is broken. But it is visible from the east driving west. On the north side of Main Street you will see a store, Moore's Food Pride which is almost across the street from the Car Wash.

The following list is in order by City and State.

<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Driving Distance</b>	<b>Drive Time</b>	<b>Attraction Location</b>
Trinidad	CO	115 to 150 depending on the route you take	2:40	<p><b>Long's Canyon Trail at Trinidad Lake State Park</b>  The K-Pg (K-T) boundary from the meteor that crashed about 66 million years ago causing a mass extinction is visible here.  (This can be combined with the Capulin Volcano trip if you drive through Clayton, NM). The hike is about a quarter mile in length</p>
Elkhart, KS	KS	80	1:30	<p><b>Cimarron National Grasslands</b>  242 E. Highway 56  (620) 697-4621</p> <p><b>A Point of Rocks</b> located in the Grasslands  GPS 37.103912 N,-101.93878 W</p> <p><b>Tri-State marker</b></p> <p><b>3 Points KS, CO &amp; OK</b>  8 miles west of town on State Line Road. A metal tower is the marker</p> <p><b>Morton County Historical Society Museum</b>  370 Highway 56, 67950  (620) 697-2833</p>
Liberal, KS	KS	135	2:25	<p><b>*Wizard of Oz Museum</b>  567 E Yellow Brick Road  (620) 624-7624  (We thought this was well done and enjoyed it)</p> <p><b>*Mid-America Air Museum</b>  2000 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (620) 624-5263  (I am a pilot and former airplane owner – I was very disappointed because the planes are crowded together and difficult to examine. However, there are many airplanes there.)</p>

City	State	Driving Distance	Drive Time	Attraction Location
Capulin	NM	100	1:35	<p><b>*Capulin Volcano National Monument</b>  44 Volcano Rd, Capulin, NM 88414  (Great view from the peak)  Volcano Hwy is closed to all RV's and busses over 26 feet long, and all trailers.  See also the Dry Cimarron Scenic Drive in the Raton, NM entry.</p>
Clayton	NM	45	:50	<p><b>*Wild Horse Restaurant</b>  22 Pine St (575) 374-8220  (The food was very good)  (Opens at 5PM Call the day before to see if this place is open. I was not able to get an answer.)</p>
		40	:50	<p><b>*Herzstein Memorial Museum</b>  22 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (575) 374-2977  (Interesting local Clayton history)</p>
		60	1:10	<p><b>Clayton Lake</b>  141 Clayton Lake Road  Clayton, NM 88415  (575) 374-8808  NM406 to NM370 To NM455</p>
		40	:50	<p><b>87 Restaurant</b>  803 S 1st St Highway 87 S  (575) 374-5221</p>
		40	:50	<p><b>Santa Fe Trail Café</b>  21 Poplar St,  (575) 374-9444  Open 10:30AM-8PM</p>
Folsom	NM	95	1:35	<p><b>Folsom Museum</b> located in the Doherty Building  101 Main St, Folsom, NM 88419  (575)429-9075  (Close to Capulin Volcano)  Alternate route is NM 456, about the same drive time, but much shorter, 60 miles.</p>

<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Driving Distance</b>	<b>Drive Time</b>	<b>Attraction Location</b>
Raton	NM	40	1:00	<b>Dry Cimarron Scenic Drive</b> Call Chamber of Commerce (575) 374-9253 See note on last page about this adventure.
Beaver	OK	160	2:30	<b>Jones and Plummer Trail Museum</b> 1100 Douglas Ave, Beaver, OK 73932 (580) 625-4439
Boise City	OK	35	:45	<b>*Cimarron Heritage Center</b> 1300 N Cimarron (Highway 287 North (580) 544-3479 <b><u>or see Jody Risley, our caterer at OTSP</u></b>  <b>*Self-Service Car Wash</b> Southwest corner of Main and Murray
Goodwell	OK	97	1:45	<b>No Man's Land Historical Museum</b> 207 W Sewell (580) 349-2670
Guymon	OK	98	1:45	<b>Draper Farms Historical Museum</b> (580) 338-3333 – Call for directions
Kenton	OK	1	:04	<b>*Kenton Museum</b> The museum is small, but interesting. It should be open sometime during OTSP.
		16	:20	<b>*Black Mesa Preserve Trail</b> A long walk to the top, but a very interesting trail.
		6	:15	<b>*Dinosaur tracks</b> Worth the time to stop as you drive to Black Mesa trailhead.
		9	:20	<b>*Lake Carl Etling</b> at Black Mesa State Park (Nice campground and lake)

City	State	Driving Distance	Drive Time	Attraction Location
Dalhart	TX	85	1:30	<b>XIT Museum</b> 108 E 5th St, Dalhart, TX 79022 (806) 244-5390 Tuesday through Saturday 9AM-5PM
Texline	TX	50	1:10	<b>*Maria's Country Kitchen Mexican Restaurant</b> 120 N 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. & Market St. (806) 362-4208 Open 6AM-10PM daily (The food is good, but don't expect much atmosphere)  <b>*The Front Porch</b> 511 S 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. (806) 362-4899 Open 7:30AM-2 PM M-Fri only (The food is good)

## Dry Cimarron Scenic Drive

You can start this trip from Raton, NM and end in Kenton, OK.

As you drive to Raton, the quickest route is through Clayton, NM. After Clayton is the small town of Capulin that has an extinct volcano. You might want to take the time to drive up and see the impressive view before continuing to Raton.

- From Raton, NM head east along Hwy 72 to Yankee, NM then to Folsom, NM on Hwy 72, about 40 miles and 60 minutes of driving.
- While not part of the Dry Cimarron Scenic Drive, to get back to Kenton, add this to today's adventure:
  - From Folsom take Hwy 456, the Dry Cimarron Hwy to Kenton, OK and the OTSP, about 60 miles and 90 minutes of driving.

Below is a description of what you might see from the New Mexico Magazine's website.

**The Route:** Northeast New Mexico is more prairies than peaks, but several distinctive geographical features enliven the landscape. Set out from Raton and travel east along NM 72. After 10 miles, the 14-mile-long tabletop of Johnson Mesa is the first landmark you'll cruise past. A few spent volcanic cones (such as Towndrow Peak and Red Mountain) attest to the region's explosive past, epitomized by nearby Capulin Volcano National Monument, whose 8,000-foot-high bowl rises to the southeast. It's a perfect place to appreciate the states vast scale: Across this stretch, all is mountains, plains, and sky. And perhaps the occasional quizzical cow ruminating on the short-grass canvas. Near the drive's conclusion, the highway traces the Dry Cimarron River, from which the route took its name.

**The Stop:** Along the way, you'll pass the Folsom Man Archaeological Site, where Paleo-Indian hunters used distinctive weapons, later known as Folsom points, to slay bison. The discovery of the bones and arrows led archaeologists to revise their estimates of man's presence on the continent, a process that's detailed in the **Folsom Museum**, housed in the white-clad Doherty Mercantile.

If you find other places and/or things of interest, please email me about them and I'll investigate for next time. My email address is [billmurrell2004@earthlink.net](mailto:billmurrell2004@earthlink.net). Ignore any auto-reply messages about spam, I can see your email.

Bill Murrell