

I OKC

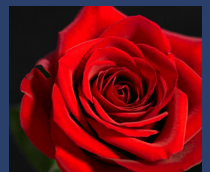
METRO AREA RELOCATION GUIDE





Welcome

to the *The Big Friendly*, a nickname that resonates with visitors and residents alike. Oklahoma City blends big-city excitement with a hometown neighborly vibe. A melting pot of art, culture, museums and festivals, 14 districts make up the heartbeat of the city offering almost endless attractions and entertainment. Locals love being outdoors. Packed with parks, miles of paved biking trails, and pristine lakes, OKC will surprise you. Living here costs less, too. From lower taxes, housing, and business start-up costs, to savings on grocery and utility bills, OKC opportunities have created a shift in relocation trends all over the country.



**The State Flower is
the Oklahoma Rose**



**The State Insect is
the Honey Bee**



**The State Bird is the
Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher**



**The State Motto is:
Labor Conquers All Things**





History

April 22, 1889: The U.S. government opens the territory with a race for homesteaders to claim their stakes. Many participants jumped the gun and snuck out prior to the official high-noon start time. They became known as 'Sooners' (hence the state's nickname). A tent city of more than 10,000 residents was erected by the end of the day.

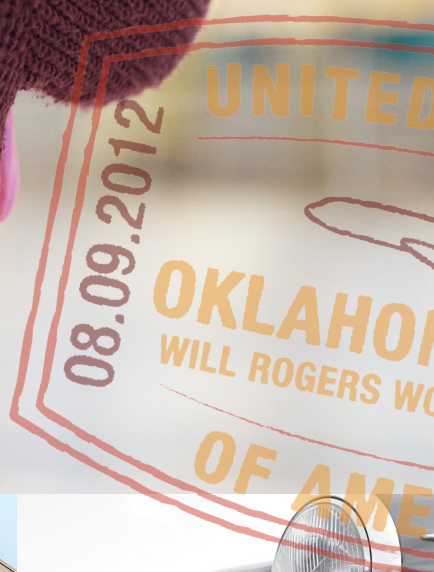
State Flag

The 46th State flies an Osage buffalo-skin crest with seven eagle feathers over the backdrop of a Choctaw sky blue. Six golden-brown crosses represent stars in Native American artwork and an olive branch and calumet symbolize a united desire for peace. A total of 67 tribal nations have called the state home and OKC honors its heritage with annual festivals, top museums, and special commemorative events.



Fun Facts

- OKC is the only state capital to have a working oil well onsite. The Petunia #1 rig operated from 1942 until 2021 and still sits out front.
- Locals refer to OKC as 'The 405' for its area code; 405 Magazine is a city guide.
- Downtown's Devon Tower is 844 feet tall.
- OKC's Tinker Air Force Base is the second largest in the nation.
- OKC is home to America's only Museum of Osteology with 300 skeletons.
- Downtown's 104-year old Skirvin Hotel is said to be haunted by a former housekeeper named Effie. Visiting NBA Teams have all complained of poor sleep due to slamming doors and bathtubs mysteriously filling with water at night.
- Edward Roberts, a 1968 Oklahoma State University grad in electrical engineering, is credited with inventing the personal computer and for giving Bill Gates his first job in the industry.



WELCOME TO OKLAHOMA CITY



DRIVE TIMES FROM OKC

Tulsa 1.5 hours
Wichita 2.5 hours
Dallas 3 hours
Kansas City 5 hours
Little Rock 5 hours
Memphis 6.5 hours
St. Louis 7.5 hours
Albuquerque 8 hours
Denver 10 hours

Location: Central Time Zone

Oklahoma City is strategically located in the central part of the state and the middle of the country. Four regions converge here: West, Midwest, South, and Southwest, creating a melting pot of influences from six border states. New Mexico to the west, Colorado to the northwest, Arkansas to the east, Texas to the south, Kansas to the north, and Missouri to the northeast. Located at the crossroads of Interstates 35, 40, and 44, OKC is easy to get to and close to major cities in bordering states.



CELEBRITIES FROM THE AREA

Country Singers:

Garth Brooks, Vince Gill,
Reba McEntire, Toby Keith,
Carrie Underwood

Rock Singers:

Wayne Coyne, The Flaming Lips
(owns Womb Gallery Downtown)

Film Directors/Actors:

Ron Howard, Blake Edwards

Actors:

James Garner, Bill Hader,
Will Rogers

Actresses:

Olivia Munn,
Kristin Chenoweth

Pro Athletes:

Mickey Mantle, Jim Thorpe,
Johnny Bench, Troy Aikman

ESPN Commentator:

Skip Bayless

Transportation

Will Rogers World Airport offers daily nonstop service to 24 cities across the U.S. (another perk of being centrally located). About six miles southwest of Downtown OKC, it is convenient for tourists and residents alike. Downtown is easy to get around with the modern streetcar system that services 22 stops along a 4.7-mile loop, with passes as low as \$3 per day.







The Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher, Oklahoma's State Bird, is featured on the state's 2008 commemorative quarter

Dollars & Sense

Oklahoma's average cost of living is the third lowest in the U.S. with housing costs 30% less than the national average. The OKC job market is strong, posting just a 3.1% unemployment rate. The state also trends higher than the rest of the country in job creation with healthcare, education, transportation, construction, technology, and hospitality making net gains since 2017. Top employers include Tinker Air Force Base, the State of Oklahoma, and the University of Oklahoma.

A few more favorable facts:

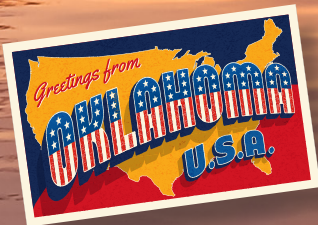
- Oklahomans pay 30% less for total taxes.
- Businesses can save up to 25% by relocating their headquarters to OKC.
- OKC residents have the third shortest commutes to work among the top 52 U.S. cities.



The Climate

Central Oklahoma boasts mild seasons with an average of 231 sunny days per year! Winters are short—the end of November through February, and rarely get below freezing. Snowfall tops out annually at just 6-8".

Enjoy the chill of autumn during local football games and the colors of spring that usher in the warmer summer months. Strong winds do pop up between March and June, but the city and its residents stay prepared for tornadoes with the National Weather Service headquartered in Norman. The best times of the year are May and October. Hot season with highs up to 93, runs from June to mid September.



OKLAHOMA CITY has a temperate humid subtropical climate with continental influences. The average annual temperature is 61°F, with the monthly daily average ranging from 39° in January to 83° in July. It receives about 36 inches of precipitation annually, of which nine inches is snow.







Health Care

Oklahoma City residents can find quality care at 35 area hospitals including access to one of the nation's leading heart transplant teams, comprehensive medical research centers, and eye institutes. OKC is also home to a robust VA System with a teaching hospital and 16 area clinics specializing in mental health, neurodegenerative diseases, and animal assisted therapy.

Located in the Northwest part of OKC, **Mercy Hospital** offers a full array of medical services and has received the following accolades in 2021:

- 100 Top Hospital by Fortune & IBM Watson Health
- Best Maternity Hospital by Newsweek
- Patient Safety Excellence Award by Healthgrades

SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital is located in midtown with specialties including cardiology, oncology, surgery, and behavioral medicine. Opened over 100 years ago, St. Anthony continues to serve generations of Oklahomans and their families.

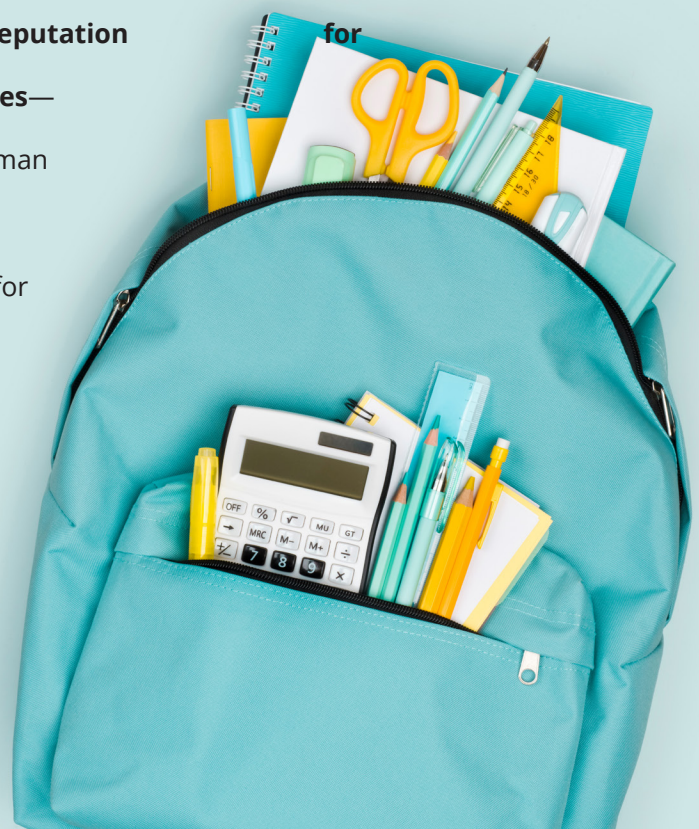




School is Cool

OKC gets high marks for its suburban public school system.

- In fact, **Edmond holds the current #1 ranking out of 425 school districts in the state.** Edmond has 17 elementary schools, six middle schools, three high schools, and an early childhood center. It has earned 11 National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence awards and is also known for its athletic programs.
- **Piedmont public schools have earned the #7 spot for best in the state** with its early childhood center, three elementary schools, intermediate, middle, and high school. Students scored higher than the state average in all four testing subjects and total ACT composite score. In 2019, Piedmont High earned “The College Success Award” and continues to rise in the rankings.
- **Yukon public schools are known for smaller class sizes,** allowing for more personal attention. Both Northwood and Lakeview Elementary Schools received a perfect “10” from GreatSchools based on exceptional student progress, high marks for academics, and overall experience.
- **Schools in Norman have earned a reputation for excellence across multiple categories—** academic, athletics, and the arts. Norman North High School received the GreatSchools College Success Award for college readiness test scores and AP course participation.





ONERS

College Pride

There's no shortage of post-high school opportunities here. **Oklahoma State University** ranks #1 for the most affordable master's degree in business and **The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine** offers one of the few comprehensive medical centers in the nation and is top-ranked for primary care. Founded in 1890, **The University of Central Oklahoma** boasts 119 areas of study and is the only university in North America accredited in all undergraduate forensic science programs. **Oklahoma City University** and **Oklahoma City Community College** both offer great values, or opt for private education at **Mid-America Christian University** or **Oklahoma Christian University**. The only historically black college or university in the state, **Langston University** (HBCU), is just a 45-minute drive north from Downtown.

Supporting Sports

Catch nine innings at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, the home of the Oklahoma City Dodgers, or cheer on OKC's first professional bull-riding team, the Oklahoma Freedom. One of the NBA's most rabid fanbases, the city loves its OKC Thunder. Visit Paycom Center to feel the energy of Thunder nation (and don't forget your blue and yellow).







Cuisine

OKC offers a surprisingly eclectic menu including Asian District fusions, southern comfort food, renowned steakhouses, and five-star dining. Bedlam Barbecue is a quintessential spot near the capitol and Cattlemen's has been a Stockyards City hot spot for over 100 years. In 2022, Florence's Restaurant won the state's first James Beard Foundation Award. This year, Andrew Black earned 'Best Chef in the Southwest' for his three-tiered tasting menu at Grey Sweater with semi-finalist, Ma Der Lao Kitchen, not far behind. Homemade pop tarts from Stitch Café are a local favorite along with cast-iron skillet cornbread, biscuits and gravy, fried pies, chicken fried steak, and calf fries (aka 'Rocky Mountain oysters').

DON'T MISS THESE FIVE OKC RESTAURANTS

1. CHEEVER'S CAFE
Uptown
Southwestern and Southern Comfort Cuisine
\$\$-\$\$\$

2. MICKEY MANTLE'S
Brick Town
Steakhouse, Wine Bar, and Cigar Lounge
\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

3. GILDED ACORN
Downtown
French Patisserie with Champagne Wall and High Tea
\$\$-\$\$\$

4. BARRIOS FINE MEXICAN DISHES
Midtown
Tex-Mex and Street Fare with Craft Cocktails
\$\$

5. REDROCK CANYON GRILL
Overlooking Lake Hefner
American Classics with a Southwestern Flair
\$\$



OKC DOWNTOWN

CITY CENTER

View the city from 726 feet at *Vast*, a local dining spot, or the skyline from the *National Memorial's* 40-foot glass overlook. Stroll through the *Myriad Botanical Gardens*, take the family to *Scissortail Park*, or visit the *Oklahoma City Museum of Art* with its collection of Dale Chihuly glass.

UPTOWN 23RD

Get a taste of local culture with historic architecture and a nod to old Route 66. The neon glow is a perfect backdrop for nightlife with live music at *Tower Theatre*. A vintage flower shop is home to *Cheever's* Southwestern fare, and pet-friendly patios make *Ponyboy* the go-to bar any time of day.

MIDTOWN

With a mix of local pubs and unique shops, Midtown also features historic neighborhoods to its north. Enjoy *Bleu Garten* with its open-air dining and large screen TVs during Thunderball season. Grab beers and bratwurst at *Fassler Hall* and head below to *Dust Bowl*, a 12-lane retro-inspired bowling alley.

BRICKTOWN

This former warehouse area is now OKC's prime entertainment district. Industrial-chic and lively, Bricktown is home to piano lounges, wine bars, and an eclectic mix of restaurants and shops. Iconic water taxis transport riders along the Bricktown Canal for tours and dinner cruises.

BOATHOUSE DISTRICT

The official U.S. Olympic and Paralympic training site for rowing, canoeing, and kayaking also hosts regattas throughout the year. Practice whitewater rafting at *Riversport Rapids* or take on the *SandRidge Sky Trail*, an 80-foot adventure course and zip line across the Oklahoma River.

ADVENTURE DISTRICT

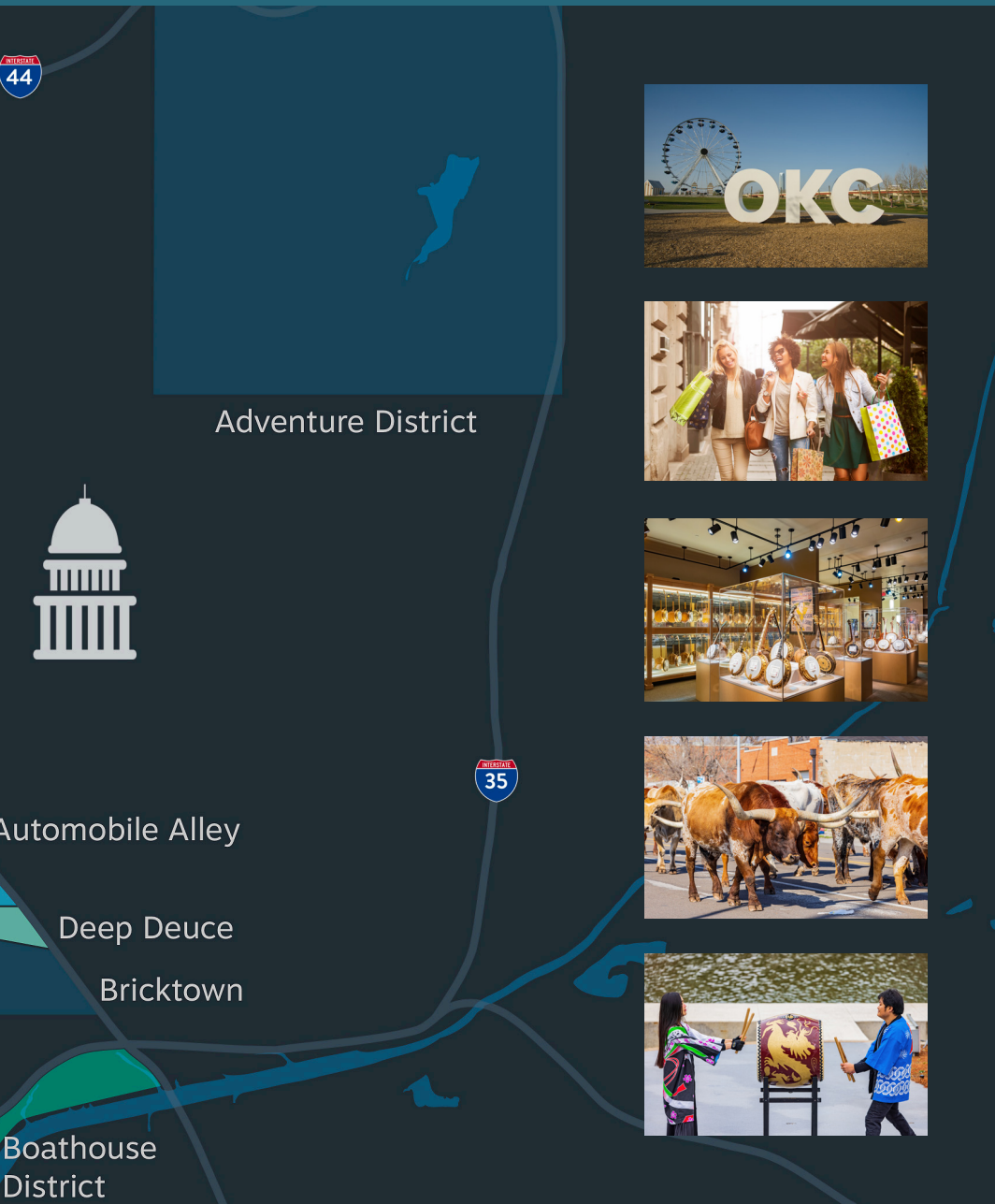
Interactive galleries bring history to life at the *National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum*. Visit *Remington Park*, the state's only racetrack and casino. Or take a camel ride at the *Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden*. Discover the *USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex*, and the *Firefighter, Railway, Science*, and *45th Infantry* Museums.

PASEO ARTS DISTRICT

This quaint neighborhood is home to *First Friday Gallery Walk*, a weekly event open to the public with nearly 80 working artists and 20 studios. It is one of the oldest art walks in Oklahoma City with a fun street scene and receptions for featured artists. Favorite local hangouts include *Paseo Grill*, *Picasso Café*, *Holey Rollers Donuts*, and the *Mayan Taqueria*.



TOWN DISTRICTS



Adventure District

Automobile Alley

Deep Deuce

Bricktown

Boathouse District

PLAZA DISTRICT

Named for the historic *Plaza Theater* built in 1935, and now a hot spot for live performances, if it's hip, it's happening here. This collection of locally owned shops, bars, and quirky galleries has become a hub for creativity and craft beer. *Oak & Ore* is known for keeping 36 always-rotating Oklahoma beers on tap and *Empire Slice House* serves great pizza until 2 am.

ASIAN DISTRICT

An influx of Vietnamese immigrants in the 1970s created a hub for Asian fusion cuisine. Previously known as "Little Saigon", the area features award-winning pho and banh mi and the *Brothers in Arms Vietnam Memorial*. Chinese and other Asian-American cultures have created a shopping mecca and outdoor market that attracts both locals and tourists.

WHEELER DISTRICT

Located along the south bank of the Oklahoma River, the historic *Santa Monica Pier Ferris Wheel* marks the spot for great views and family fun. This 150-acre site is bike friendly and connects to the *Oklahoma River Trail* network. The open green space is perfect for special events and festivals.

WEST VILLAGE

A mix of Art Deco, nightlife, and history make up this eclectic district. Once a distribution center for Paramount Pictures, MGM, and Universal, *Film Row* is now home to a 75-seat screening room. *Flashback RetroPub* features Rubik's Cube cocktail tables, 60 vintage arcade games, and 80's karaoke.

WESTERN AVENUE

You'll find upscale and contemporary to vintage here. *Antique Avenue* and dozens of other curated stores are designed for treasure hunters. *Classen Curve* hosts unique retailers like *Weldon Jack*, art, apparel, and motorcycle gear. Stay overnight in a teepee or 19th century wagon at *Orr Family Farm*.

STOCKYARDS CITY

Step back in time at the world's largest cattle market with live auctions open to the public on Mondays and Tuesdays. Specializing in all things western, you can outfit an entire ranch or find the perfect pair of riding boots. Stroll through shops for inspired souvenirs or grab a bite at *Cattlemen's Steakhouse*.

AUTOMOBILE ALLEY

Originally home to the city's car dealerships, this section of Broadway Avenue is a must-see. The *Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center* is always festive with seasonal exhibitions and performances. Its onsite outdoor café is the perfect way to finish your gallery experience with hand-crafted cocktails.

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EDMOND



PIEDMONT

URBAN LIVING



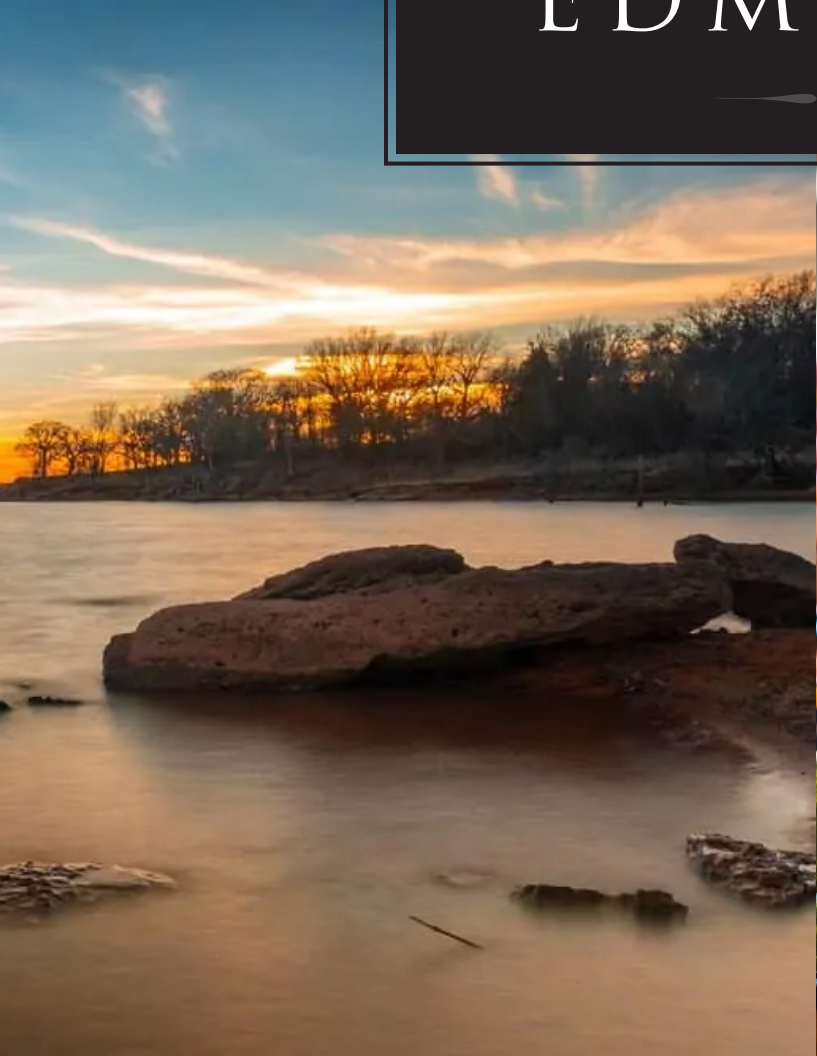
YUKON

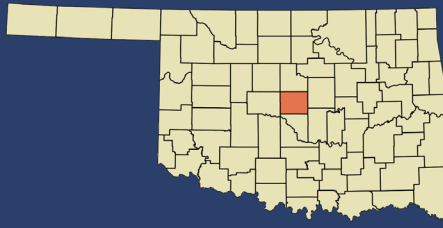


NORMAN



EDMOND





KNOWN AS THE 'CROWN JEWEL' OF THE STATE, Edmond is the closest suburb to Downtown OKC. Sprawling public parks, museums, championship golf, farmers markets, street festivals, spas, and wineries are all part of the city scene. Edmond boasts more than 200 restaurants, 33 parks, 47 miles of trails, and more than 300 public art pieces including murals, stained glass, and steel sculptures. ***The Armstrong Auditorium*** hosts the Russian National Ballet and Vienna Boys Choir annually.

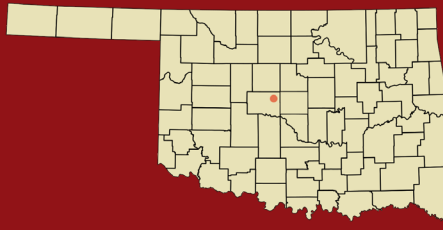
The University of Central Oklahoma adds a fun college vibe and ***Arcadia Lake*** is known for its fishing, boating, and recreational opportunities off of old Route 66. Families can enjoy multiple game and entertainment centers, cinemas, ***Pelican Bay Aquatic Center***, and ***Sky Zone Trampoline Park***. The Edmond Historical Society and Museum houses more than 40,000 artifacts representing more than a century of the area's past, including how the railroads began. Special camps are held throughout the year specifically designed to engage kids to get more hands-on with history. Edmond is also home to the **best public school system in the state**—earning 11 National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence awards.

Edmond offers a unique music scene with indoor and outdoor concert venues for all types of music from classical and folk to Jazz. Nightlife options include dozens of unique bars and breweries. Another place to play is ***River Oaks Golf Club***, a hilltop hideaway for year-round family activities.



PIEDMONT





IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR PLENTY OF ROOM, Piedmont is the place—just 25 minutes from the excitement of Downtown OKC with a laid back family friendly atmosphere. Wide river valleys, steep hills, sand dunes, and canyons make up the varied topography of this charming rural suburb. Homes come with more acreage and there are plenty of open spaces to play, including cycling trails, horseback riding areas, and lots of ATV terrain. The shores of Lake Hefner are just 20 minutes away and year-round family fun can be found at ***Chester's Party Barn & Farm***, from pumpkin patches and holiday crafts to steak cook-off competitions.

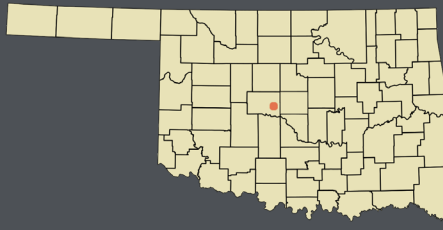
Piedmont is known for its breathtaking sunsets and there's no better way to experience one than with a local hot air balloon ride. Kids can take advantage of winter, spring, and summer breaks from school with equestrian training at ***Cross Creek Stables***—both Western and English styles. The town is proud of earning an 'A' rating for its public schools and holds an annual **DUCK Week** (Doing Unselfish Charities for Kids) to raise money for local children with medical issues.

The community also comes together for seasonal fun, including the ***Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting***, and 4th of July ***Freedom Fest***. Catch a show at ***Old Town Community Theater*** or head out for a picnic at ***Piedmont Community Park***. Sample local flavors from ***Harvest Hub*** or get your fill of brisket at ***Sharp's Barbecue***. Visit ***The Old Store*** for antique treasures, ***Mills Garage*** for town meetings, and the ***Piedmont Museum*** to learn about the past.



YUKON





WEST OF OKLAHOMA CITY, the rural charms of Yukon beckon. Discover a community steeped in Czech history and attend the annual heritage festival every October. ***Chisholm Trail Park*** is a must-see with its pavilions and lookout points. ***Farfella*** local winery is renowned for its Cabernets and Merlots. ***Route 66 Park Amphitheater*** includes 148 acres of ponds, trails, and an observation tower adjacent to ***Lake Overholser*** with its miles of shoreline perfect for picnics, sunsets, and viewing migratory birds from ***Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge***.

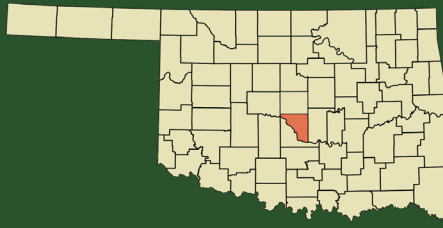
Express Clydesdales offers a chance to get up close and personal with these giant draft horses famous for marching in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades and annual Calgary Stampede. Anglers can hit the shores of the nearby North Canadian River for largemouth bass, and ***Archery Traditions of Oklahoma*** offers a 10,000 square-foot facility including an indoor 3D range.

Founded in the 1890s, Yukon was primarily an urban center for farmers and the site of a large milling operation. Today the town serves as one of the area's most popular suburbs and is teeming with new home communities. Famous residents include singer Garth Brooks (who grew up here) and Yukon hosts ***Rock the Route*** country music festival every August.



NORMAN





NORMAN IS THE THIRD LARGEST CITY IN THE STATE and rated as one of the best places to live in the U.S. for affordability and safety. Just 20 miles south of Downtown OKC, Norman is the quintessential college town and home of the Sooners. ***The University of Oklahoma*** is ranked top 10 in the nation by *The Princeton Review* for academic excellence and affordability. ***Campus Corner*** features some of the area's best restaurants and bars for Sooner game days.

Norman is also known for music, art, and nightlife. ***Andrews Park*** near downtown is the hot spot for many annual events including *Jazz in June* and *Groovefest*. ***Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art*** is considered top-tier with extraordinary Native American and Impressionist collections including Degas, Gauguin, Van Gogh, and Monet.

Try your luck at the tables of ***Riverwind*** or ***Thunderbird Casino***, or save your money for the area's unique shopping venues. Sail, camp, hike, or bike ***Lake Thunderbird State Park*** or enjoy the outdoors at ***Sutton Wilderness Trail Park***. Check out the National Weather Center headquarters, museum, and science center. ***The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History*** features the largest dinosaur skull ever discovered and hands-on exhibits.

OKC is filled with surprises. Lower taxes, a healthy economy, affordable housing, and friendly locals are just a few reasons to live here. It's no longer a hidden gem, though. Thousands are relocating to Central Oklahoma and discovering a different kind of lifestyle. Art, culture, history, outdoor recreation, and endless attractions make *The Big Friendly* one of the best places in the United States to hang your hat and call home. Please contact us for more information about relocating to OKC.



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