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Discover the
**BUTTERFIELD
 OVERLAND TRAIL**
 AUTO TOUR

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Discover the
**BUTTERFIELD
 OVERLAND TRAIL**

« MISSOURI | ARKANSAS | OKLAHOMA | TEXAS »
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If you enjoy your Butterfield Overland Trail experience, consider becoming a member of the Oregon—California Trails Association so this inspiring history can be preserved for future generations.

An American legacy is at risk. The historic trails crossed by pioneers, gold rushers, adventurers, families—people in pursuit of a better life in the West—are under constant threat from development including energy-related projects. Many miles of wagon ruts and swales still exist in silent testimony to those hardy souls who built the nation as we know it today.

Join OCTA and get involved. You can donate to the Save the Trail cause. Your donation will help fund important trail preservation work. You can also donate to OCTA Specialty Funds for Endowment, Preservation, and Legal

Defense of the historic trails. The Oregon-California Trails Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

You can also establish a memorial. Funds set up as a remembrance for a family member or friend can further their interest in perpetuity. Memorial contributions to OCTA can be sent directly to OCTA headquarters or through the Network for Good. When you join OCTA you will also learn about all the opportunities to participate in trail preservation activities. If joining is not your cup of tea and you'd just like to keep up with what's happening with the trails let us know and tell us a little about yourself.

Support the preservation work of the Oregon-California Trails Association on behalf of the National Historic Trails. Go to: www.octa-trails.org or call us at (816) 252-2276 for more information

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Discover The Butterfield Overland Trail!
 Go to OCTA-Trails.org/Butterfield-Trail

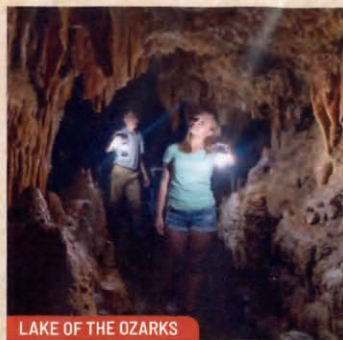
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Photo courtesy of Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau



ST. LOUIS



LAKE OF THE OZARKS



SPRINGFIELD



SILVER DOLLAR CITY



BRANSON



BENTONVILLE

Courtesy of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

WELCOME TO THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND TRAIL

John Butterfield, who planned the "all weather" Southern Route of the Butterfield Overland mail route, said:

"Remember boys, nothing on God's Earth must stop the U.S. Mail."

Starting in 1858 from St. Louis and Memphis, and then on to San Francisco, the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach route (the Oxbow Route), went southwest across Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas to El Paso, then headed west across New Mexico and Arizona to Los Angeles, before turning north to San Francisco.

Waterman I. Ormsby, a special correspondent for the New York Herald, who was the only through passenger on the first westbound Butterfield stage that arrived in San Francisco on October 12, 1858, wrote:

"Here I am in San Francisco, having made the passage from the St. Louis post office in twenty-three days, twenty-three hours and a half, just one day and half hour less than the time required by the Overland Stage Company's contract with the Post Office Department. The journey has by no means been as fatiguing to me as might be expected by a continuous ride of such duration, for I feel almost fresh enough to undertake it again."

The year-round Butterfield line employed 100 stages for the route...including 24 Concord stagecoaches from Tipton, Missouri to Fort Smith, Arkansas, and in California from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Lighter "Celerity" coaches were used for the long 1,826-mile route across the plains, desert, and mountains of the Southwest from Fort Smith to Los Angeles.

At the advent of the Civil War, Butterfield's stagecoach mail service on the Oxbow Route was cancelled and soon Wells Fargo stagecoaches went north and became the central Overland Trail Route to California's Gold Country.



ROGERS



SPRINGDALE



FAYETTEVILLE



FORT SMITH



LITTLE ROCK

Courtesy of Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau



CHOCTAW NATION



ABILENE



TUBAC



CALICO GHOST TOWN



BAKERSFIELD

NOW-A NEW
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

YOUR ROAD TRIP TO ADVENTURE & FUN!

All observations taken from Waterman I. Ormsby, Reporter, New York Herald, the only through passenger on the first Westbound Stage

"At Tipton, Moniteau County, Mo., the end of the Pacific Railroad, the bags are first placed on the coaches of the Overland Mail Company. We left St. Louis this morning, at eight o'clock, and are to leave Tipton at six p.m. Thus far we are up to time. I shall mail you this at Tipton and after that will write as the journey will permit. If I can write in the wagons with not less convenience than I have written this in the cars, you will hear from me regularly.

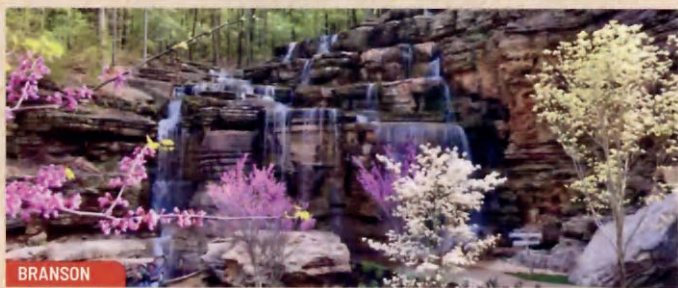


ST. LOUIS



JEFFERSON CITY

The only sleep I have had since last Thursday morning has been snatched in the wagons, on roads which out-Connecticut Connecticut. Yet the new scenes which constantly meet the view, the variegated aspect of the country, the curious characters to be met, and the novelty of roughing it overland, are, I think, quite a recompense for any slight inconvenience which may be experienced.



BRANSON

This brought us to breakfast time on Saturday morning, at Callahan's, but about twelve miles from Fayetteville, Arkansas, very near the border line. Here we found Mr. Crocker, the superintendent of the line between St. Louis and Memphis and Fort Smith, Arkansas, where two mails converge and proceed together. We greased our wagon, changed horses, and got some breakfast—all in an incredibly short space of time—after which we set out for Fayetteville.



CHOCTAW NATION

The mountains abound in splendid white oak timber. As the road winds along the ridges you are afforded most magnificent views of the surrounding hills and valleys—especially in the winter. And I can only say that our mountain views in the Highlands of the Hudson are but children's toys in comparison with these vast works of nature.



LITTLE ROCK



LITTLE ROCK

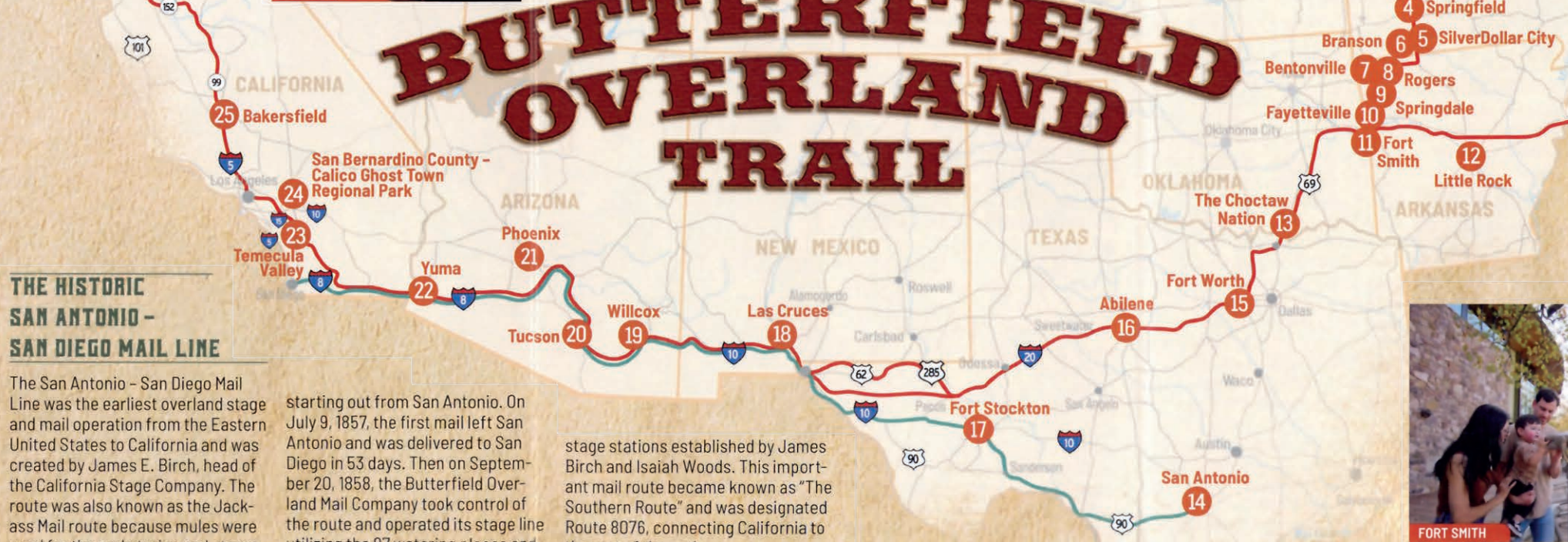
Our next stop was at Smith's station, twenty-three miles from Clear Fork, on the banks of a small creek. Our supper consisted of cake cooked in the coals, clear coffee, and some dried beef cooked in Mrs. Smith's best style. We changed horses or mules and swallowed supper in double quick time and were soon on our way again.



ROGERS



SPRINGDALE



THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND TRAIL

The Butterfield Overland Trail mail and passenger service was authorized on September 15, 1858. St. Louis and Memphis were its eastern rail terminals with stages heading southwest to its western terminals in Los Angeles and San Francisco. The route not only delivered the mail but also became a major southern emigrant trail to the West. The most visible trail ruts on the Southern Overland Corridor are those of the Butterfield Overland Trail.

The route was developed in two sections: the 462-mile route from San Francisco to Los Angeles and the 2,333-mile portion for the rest of the route to St. Louis. The hardest task in laying out the 2,795-mile route was the vast, undeveloped lands east of Los Angeles which included desert lands along the Mexican border. The trail then looped northeast from El Paso across Texas to Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri to St. Louis. President James Buchanan in his congratulatory telegram to John Butterfield noted that increased emigration would be the result of this new, improved trail.

THE DIVISIONS OF THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL ROUTE INCLUDED:

DIVISION	ROUTE	MILES	HOURS
Division 1	San Francisco to Los Angeles	462	80
Division 2	Los Angeles to Fort Yuma	282	72.20
Division 3	Fort Yuma to Tucson	280	71.45
Division 4	Tucson to Franklin Mountains (El Paso)	360	82
Division 5	Franklin Mountains to Fort Chadbourne	458	126.30
Division 6	Fort Chadbourne to Colbert's Ferry	282 ½	65.25
Division 7	Colbert's Ferry to Fort Smith	192	38
Division 8	Fort Smith to Tipton	318 ½	48.55
Division 9	Tipton to St. Louis by Railroad	160	11.40

The most direct route to El Paso would be from this point along the thirty-second parallel, but the much-dreaded Llano Estacado, or Staked Plains, interposes its waterless barrenness, and our course must still be in southwesterly direction to the head of the Concho River, a tributary of the little Colorado, and thence to the "Horsehead Crossing" of the Pecos River.



CHOCTAW NATION



LITTLE ROCK

Courtesy of Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau



ABILENE



SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

We may now be said to have commenced the difficulties of the journey through the great plains or waterless deserts of Texas and mountains of New Mexico and California; while the grandest spectacles of our journey are yet to be seen and described, with the assurance that we are safely at Tucson, Arizona, just beyond the Pinaleno Mountains.



BAKERSFIELD

Our road lay through some delightful oak groves—a most decided improvement on the desert—while the cool, delicious springs of water were more acceptable. The stations through these valleys of Buena Vista, Hall's Oak Grove, Swango (Aguana), Laguna, and Temecula are all at convenient distances, and the accommodations excellent, and the road is lined with prosperous ranches. Through San Diego County the verdure was quite luxuriant, owing to the recent rains.



CALICO GHOST TOWN

Our road lay through a valley in the southwest corner of San Bernardino County having the San Bernardino Mountains on the east and the coast range on the west. The land is rich and could produce everything, but it lies almost uncultivated, being used principally for grazing.

Fifteen miles from the last station we cross the Kern River, which empties into the Tulare Lake. We are now in a vast plain, through which our road runs for one hundred miles, crossing a series of rivers and creeks which empty into the Tulare Lake. The Kern River is a rapid running stream and has to be crossed on boats.

As we neared the city, we met milkmen and pleasure seekers taking their morning rides, looking on with wonderment as we rattled along at a tearing pace. Swiftly we whirled up one street and down another, and round the corners, until finally we drew up at the stage office in front of the Plaza, our driver giving a shrill blast of his horn and a flourish of triumph for the arrival of the first overland mail in San Francisco from St. Louis.



SAN FRANCISCO

The vast fertile lands, the romantic mountain passes, the large streams, and even the luxuriance of animal and vegetable life on the deserts, will attract the attention of the intelligent and give to the route a varied interest which a sea voyage does not and cannot possess.



LITTLE ROCK

Courtesy of Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau



FORT SMITH



AS WATERMAN ORMSBY WROTE, traveling by stagecoach across the Great Southwest was a grand adventure:

To many Americans who travel for pleasure this route will be a favorite...they can travel by comfortable stages, stopping at such interesting points as they may choose for rest, and enjoying many opportunities for viewing the beautiful, the wonderful, and the sublime products of nature, which are well disposed along the entire distance.

His words are even more true today. We can travel across this amazing land in the comfort and convenience of climate-controlled vehicles that are digitally connected to GPS and information networks.



1 St. Louis» I-70 and I-44. Many Butterfield Overland Stage customers would come to St. Louis by riverboat before taking a stage to Tipton and beginning their western adventures. Today's visitors can learn all about the "Gateway to the West" at the **Gateway Arch National Park**.



2 Jefferson City» US 54, US 63 and US 50. An imposing statue of Thomas Jefferson is located outside the Missouri State Capitol. Nearby at Trailhead Plaza are statues of Lewis and Clark. Inside the capitol is the **Missouri State Museum** and a Thomas Hart Benton mural.

3 Tipton» US 50. The northern launch point for the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach. Visitors can step back in time at the **MacLay Home**, which served as a Union Army headquarters for General John C. Fremont during the Civil War.



4 Springfield» US 65 and I-44. The **History Museum on the Square** features six main galleries, located in the historic downtown area.



5 Silver Dollar City» US 76/265. See an authentic **Concord Stagecoach** that once traversed the Butterfield Trail. For train buffs, nothing beats a ride on the **Frisco Silver Dollar Line Steam Train**. Silver Dollar City features over 40 memorable, thrilling rides for kids of all ages and sits atop **Marvel Cave**, Missouri's deepest cavern. The park showcases 100 resident craftsmen who bring to

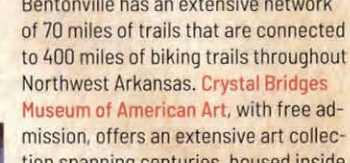
life America's craft heritage. Silver Dollar City's **White Water** park features 13 acres for cool, splashing fun.



6 Branson» US 65 and 76. 76 **Country Boulevard** is lined with theaters offering live performances with a mix of music, magic and endless excitement. **Dolly Parton's Stampede** is a fun-filled family dinner theater with a cast of 32 horses, trick riders, music and country-style food. **Shepherd of the Hills** features inspiring live performances, dining and outdoor recreation. **Track Family Fun Parks** has three high-rise tracks, bumper boats, mini golf, laser tag and more. **Bigfoot Fun Park** offers themed mini golf, an arcade, and immersive escape rooms. Other great attractions include the **Hollywood Wax Museum**, **Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum**, **Promised Land Zoo** and the **Showboat Branson Belle** paddlewheel riverboat. For more information on Missouri communities, museums, and attractions located on or near the Butterfield Overland Trail, go to: VisitMo.com.



7 Bentonville» On I-49, Bentonville is home to world-class museums, outstanding mountain biking, and unmatched scenic beauty. Often called the **Mountain Biking Capital of the World**, Bentonville has an extensive network of 70 miles of trails that are connected to 400 miles of biking trails throughout Northwest Arkansas. **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art**, with free admission, offers an extensive art collection spanning centuries, housed inside stunning architecture by Moshe Safdie. The 134-acre campus includes nature trails, gardens, a browseable library, and a **Frank Lloyd Wright** house on its grounds. The **Walmart Museum**, housed in the original Walton 5 & 10, presents the story of Walmart's humble beginnings and growth into the world's largest retailer. The **21c Museum Hotel** combines boutique accommodations with contemporary art galleries presenting rotating exhibits and installations. The **8th Street Market** is an innovative food hub where creativity supports local farmers. Other nearby attractions include the **Scott Family Amazeum** for interactive science

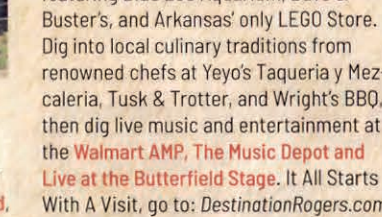


8 Springdale» On I-49 and US 412. A great place to kick off your visit is **Downtown Springdale**, where the streets come alive with artists, craftsperson, antique enthusiasts, baristas, and brewers who live and thrive here. Step back into the early days of the Ozarks at the **Shiloh Museum of Ozark History**, home to six historic buildings with exhibits highlighting the people who shaped Northwest Arkansas. History buffs can also explore two remarkably preserved **Civil War battlefields** just minutes away. Off aboard the **Arkansas and Missouri Railroad** for an unforgettable ride over the

and art exhibits, and the **Bentonville Historical Museum** presents Bentonville's unique history. You can also explore the **Peel Museum and Botanical Gardens** and **The Momentary**, adjacent to Crystal Bridges, offering a vibrant contemporary art space with an exceptional live music scene. Go to: visitbentonville.com.



9 Rogers» On I-49. Rogers offers today's trail travelers memorable museums and trendy shopping and dining experiences surrounded by breath-taking Ozark scenery and historic sites. Favorite local museums in the area include the **Daisy Airgun Museum**, the **Rogers Historical Museum** and the **Shiloh Museum of Ozark History**. The inspiring **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art** combines art and architecture with the natural beauty of nature trails. The nearby **Pea Ridge National Military Park** is the nation's largest intact Civil War battlefield, while **Beaver Lake** offers wonderful sights including **Hobbs State Park**, **War Eagle Mill** and **War Eagle Cavern**. Families will enjoy the splash fun at the **Rogers Aquatics Center**. Shoppers can choose from the brick-lined streets of **Historic Downtown Rogers** with its gourmet restaurants and charming boutiques, or **Pinnacle Hills Promenade**, the area's top destination shopping center featuring **Blue Zoo Aquarium**, **Dave & Buster's**, and **Arkansas' only LEGO Store**. Dig into local culinary traditions from renowned chefs at **Yeyo's Taqueria y Mezcaleria**, **Tusk & Trotter**, and **Wright's BBQ**, then dig live music and entertainment at the **Walmart AMP**, **The Music Depot** and **Live at the Butterfield Stage**. It All Starts With A Visit, go to: DestinationRogers.com.



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Boston Mountains and into the Arkansas River Basin in beautifully restored antique passenger and parlor coaches. Or take to the skies and enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Ozarks on a helicopter tour with **Fly ARK**. Discover the secrets of the natural world at the **Ozark Highlands Nature Center**, a must-visit for nature lovers. Mountain bikers will find thrills on **Fitzgerald Mountain**, with 11 miles of scenic trails ranging from kid-friendly routes to heart-pounding double black diamond runs. Sports fans can catch the **Northwest Arkansas Naturals** at **Arvest Ballpark**, experience the excitement of the **Rodeo of the Ozarks** at **Parsons Stadium**, or enjoy year-round recreation at **The Jones Center**, the Midwest's premier family fun and meeting destination. And of course, no trip is complete without sampling the area's delicious dining and scenic vineyards. For more information, visit: explorespringdale.com.



12 Fayetteville» I-49. Home to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville is infused with the energy of a college town. Walk or bike the **Lake Fayetteville Trail**, where you can still see the original trace traveled by the Butterfield stages. Splash in an interactive fountain near a sculpture of a stagecoach at **Gulley Park**. Nestled in the Ozark Mountains and surrounded by state parks, national forests and pristine waters for fishing and floating, Fayetteville is a nature-lover's dream. Fayetteville's downtown has always been known as the region's entertainment capital, thanks to live-music venues, restaurants, bars and theaters throughout **Dickson Street** and the **Historic Downtown Square**. While you're visiting the square, stop by the



13 Fayetteville» On I-49 and US 412. A great place to kick off your visit is **Downtown Fayetteville**, where the streets come alive with artists, craftsperson, antique enthusiasts, baristas, and brewers who live and thrive here. Step back into the early days of the Ozarks at the **Shiloh Museum of Ozark History**, home to six historic buildings with exhibits highlighting the people who shaped Northwest Arkansas. History buffs can also explore two remarkably preserved **Civil War battlefields** just minutes away. Off aboard the **Arkansas and Missouri Railroad** for an unforgettable ride over the



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Willcox» On I-10. The **Chiricahua National Monument** features 17-miles of day-use trails to awe-inspiring rock pinnacles and diverse wildlife. The Butterfield Trail passed through **Fort Bowie National Historic Site**. Visitors can learn about the conflict in the late 1800s between the U.S. Army and the Chiricahua Apaches at the visitor center.



15 Tucson» I-10 and I-19. Explore a unique blend of Mexican, Spanish Colonial, Wild West, and even modern aerospace history in Arizona's second-largest city. Visitors can follow the Anza Trail south along I-19 to discover **Tubac Presidio State Historic Park** and the beautiful **Mission San Xavier del Bac**, built in the 1700s by Spanish missionaries.



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18 Las Cruces» On I-10. The **Mesilla Village Plaza** is a well-preserved historic square surrounded by adobe buildings galleries, shops and restaurants



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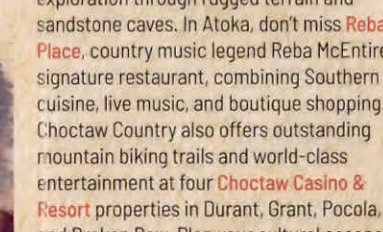


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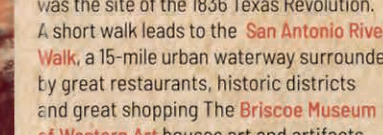
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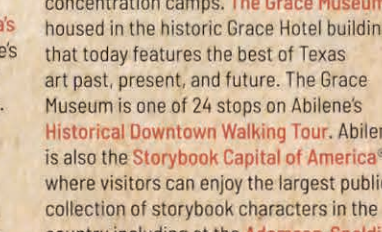


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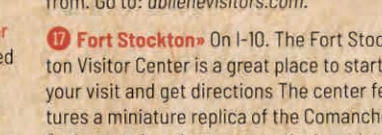
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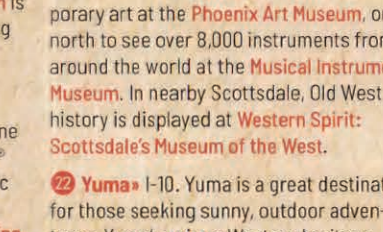


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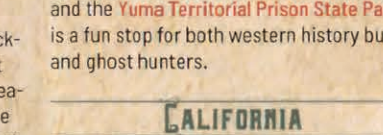
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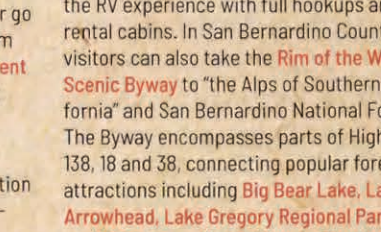


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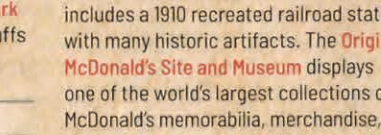
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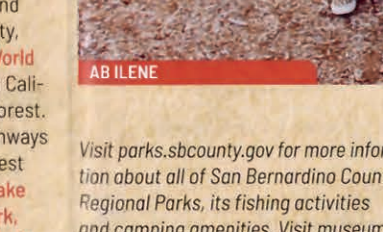


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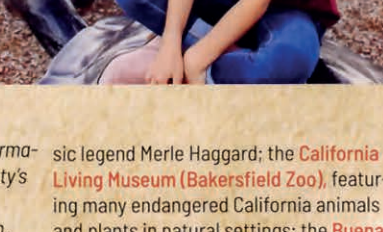


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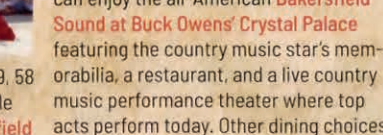
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BRANSON



LITTLE ROCK



ABILENE

Visit parks.sbcounty.gov for more information about all of San Bernardino County's Regional Parks, its fishing activities and camping amenities. Visit museum.sbcounty.gov for more information on the San Bernardino County Museum.



23 Bakersfield» Off I-5 and on CA 99, 58 and 178. Belly up to the bar and sample the local brews on tap on the **Bakersfield Brewery Trail**, where you will find their quality sets them apart from the national brands. Pose at some of Bakersfield's most unique spots when you explore the **Bakersfield Selfie Trail**, including the only shoe-shaped building in America with shoelaces. Explore the **Bakersfield Museum Trail**, a 15-mile route connecting the city's four main museums: the **Kern County Museum** where you can visit the restored childhood home of country mu-

sic legend Merle Haggard; the **California Living Museum** (Bakersfield Zoo), featuring many endangered California animals and plants in natural settings; the **Buena Vista Museum of Natural History & Science** where you can explore the world of fossils and dinosaurs, and the **Bakersfield Museum of Art**, where a diverse variety of paintings and sculpture by international artists await you. Visitors can enjoy the all-American **Bakersfield Sound at Buck Owens' Crystal Palace** featuring the country music star's memorabilia, a restaurant, and a live country music performance theater where top acts perform today. Other dining choices in the city include the largest collection of Basque restaurants in the nation, **seven eateries** that Guy Fieri featured on *"Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives"*, and many others regularly noted in the national food press. And work off that genuine grub with our many outdoor choices, such as the **Kern River Parkway Trail** with more than 30 miles of scenic bike trails and whitewater rafting tours on the Kern River. Go to: visitbakersfield.com