

Ponca City – Kaw Lake

Arrive in **Ponca City** and become enchanted by the treasures you will uncover in this north central Oklahoma City. A tour of the **Marland Mansion**, a virtual “Palace on the Prairie” will simply take your breath away. Oil Baron, E.W. Marland spared no expense when it came to his dream home modeled after the Davanzatti Palace in Florence, Italy. Many details denote Marland’s love for his hunting dogs and polo ponies. The regal atmosphere is created through the Waterford crystal chandeliers and the hand-painted and gold-leaf ceiling. This dramatic home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Linger over lunch or dinner, in the extravagant surrounds of the mansion or estate, which originally featured five lakes, a boathouse, stables, gatehouses, an art gallery, polo grounds, Olympic sized swimming pool and elaborate gardens, cared for by 85 gardeners. The Bryant Baker Art Studio, the new Marland Oil Museum and the chauffeur’s house, which in later years was known as “Lydie’s Cottage” are housed on the grounds and open for tours.

Include in your visit to Ponca City, a trip to the **Pioneer Woman Statue and Museum**. The Pioneer Woman Statue was erected at a cost of \$300,000, as a gift from Marland to the citizens of Oklahoma. Unveiling ceremonies were held on April 22, 1930, with a dedication service described by national writers as the most stirring outdoor event in the history of Oklahoma. The statue itself is 17 feet tall and weighs 12,000 lbs and measures, from the base to the top of her sunbonnet, 30 feet.

The Pioneer Woman Museum was dedicated on September 16, 1958 on the 65th anniversary of the Cherokee Strip Run. The museum preserves the legacy of women from all races, creeds and nationalities who have contributed to the development of Oklahoma. The entrance of the museum, which represents the pioneer woman’s bonnet, is inscribed with the words, “I see no boundaries”.

Tour the **Poncan Theatre**. Opening in 1927, this atmospheric theatre was the grandest in town. Live performances and silent features were accompanied by a Wurlitzer organ, two pianos and the Poncan Orchestra. The Poncan Theatre played host to such superstars as Ethel Barrymore and Will Rogers. Today, the Poncan Theatre has been restored to its original glory and enhanced with state-of-the-art sound and lighting, making it a top quality performing arts center. Special events are scheduled regularly, from ballet and orchestras to country shows, community theatre and top-notch entertainment.

Also include in your stopover, a drive or stroll through downtown Ponca City. The Centennial Plaza, with its backdrop of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and newly renovated 1917 City Hall, features the dramatic Centennial Monument Statue of a settler stepping off his horse to stake his claim. Move to the rhythm of motion with the colorful LED lit War Memorial Fountain, as you stroll through the plaza to the tune of chimes ringing in the bell tower, one of two which crown this architectural masterpiece.

Nearby **Kaw Lake** boasts 17,000 acres and 168 miles of shoreline. Activities include boating, camping, fishing, and nature watching.

One of the latest attractions in this area is the **Standing Bear Museum and Education Center**, and is considered a must-see.

Ponca City Tourism

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