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# Wahzhazhe Welcome Guide

**VISITING THE OSAGE NATION  
RESERVATION**

**Wahzhazhe  
Always**



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Experience our dynamic culture and observe the unwavering determination of our community. For more than a century and a half, the Osage people have established their roots in this land. Our people have embraced resilience and experienced remarkable growth. As a flourishing Nation, our primary goals are to preserve our rich heritage, revive our language, and actively engage in community initiatives. We welcome you to the Osage Nation Reservation and invite you to learn about our history and culture.



[OsageCulture.com](http://OsageCulture.com)

Our Osage ancestors controlled millions of acres in what is now known as Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma prior to the existence of the United States. Their lives changed drastically after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. At that time, the United States Government claimed ownership of Osage land, and this led to a period of forced displacement and land loss.

By 1864 our ancestors had been removed to a reservation of fertile land in southeastern Kansas known as the Osage Diminished Reserve. However, as a result of railroad expansion, "Manifest Destiny" and the want of white "pioneers" to settle on our lands, our ancestors were once again forced to leave their lands. By an Act of Congress on July 15, 1870, our ancestors would be forced to sell our land in Kansas to the U.S. government for \$1.25 an acre.

President Grant authorized our removal to a new home in Indian Territory, now present-day Oklahoma. These series of removals were hard on our people and by the time we reached Indian Territory we had lost up to 95% of our population from starvation, disease, and other factors. We had also lost



up to 90% of our former homelands. With the proceeds of the sale of lands in Kansas, our leaders were able to purchase land from the Cherokee Nation in the northeast part of Oklahoma, this is land that we call home today.

The Osage Nation Reservation is also referred to as Osage County, currently the largest county in Oklahoma with approximately 1,470,938 acres, or 2,298 sq. miles. By 1872, the Osage Nation Reservation was established, and grazing became an important part of the economy.

In 1894, crude oil would be found on our reservation. When our land was allotted as an act of assimilation in 1906, our leaders negotiated with the United States government to maintain control of the subsurface mineral estate in perpetuity. By the 1920s, oil production was soaring, and our people experienced what is known as the "Osage Reign of Terror" as once again, non-native individuals sought our land and our wealth and would do anything, including murder, to achieve it.

Our history is full of hardship and sorrow, but also determination and resilience. Just over 2,000 Osage individuals made it to the Osage Nation Reservation back in 1872, today our Nation's population is over 25,000



strong with 4,467 individuals living in Osage County on the Osage Nation Reservation. We honor our ancestors and remember their physical, mental, and spiritual strength as we move forward through the 21st century. We encourage the education of our people through Osage-run schools, promote our culture and arts through our cultural departments, and fight for our sovereignty through the functions of our three-branch government system. We are Wahzhazhe. Still here. Still moving forward. A Nation to be proud of.

While visiting our home we invite you to witness unparalleled views and awe-inspiring sunsets, immerse yourself in history and art at the Osage Nation Museum, and encounter majestic American bison on the Osage Nation Ranch. Additionally, you can stay, eat, and try your luck at any of the Osage Casinos and explore the many offerings at the Osage Nation Visitor's Center. These are just a few examples of the many exciting experiences that await you on the Osage Nation Reservation. We invite you to explore the land that we have called home since 1872.



**Plan your next  
adventure to the  
Osage Nation  
Reservation Today!**

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02

# Osage Nation Visitors Center

## LOCATION

602 East Main Street  
Pawhuska, OK 74056

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Monday - Friday*  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

*Coffee Shop*  
7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

## PHONE

918-287-5266

## EMAIL

Visitorscenter@osagenation-nsn.gov

## WEBSITE

<https://www.osageculture.com/visitors/visitors-center>





As you're planning to explore the Osage Nation Reservation, we invite you to visit us at the Osage Nation Visitors Center first. It's conveniently located on Main Street in Pawhuska, OK, right across from the Wahzhazhe Heritage Trails and Disc Golf Course. The Visitor's Center is your go-to resource for all things Osage and will provide you with plenty of helpful information to make the most of your visit.

The Visitor's Center promotes Osage culture, Osage artists, Osage Nation services, and Osage-owned businesses. Experience the rich history and culture of the Osage through technology and literature, all presented from an Osage perspective. You'll have the opportunity to engage with our cheerful staff and explore informative

exhibits at the Visitors Center. Our team is knowledgeable and passionate about sharing the rich history and culture of the Osage Nation with visitors.

If you're looking for a special souvenir to remember your visit to the Osage Nation Reservation, be sure to check out the boutique at the Visitor's Center. Here, you'll find a carefully curated selection of Osage Nation souvenirs, as well as a variety of authentic Native American artwork, jewelry, and clothing created by talented Osage and Native Artists. It's a wonderful way to support these artists and take home a meaningful memento of your visit. Don't miss the chance to explore this unique and inspiring collection!

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03

# Heritage Trail Scenic Byway

## LOCATION

US Highway 60 within the boundaries of the Osage Nation

## HOURS OF OPERATION

24 hours a day 365 days a year







Looking for an adventure that will take you off the beaten path? Look no further than our scenic byway tour! This incredible journey will take you through some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the country while providing educational information about the Osage Nation along the way.

The Osage Nation Heritage Trail Scenic Byway is an incredibly scenic and historic route that spans over 65 miles along US Highway 60. Starting from the western border of the Osage Nation near Ponca City and the Arkansas River, this byway passes through the capital of the Osage Nation, Pawhuska, and ends near Bartlesville, OK.

This route is perfect for anyone who wants to experience the beauty of Oklahoma and learn about the rich heritage of the Osage people. What makes this byway so special is the abundance of byway turnout locations.

These locations offer amazing views and informational panels that provide fascinating insights into the history and culture of the Osage Nation. The panels highlight the contributions of the Osage people, the beauty of the Tallgrass Prairie, and the oil and ranching heritage of the Osage Nation Reservation. Each stop is a great opportunity to learn more about this unique region and its people.

Traveling along the Osage Nation Heritage Trail Scenic Byway is a great way to explore the wonders of the Osage Nation Reservation. Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or just looking for a scenic drive, this route has something for everyone. So why not take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and embark on a journey through this beautiful and historic route? You won't regret it!

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04

# Edward Red Eagle, Sr. Park

## LOCATION

Highway 60 north of  
Highway 99

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Open during daylight hours*

**ADA ACCESSIBLE  
NO RESTROOMS**

If you're looking for a great way to spend some time in the sun, you might want to check out Ed Red Eagle Park. It's a beautiful spot with plenty of space to spread out and enjoy the outdoors. Whether you're looking to grill up some delicious food, read a good book, or just let the kids run around and play, this park has something for everyone.

Located on Highway 60 in Pawhuska, the Ed Red Eagle Park can be discovered along the Osage Nation Heritage Trail Scenic Byway. This park is named in honor of a respected Osage individual who selflessly served our community during his life.

Edward was a proud graduate of both Pawhuska High School and the Wichita Business College in Kansas. Following his studies, he selflessly enlisted in the U.S. Army and served his country during WWII. His bravery and dedication were evident during his deployment in the



Philippines and Japan. Upon returning home, Edward continued his selfless service to our community by dedicating nearly 40 years to the Osage Tribal Council. He also served three terms as Assistant Chief, further demonstrating his unwavering commitment to his people. Additionally, he played a critical role as a founding member and the First Commander of the Harold Bigheart Smalley American Legion Post 198.

Red Eagle was a highly respected member of the Osage community for many years. He had a deep connection to the Native American Church, serving as a roadman, as well as being an accomplished Osage Gourd Dancer and a committee member of the Osage Ceremonial Dances. Red Eagle was also a member of the Kiowa Gourd Clan. Today, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren continue to live and contribute to the Osage way of life, honoring their ancestor and keeping his

legacy alive. The park that now bears his name is a testament to the impact that Red Eagle made on our community and serves as a symbol of his enduring importance.

If you're interested in learning more about the rich history of the Osage Nation, you won't want to miss a tour of the gazebo. Inside, you'll discover fascinating facts about Osage heritage that are sure to captivate your attention. And don't forget to snap a photo next to one of the stunning statues depicting the "Tallest Race of Man" for a truly memorable moment. When you're ready to relax, head over to one of the many picnic tables or benches and enjoy a peaceful afternoon surrounded by lush green grass. Or if you're feeling more active, check out the playground for some fun and games. If you're planning a picnic, Ed Red Eagle Park is the perfect spot. Just gather your supplies and get ready for a great day out!

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05

# Wahzhazhe Heritage Park, Walking Trails, and Disc-Golf Course

## LOCATION

Corner of Lynn Avenue and  
Hwy 60; Pawhuska, OK

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Open during daylight hours*

## ADA ACCESSIBLE

## NO RESTROOMS





Looking for a fun-filled day outdoors? Come visit the Wahzhazhe Heritage Park, an Osage Nation initiative to enhance the health and wellness of our people, community members, and visitors by providing access to a beautiful playground, walking trails, and a disc golf course! Located along the Osage Nation Heritage Trail Scenic Byway with two entrances, one on the corner of Main Street and Lynn Avenue in Pawhuska, OK, and one further east on Hwy 60, plenty of parking is available for quick access.

Whether you're in the mood for a peaceful walk, a family with young kids, or an avid disc-golfer, we have something for everyone. Our playground is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and is perfect for kids to unleash their energy and creativity. The walking trails offer a serene and peaceful environment, views of Bird Creek, two pedestrian bridges, and exercise equipment along the paths.

There are approximately 5,000 linear feet of nature trails and approximately 1.5 miles of ADA-accessible trails in the park. This spot is ideal for a relaxing walk or a refreshing jog. And for those looking for a challenging and exciting adventure, our disc golf course is designed to test your skills and keep you entertained.

But that's not all. We also have picnic areas and shaded seating, so you can take a break and enjoy the beautiful scenery around you. Our park is surrounded by lush greenery and breathtaking views, making it the perfect place to spend a day with your loved ones. You can even bring your furry friends. So, bring your family and friends, pack a picnic, or visit the Osage Nation Visitors Center café across the street and come enjoy a day in the great outdoors. Plan a day trip to our park and experience all the fun and excitement we have to offer. We guarantee you'll have a great time!

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06

# Historic Osage Agency

## LOCATION

627 Grandview Avenue, Pawhuska,  
OK 74056

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Open during daylight hours*

Viewing is available from the exterior  
only; interior tours are not offered.

**ADA ACCESSIBLE**  
**NO RESTROOMS**

Calling all history lovers! The historic Osage Agency is the perfect spot for history connoisseurs to experience the past. Listed on the National Registry, the historic Osage Agency is a site that is not to be missed. The story of the Osage Agency is a complex one, spanning over a century of history in the United States. The agency was established by the United States government to oversee the affairs of the Osage people.



OSAGE SUPERINTENDENT'S Home

This would include oversight on the management of our land, food, finances, education, healthcare, law enforcement, and more. The history of the Osage Agency is closely tied to the history of the Osage Nation and its interactions with the U.S. government. In 1872, our leaders advised that the newly established Osage Agency, led by U.S. Indian Agent Isaac T. Gibson be built at the geographical center of our new reservation in Pawhuska, OK.

As time went on, our tribe faced many challenges under the governance of the Osage Agency. We were forced to abandon our traditions and assimilate into American culture. Our finances were mismanaged, leaving us struggling to provide for our people. However, with changes in laws and policies, the Osage Agency adapted and evolved, and the Agency no longer exists in its original form. The history of the Osage Agency serves

as a reminder of the complicated relationship between the Osage and the U.S. government, as well as the challenges and successes faced by the Osage people throughout our history. On the Osage Nation campus, you can still see two of the original Osage Agency buildings. The beauty of their architecture is a testament to our past and a glimpse into the history that we carry with us.

The Superintendent's Home was built to become the home of U.S. Indian Agent Isaac T. Gibson after the establishment of the Osage Agency. Construction of the two-story sandstone structure started in 1873 and was completed in 1874. For over a century, this sandstone building has been the residence of more than 30 Indian Agents assigned to the Osage Agency. Last used as a home in the 1990s, the building was then converted to office space by the Osage Nation in 1994.



To the right of the Superintendent's Home is the Office of the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation. Constructed in 1922, the building is made from local sandstone and was built by the Department of the Interior to house the offices of Indian Agent J. George Wright. When constructed, a room was also designated to be used as a special council room for our tribal leaders. Today, this building houses the offices of the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation. It was remodeled in 2016 by Osage interior designer Chad Renfro. The Executive Branch is one of the three branches of government within the Osage Nation. Two elected officials, Principal Chief, and Assistant Principal Chief, share the duties of managing the Executive Branch through their office, the Office of the Chiefs. The Office of the Chiefs works on behalf of the Osage Nation to improve the lives of all Osage people in a sustainable way through

cultural preservation, improved health, educational excellence; increased employment and business opportunities, as well as the creation of a safe and progressive environment in which to live and work.



A small plaque affixed to a large stone that stands solemnly next to the Executive Offices commemorates the spot where a large elm tree once stood. The shade of this tree would witness a



Colonel Elmer Ellsworth Walters, official auctioneer of the Osage Nation (seen here on June 14, 1921), sold millions of dollars of oil leases in the shade of an elm tree. Photo courtesy Bartlesville Area History Museum.



series of public auction sales for oil and natural gas leases on our reservation. The first auction would be held in 1912, starting a period that would greatly impact Osage and American history alike. A 1922 newspaper article in the Pawhuska Journal Capital stated:

**“Pawhuska was turned over to the oil industry today. Business and professional men hod-nobbed with some of the most prominent captains of the oil industry in the world and rubbed elbows with the oil royalty beneath the shade of the “Million Dollar Elm”... It is estimated that well over two and possibly three thousand people are in attendance at the sale”.**

Some of the most prominent names in the oil industry were present at these sales, including Frank Phillips, L. E. Phillips, Waite Phillips, William

G. Skelly, and Ernest W. Marland. The bidding for oil leases under the tree was fierce, with millions of dollars changing hands. Although the elm eventually succumbed to Dutch elm disease in the early 1980s and had to be cut down, the monument remains, a testament to the importance of this site.

As you walk through the historic Osage Agency, take a moment to reflect on the many pivotal events that have occurred here and their lasting impact on our Nation’s history. From one of the first sandstone buildings to be erected on the reservation, to the intense bidding wars for oil leases under the famous “Million Dollar Elm,” and the creation of the current-day Osage government, this site has witnessed some of the most significant moments in our tribe’s history and continues to be a place of importance to our people today.

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07

# Osage Nation Museum

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## LOCATION

819 Grandview Avenue  
Pawhuska, OK 74056

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Tuesday – Saturday*  
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

## PHONE

918-287-5441

## EMAIL

[museum@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:museum@osagenation-nsn.gov)

## WEBSITE

<https://www.osageculture.com/culture/museum>

Follow us on Facebook!

## ADA ACCESSIBLE

**RESTROOMS AVAILABLE**





The Osage Nation Museum (ONM) is a truly remarkable institution that is a must-see destination for anyone visiting the Osage Nation Reservation. The ONM is the oldest tribally-governed museum in the United States and has been located at the heart of the Osage Nation in Pawhuska, OK since 1938. This museum has been providing

a space for gathering, community, and sharing the enduring story of the Osage people for over 80 years and continues to be an important cultural institution to this day. Whether you're a history buff or an art lover, you'll find something to appreciate at the ONM.





In 1927 the Osage Council purchased the collection of John L. Bird, a trader who began collecting Osage material around 1883. Soon after, Osage Tribal Councilman and writer John Joseph Mathews championed an effort to create a central repository for art, artifacts, material culture, and other resource material related to the history of the Osage. This effort to preserve Osage material culture was vital due to the numerous dislocations and disruptions to our previous lifeways. Mathews worked with the Tribal Council and Chief Fred Lookout to ensure a space to steward the culture and history of our people from our own perspective. On a beautiful, sunny day in May 1938, Osages gathered on the campus for a two-day celebration in honor of the Museum's opening.

Since this fortuitous beginning, the ONM continues to narrate our own experiences and create new and

relevant pathways to understand and represent our culture and worldviews.

The ONM has a wide variety of exhibits and programs that showcase the trajectory and movement of Osage arts, history, language, and culture across generations. It is dedicated to keeping our past alive in meaningful ways that carry into the future. From the earliest works of our ancestors to the newest creations of our younger generations, the ONM is a living, breathing testament to the enduring story of the Osage.

One of the most fascinating things about the ONM is how it is able to bring the Osage story to life in an interactive and engaging way. The museum is not just a place to look at artifacts and read about the history of the Osage people - it is a place where you can truly connect with Osage culture. Whether greeting museum

visitors or providing demonstrations, the ONM staff is a core group of dedicated individuals who work together to ensure that visitors have an enjoyable and informative experience.

Visiting the ONM is an unforgettable experience that will stay with you long after you leave. You will have the opportunity to explore the rich history and culture of our great Nation in a way that is both informative and entertaining. In addition to its permanent exhibits, the ONM also hosts a variety of temporary

exhibits that showcase the work of contemporary Osage artists and highlight important moments in Osage history.

There are also a number of educational programs and events that take place throughout the year, including lectures, workshops, and celebrations. If you are planning a visit to the Osage Nation Reservation, the ONM should be at the top of your list of places to see.

St. Paul Trip, A photo of one of the first Osage Tribal Councils. This photo can be found at the Osage Mission-Neosho County Museum in St. Paul, Kansas.



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08

# Osage Nation Veterans Memorial

## **LOCATION**

819 Grandview Avenue  
Pawhuska, OK 74056

*(Next to the Osage Nation Museum)*

## **HOURS OF OPERATION**

*Open during daylight hours*

**ADA ACCESSIBLE  
NO RESTROOMS**



For thousands of years, our Osage ancestors have protected our homes and people. Even after European contact, we continued to do so with all our might. Osage individuals have fought for our rights and freedoms even before we were granted citizenship in the United States. In fact, Osage warriors have served in every major conflict for more than 200 years, showing unwavering bravery and dedication.

We have always honored those who have fought valiantly for us and in 2011 the Osage Veterans Memorial Commission was established by the Osage Nation Congress in order to continue the Osage tradition of honoring our warriors and veterans by providing a physical reminder for present and future generations of the contributions and sacrifices of Osage veterans and their families.

Located on the Osage Nation campus, the Osage Nation Veterans Memorial was completed in 2018.





We invite you to visit this beautiful and meaningful tribute to the over 1,300 Osage individuals who displayed selfless service and sacrifice. The Memorial is a space for gathering, remembrance, reflection, and healing. Surrounded by a plaza that contains three gazebos and walking paths made from pavers that honor and remember loved ones, the site is a calming and peaceful atmosphere that encourages gathering, introspection, and healing. Water is used throughout the memorial to symbolize the importance of life. On the north side of the memorial, there is a stunning curved water wall made of black granite blocks. In the center of the wall, a panel bears the dedication of the memorial:

**“This Memorial is dedicated to all Osage veterans and warriors... All gave some, but some gave all”.**

Along the upper level of the wall, you will find ten flagpoles proudly flying the flags of different groups including the United States, POW-MIAs, Osage Nation, State of Oklahoma, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and the 45th Infantry Division. The south side of the memorial is filled with benches for reflection.

At the heart of the Veterans Memorial stands a beautiful and meaningful display. The five branches of the military are honored through black granite monuments arranged in the shape of a star. Each monument bears the names of Osage veterans who served in that branch, as well as the crest of the branch itself. The star is also accompanied by a large dais, made up of raised platforms that pay tribute to the conflicts in which our people have bravely fought. Each step of the dais is etched with the name of a specific conflict. However, the





most striking feature of the memorial is undoubtedly its centerpiece. At the center of the star lies a circular granite base, upon which water flows and falls, rising from this base is a magnificent stainless-steel feather, standing 23' feet tall. This feather represents Osage warriors of both the past and present and serves as a powerful reminder of their bravery and sacrifice.

**Visiting this memorial is a poignant and moving experience that will leave you with a deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by our veterans.**



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09

# Friendship Between the Osage and the Occitan of Montauban Historical Marker

## LOCATION

819 Grandview Ave (to the right of the entrance doors of the Osage Nation Museum)

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Open during daylight hours*

## ADA ACCESSIBLE

**RESTROOMS AVAILABLE**

Louis Léopold Boilly, Osages: peuplade sauvage de l'Amérique Septentrionale dans l'Etat de Missouri [Osages: Native Tribes of North America, in the State of Missouri], Lithograph, 1827





Luther Brand, "The Indians From the Tribe Osage, who are still in Paris—at the theater in Rouen" Kihegashugah can be seen in the front row with his two wives, Hawk Woman and Sacred Sun. Trifold illustration, 1827

Did you know that Pawhuska has a sister city in France? The Pawhuska-Montauban Sister City pact was created in 1991 as a result of a longstanding relationship between the Osage and the French that dates back to the 17th Century. Our Osage ancestors first encountered the French in 1659 when they began to encroach on our homelands along the Missouri River.

Despite initial concerns, a relationship began to develop, and we engaged in trade and cultural exchange. We even supported each other during conflicts against other Native groups and colonial powers in the region. French missionaries, including Catholic priests, played a role in this relationship, seeking to convert our ancestors to Christianity and establishing Mission schools among our people. It's interesting to note that many last names of our people today

are French, a testament to the lasting impact of this historical partnership.

In the year 1827, a Frenchman by the name of David Dulauney assumed the guise of a United States representative and proceeded to persuade a group of seven Osages to make a journey to Washington D.C. to meet with the President. However, unbeknownst to them, they were taken to Europe instead and were coerced into performing in a Wild West show that toured across the continent. Our ancestors proved to be wildly popular and even had the opportunity to have an audience with the royal court of Charles X. A depiction of this meeting can be found in the painting *Mahongo at the Court of Charles X of France* by Mike Wimmer at the Oklahoma Senate building in Oklahoma City, OK.

Unfortunately, the group was left stranded in Europe by Dulaney and left to their own devices. After a period of hardship, the seven travelers broke into two groups. One group, that included Osages Little Chief, Big Soldier and Hawk Woman came to the region of Occitania in the south of France to a small town called Montauban. It was here that they received help from Bishop Louis-Guillaume Dubourg. The bishop and others from Montauban aided our ancestors in finding a way to get back home.

Mohongo and her group received assistance from the Marquis de Lafayette in their return to America. Tragically, three of our Osage ancestors would succumb to disease during the return trip. Mohongo arrived in Norfolk, Virginia, and then journeyed to Washington, D.C., where she met Andrew Jackson, the President at the time. During this meeting, Mohongo was honored with a peace medal, and she also sat for a portrait by Charles Bird King with her infant child.

Charles Bird King, MO-HON-GO. OSAGE WOMAN., from History of the Indian Tribes of North America, ca.



Louis Boilly, "Osage: peuplade sauvage de l'Amerique Septentrionale, dans l'Etat de Missouri, arrives a Paris le 13 aout 1827. No. 89" Lithographs of Osage Indians visiting Paris in 1827.





Following these events, they made their way back to Osage land.

The portrait of Mohongo, created by Charles Bird King, held historical significance and was exhibited in the Smithsonian until 1865 when it was destroyed in a fire. Fortunately, this image was published in the “History of the Indian Tribes of North America” between 1836 and 1844, ensuring its preservation. Many copies of this portrait still exist today, contributing to the continued remembrance of this important chapter in Osage history.

In 1987, citizens in Montauban, France, discovered an article about a historic encounter between the Osage and their city. Inspired by our shared cultural heritage, they founded the Oklahoma-Occitania association, aiming to foster cultural exchange and renew the friendship between our two peoples. Since 1989, we have been fostering a

relationship, creating a sister city pact, and hosting visitors from Montauban on the Osage Nation Reservation. Our people have also been invited to Montauban on several occasions.

The Oklahoma-Occitania association has played a crucial role in promoting cultural exchange between the Osage people and the citizens of Montauban. The dedication of the 2013 monument is a testament to the importance of preserving our shared cultural heritage and building lasting connections across borders. We look forward to continuing this exchange and fostering mutual understanding and respect between our communities in the decades to come.

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10

# Chief Claremore Statue

## LOCATION

819 Grandview Avenue, Pawhuska,  
OK 74056

*(In front of the Osage Nation Museum)*

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Open during daylight hours*

## ADA ACCESSIBLE

## RESTROOMS AVAILABLE

The statue of Chief Claremore is a true icon of Osage history, inspiring generations and representing our past in a visual and historical way. You will find this awe-inspiring masterpiece just a few steps away from the Osage Nation Museum, on the Osage Nation campus. It is a beautiful addition to our campus and a powerful tribute to one of our past leaders.



This monument was unveiled in 2018. Sculpted and cast by the renowned Osage artist, John Free Jr., in collaboration with The Bronze Horse Foundry, this extraordinary bronze figure is a sight to behold. Sitting tall at over 12 feet, it serves as a symbol of pride and respect for the Osage Nation. This impressive sculpture is a cornerstone of our public art initiative, aimed at honoring the leaders of our past and providing a source of inspiration and admiration for our community.

The subject of this work, Chief Claremore, was a legendary figure in Osage history, known for his wisdom, courage, and leadership. This monumental sculpture pays homage to his enduring legacy. The artistic inspiration behind this magnificent creation comes from an 1834 oil painting by artist George Catlin titled “Cler-mónt, First Chief of the Tribe.” While the original painting finds its home at the prestigious Smithsonian’s American Art Museum, you can experience a remarkable reproduction right here at the Osage Nation Museum. This provides a unique opportunity to compare the artistry of George Catlin’s work with the modern interpretation by John Free Jr., connecting the past with the present.

Chief Claremore stands as a remarkable figure in the annals of Osage history, whose legacy is etched into the heartland of present-day Oklahoma. As a hereditary chief of the Osage, Claremore played a pivotal role in leading his people from their Missouri homelands to the fertile banks of the Arkansas River. Under his leadership from 1803 to 1835, he presided over a burgeoning Osage village of two to three thousand individuals, earning him the revered moniker “Town-Maker.” The community this village represented became known as the Arkansas Band of the Osage, a distinct group within the broader Osage people.

One of Chief Claremore’s most enduring legacies was his resolute

opposition to the sale of Osage lands. In an era when Native American tribes were often forced to cede their ancestral territories, Claremore steadfastly refused to yield. He is not merely a historical figure but a symbol of Osage resilience and determination in the face of external challenges. His life’s work was dedicated to safeguarding Osage lands and rights, resisting foreign encroachment, and preserving the unique culture and heritage of our people. His unwavering determination reflected not only his commitment to the Osage way of life but also his dedication to the well-being of future generations. Claremore’s legacy continues to inspire and serves as a testament to the enduring strength of the Osage Nation.

Chief Claremore’s legacy also lives on in the town of Claremore, Oklahoma, a place that bears his name in honor of his leadership and dedication to his people. This town serves as a testament to the enduring Osage presence in the region and a reminder of the struggles and triumphs of the Osage Nation.



George Catlin, Cler-mónt, First Chief of the Tribe, 1834, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum.

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# Chief James Bigheart Memorial Statue

## LOCATION

Osage Campus, Grandview Avenue  
Pawhuska, OK 74056  
(near the corner of Grandview and 11th St.)

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Open during daylight hours*

## ADA ACCESSIBLE

## RESTROOMS AVAILABLE

Located on Grandview Avenue, near 11th Street, the statue greets visitors to the Osage Nation Campus with stoic reserve and dignity. Sculpted and cast by renowned Osage artist John Free Jr. in collaboration with The Bronze Horse Foundry, this remarkable bronze figure stands over 9 feet tall and serves as a symbol of pride and respect for the Osage people.





The project was a true labor of love, as it involved extensive consultation with the Bigheart family and the Osage Nation. The statue was unveiled in 2016 and was a momentous occasion for everyone involved. All living past principal chiefs were in attendance, making it a truly historic and significant moment. As you stand before the statue, you'll feel a sense of awe and reverence for the legacy of Chief James Bigheart and the Osage Nation.

Chief James Bigheart was a prominent Osage leader who lived during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born in the original Osage homelands in the middle of the 19th century, James Bigheart would experience the removal of his people from these lands to current-day Osage County, Oklahoma as part of the Indian Removal policies of that era. James Bigheart had a unique upbringing. He was raised traditionally by his Osage parents, which would have exposed him to the cultural and spiritual traditions of the Osage people. However, he also received a formal education at the Catholic-run Osage Mission in what is now Kansas.

One of the remarkable aspects of James Bigheart's life was his ability to speak multiple languages fluently. He could communicate in several languages, which was a valuable skill in a diverse and changing world. His language skills included Osage, Ponca, Creek, Sioux, Cherokee, French, English, and Latin. This linguistic diversity likely helped him bridge cultural gaps and engage in diplomacy and communication with various groups of people.

At the age of 25, Bigheart enlisted as a private in Company I of the 9th Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. He fought several battles during the American Civil War and was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant on March 22, 1865. His service in the war reflects his warrior spirit and the complex choices and allegiances made by many Native Americans during this period in American history. Over the course of his life, Bigheart would

continue to fight for the Osage people and become a strong advocate for our rights.

James Bigheart was a strong believer in tribal sovereignty. He served as Chief of our Nation from 1875-1906. He was a monumental figure in creating an organized political government for the Osage people and in 1881 signed the first Osage Constitution as President of the Osage National Council. He was a delegate to Washington D.C. and negotiated with every Secretary of the Interior from 1881 - 1908. Bigheart was also known for being a brilliant and savvy businessman. He ran a successful ranch and was the Director of the Bank of Bartlesville and the First National Bank of Cleveland, OK. He loved to entertain dignitaries and tribal members at his ranch. Kind-hearted, Bigheart once spent \$2,000 on Valentine's greetings.

In 1896 Bigheart pressured the government to conduct a federal investigation of the Osage Indian Rolls to remove individuals that were not entitled to Osage property rights. He is most prominently known for his role in negotiating the 1906 Osage Allotment Act. The Allotment Act aimed to divide tribal lands into individual allotments and distribute them to individual tribal members, with the remaining lands being opened for non-Indian settlement. This act had a devastating impact on many tribes by reducing their land holdings and cultural autonomy. It was part of a broader effort of the U.S. government to break up tribal land ownership and promote the assimilation of Native Americans into mainstream American society.

Chief Bigheart and other Osage leaders negotiated with the U.S. government to ensure that the mineral rights beneath our allotted lands were preserved and held in common by the Osage Nation. Chief Bigheart's leadership and tenacity in preserving the Osage Mineral Estate played a pivotal role in securing our economic future and ensuring that the Osage people benefited from the exploitation of the mineral resources on our lands.

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# White Hair Memorial- Osage Learning Resource Center

## LOCATION

4986 County Road 5715  
Hominy, OK 74035

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Monday – Friday*  
9:00a am – 5:00 pm

## PHONE

918-538-2417

## EMAIL

[whitehair@history.ok.gov](mailto:whitehair@history.ok.gov)

## WEBSITE

<https://www.okhistory.org/sites/whitehair>

## ADMISSION IS FREE



White Hair Memorial – Osage Learning Resource Center, in Ralston, Oklahoma, is a vital destination for those exploring the rich history and culture of the Osage Nation. Within its walls, visitors can explore an impressive collection of Osage material culture, including art, maps, annuity rolls, oral histories, genealogy records, and photographs.

The center is a testament to the life and legacy of Lillie Magdalene Morrell Burkhart, a renowned Osage woman who selflessly donated her home to ensure the education of the public on Osage history. The White Hair Memorial plays a crucial role in preserving and sharing our unique cultural legacy.





Lillie Magdalene Morrell Burkhart, affectionately known as Maggie,” was born on March 30, 1907. Lillie was born near Fairfax, Oklahoma to Kate and John Charles Morrell. Her upbringing was deeply rooted in tradition, and her heritage held great importance to her. She was a descendant of Chief Pawhuska, who was a prominent Osage leader and after whom the town of Pawhuska, Oklahoma is named. Lillie’s connection to Osage culture was so profound that she earned the distinction of being the only woman to have two traditional songs composed in her honor.

Lillie attended both public and church-run schools during her youth. She also pursued higher education at the Catholic College of Oklahoma in Guthrie, OK. She would later run the Arrow Head Ranch in Fairfax, OK, and became a wealthy businesswoman.

A worldly individual, Lillie traveled extensively to many different cities, states, and countries. She toured Europe in 1931 and visited Hawaii in 1934. A 1935 article in the *Hominy Journal* noted that she had recently applied for a passport to travel to “Japan, China, India, Egypt, Palestine, Italy, France, and Egypt.”

In 1946, Lillie Magdalene Morrell Burkhart achieved a historic milestone when she became the first woman ever to be nominated as a candidate for a seat on the Osage Tribal Council. This groundbreaking nomination occurred as women were granted voting rights and were allowed to participate in tribal elections, signaling a pivotal moment in Osage tribal politics. Lillie’s significance extended beyond this historic achievement, in 1949, she journeyed to Washington D.C. as part of the Osage delegation, where she acted as an interpreter for Chief Fred Lookout and assisted him in conducting tribal business until his passing.

Demonstrating her unwavering commitment to women’s rights and equality, Lillie once again ran for the tribal council in 1950. She boldly proclaimed her mission in a public statement published in *The Fairfax Chief*, declaring, “I want to make a way for the women of our Osage tribe in the future. I want the women of our tribe to have a representative on the tribal council.” Through her actions and advocacy, Lillie Magdalene Morrell Burkhart played a pivotal role in reshaping the role of women in tribal governance and leadership, leaving an indelible mark on our history.

In 1958, Lillie had the honor of representing the Osage Nation at the World’s Fair in Belgium. During this month-long trip to Europe, she spent ten days in Germany. Her gracious and charismatic presence left a lasting impression on her German hosts, who were so enamored by her that they kept her room filled with roses. A generous person, her generosity went

beyond donating money to charity. Her actions demonstrated not only her kindness but also her dedication to preserving Osage culture. By donating items to museums, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum in Washington D.C. and the Ponca City Indian Museum (now called the Marland's Grand Home) in Ponca City, OK, she ensured that the heritage and history of the Osage people would be shared and cherished by a wider audience.

Her philanthropic endeavors extended even further by placing her home, land, and headrights in a trust to the Oklahoma Historical Society upon her passing in 1967. She wanted her home to be a shrine to her ancestor, White Hair, which is why it is called the White Hair Memorial. This selfless act ensured that the legacy of the Osage culture would continue to thrive and be accessible to future generations.

Lillie Magdalene Morrell Burkhart's actions not only demonstrated her



Lillie Morrell Burkhart, photograph, The Gateway to Oklahoma History, Oklahoma Historical Society.

generosity but also her foresight in safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Osage people, leaving a lasting impact that will be appreciated for years to come.

The White Hair Memorial, located in Lillie's former home, opened its doors in 1989. Over the course of the next decade, the collection at the center expanded significantly, to the point where it became necessary to add an addition in 1999 to accommodate the growing collections. Despite these expansions, much of the home has been carefully preserved and decorated in a manner similar to how Mrs. Burkhart lived, creating a historical ambiance within a modern facility. This combination of historical preservation and state-of-the-art resources makes the White Hair Memorial not only a historical home but a research center.

One of the significant contributions of the White Hair Memorial has been its role in preserving and revitalizing the Osage language. For many years, the center offered language classes, helping to keep the Osage language alive. This was a crucial effort in maintaining the cultural heritage of the Osage Nation. Subsequently, the Osage Nation developed a formal language program, but the early work done at the White Hair Memorial played a pivotal role in laying the foundation for these efforts.

We invite you to step into a world of wonder at the White Hair Memorial! Nestled within its walls lies an extraordinary collection that includes the cherished collection of Lillie, a treasure trove of microfilm from the National Archives in Fort Worth, Texas, and the renowned Louis F. Burns and Ruth B. Burns Osage Research Library. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a researcher, or simply curious, there's something here for everyone.

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# Osage Nation Food Sovereignty

## LOCATION

102 Midland Avenue Pawhuska, OK  
74056

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Monday – Friday*  
7:00 am – 4:00 pm

## PHONE

918-287-5333  
Call to schedule a tour!

## WEBSITE

[https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/  
services/department-natural-resources/  
harvest-land](https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/services/department-natural-resources/harvest-land)

## ONLINE ORDERING

[https://harvest-land-osage-nation.  
myshopify.com/](https://harvest-land-osage-nation.myshopify.com/)





Are you a fan of fresh and delicious produce? Would you like to see tribal food sovereignty in action? If so, you're in luck! Osage Nation's Harvest Land, a working farm and online produce market, offers educational tours and a wide variety of products available for purchase by the public. You can find fruits, vegetables, herbs, nuts, and more at Harvest Land! The creation of Harvest Land in 2021 was an act of self-sufficiency and tribal food sovereignty initiatives undertaken by the Osage Nation.





Designed to provide fresh produce and other healthy foods to Osage members and visitors to the Osage Nation Reservation year-round, Harvest Land offers a series of farmer's markets throughout the year.

Harvest Land is a beautiful site located on 74.22 acres of land just south of Bird Creek. It is a special piece of land that was gifted to the Nation by the Lynn Family in 1990. The area is dedicated not only to providing fresh food but also to reintroducing native species back to the region, which is particularly meaningful. Connecting back to the foods that our ancestors traditionally harvested is a wonderful way to honor and preserve the traditions of the past while also promoting environmental conservation and education for future generations.

Featuring orchards, immense gardens, an apiary, and chickens, Harvest Land also hosts a greenhouse growing space that spans an impressive 42,000 square feet, with a multipurpose building that is even larger at 44,000 square feet. The multipurpose building is home to an aquaponics system, a food processing area, and a water lab, making it a versatile and valuable resource for the community.

In addition to having items available for purchase, Harvest Land also provides food to the Osage Nation schools and elder nutrition programs free of charge. Firewood is available for cultural purposes and gardening classes are provided to combat food

insecurity and provide Osage people with the tools to grow their own foods at home. The farm is also an educational facility for children and teens all year long. The farm is a worksite for the Financial Services-Summer Youth Program, National Youth Works Volunteers, Church Summer Camps, and Native American Agriculture Student Groups.





## LOCATION

115 Eagle Avenue  
Hominy, OK 74035

## HOURS OF OPERATION

*Monday: 9am-4pm, Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm, Saturday: 9am-12pm*

## PHONE

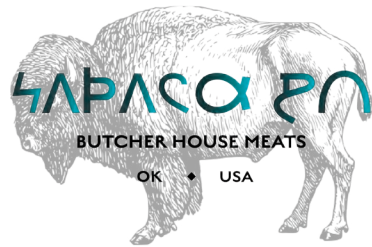
918-287-0079  
Call to schedule a tour!

## WEBSITE

<https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/services/department-natural-resources/butcher-house>

Butcher House Meats is a massive state-of-the-art meat processing facility located on the Osage Nation Reservation in Hominy, Oklahoma. With 19,000 square feet of space, this facility was specifically built to address food insecurity for the Osage people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Open to the public, Butcher House Meats is both state- and federally inspected, ensuring the highest level of quality and safety.

The facility is equipped to process a variety of animals, including cattle, bison, hogs, and seasonal deer. Butcher House Meats even has a retail counter where customers can purchase beef, pork, and bison products. The market offers both frozen and fresh meat products at competitive prices.



## ADA ACCESSIBLE

Butcher House Meats is not just a meat processing facility, it is a symbol of hope and resilience. The Osage Nation has a long and proud history, and Butcher House Meats is a testament to our determination to overcome any challenge. During the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity became a major concern for our people. The creation of Butcher House Meats is a prime example of our determination to overcome challenges and provide for our community. It's a great reminder to all of us that we can act and make a positive impact.

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# Osage Casinos



# At the heart of Osage County is Osage Casinos.



Founded in 2002, as Indian gaming received federal approval and became more prevalent, the Osage Tribal Council created the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board. This group today provides oversight for the business entity known as Osage Casinos.

Established to generate critical income to support the needs of Osage Nation people, Osage Casinos continues to expand as a leader in Oklahoma entertainment.

The first Osage Casino opened in Spring of 2002 in Hominy, followed closely by the original Pawhuska casino in 2003. Since the initial openings, Osage Casinos has expanded to several successful locations throughout Osage County.

## COME. PLAY. STAY

Today, Osage Casinos operates 7 state-of-the-art gaming properties that serve as hubs for entertainment, business, and fun in several communities. These properties feature high quality finishings, luxury hotels, delicious food and beverages, live music and entertainment – plus top-of-the-line slot machines and gaming opportunities. Not to mention, guests at the Tulsa hotel and casino can enjoy the thrill of table games and must-see concerts at the Skyline Event Center too.



## TULSA

Casino, hotel, and Skyline Event Center



This stand-out hotel casino is your one-stop for entertainment. Enjoy an electrifying music performance at the Skyline Event Center or relax by the outdoor pool and bar. Patrons can grab a bite to eat at The Original Roni Peppo's Pizza Kitchen or Thunder Bar and Grill. Guests never run out of entertainment with the Vegas-style casino floor with over 1600 slot machines and table games to enjoy 24 hours a day.

**951 W 36th Street North  
Tulsa, OK 74127**

## PAWHUSKA

Brand New: Hotel and Casino



The new hotel-casino opened in October 2023. It includes a hotel tower with beautiful views of the Osage County landscape. The 8700-square-foot facility is in the heart of the Osage Nation capitol. The Big Spoon restaurant serves delicious food and drink to guests. There are more than 250 slot machines to keep guests playing all night.

**1421 John Dahl Avenue  
Pawhuska, OK 74056**

## PONCA CITY Casino and Hotel



Located in the western part of Osage County, this hotel casino gives visitors a chance to unwind from the everyday. The Copper Tap is open daily with a bar and food for guests to enjoy a bite to eat. There are over 400 slots on the floor. Explore the art created by Osage artists. This location also features a convenience store for the needs of travelers visiting Osage County. Open 24 hours a day, there is serious nonstop fun.

**64464 US Highway 60  
Ponca City, OK 74604**

## SKIATOOK Casino and Hotel



Located minutes from Skiatook Lake, this hotel casino is open 24 hours a day. The artwork, crafted by Osage tribal artists, will transport you. And, as always, you can expect to experience the height of service and hospitality. There are over 430 slots on the floor to keep the fun going all night long. The Fiery Grille is open to grab a bite to eat or get a drink at Tin Pint, and guests can fuel up at the convenience store on-site.

**5591 West Rogers Boulevard  
Skiatook, OK 74070**

## BARTLESVILLE Casino



Open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m., this location features over 450 slots for guests to enjoy. The Deli offers a quick lunch or dinner along with snack items. The Nine18 bar serves drinks and offers live entertainment from a variety of bands.

**1803 US Highway 60  
Bartlesville, OK 74003**

## **HOMINY Casino**



Located near the Osage Reservation, this location is open from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. There are over 215 slots located on the gaming floor. The Jackpot Bar and Grill is open daily with drinks and specialty pizzas for patrons to grab a drink or food.

**39 Deer Avenue  
Hominy, OK 74035**

**The Osage Nation uses revenues from Osage Casinos to support critical operations and initiatives including:**

## SAND SPRINGS Casino



Open 24 hours, this casino is located just outside of Sand Springs, minutes away from the beautiful Case Community Park and Arkansas River. The expansive gaming floor features over 555 slot machines to keep the game going. Roni Peppo's Pizza Kitchen is open daily with handmade pizzas and snack items available for purchase. The Triple Bar offers serves a variety of drinks made by their skilled bartenders.

**301 Blackjack Drive  
Sand Springs, OK 74063**

- ✦ Funding tribal government and programs
- ✦ Providing for the general welfare of the tribe and its members
- ✦ Promoting tribal economic development
- ✦ Supporting charitable organizations
- ✦ Helping fund operations of local government agencies of the Osage Nation

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