

# RITZ HOSPITALITY

*Your Travel & Entertainment Magazine*

FALL/WINTER 2018



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Fall/Winter Edition 2018

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For those without children, fall is a beautiful time to visit, as it is not as busy, but the weather is still great and the beauty of the fall colors (leaves changing) is just unbelievable.

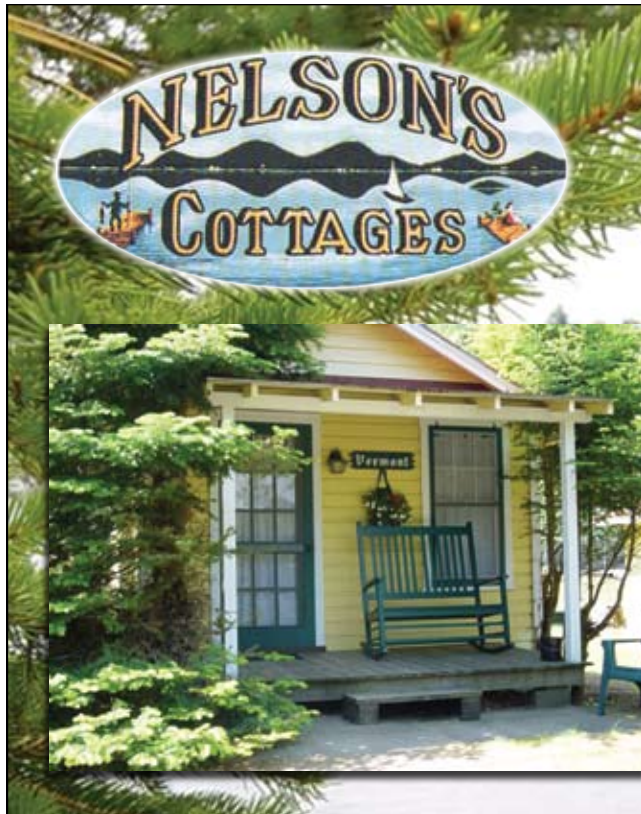
There are many things to do up here, which don't have to cost a dime, like sitting on the beach, reading a book and enjoying the beauty of the lakes and mountains beyond, lots of easy hiking trails, and mountain climbs,

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# Elk City, Oklahoma

## Where the Roads to the Past and Future Meet!

Elk City is the epitome of Oklahoma and its rich heritage. From the establishment of what was once a rural community in 1901, the development of Route 66 as the nation's first highway system to world champion cowboys, Elk City represents the heart of the great state of Oklahoma.

For entertainment, visitors can "get their kicks" at a variety of museums including the **National Route 66 Museum**, **Old Town Complex** and the one-of-a-kind **Transportation Museum** which gives a great education in the history of how automobiles, trains and plains impacted travel in the United States. The **Farm and Ranch Museum** showcases decades of equipment used to harvest crops in the second largest industry in the state and the

**Blacksmith Museum** takes you back to a time forgotten.

Elk City also hosts plenty of events each year for tourists and visitors to enjoy. From the **Southwest Farm and Home Expo** in April, the award winning annual **PRCA Rodeo of Champions** on Labor Day weekend, the **Fall Festival** in September featuring the best in arts and crafts and the **Oklahoma National Junior Heifer Show** in November brings

visitors from all over to showcase their stock. The largest Christmas light display in Southwest Oklahoma, **Christmas in the Park**, brings back old fashioned family traditions with train rides on the candy cane express, old fashioned horse-drawn carriage rides, light tours and of course, kids of all ages enjoy riding the **Centennial Carousel** or the **Choctaw Miniature Train**.

Elk City's vibrant downtown shopping district boasts everything from rustic cowboy décor to boutiques showcasing the latest in fashion. Make a day of shopping in Elk City during **Route 66 Days** in June, the **Sizzlin' Summer Sidewalk Sale** in July and scare up some frightful deals during **Moonlight Madness** in October.

Be sure to bring a hearty appetite as Elk City offers a variety of restaurants guaranteed to satisfy everyone from cowboys to city slickers. When you're ready to hang your hat, Elk City has over 850 rooms for the visitor to choose from.

Located on Interstate 40, Elk City's endless blue skies, rich rolling hills and red earth make this community a great place to hang your hat any time of year. So plan your trip to Elk City and let us share our Western Oklahoma's hospitality. ■

### *Alice, Texas*

Fish at our beautiful Lake Findley with picnic areas for the whole family, golf in our popular renowned municipal golf course or stroll through our downtown area filled with quaint shops and smiling faces. Take time to visit our museums - The South Texas Museum and Tejano ROOTS Hall of Fame.

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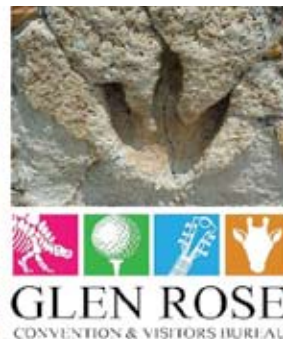
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# GLEN ROSE, TEXAS



**W**elcome to Glen Rose, Texas! Your adventure is here! It doesn't matter when you come, any time of the year is a great time to visit Glen Rose. There is so much to do and see, it is the perfect place for a family vacation or a weekend getaway.

Glen Rose is known as the "Dinosaur Capital of Texas" and for good reason. Dinosaur Valley State Park contains some of the best preserved dinosaur tracks in the world. Another dinosaur attraction is Dinosaur World. It is Texas's largest attraction dedicated to dinosaurs. Dinosaur World features life size recreations in the forms of statues and animatronics. It also has a museum, fossil dig and Boneyard playground.

Other top attractions include: Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, a world renowned wildlife preserve featuring over a thousand threatened and endangered species from around the world, free roaming on 1,700 acres, it's a mini Africa in Texas! The Promise is a musical play about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Come see the Gospel come to life before your eyes and listen to the award winning musical score performed by a cast and crew of over 200. Performances are Friday and Saturday nights in September and October. If golf is your game plan to play a round at the top rated Squaw Valley Golf Club. Golf Digest Magazine gave Squaw Valley's beautiful 36 holes of championship golf a 4 ½ out of 5 stars.

Go shopping in our historic Courthouse Square. Watch a rodeo or equestrian event at the Somervell County Expo Center. Explore one of our museums. Experience one of our festivals like the Paluxy Bluegrass Festival held the first weekend of April and October. Dine out at one of our many local owned or chain restaurants. Or just get some fresh air by going biking, swimming, hiking, or horseback riding.

So make sure to book your getaway at one of our bed & breakfasts, cabins, hotels, campgrounds or RV parks. Hope to see you soon!

Glen Rose Convention & Visitors Bureau: 1505 N.E. Big Bend Trail, Glen Rose, TX 76043; (254) 897-3081 or 1-888-346-6282. [www.glenrosetexas.net](http://www.glenrosetexas.net); Download the Explore Glen Rose App from Google Play or the iTunes Store. ■





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# Welcome To Ontario, Oregon

Ontario is nestled on the lush banks of the Snake River and is proud to be the first Oregon city you encounter when traveling west from the Idaho border. Once you enter the uniquely rugged landscape of the Treasure Valley, you will come to understand why many people never want to leave. Those who choose to live here understand the meaning and importance of a quality, family oriented lifestyle. Thus, the community reflects the energy, distinction, and diversity of the surrounding geography.

Ontario is the kind of laid-back town you dream about when you want to get away from the hectic schedule of a busy, big city lifestyle. It is a town where you will find the people are

genuine, authentic, friendly, and down to earth. It is a town with a fascinating history, rich traditions, and a diverse population.

Ontario boasts a myriad of recreational activities for all ages, interests and skill levels within driving distance from its downtown area. Here you can enjoy mountain biking, hiking, golfing, camping, sport fishing, bird watching, kayaking, river rafting, horseback riding and much more. Ontario is situated only two hours from four separate ski resorts including the world renowned Tamarack Ski Resort in Cascade Idaho. You can not only downhill ski to your heart's content, but also snowmobile, cross country ski and ice skate as well. There are also 61 acres of lush parks within the city,

so there are many opportunities to just enjoy the landscape.

Ontario is known for its wonderful annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Parade - the largest Christmas Parade in our region. It is held on the first Saturday of December, although the weather may be cold, the people of Ontario are warm and friendly. We invite you to join us to watch the wonderful Christmas Parade and enjoy the mix of local entries of floats, marching bands, dignitaries and of course the big guy himself Santa Clause!

Ontario is a city full of things to do, places to see, and four distinct and beautiful seasons, so anytime you choose to visit will be the perfect time. Visit us on our web site at [www.ontariochamber.com](http://www.ontariochamber.com)

## Best Western Rama Inn of Ephrata!

Just minutes away from our recently renovated and comfortable Ephrata hotel, guests come from around the world to explore the beauty of Grant County. Others

come here for the fantastic concerts at The Gorge Amphitheatre, one of America's premier outdoor concert venues. Whether you prefer recreation in the great outdoors or relaxing and

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For the past twelve years, Thonna Bodi-General Manager, has been working hard to insure that the staff is consistently courteous and accommodating. At Ephrata BEST WESTERN, we know that our guests deserve the best while traveling that's why yearly renovations continue keep the hotel up to date. We have been in business and helping the community since February of 2000!!!

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**T**hermopolis, Wyoming. The World's Largest Mineral Hot Spring is located in Hot Springs State Park. A boardwalk leads you over terraces formed by the hot water. Pools offer swimming, soaking, and sliding in the hot mineral water. There are at least 27 different minerals in the water; making it healthful to drink.



The Wind River flows through the Wind River Canyon south of town. 2500 feet high canyon walls reveal formation for each major era of the earth's formational development.

Drive the canyon or enjoy a white water rafting trip. Look for bighorn sheep, deer, elk and bald eagles. The Wind River changes names at the Wedding of the Waters and becomes the Big Horn River. The river flows lazily through Thermopolis and Hot Springs State Park.

The Wyoming Dinosaur Center and Dig Sites has a world-class museum, gift shop, working dig sites and a complete modern preparation laboratory. Interpretive dig site tours allow visitors to watch as scientists remove fossils from burial sites. Dig For A Day and Kids Digs are available.

Hot Spring County Museum and Cultural Center includes the cherry wood bar from the Hole-In-The-Wall Saloon, a hangout for Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid; a country schoolhouse, family collections and one of the nicest Indian artifact collections in the state.

Old West Wax Museum offers the history of wax museums. The Lawrence Barbed Wire display is the third largest collection of barbed wire and related tools in the United States.

Dancing Bear Folk Center houses the biggest collection of Marbles west of the Mississippi. Visit the Railroad Room. The Teddy Bear Den displays more than 250 bears from around the world. The folk center includes a working textile studio with spinning wheels, looms, quilting frames, and historical textiles.

Northwest of Thermopolis is located the Legend Rock Petroglyphs site. The work of three different prehistoric cultural groups, the site includes at least 283 pictures on 92 rock panels.

Sports enthusiast will find big game, small game and bird hunting in the county. Enjoy hiking, photo safaris, rock hunting and animal watching. For a taste of "wild animals" stop by the Safari Room at the Holiday Inn of the Waters. On display are mounted animals from all over the world. The Big Horn River and Wind River offer blue ribbon trout fishing and Boysen Reservoir is the sportsperson's dream. Thermopolis offers a beautiful nine-hole golf course.

Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 768, Thermopolis, WY 82443, (800) SUN-N-SPA, or [www.thermopolis.com](http://www.thermopolis.com)

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# Saratoga/ Platte Valley

By: Stacy Crimmins, Executive Director

There's nothing more peaceful than to stand in the middle of a forest full of pines after a fresh blanket of pure white snow falls. Do you hear the sound of silence: the crunching of snow beneath your feet? You can experience this in the Snowy Range and the Sierra Madres, located between Encampment and Saratoga.

There's nothing more exhilarating than to race down a trail and blast through the fresh powder or to climb up a hill of snow just because it's there. You can also experience this in the Snowy Range and Sierra Madres of southeastern Wyoming.

There's nothing more spine-tingling than to skillfully call in a bull elk, line him up in your sights and slowly squeeze the trigger. And you can experience this in the solitude of the Medicine Bow National Forest, just a few miles from the busy interstate. Elk, pronghorn antelope and mule deer are plentiful, and so are the acres of public lands.

The Snowies are consistently highly rated for snowmobiling by SnoWest Magazine "Top 15 Trails in the West". Groomed trails for cross country skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers exceed 300 miles, and with an annual snowfall of over 200", there is sure to be plenty of powder for everyone.

In the pristine Platte Valley, you will experience wilderness areas without crowds, hear the crackling snow under your feet, smell the clean, fresh air, and listen to the chickadees calling from a tree branch. Then let your senses rejuvenate with a tingling soak in the mineral hot springs in Saratoga. Legend has it that these are medicinal waters and were enjoyed by Indian tribes in the area for many years. The municipal soaking pool has an average temperature of 117 degrees and is free and open everyday, all day and night, all year round! Did we mention it was free?

The Platte Valley is surrounded by the Sierra Madre and Snowy Range mountains with the Upper North Platte River winding through the town of Saratoga. The Encampment River flows through Riverside and feeds into the Platte River. In the warmer months, these rivers boast some of the best fishing in the western United States for Blue Ribbon Trout. Be sure to travel the Snowy Range Scenic Byway, which links the Platte Valley and Laramie via a 10, 847 foot seasonal mountain pass.

Here in the Upper North Platte River Valley, the Old West truly is alive and well. The low-key lives of ranchers and cowboys still ring true, and the people continue to hold dear their deep sense of Western history.

For more information about the "Good Times Valley," visit our website [www.saratogachamber.info](http://www.saratogachamber.info) or call 307-326-8855.



## Niobrara Chamber of Commerce

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RipFest – Sat., October, 6th, 2018

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