

# Wichita, Kansas

## Brief history of Wichita, Kansas

Now recognized as one of the major mid-sized cities in the nation, Wichita has come a long way since its infant years as a trading post and cowtown. The road from "then" to "now" has been filled with colorful people, events and businesses that have been the building blocks for today's cosmopolitan Wichita... a dynamic community rich in culture, activity and opportunity.

The beginnings of the community date to 1868, when J.R. Mead founded a trading post on the banks of the confluence of two rivers, the Arkansas and the Little Arkansas. For centuries this location had also served as a trading place for Native Americans. The name Wichita comes from the Wichita Indians, who settled at various times in the vicinity, and means either "scattered lodges" or "painted faces," depending on which historian you ask.

## Location and driving directions from closest major U.S. airport

The airport is about 7 miles (11 km) west of downtown Wichita and is the largest and busiest airport in the state of Kansas.

Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time.

When Wichita was founded in 1863, Abraham Lincoln was the president of the United States. The U.S. was in the middle of the Civil War at the time and life was difficult everywhere in America.

## Oldest businesses/largest businesses today

Since 1876 Tillie's flower shop has been in business helping people get the best service and the best flowers you can get anywhere.

## City government.

Wichita has the mayor-council form of government. The mayor can be elected to a full two year term and there are five city council members who serve approximately 4 year terms.

## Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events

The Allen-Lambe House, also known as the Henry J. Allen House, is a Prairie style house in Wichita, Kansas designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1915 for Henry J. and Elsie Allen. It is currently run by the Allen-Lambe House Foundation as a museum. The house is listed on the National register of historic places. It was one of Frank Lloyd Wright's last Prairie Houses.

## Where can we stay if we visit Wichita?

Town place suites is a great hotel to stay at when visiting Wichita. It is located near Wichita State University, Koch Industries, Flight Safety International, Hawker Beechcraft, and Spirit Aerosystems.

## Why would I want to visit this historic small town

There are so many options for everyone in Wichita. You can do anything family, business, vacation, or romantic related here in Wichita. We have our Sedgwick county zoo and our beautiful Botanica Gardens as well as our many bar and grill restaurant.

## Links you may wish to visit

<http://www.360wichita.com/Attractions>

[http://www.staybridge.com/hotels/us/en/wichita/icts/hoteldetail?qAdlt=1&qBrs=6c.hi.ex.rs.ic.cp.in.sb.cw.cv.ul.vn&qChld=0&qFRA=1&qGRM=0&qPSt=0&qRRSrt=rt&qRef=df&qRms=1&qRpn=1&qRpp=12&qSHp=1&qSmp=3&qSrt=sBR&qWch=0&srb\\_u=1&icdv=99504344&siClientid=10727&sittrackingid=762153171&dp=true&icdv=99504344](http://www.staybridge.com/hotels/us/en/wichita/icts/hoteldetail?qAdlt=1&qBrs=6c.hi.ex.rs.ic.cp.in.sb.cw.cv.ul.vn&qChld=0&qFRA=1&qGRM=0&qPSt=0&qRRSrt=rt&qRef=df&qRms=1&qRpn=1&qRpp=12&qSHp=1&qSmp=3&qSrt=sBR&qWch=0&srb_u=1&icdv=99504344&siClientid=10727&sittrackingid=762153171&dp=true&icdv=99504344)