



OKLAHOMA 1999-2000 OFFICIAL STATE MAP

# OKLAHOMA...IMAGINE.

Every day, people are discovering the real Oklahoma. In the process, they're discovering much more than they ever imagined. They're marveling at the state's unexpected beauty and little-known geographical diversity. Tapping into our timeless cultural heritage.

The boundless vitality of our people. The welcoming hospitality of our homes. And after spending any amount of time with us, they find themselves awed by a place that offers so much more than they've ever imagined.

## Amazing Places & Spaces.

Oklahoma is like no other state; a melting pot of geographic variety. Like slumbering giants, the scenic Winding Stair and



Natural Falls

Kiamichi Mountains in southeastern Oklahoma stretch for miles. These ancient mountains stand like monuments to the Indian tribes who lived and hunted there centuries ago.

The prairies of northwestern Oklahoma provide stark contrast to the mountains' beauty, and still bear the ruts left by covered wagon wheels more than a hundred years ago.

In northeastern Oklahoma, sparkling lakes beckon to fishermen and water lovers. Numerous lakes and the crown jewel, Grand Lake O' the Cherokees, are glistening examples of Oklahoma's thousands of miles of shimmering fun and refreshment.

Southwestern Oklahoma is a contrast in geography: rich, productive land stretching to the horizon, dominated by its scenic centerpiece: Quartz Mountain. Amid the gently rolling hills of central Oklahoma, horses roam across lush pastures grazed by lazy rivers.

Oklahoma's diverse geography may be the single-most unexpected aspect of America's most surprising state.

## A Legacy of Beauty and Artistry.

In Oklahoma, culture is a celebration of the spirit, continually expressed through art, music and movement.



Elk Mountains



A survey by *Financial World* ranked Oklahoma second lowest in the nation in overall business costs, and Oklahoma metropolitan areas have been rated as having some of the best housing prices in the nation.

It begins with our roots. 'Oklahoma' is a Choctaw word meaning 'Red People', and this colorful legacy is evident at the internationally acclaimed Red Earth Festival, where Native American dance and culture are celebrated.

Museums abound in Oklahoma. With displays ranging from the timeless western works of Remington and Russell to the pastoral works of Monet, art in Oklahoma is as extraordinary as our heritage.

## Growth. Change. Progress. Prosperity. Promise.

Beyond the beauty of Oklahoma are positive trends pertinent to both business and family life. Trends which paint a rewarding picture of a bright future here.

Oklahoma's growth has often outpaced the nation in manufacturing, business services and overall employment. While manufacturing growth nationwide has remained flat, our manufacturing employment is up 5.2% since August, 1996. And in just two years, we've added 75,000 new jobs.

coupled with lower overall business costs and tax rates mean businesses enjoy a 'no compromise' lifestyle in Oklahoma.

## You can get there from here.

Oklahoma is the heart of America, precisely astride the NAFTA corridor. Major interstates crisscross the state. We're also linked to the Gulf of Mexico by the McClellan-Kerr and Arkansas River Navigation System.

Within Oklahoma, you'll find 159 airports available for public use, as well as the return of AMTRAK in 1999.



hard work

We've recently made a five-year, \$3 billion road building commitment — the largest in state history — to improve our roads and highways in time for the new century. Projects adding to Oklahoma's thriving investment in transportation growth are underway everywhere.

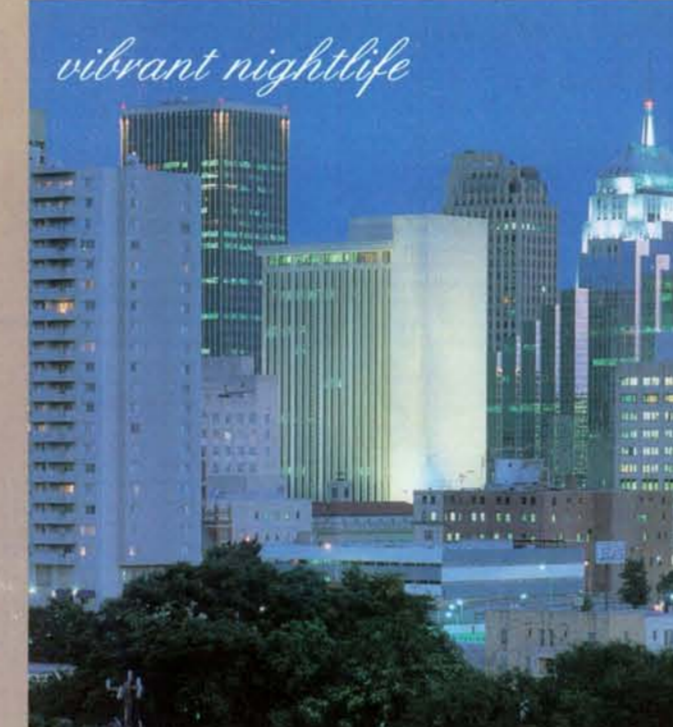
## Our Great Outdoors are the greatest.

You'll love our short, mild winters and 300 days of sunshine per year. With so much good weather, golf is a way of life here, with several world-class and dozens of championship courses in the state.

Oklahoma also has numerous lakes, providing more miles of shoreline than the east coast and west coast combined. You'll discover exceptional boating, camping, hunting and fishing — within 30 minutes of our major cities.

## Cities of culture.

Oklahoma ranks 17th in per capita spending on the arts, with more than 300 museums. Oklahoma City boasts the National



vibrant nightlife

Downtown Oklahoma City

Cowboy Hall of Fame as well as the Red Earth Festival and the Festival of the Arts, one of the top ten festivals in the U.S. Tulsa lays claim to both the Philbrook and Gilcrease fine arts museums. Every summer Oklahoma hosts one of the finest Mozart festivals this side of Vienna. Each season, major college and professional sports abound statewide, providing a vibrant nightlife, daytime, and very good life for families.

## Education with honors.

Oklahoma has nearly doubled state spending on public education in the past decade. As a percentage of state general revenue spending, common education funding in Oklahoma ranks 9th highest in the nation, while our higher education appropriation ranks 17th best. Oklahoma's vo-tech system is consistently regarded as America's best. And our 15.5-to-1 pupil to teacher ratio is one of the nation's lowest. It's no wonder a recent study by Education Week Magazine ranked Oklahoma #1 in the nation for teacher quality in secondary education.

## Our Values Are What You Value.

Oklahoma values run deep. Strong family orientation. Solid midwestern morals and values. A refreshingly honest 'day's-work-for-a-day's-pay' attitude. Strong commitment to family, friends and community.

Hard work is the rule in Oklahoma — not the exception. It's just one of the many values which has made us strong, and will continue to define us.

Imagine living life the way you've always dreamed.

The feeling is right... The time is now... The place is Oklahoma.

## OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS FACILITIES GUIDE

Table with columns for State Parks, Cabin/Rooms, Campsites, Assigned By, Local/County, Laundry, Showers, Water Sports, Boat Rental, Trails, and Sport Facilities. Lists parks like Adair, Alabaster Caverns, Arrowhead, etc.

## WELCOME CENTER DIRECTIONS

Arriving From The North: On I-35, 10 miles south of the Oklahoma/Kansas border near Blackwell, OK. Free coffee. Arriving From The Northeast: Two locations: (1) On I-44, Will Rogers Turnpike, east of Miami. Free coffee, gift shop. (2) On I-44, Will Rogers Turnpike, south of Vinita. Free coffee. In Tulsa: At I-44 & 161st East Avenue. (under construction). Arriving From The East: Two locations: (1) On US-412, Cherokee Turnpike, 13 miles west of Oklahoma/Arkansas border, near Kansas, OK. Free coffee. (2) On I-35, three miles north of the Oklahoma/Texas border near Thackerville, OK. Free coffee. Arriving From The Southwest: On I-44, H.E. Bailey Turnpike, at the Elmer Graham Concession Plaza, Gift Shop. Arriving From The West: On I-40, nine miles east of Oklahoma/Texas border near Erick, OK. Free coffee. In OKC Area: Three locations: (1) In the State Capitol at N.E. 23rd & Lincoln Blvd. (2) At I-35 & E. 122nd. (3) I-40/Air Depot exit at S.E. 29th. Free coffee. Gift shop.



Governor Frank Keating and family (L-R): Chip, Carrie, Cathy, Frank and Kelly

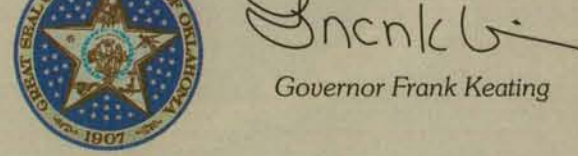
Oklahomans have a well-earned reputation for friendliness and hospitality. Courage and resilience are part of the state's image as well. Something else also belongs high on the list of Oklahoma traits: our habit of hard work. As a community, Oklahomans have a sturdy, well-grounded work ethic. We believe in truly earning what we have.

When a new industry comes to town, Oklahomans are quick to support the business and welcome newcomers. We are, after all, a state that was built by land run immigration from every part of America - the real last frontier. And with some of the most affordable housing in the nation, new Oklahomans often enjoy an enhanced standard of living.

Oklahoma has a limitless future. Nationwide and international trade will continue to provide opportunities for the state to attract new industry. Our central location makes Oklahoma a natural site for business and an outstanding transportation network means goods and services can reach markets with ease.

With a steady, hard-working labor force, Oklahoma has all the elements in place to enter the new century ready for the challenges and opportunities coming our way.

Come see for yourself what Oklahoma has to offer. Stay for a day or for a lifetime. We are proud to welcome you to the new Oklahoma!



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