

Welcome to Oklahoma

People the world over know us as a place where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain – but that's just part of the story. We are a one-of-a-kind state with something for everyone. We have the most diverse terrain mile-for-mile than any other state, from gently rolling hills to expansive, fertile plains. Ancient mountains, ever-



Beavers Bend Resort Park

changing sand dunes, salt flats, pine forests, cypress swamps, and caves of alabaster all make for a vacation paradise. And, we claim more man-made lakes than any other state, with eleven official ecoregions recognized by the EPA.

You can rough it in our great outdoors, or take a drive along the Mother Road of the nation, historic Route 66. Traversing the Sooner State, the route reveals a wealth of unique and fascinating destinations.

Once known as Indian Territory, Oklahoma is still home to more American Indian tribes than any other state. Thirty-nine tribal headquarters and members of at least sixty-seven tribes make their home here. Indian heritage is woven throughout the modern culture. Visitors will find American Indian art, historic sites, interactive cultural experiences, museums, powwows, dances, and festivals.

That American Indian heritage is equaled by our Western heritage. Our cowboy roots were firmly planted by soldiers who constructed forts and outposts in the territory following the Civil War. Today, ranches dot the landscape, rodeos take place every month of the year, and you will find one horse for every twelve people, more per capita than any other state.

And if all of that were not enough, you can indulge your cultural side with visits to the ballet or philharmonic. Today's Oklahoma provides not only a diverse landscape and rich cultural heritage, but also major urban centers complete with entertainment of all kinds, fine dining, the arts, and world-class attractions.

To learn more about traveling in Oklahoma, visit www.TravelOK.com or call toll-free 1-800-652-6552 to speak to a travel counselor.

The Sooner State divides itself into six regional areas, each with its own unique appeal. An overview of each travel region is presented on the following pages.



Oklahoma City Skyline

All photographs courtesy—Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

Frontier Country



822 N Broadway, Oklahoma City, OK 73102
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info@oktourism.com

www.oktourism.com

Frontier Country, in central Oklahoma, combines big city excitement with small town appeal. Experience the bustling state capital Oklahoma City, where family entertainment, shopping, art, sports, culture, and history combine for a total package. If you like a slower pace, visit some of the vibrant communities throughout Frontier Country where you can still find downtown main streets, courthouse squares, and mom and pop shops.

Start your tour in Norman, with a visit to The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, located on the University of Oklahoma campus. Step back in time—way back—to see the Oklahoma “natives” that roamed this state millions of years ago—dinosaurs!

Stop by Campus Corner for shopping, then immerse yourself in culture at more OU landmarks: the newly-expanded Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and Jacobson House Native Arts Center, where the modern American Indian art movement began.

On day two, head to Oklahoma City, where you can pick and choose from a wide range of activities and attractions. Take in the Oklahoma City National Memorial, the Myriad Botanical Gardens, and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. Take a walking tour, ride the trolley, or catch a water taxi for a cruise down the Bricktown Canal.

After those experiences, enjoy a short drive north on I-35 to Edmond, then go east on famed Route 66 to see Arcadia’s restored 1898 Round Barn. Just a few miles away, drop by Tres Suenos Winery in Luther for a taste of the grape!

On day three, continue north on I-35 to Guthrie and hop on the trolley for a tour of the Victorian splendor contained in the largest contiguous urban National Register Historic District in the United States. Grab a bite at a quaint bistro in downtown, browse the boutiques and antique stores, and book a night at one of Guthrie’s numerous bed & breakfast inns.

You have barely scratched the surface of Frontier Country, so plan another trip with stops in Shawnee, Stillwater, Seminole, Bethany, El Reno, and more!



Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

Great Plains Country

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www.greatplainscountry.com



Southwest Oklahoma is a prime location for a getaway. This rugged land, where Plains tribes once roamed and where boomtowns sprang up overnight, welcomes travelers with awe-inspiring landscapes and down-home good times.

Start your tour at Duncan's Chisholm Trail Heritage Center to experience the famed trail, then head to Lawton, home to Fort Sill, the largest army repository of military-related artifacts in the world. Visit The Old Post Guardhouse, the holding facility for Geronimo, the famed Apache warrior who is buried at the fort.

Next, head to the Wichita Mountains, site of the nation's first national wildlife refuge, where bison, longhorn cattle, elk, and other animals roam freely. While in the area, do not forget to explore Medicine Park, a 1920s mountain resort community regaining its heyday appeal.

Enjoy the spectacular prairie landscape as you drive to Quartz Mountain Arts and Conference Center, north of Altus. Located on sparkling Lake Altus-Lugert, this rustic resort is surrounded by a variety of recreational activities.

After a restful night, head north to Elk City, where the National Route 66 Museum encompasses all eight states through which the "Mother Road" travels.

Continue to Cheyenne to visit the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, marking Lt. Col. George Custer's 1868 early-morning attack on Chief Black Kettle's sleeping village of Southern Cheyenne. After your tour of the site, settle in for the night at a local guest ranch or bed & breakfast inn.

Head back to I-40 for a short drive to Clinton and visit the Cheyenne Cultural Center for a look at tribal life on the Oklahoma plains. Continue just a few miles west



Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge

on I-40 to Weatherford for a visit to the General Thomas P. Stafford Space Museum, which chronicles the career of Weatherford's most famous son.

On your next visit to Great Plains Country, explore the American Indian culture of Anadarko, hit the links at Fort Cobb State Park, fish the waters of Foss Lake, and visit welcoming communities including Frederick, Cordell, Hobart, Mangum, and more.

Green Country

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800-922-2118 / 918-744-0588

jackie@greencountryok.com

www.greencountryok.com



From the tallgrass of Osage County to the pulsing energy of metropolitan Tulsa to the lush, cool greenery and beauty of the eastern lakes region, you will find fun and memorable times in northeast Oklahoma.

Start your trip in Jenks, the “Antique Capital of Oklahoma,” for shopping and a stop at the Oklahoma Aquarium. Then head into Tulsa, where you will find something for everyone.

History buffs and art lovers will revel in visits to Philbrook Museum of Art and the Gilcrease Museum. At Philbrook, you will find a stunning collection of paintings and sculpture ranging from Renaissance legends to modern masters. At the Gilcrease, view the world’s most comprehensive collection of American Indian and Western art.

Take the scenic route from Tulsa south to Stone Bluff Cellars Winery, where you can sample award-winning wines and add a bottle or two to your own wine cellar. Then continue onto Muskogee for a night at the Whitlock Wishouse Bed & Breakfast. The eclectic decor and spectacular cuisine are garnering national attention.

The next day, explore American Indian culture at The Five Civilized Tribes Museum, which preserves the heritage of the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole tribes. Then stop by Ataloa Lodge, one of Oklahoma’s premier Native American museums.

Head back to Tulsa for a night at the Hotel Ambassador, where luxury goes hand-in-hand with sumptuous furnishings and world-class cuisine. The next morning, you will be ready to head to Bartlesville for more one-of-a-kind sites.

Visit the Wolaroc Ranch, Museum and Wildlife Preserve, the 1925 country home of oilman Frank Phillips, then go back into town to tour the Frank Phillips Home, a twenty-six-room Greek Revival mansion. Next stop: Frank Lloyd Wright’s only skyscraper, The Price Tower, home to the Price Tower Art Center. Explore downtown Bartlesville’s antique shops and boutiques, then call it a night at the elegant Inn At Price Tower.



Tulsa Skyline

Your tour of Green Country is far from complete, so plan another visit to explore welcoming destinations including Claremore, Grand Lake, Tahlequah, and more!

Kiamichi Country

Route 2 Box 74, Hugo, OK 74743
800-722-8180 / 580-326-5598

www.kiamichicountrytourism.com



With seven mountain ranges, ten state parks and twenty-three lakes along with countless streams and rivers, southeast Oklahoma is an outdoor haven. The region is an angler's paradise, offering countless varieties of fish—including two rivers that feature year-round trout fishing. Add to that all types of water sports, camping, horse trails, hiking, sightseeing, hang-gliding and the best fall foliage in the Midwest, and you have found a getaway that beckons again and again.

Start your adventure at Robbers Cave State Park, just a few miles north of Wilburton. The park, located in the scenic hilly woodlands of the San Bois Mountains, is a favorite of rappellers, cave explorers, equestrians, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. Enjoy a peaceful night at a historic cabin, then wake up refreshed and head to Heavener Runestone State Park to view the famed Heavener Runestone, said to evidence some of Oklahoma's earliest Viking visitors.

Continue your driving tour by heading to Talihina, the entrance to the Talimena Scenic Drive. The drive takes you into the magnificent Ouachita National Forest for fifty-four miles of winding road known for vibrant spring and fall foliage.

Continue south to Beavers Bend Resort Park, and check into a cozy mountain cabin or lake-view lodge. After a restful night, enjoy the towering timbers, crystal clear waters



Camping Under the Autumn Colors

and mountainous terrain of Oklahoma's "Little Smokies" throughout the park. Tee off for a game of golf, spend some time in the nature center, and stop by the Forest Heritage Center Museum.

After you leave the park, do not miss the Museum of the Red River in nearby Idabel. The museum features an outstanding collection of regional archaeological materials, Pre-Columbian Middle and South American artifacts, and more.

Head west to Millerton, home of Wheelock Academy, which served as a Choctaw day school and is currently being restored by the Choctaw Nation. Continue on to Hugo Lake State Park, where resort cabins provide comfortable accommodations and spectacular lake views.

Lake & Trail Country



8 S Michigan, Coalgate, OK 74538
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laketrail@totalnet.us

The heart of south central Oklahoma is alive with excitement and attractions to suit every taste. With a landscape lush with mountains, valleys, lakes and streams, Lake & Trail Country is an ideal traveler's destination.

Start your exploration at the Bedre´ Chocolate Factory in Pauls Valley. The maker of the same chocolate bars you will find in the Neiman Marcus catalog, Bedre´ is known for its yummy chocolate-covered potato chips.

Just a few miles further, stroll through GW Exotic Animal Park, a non-profit sanctuary housing more than 1,000 exotic animals. Stop by at feeding time, and you will be surrounded by the thundering roar of lions, tigers, and other big cats as they "place their order" at mealtime.

For more animal adventure, continue south to Davis, home of Arbuckle Wilderness. This drive-through animal park contains herds of exotic beasts roaming freely through the driving area.

Head into Sulphur, where the waters from more than thirty mineral springs in the area are said to have magical healing powers. The Chickasaw National Recreation Area attracts visitors from around the world who come to enjoy breathtaking landscapes, outdoor recreation, and great swimming holes.

Schedule a soothing massage at the nearby Sulphur Springs Inn. Housed in a 1905 bathhouse, the establishment also offers daily yoga, meditation, and nature walks. Spend the night at the inn to refresh yourself for the rest of your journey.

From Sulphur, head to Gene Autry, home of the Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum.



Boating on Lake Texoma

The museum houses an impressive collection of memorabilia, with an emphasis on the famed Western movie star and singing legend.

Continue south to Ardmore for some shopping and dining, then head to Lake Murray Resort Park, Oklahoma's first and largest state park. Fishing, boating, and all water sports are found at Lake Murray, as are camping, hayrides, horseback riding, hiking, biking, roller-blading, swimming, miniature golf, and paddleboats. Do not miss the Tucker Tower Nature Center, which sits on a point much like a lighthouse. Relax at the lodge or in a cozy cabin.

Red Carpet Country



Drawer B, Alva, OK 73717
800-447-2698 / 580-327-4918

redcarpet@nwsu.edu

www.redcarpetcountry.com

Travelers embarking on a tour of Oklahoma's northwest corner will find a land marked by the footprints of dinosaurs, lined with red canyons, and blanketed in prairie grass and golden wheat.

Experience the luxury enjoyed by an early twentieth century oil baron at Ponca City's spectacular Marland Mansion and Marland's Grand Home. These houses of Governor E.W. Marland boast magnificent furnishings and lush surroundings.

Then tour the Poncan Theater, where the ornate interior recalls the luxury of this 1927 top-billing vaudeville house. And you will definitely want to stop for a photo at the Pioneer Woman Statue, one of America's most enduring images.

Next, journey west to the Salt Plains Federal Wildlife Refuge, where a vast sea of salt has become one of Oklahoma's most photographed locations. The region provides pristine salt plains, marshes, and a reservoir for more than 300 species of birds, plus it is the only spot in the world where you can dig for hourglass selenite crystals. Stay the night at nearby Great Salt Plains State Park.

Next stop: Oklahoma's very own sand dunes. Head to Little Sahara State Park for another unique landscape. Take a dune buggy tour of the towering sands, then enjoy a picnic at one of the park's shaded campgrounds.


On the way to Watonga, stop by the sparkling Glass Mountains and capture the glinting crystals on film—no easy task!

Then continue to Roman Nose Resort Park just north of Watonga. Set up camp in gypsum-streaked canyons or spend the night at the lodge or in a cozy cabin. The next morning, head into town for an appetizing visit to the Watonga Cheese Factory.



Riding the Dunes at Little Sahara State Park

This is the place to pick up chocolate cheese—which you'll swear tastes just like fudge.

You have seen just a small portion of the unique sights of Red Carpet Country, so plan another visit to see Alabaster Caverns, Black Mesa (the state's highest point), the dinosaur tracks in Kenton, authentic cowboy life in Guymon and Woodward, and much more. 

State Emblems



Animal—Buffalo



Bird—Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher



Cartoon Character—"Gusty"



Fish—White or Sand Bass

Amphibian

Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) [HCR1026, 1997]

Animal (Mammal)

American Buffalo (Bison *bison*)
[SCR101, 1972]

Beverage

Milk [SCR2, 1985]

Bird

Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher
(*Muscivora forficata*) [25§98] [HJR21, 1951]

Butterfly

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)
[HB2082, 1996]

Cartoon Character

"Gusty" created by former Tulsa
weatherman Don Woods.
[SB 464, 2005]

Children's Song

"Oklahoma, My Native Land"
[HB3000, 1996]

Colors

Green and White [25§93]

Country and Western Song

"Faded Love" [Laws 1988, p.1902] [SCR65, 1988]

Day

Oklahoma Day, April 22 [25§82.3]

Fish

White or Sand Bass
(*Morone chrysops*) [25§98.2]

Flag

An Osage warrior's buckskin shield
decorated with pendent eagle feathers
on a field of blue is the basic design of
the Oklahoma state flag.

In crossed positions over the shield are an Indian
peace pipe and an olive branch. The latter is
the white man's symbol of peace. The pipe has

a red bowl and a pale yellow stem, with a red feather attached. The shield is a light tan, to which are attached white feathers, tipped with brown. Small crosses on the face of the shield are tan, but somewhat darker than that of the shield itself. The word "Oklahoma" in white is inscribed immediately below the shield. [25§91]

Flag Day

November 16 [25§91.3]

Flag Salute

"I salute the flag of the State of Oklahoma. Its symbols of peace unite all people." [25§91]

Floral Emblem

Mistletoe (*Phoradendron serotinum*)

The oldest of Oklahoma's symbols, adopted in 1893, 14 years before statehood. [25§92] [HJR49]

Flower

Oklahoma Rose [25 OS § 92]

Folk Dance

Square Dance

[Laws 1988, p.1960] [SCR111, 1988] [HR1070]

Folk Song

"Oklahoma Hills"

by Woody and Jack Guthrie [25§94.8]

Fossil

"Greatest king of the reptile eaters"

(*Saurophaganax maximus*) [25§98.6]

Fruit

Strawberry [HB 1762, 2005]

Furbearer

Raccoon (Algonquian *arathkone*)

[SCR25, 1stEx.Sess.1989]

Game Animal

White-Tail Deer [SCR24, 1stEx.Sess.1989]

Game Bird

Wild Turkey [SCR26, 1stEx.Sess.1989]

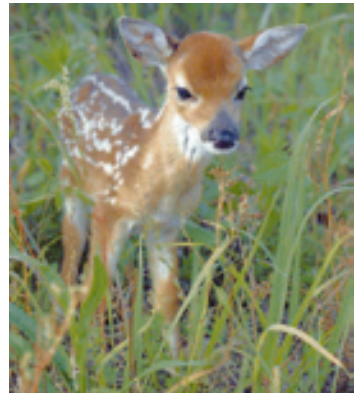
Governor's Flag [25§93.1]



Furbearer—Raccoon



Flower—Oklahoma Rose



Game Animal—White-Tail Deer



Game Bird—Wild Turkey



Insect—Honeybee



Monument—Golden Driller



Reptile—Collared Lizard



Rock—Rose Rock

Grass

Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

[SCR72, 1972]

Insect

Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) [SCR75, 1992]

Monument

Golden Driller, Tulsa [SCR23, 1979]

Motto

Labor Omnia Vincit
(Labor Conquers All Things)

[1893, §5991; Art.6§35]

Musical Instrument

Fiddle [Laws 1984, p.1208]

Name

“Oklahoma” means Red People
in the Choctaw language

[34Stat.267]

Nickname

Sooner State

Percussive Musical Instrument

Drum [25§98.3]

Pin

“OK” pin [Laws 1982, p.1258]

Poem

“Howdy Folks” by David Randolph
Milsten (Tulsa) [Laws 1973, p.568]

Reptile

Collared Lizard or Mountain Boomer
(*Crotaphytus collaris*) [HCR1009, 1969]

Rock

Rose Rock (Barite *rose*) [25§98.1]

Seal

Oklahoma has for its state seal a symbol that was developed from the history of the state.

The central figures and wreath are from the Great Seal of the Territory of Oklahoma. In each of the five arms of the main star in the Great Seal of the state, is the official seal of one of the Five Civilized Indian nations that together comprised most of

the area of present eastern Oklahoma. The upward arm depicts the seal of the Chickasaw Nation with an Indian warrior holding a bow and shield. In the upper left-hand arm is the seven-pointed star bearing a wreath of oak leaves which comprises the seal of the Cherokee Nation. The emblem of the Choctaw Nation is in the upper right-hand arm and is composed of a tomahawk, a bow, and three crossed arrows. In the lower left-hand arm is the seal of the Creek Nation, depicted by a sheaf of wheat and a plow. The lower right-hand arm shows houses and a factory on the shore of a lake. On the lake are an Indian hunter and a canoe, and this comprises the seal of the Seminole Nation. Forty-five small stars surround the central star and these represent the forty-five states that made up the Union at the time Oklahoma became the forty-sixth state on November 16, 1907. The original seal was designed for embossing purposes, and color was not a consideration. To this day, no official colors have been established for the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma. Color design of the seal pictured is by Paul Lefebvre. [Art.6§18,35]



Seal



Soil—Port Silt Loam

Soil

Port Silt Loam (Cumulic *haplustolls*)

[Laws 1987, p.1721]

Song/Anthem

“Oklahoma!”

by Rodgers and Hammerstein [25§94.1]

Statehood Day

November 16 [25§88]

Tartan [HCR1025, 1999]

Theater

Lynn Riggs Players of Oklahoma, Inc.

[Laws 1961, p.726]

Tree

Redbud (Cercis *canadensis*) [25§16–69]

Waltz

“Oklahoma Wind” [SR42, 1982]

Wild Flower

Indian Blanket (Gaillardia *pulchella*)

[25§92.1]

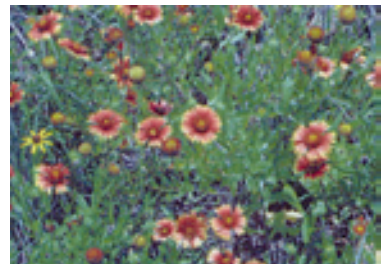
Western Band

“The Sounds of the Southwest”

[HCR1053, 1997]



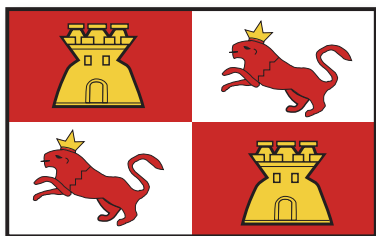
Tree—Redbud



Wild Flower—Indian Blanket

The Fourteen Flags Over Oklahoma

Muriel Wright • 1958



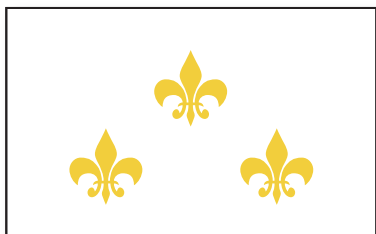
First Flag

The Royal Standard of Spain brought to Oklahoma by Coronado in 1541. This flag is quartered red and white (silver), showing the golden castle on the red, and the red lion on the white. The castle and the lion represented the royal houses (Castile and Leon) from which the King of Spain descended.



Second Flag

The "Great Union" of Great Britain over Oklahoma, 1663, when King Charles II gave a wide strip of country from the Atlantic to the Pacific to his friends. This wide strip was known as Carolina, and included nearly all of Oklahoma. The British flag then showed a blue field with the white cross of St. Andrew and the red cross of St. George, signifying the union of Scotland (St. Andrew's cross) and England (St. George's cross).



Third Flag

Royal Standard of France brought to Oklahoma in 1719 by Bernard de la Harpe, though French claims dated from the time of La Salle in 1682 when he claimed all the country drained by the Mississippi River and its branches in the name of the French King. This flag of 1719 shows a white field sprinkled with golden fleur-de-lys.

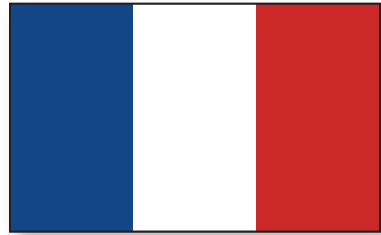
Fourth Flag

The Standard of the Spanish Empire over Oklahoma in 1763 when France gave all the country west of the Mississippi to Spain by the Treaty of Paris. The Royal Standard of Spain had been changed by now, showing a purple field with crests of many different royal houses, and was used in the palace of the king. At this same time, the Spanish Navy sailed all the seas, carrying the ancient red and gold on a flag planted in many countries of the empire. This flag shows three horizontal stripes, red top and bottom with a gold stripe between. The ancient Arms of Castile and Leon are shown on the gold stripe near the flag pole.



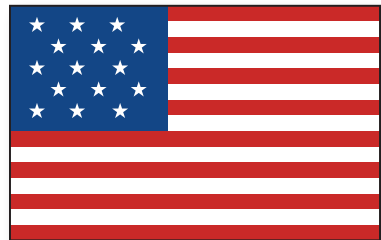
Fifth Flag

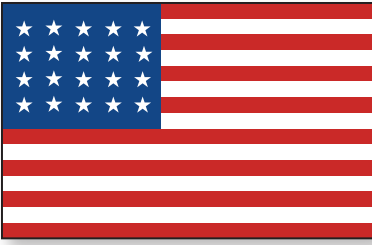
The Standard of the French Republic ruled by Napoleon, in 1800 when Spain gave all the Province of Louisiana to France. This flag had three perpendicular stripes: red next to the flag pole, white at the center, blue at the end, but these stripes were reversed by French law in 1830, to stand blue near the flag pole, white at center and red at the end.



Sixth Flag

The purchase of Louisiana by the United States from France in 1803 brought the U.S. flag to Oklahoma. This flag showed 15 stars on the blue canton, and 15 alternated red and white stripes for the 15 states in the Union in 1803. This flag was according to the law of May 1, 1795, which called for a star and a stripe to be added to the flag when a new state was admitted to the Union.





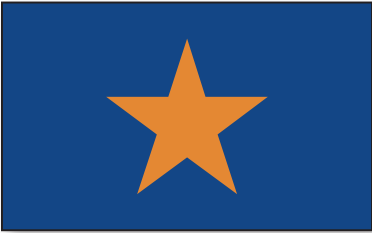
Seventh Flag

The United States Flag design was changed by the law of April 4, 1818. From this time, the U.S. Flag has shown 13 alternated red and white stripes, the stars in the blue canton representing the states of the Union, a new star being added on the 4th day of July, following the admission of a new state. The U.S. Flag in 1818 showed 20 stars for the 20 states in the Union.



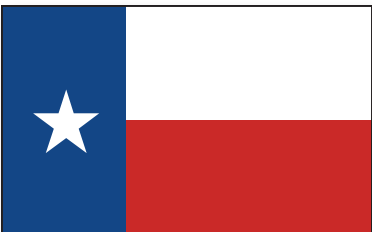
Eighth Flag

The Flag of Mexico from 1821 to 1836, over the Oklahoma Panhandle which was owned by Mexico in this period. This flag shows three horizontal stripes, in the order from the flag pole: green, white and red. The white stripe shows at center the device of an eagle with a serpent in its talons, emblem of an ancient Aztec Indian legend.



Ninth Flag

The flag of the Republic of Texas over the Oklahoma Panhandle, 1836 to 1839. This first Texas flag shows an azure field with a five-pointed gold star at center.



Tenth Flag

The "Lone Star Flag" of Texas over the Oklahoma Panhandle to 1850. This is the present Texas Flag designed by the law of January 25, 1839; a wide blue perpendicular stripe centered by a five-pointed white star near the pole, and two horizontal stripes, one red and one white.

Eleventh Flag

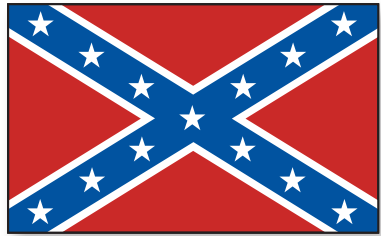
The Choctaw Flag carried by Choctaw confederate troops during the War between the States, 1861–65. This flag shows a blue field with a Choctaw seal at center. The Choctaw Nation was a separate government in southeastern Oklahoma to 1907, and was the only Indian nation that used a flag of its own at any time.



Twelfth Flag

The Confederate Battle Flag over Oklahoma, 1861–65. This flag shows a red field with St. Andrew’s Cross in blue on white, the blue showing thirteen white stars for the thirteen states which were aligned with the Confederate Government.

Editor’s Note: HB 1007, 2003, directed the Oklahoma Historical Society to fly the First National Flag of the Confederate States of America rather than the Confederate Battle Flag.



Thirteenth Flag

The first Oklahoma State Flag adopted by the state legislature in 1911. This shows a red field centered by a five-pointed white star bordered with blue and the figures “46” in blue, at the center, Oklahoma being the 46th state admitted to the Union.



Fourteenth Flag

The present Oklahoma State Flag adopted by the state legislature in 1925. This shows a sky blue field with a central device: an Indian war shield of tan buckskin showing small crosses on the face, the Indian design for stars. Seven eagle feathers form the edge of the shield. An Indian peace pipe (calumet) with a pipestone bowl and a tassel at the end of the pipestem lies on the shield; above the Indian peace pipe is an olive branch, the white man’s emblem of peace.

