



## **Chickasaw Country to recognize National Travel and Tourism Week**

*May 7-13 is U.S. Travel Associations nationwide tourism week*

**OKLAHOMA CITY (May 5, 2017)** – Officials with [Chickasaw Country](#) are taking part in National Travel and Tourism Week by encouraging Oklahomans to visit their favorite Chickasaw Country tourism destinations.

National Travel and Tourism Week, May 7-13, is the 34th annual celebration by the U.S. Travel Association to unite communities to celebrate what travel means to American jobs, economic growth and personal well-being.

The U.S. Travel Association's 2017 theme, "Faces of Travel," shines a spotlight on the people that make up America's travel industry. The faces moving Chickasaw Country's travel industry are a diverse workforce, from hotel and restaurant employees to attraction and retail personnel.

Paige Williams Shepherd, director of corporate development and tourism for the Chickasaw Nation, stated that Chickasaw Country offers distinct tourism destinations for travelers from across the U.S. and internationally.

"Chickasaw Country provides hundreds of destinations for every type of traveler," said Shepherd. "Our four tourism centers in Chickasaw Country highlight our 'Faces of Travel,' where knowledgeable ambassadors inform guests of the magnitude of experiences and cultural destinations across our 13 county region. Our tourism centers also celebrate and showcase handcrafted artwork by Native Americans, such as paintings, pottery, woodwork and fashion accessories, all available for visitors to view and purchase. Additionally, the centers sell Bedré Fine Chocolate, Chickasaw Press books, Pendleton and souvenirs."

During National Travel and Tourism Week, the tourism centers in Chickasaw Country and Exhibit C in Oklahoma City will be hosting, "Home is Where the Pin is." Guests visiting Chickasaw Country tourism facilities will be able to place a pin in a world map to identify where they live.

The tourism centers will also be offering free popcorn to visitors throughout the week. Locations and operating hours for the tourism information centers participating in National Travel and Tourism Week are as follows:

Exhibit C  
1 East Sheridan  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
Open daily 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Chickasaw Visitor Center  
901 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Sulphur, OK 73086  
Open daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.



Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center  
35 N. Colbert Dr.  
Davis, OK 73030  
Open daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thackerville Tourism Information Center  
20569 Rest Area Road  
Thackerville, OK 73459  
Open daily 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Chickasaw Nation Information Center  
504 W. Main  
Tishomingo, OK 73460  
Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and  
Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed Sunday.

According to the U.S. Travel Association, in 2016 travel was a \$2.3 trillion industry within the United States, with \$990.3 billion in direct travel-related spending by domestic and international visits. These visits support 15.3 million American jobs, roughly 8.6 million direct travel jobs and 6.7 million indirect and induced jobs. Travel-related spending generated \$157.8 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues in 2016. In Oklahoma, the U.S. Travel Association accounts \$7.7 billion in spend associated with travel and 83,191 jobs in 2015.

“National Travel and Tourism Week is a great time for Chickasaw Country to showcase all of the tourism attractions we have to offer, along with showing our support for the tourism industry nationally and in Oklahoma,” said Shepherd.

For more information about Chickasaw Country and the many travel and tourism destinations, please visit: [chickasawcountry.com](http://chickasawcountry.com). Follow the Chickasaw Country social media accounts to see photos throughout the week that highlight Chickasaw Country’s “Faces of Travel.”

Facebook: [@ChickasawCountry](https://www.facebook.com/ChickasawCountry)

Twitter: [@Chickasaw](https://twitter.com/Chickasaw)

Instagram: [chickasawcountry](https://www.instagram.com/chickasawcountry)

### **About Chickasaw Country**

Nestled in south-central Oklahoma, Chickasaw Country is a regional tourism organization representing 13 of Oklahoma’s 77 counties. As the official destination tourism organization, Chickasaw Country includes 7,648 square miles, 11 percent of Oklahoma’s total 68,597 square miles. Chickasaw Country, a division of the Chickasaw Nation, is a tourism source for visitors and communities within the region and promotes destinations, attractions and festivals. Chickasaw Country is a diverse and culturally-vested destination, with new adventures and experiences around every corner.

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