

Wichita, Kansas: A great Place to Live and Learn

If you are coming from a small or college town, welcome to the city. If you are coming from a big city, welcome to a MUCH more manageable city.

Approximately a half million people live in the Wichita metropolitan area, which makes for a healthy combination of large city resources and small city convenience. Wichita is the biggest city in Kansas, located in the south central part of the state along the Arkansas River. Wichita State University, located in the north eastern part of the city, is the largest of several colleges in the city, with an enrollment of 15,000 students. When you consider Wichita's low cost of living (24% lower than the average cost of living in the US), mid-west casualness and accessibility (read: lack of traffic), you will find that our quality of life is excellent.

In fact here is a list of some of the accolades that Wichita has recently received:

Top Ten Best Places to Live - (#9, 2006)

<http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2006/snapshots/PL2079000.html>

America's Best "Bang for the Buck" Cities - (#6, 2009)

http://www.forbes.com/2009/11/30/cities-affordable-cheap-lifestyle-real-estate-housing-foreclosures_chart.html

Top Cities for Jobs (#2, 2008)

http://www.forbes.com/2008/01/11/jobs-economy-growth-lead-careers-cx_mk_0110cities_table.html

Most Uniquely American Cities (#1)

<http://www.newsmax.com/slideshows/cities/wichita.html>

Although Wichita State does its share to bring in art ([Ulrich Museum of Art](#)), music and [events](#) to campus - the city itself offers a large variety of leisure activities, appealing to students of all ages and interests. Wichita has a vibrant music scene, ranging from blues, jazz, and bluegrass to dinner theater performances, symphonic music and the grand opera. The newly opened [Intrust Bank Arena](#) helps attract more big name concerts as well. Efforts to support local music - and encourage people to frequent the newly revitalized Old Town District - led to the implementation of "[First Friday](#)" - a free music crawl on the first friday of every month. On the arts scene, we have professional and community theater productions, art museums and galleries. Support exists for local artists through a free "[Final Friday](#)" art crawl around downtown. Our Musical Theater Company presents top of the line musicals from Broadway. Other major cultural events in the Wichita area include the Tallgrass Film festival, the River Festival, the National Flatpicking and Bluegrass Championship, and of course the Kansas State Fair. If you work up an appetite while studying, Wichita is also a great place to eat - with many ethnically

diverse restaurants (Wichita is home to many cultures including South East Asians, Hispanics, and middle easterners), charming local eateries and in the summer and fall months - delicious produce stands and farmers markets.

Wichita also has lots of family-oriented and outdoor activities, and a mild enough climate to be outdoors most of the year (an average of 220 days of sunshine!). No need to buy a health club membership as the [WSU Heskett Center](#) has everything you need for family fitness (aerobics machines, weight rooms, pool, rock climbing). The University also has a quality child-care center just across the street from campus. The city has many parks, golf courses, and public pools, a world-class [zoo](#) and a lovely botanical garden. Sports activities of all kinds are available, including WSU baseball and basketball on campus, as well as the Wichita Thunder hockey team, and Wingnuts baseball team. Outdoor enthusiasts will find the beautiful Flint Hills region of Kansas only 1.5 hours away, and the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Preserve (in Oklahoma) only 3.5 hours away.

Wichita, Kansas is known as the “Air Capital of the World,” and for good reason with major presences by Boeing (now Spirit), Hawker-Beechcraft, Cessna, and Bombardier-Learjet (among others) the aviation industry in Wichita is strong, providing an economic lifeblood for the city.

The following sites provide additional information and insight on life in Wichita. Although you will be moving here to go to school, the Psychology department at WSU really does promote balance - we want you to have a life outside of school. It’s important for you to both feel comfortable in this city, and get to know it - if you join our program, it will be your home for the next four years.

www.wichitakansas.org

www.VerbICT.org

<http://www.nakedcitywichita.com/>