

You are invited to join the UTravel Club for

Our Fall Adventure to Pioneer Woman and OKC

Sept. 29 – Oct 2, 2025

We have for several years been wanting to do a trip to “*The Merc*” (Mercantile) of the famous TV show ***The Pioneer Woman*** which is an American cooking show that first aired on the Food Network in 2011. The series is presented by Ree Drummond who is the Pioneer Woman as she is cooking for her family and friends, primarily at the lodge of the Drummond Ranch near Pawhuska, Ok. Well, plans have finally come together, and we will make it happen this fall.

“*The Merc*” refers to the Mercantile building that was built in 1910 and was originally called Osage Mercantile. Ree and her husband, Ladd Drummond, purchased the property in 2012 and restored it into what it is today. The 25,000-square-foot building includes a retail store and deli (complete with grab-and-go coffee and goodies) on the first floor and a coffee bar and bakery on the second.

The Merc gets 6,000 visitors a day on average. Yep, you read that right. And occasionally, that number goes up to 15,000! Those stats are especially surprising considering the small size of the town: Its population clocked in at just 3,477 people last year. On select days, you can even tour The Lodge on Drummond Ranch, where ***The Pioneer Woman*** is filmed, just outside of Pawhuska.

One of the highlights of this trip will be one night at the world renowned ***Winstar World Casino*** just past the Texas & Oklahoma border in Thackerville, OK. The WinStar World Casino features 400,000 square feet divided into nine themed gaming plazas, seventeen restaurants and multiple bars and lounges. Also, they have a hotel that includes three hotel towers and 1,399 rooms, a convention center, golf courses, diverse culinary scenes, nightlife options, shopping opportunities and three swimming pools.

Another highlight is the ***Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum*** which honors the 168 lives lost, and those that were changed forever by the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995. We will stroll through the Outdoor symbolic Memorial with the Field of Empty Chairs, the Gates of Time, Reflecting Pool, and Survivor Tree. Then enter the 50,000 square foot interactive learning museum to hear the story of the tragedy and its aftermath through the voices, images, and artifacts of survivors, family members and rescue workers. This is a must see.

A third highlight will be our visit to the ***National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum*** where we will experience the legacy of the American West. With more than 28,000 Western and American Indian Art works artifacts, it is home to one of the most comprehensive collections of Western art in the world. The museum complex also contains Prosperity Junction, a turn of the century western town reproduction, a gallery dedicated to western performers, the American cowboy, and rodeos.

Before enjoying our dinner for the evening, we will jump on ***Bricktown’s Water Taxi*** and learn about the Bricktown Entertainment District. This former warehouse district is now Oklahoma’s City’s most popular entertainment and dining areas. The tour will take our group to the Bricktown Water Canal while a Water Taxi Ambassador narrates history and points of interest along the way. They will tell us about the life size ***Centennial Land Run Monument Statues***. If time allows us, we will visit the Land Run another time where we can walk among the statues and take pictures.

Included with this tour, there will be several side excursions along the way. I am certain that you will enjoy them but for now my lips are sealed. Make plans to join your fellow UTravelers on this four-day jaunt.

PRICING

\$1298.00 Per Person Double * \$1765.00 Per Person Single

\$250.00 Per Person Deposit Due with Reservation Deposit Deadline **July 8, 2025 (100% refundable until 8/5/2025)**

Final Payment is Due on Aug. 5, 2025 (Must have twenty-five travelers for this trip to make)

Trip Cancellation Protection is recommended and must be purchased within ten days of your initial deposit to cover pre-existing conditions. You can purchase it through any travel insurance agency you are comfortable with.

Currently UTravel Club does not offer Travel Insurance.

Tour Price Includes: All Motorcoaching * 1 Night Lodging at WinStar Casino and 2 nights at Residence Inn Bricktown, OKC

*All Taxes & Gratuities on Inclusions * Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches & 3 Dinners * Baggage Handling

ITINERARY (Times and places are subject to change. May do a reverse).

Day 1 – Monday – Sept. 29, '25 (Lunch & Dinner)

7:00 AM-- Depart Lufkin
7:30 AM-- Depart Nacogdoches
9:30 AM-- Coffee stop
12:30 PM – Lunch—Grapevine, TX
3:00 PM -- Side excursion
4:30 PM -- Check in to Winstar World Casino, 777 Casino Ave,
Thackerville, OK (866) 946-7787
Tonight, Dinner at any of the Casino's Restaurants, of your choice.

Day 2- Tuesday– Sept. 30, '25 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Breakfast at your place of your choice
7:00 AM— Luggage out
8:00 AM— Depart WinStar
10:00 AM- -Arrive National Cowboy & Western Museum
Lunch at National Cowboy & Western Museum
Grill
1:00 PM—Depart for OKC National Memorial
1:30 PM—OKC National Memorial and Museum
3:00 PM—Check-in to Residence Inn Bricktown, 400 E. Reno
(405) 601-1700 for the next two nights
4:45 PM—Depart for Water Taxi
6:00 PM—Dinner – Place to be determined.

Unfortunately, this trip requires a lot of walking. Especially at the WinStar Hotel, the two museums, and if you walk to Bricktown from Residence Inn.

Day 3 - Wednesday – Oct. 1, '25 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Hot breakfast buffet at the hotel Served from 6:00 to 9:00 AM
8:15 AM – Depart for Pioneer Woman's "The Merc"
10:45 AM – Arrive at Pawhuska, "The Merc"
To Shop, eat at the Grill, Check out the town.
1:00 PM – Depart Pawhuska
3:00 PM – Travel down to Route 66 to Pop's for a Root Beer Float & Photo Op
3:30 PM – Head back to OKC -
5:00 PM – Dinner - Place to be determined.
6:30 PM – Evening on your own

Day 4 – Thursday—Oct. 2, 25 (Breakfast, Lunch)

Hot breakfast buffet at the hotel Served from 6:00 to 9:00 AM
7:00 AM— Bags out
8:00 AM—Depart Hotel
8:15 AM—Run by Centennial Land Run for pictures.
8:30 AM—Depart OKC
10:00 AM—Side excursion
10:30 AM—Depart
12:30 PM—Lunch Place to Be Determined
2:00 PM—Depart
3:45 PM—Afternoon Break
5:30 PM—Arrive Nacogdoches
6:45 PM—Arrive Lufkin

For Further Information & Reservations:

Call Patsy Weaver at (936) 633-5110.

**Please make checks payable to "UTravel" and mail to
403 South Chestnut, Lufkin, TX 75901**

Cancellation Policy: *If Cancellation Protection is not purchased, there will be no refunds after Aug.5, 25 unless space is re-sold. If the trip is cancelled due to reasons beyond our control, refunds will be based on the amount refunded by our suppliers.*