



My Drift

Title: Tulsa

Written By: Jerry D. Petersen

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Tulsa is the main focus of this article but first let's learn a little bit about Oklahoma in general.



Oklahoma is a landlocked state in the South-Central region of the United States. It borders Texas to the south and west, Kansas to the north, Missouri to the northeast, Arkansas to the southeast, New Mexico to the west, and Colorado to the northwest. It is in the so called “Tornado Alley” along with Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Historically, Oklahoma served as a government-sanctioned territory for American Indians moved from east of the Mississippi River, a route for cattle drives from Texas and related regions, and a destination for Southern settlers. There are currently 25 Indigenous languages spoken in Oklahoma. About 14.2 percent of the 4,100,000 Oklahomans identify as American Indians, the highest Indigenous population by percentage in any state.



Oklahoma City is the Capital and largest city with a population of 713,000. Other large cities include Tulsa with a population of 415,000, Norman with a population of 131,000, and Broken Arrow with a population of 123,000.



Route 66 was one of the original highways in the United States numbered highway system. The highway, which became one of the most famous roadways in the United States, ran from Chicago, Illinois, through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona before terminating in Santa Monica, California, covering a total of 2,448 miles.

It was recognized in popular culture by both the 1946 hit song "(Get Your Kicks on Route 66)" and the Route 66 television series, which aired on CBS from 1960 to 1964. It was also known as Will Rogers Highway and/or the Main Street of America.

Tulsa



Route 66 runs through the Middle of Tulsa

I have been watching “The Tulsa King” series starring Sylvester Stallone on Paramount Plus. It is a good show, and the city of Tulsa looks interesting.



Tulsa was settled between 1828 and 1836 by the Lochapoka band of Creek Native Americans and was formally incorporated in 1898. Most of Tulsa is still part of the territory of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Northwest Tulsa lies in the Osage Nation whereas North Tulsa is within the Cherokee Nation. Yes, there are a lot of Indians in Tulsa.

Tulsa is situated on the Arkansas River in the western foothills of the Ozark Mountains, south of the Osage Hills (which extend into Northwest Tulsa) in northeast Oklahoma, a region of the state known as "Green Country". Considered the cultural and arts center of Oklahoma, Tulsa houses two accredited art museums, full-time professional opera and ballet companies, and one of the nation's largest concentrations of art deco architecture.



Tulsa City



Downtown Tulsa



Arkansas River

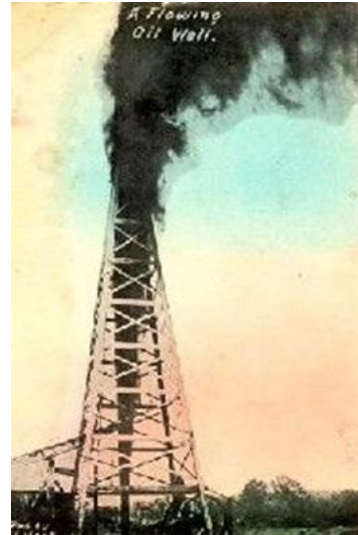


River Park

Known as the "Oil Capital of the World" for most of the 20th century, the city's success in the energy industry prompted construction booms in the popular Art Deco style of the time. Profits from the oil industry continued through the Great Depression, helping the city's economy fare better than most in the United States during the 1930s. During the Depression, oil prices in Tulsa were usually between \$1.00 and \$1.18 per barrel from 1934 to 1940.



Oil Fields



Art Deco Architecture



The Golden Driller

The Golden Driller is a 76-foot-tall, 43,500-pound statue in Tulsa, Oklahoma, depicting an oil worker. The structure is a steel frame covered with concrete and plaster.

Historically, a robust energy sector fueled Tulsa's economy; however, today the city has diversified, and leading sectors include finance, aviation, telecommunications and technology. Two institutions of higher education within the city have sports teams at the NCAA Division I level: the University of Tulsa and Oral Roberts University. Also, the University of Oklahoma has a secondary campus at the Tulsa Schusterman Center, and Oklahoma State University has a secondary campus located in downtown Tulsa.



Oral Roberts University

Other Attractions



Philbrook Museum of Art

Philbrook Museum of Art is an art museum with expansive formal gardens. The museum, which opened in 1939, is located in a former 1920s villa, "Villa Philbrook", the home of Oklahoma oil pioneer Waite Phillips and his wife Genevieve. Showcasing nine collections of art from all over the world, and spanning various artistic media and styles, the cornerstone collection focuses on Native American art featuring basketry, pottery, paintings and jewelry.



Tulsa Air and Space Museum



Tulsa Garden Center

Tulsa Tunnels

The "Tulsa Tunnels" refer to the underground corridors and street-level hallways built in the 1920s to connect historic buildings in downtown Tulsa, which served as discreet travel routes for oil tycoons and other businesspeople. These tunnels, which are open for guided tours by organizations like the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture and Tulsa Tours, are a unique architectural feature of Tulsa's past as the "Oil Capital of the World".



Past Events

The 1921 Race Massacre

In the early 20th century, Tulsa was home to the "Black Wall Street", one of the most prosperous Black communities in the United States at the time. Located in the Greenwood neighborhood, it was the site of the Tulsa Race Massacre, said to be "the single worst incident of racial violence in American history", in which mobs of White Tulsans killed Black Tulsans, looted and robbed the Black community, and burned down homes and businesses. Sixteen hours of massacring on May 31 and June 1, 1921, ended only when National Guardsmen were brought in by the governor. An official report later claimed that 23 Black and 16 White citizens were killed, but other estimates suggest as many as 300 people died, most of them Black. Over 800 people were admitted to local hospitals with injuries, and an estimated 1,000 Black people were left homeless as 35 city blocks, composed of 1,256 residences, were destroyed by fire. Property damage was estimated at \$1.8 million. Efforts to obtain reparations for survivors of the violence have been unsuccessful, but the events were re-examined by the city and state in the early 21st century, acknowledging the terrible actions that had taken place.

August 6, 2017 - Tornado

An EF2 tornado struck Tulsa early on the morning of Sunday, August 6, 2017. The funnel touched down just after 1 A.M. near 36th Street and Harvard Avenue, then traveled in an easterly direction for about six minutes. The heaviest property damage occurred along 41st Street between Yale Avenue and Sheridan Road. Two restaurants, TGI Friday's and Whataburger, were particularly hard hit, with several people being sent to hospitals for treatment.

Geography

Tulsa is located in the northeastern corner of Oklahoma between the edge of the Great Plains and the foot of the Ozarks in a generally forested region of rolling hills. The city touches the eastern extent of the Cross Timbers, an ecoregion of forest and prairie transitioning from the drier plains of the west to the wetter forests of the east. With a wetter climate than points westward, Tulsa serves as a gateway to "Green Country", a popular and official designation for northeast Oklahoma that stems from the region's green vegetation and relatively large number of hills and lakes compared to central and western areas of Oklahoma, which lie largely in the drier Great Plains region of the Central United States. Located near the western edge of the U.S. Interior Highlands, northeastern Oklahoma is the most topographically diverse part of the state, containing seven of Oklahoma's 11 eco-regions and more than half of its state parks. The region encompasses 30 lakes or reservoirs and borders the neighboring states of Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Topography

The city developed on both sides of the prominent Arkansas River, which flows in a wide, sandy-bottomed channel. Its flow through Tulsa is controlled by reservoirs at Keystone Lake, and a low-water dam was built at Zink Lake in downtown Tulsa to always maintain a full channel.

Heavily wooded and with abundant parks and water areas, the city has several prominent hills, such as "Shadow Mountain" and "Turkey Mountain", which create varied terrain, especially in its southern portions. While its central and northern sections are generally flat to gently undulating, the Osage Hills extension into the northwestern part of the city further varies the landscape. Holmes Peak, north of the city, is the tallest point in the Tulsa Metro area at 1,360 feet. The city has a total area of 186.8 square miles, of which 182.6 square miles is land and 4.2 square miles is water.

Cityscape



Panoramic view of Veterans Park and Downtown

Racial and Ethnic Composition

White	47%
Hispanic and Latino	17%
Black	14%
Native American	12%
Asian	3%
Mixed Race	7%

The most reported ancestries were:

- **English (15.4%)**
- **Mexican (14.3%)**
- **German (11.6%)**
- **Irish (11.1%)**
- **African American (10.4%)**
- **Cherokee (4.8%)**
- **Scottish (3.1%)**
- **Italian (1.9%)**
- **French (1.9%)**
- **The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (1.8%)**

Religion

Tulsa has a large conservative following, with the majority of Tulsans being Christians. The second-largest religion in Tulsa is Islam, followed by Buddhism and Judaism.

Tulsa is part of the Southern region demographers refer to as the "Bible Belt", where Protestant and, in particular, Southern Baptist and other evangelical Christian traditions are very prominent. In fact, Tulsa, home to Oral Roberts University, Phillips Theological Seminary, and RHEMA Bible Training College (in the suburb of Broken Arrow), is sometimes called the "Buckle of the Bible Belt".

Cuisine

Tulsa restaurants and food trucks offer a number of cuisines, but several cuisines are particularly prominent in its culinary landscape because of its distinctive history.

BBQ

Tulsa is known nationally for its barbecue offerings; its barbecue reflects its midpoint location "between pig country and cow country", that is, in the transition zone between the South and the West. The city's barbecue is also helped by its geography; the wood used in barbecuing is abundant in Northeastern Oklahoma (including pecan, oak, hickory, mesquite and maple). The region's ethnic diversity is felt, too: its BBQ traditions bear the influences of white, African-American and American Indian foods.

Lebanese Steakhouses

Lebanese steakhouses were once numerous in the region stretching from Bristow, Oklahoma to Tulsa, but now mostly exist in the Tulsa region.[193] These restaurants were founded by Syrian and Lebanese families who immigrated to Oklahoma before statehood. Traditionally, these restaurants have live entertainment and feature Mediterranean dishes like tabbouleh, rice pilaf and hummus alongside local favorites like smoked BBQ bologna.

Chili and Coney Island Hot Dogs

Oklahomans have been consuming chili since well before statehood, owing to the influence of the Mexican culture on the state.

Greek immigrants to Tulsa brought with them the tradition of Coney Island-style hot dogs with chili on a bun. Today, a related group of Greek-American families operate Coney restaurants around the city.

Southern "homestyle" Food

By and large, Tulsa's traditional cuisine reflects the influence of Southern foodways, particularly "Upland South and... Texas where many of Oklahoma's nineteenth-century population originated."

Breweries

Marshall Brewing Company is Tulsa's first production craft brewery. Bringing the art, quality and enjoyment of craft brewing to Oklahoma Since 1998.



Sports

Tulsa supports a wide array of sports at professional and collegiate levels. The city hosts two NCAA Division I colleges and multiple professional minor league sports teams in baseball, football, hockey, and soccer.



The centerpiece of the Vision 2025 projects, the BOK Center, opened in August 2008

Golf

Tulsa is home to the Southern Hills Country Club, which is one of only two courses that have hosted seven men's major championships: three U.S. Opens and five PGA Championships, the most recent in 2022. The course has held five amateur championships and from 2001 to 2008 the LPGA had a regular tour stop, latterly known as the SemGroup Championship.

Cost of Living

The cost of living in Tulsa, OK, is significantly lower than the national average, largely due to affordable housing and transportation costs. While specific figures vary, the median price of a house in Tulsa is \$249K and rent is \$895 per month, which is 45.4% below the national average. A living wage for a single adult in Tulsa is estimated to be around \$13.25 per hour.

Tulsa landed a spot on Livability.com's 2025 list of the Top 100 Best Places to Live, recognized for its low cost of living, affordable housing and strong community amenities.

Crime Rate

While specific crime rates vary by year, Tulsa has historically had higher crime rates than the national average, particularly in violent and property crime. However, recent reports indicate that crime in Tulsa decreased in 2024 across all categories, including violent and property crimes.

Homeless Numbers

The homeless population in Tulsa was 1,449 people in the 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) count. This represented a 4.3% increase from the previous year and is the highest number in five years, with nearly 40% of those experiencing chronic homelessness. The increase in homelessness is linked to the end of pandemic-era support programs and a shortage of affordable housing.

Conclusions

We now know more about the city of Tulsa than 99% of people outside of the state of Oklahoma.

Well, Tulsa might be a nice city with a low cost of living, but I have no desire to live there.

However, I wouldn't mind taking a road trip on Route 66 through Oklahoma.

Bigdrifter44@gmail.com

Bigdrifter.com