Topeka, the capital of Kansas, was founded by 9 men at the site of the Oregon Trail crossing of the Kansas River. Topeka is the home of the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site, which commemorates the landmark Supreme Court decision that ended segregation in public schools.

Downtown Topeka is home to the Kansas State Capitol; the Topeka Performing Arts Center; and many historic sites, including the mansion of Charles Curtis, the only person of Native American descent to have served as vice president of the United States, and the Monroe School, the all-black school cited in Brown vs. Board of Education. The First Presbyterian Church features the only sanctuary west of the Mississippi River to have all Tiffany windows. Topeka's newest attraction, the Holley Museum of Military History, features a collection of dioramas, models, and artifacts from the Civil War to the Persian Gulf War.

Other attractions in Topeka include the Great Overland Station, a former train station that is now a museum celebrating Kansas's railroad heritage; Old Prairie Town at Ward Meade, a complex with a Victorian home, log cabin, turn-of-the-century town, and botanical garden that preserves Topeka's early history; the Kansas Museum of History; the Museum of the Kansas National Guard; Alice C. Sabatini Gallery at Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library; Cedar Crest, the home to the governor of Kansas; Art Guild Gallery of Topeka; and Yesterday's Motorcycle Museum of Topeka and Topeka RoadRunners (hockey).

**Education**

Topeka Public Schools serve 13,600 students in the city with 21 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, 3 high schools, and 3 special schools. The elementary schools include 2 magnet schools; one specializes in science and fine arts and the other in computer technology. In addition to Topeka Public Schools, 3 other school districts serve a portion of Topeka as well as the surrounding Shawnee County communities: Auburn–Washburn, Seaman, and Shawnee Heights.

Washburn University is a municipal university with programs leading to associate, bachelor, master, and juris doctor degrees. The university is the site of many of Topeka's cultural attractions, including plays at The Andrew J. and Georgia Neese Gray Theatre; the Topeka Symphony Orchestra, Community Concerts Series, Festival Singers, and Sunflower Music Festival at the Elliot Hill White Concert Hall; and the Mulvane Art Museum.

Friends University–Topeka and Baker University School in Topeka offer associate, bachelor, and master programs, primarily in business fields. Bryan College and Kaw Area Technical School offer diploma and associate degree programs.

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**Health Care**

Two hospitals serve Topeka with over 950 acute-care beds. Topeka also has a facility that specializes in long-term acute care and another that specializes in rehabilitation. The Colmery–O’Neil VA Medical Center provides mental health, primary care, pharmacy, and geriatric and extended services to veterans in the Topeka area.

**City Stats**

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<th>2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
<td>122,565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
<td>228,295</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per capita personal income, Topeka MSA</td>
<td>$33,4667</td>
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**NOTE:** PHOTOS: http://www.visittopeka.travel/glance/gallery.php