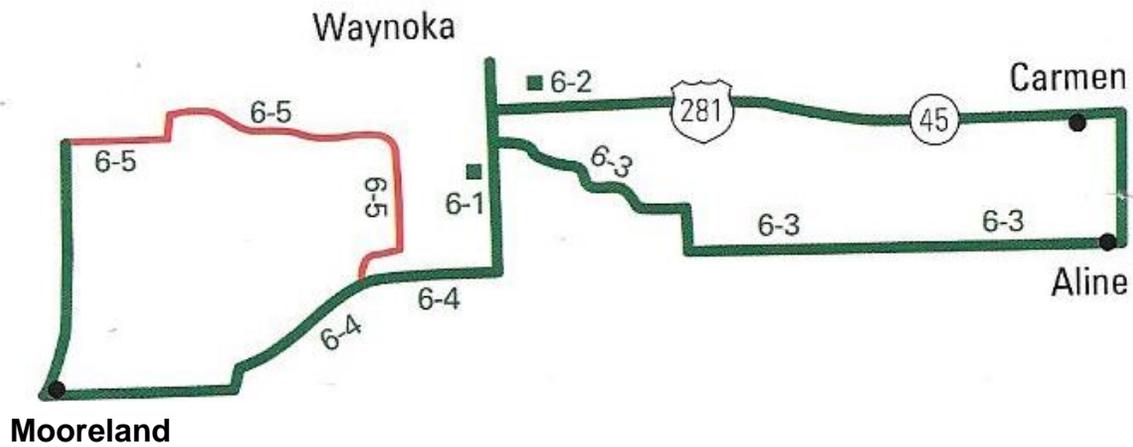


Loop 6 – Cimarron Loop



Little Sahara State Park (6-1) 580.824.1471;
www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.4581 *Directions: Located 4 miles south of the town of Waynoka on Hwy 281.*

What to Expect: This is the Loop of breath-taking views! Cutting this loop diagonally in half, the wide, sandy-bottomed Cimarron River separates two distinct types of astounding geologic features. North of the Cimarron River visitors have the opportunity to observe active and stabilized sand dunes. These “waves of sand” range from 25’ to 75’ thick! On the south side of the Cimarron, geologic evidence of a warm, shallow inland sea that existed in this area over 250 million years ago is exposed within a long narrow band of badlands known as the Cimarron Gypsum Hills. Water and wind have sculpted the alternating layers of gypsum and red shales and sandstones into intricate mazes of narrow ravines, knife-sharp vertical ridges, buttes and spectacular pinnacles. Shadows from the soaring **Turkey Vultures** move along the ground and the song of the **Rock Wren** can be heard bouncing off the bluffs. A mixture of mixed-grass and shortgrass prairie plants with abundant scatterings of sand sagebrush and yucca create habitat for **roadrunners, mule deer, bobcats, badgers, kangaroo rats**, many species of **skipper butterflies**, the **Texas horned lizard**, and numerous raptors such as the **American Kestrel, Loggerhead Shrike, and Red-tailed Hawk**.

Lodging: Waynoka: Trails Inn: 580.824.2461. Camping & RV – Little Sahara State Park (see info above); Deuces Wild 580.824.0085. **Alva:** Many chain hotels & motels, recommend using your favorite Search engine.

One-Day Outing: Breakfast in Waynoka, fill up your gas tank and pack a picnic lunch (grocery stores in Waynoka and Alva) or enjoy lunch at any of the local cafes and restaurants. Public restrooms are located in Waynoka, Mooreland and Little Sahara State Park.

Little Sahara State Park (6-1): Known as the “biggest sand box in the Mid-West”, this state park offers over 1,450 acres of sand dunes for off-road vehicle enthusiasts, mixed in with some fascinating history. Around the office there are areas where you can look for birds and other wildlife.

Birding Route: For a great birding weekend consider traveling this Loop in conjunction with Gloss Mountain Loop. From the northeast end of the **Gloss Mountain Loop**, take Hwy 8 north out of Cleo Springs to Aline. Turn west onto Hwy 8B and continue on the **Waynoka/Aline route (6-3)** to Hwy 281 (approx. 30 miles). Travel north and east on Hwy 281 for approx. 1.8 miles then turn north onto N2330. Travel 1 mile then turn onto E0280 and go east ½ mile to the **Waynoka Prairie Dog Town (6-2)**. Travel back to Hwy 281 and turn south (right) and continue through town to **Little Sahara State Park (6-1)** or stop to have lunch at the restored Harvey House at the train depot. Next travel south on Hwy 281 ~0.6 miles from the south entrance to Little Sahara State Park, cross the Cimarron River, travel 1.6 miles south and turn west onto E0360 Road and take the **Curtis Hill Route (6-4)** that continues through the small town of Belva and will end at the Hwy 412 (~14 ½ miles). Turn east on Hwy 412 and continue into the **Gloss Mountain Loop** on the **Gloss Mountain Scenic Route (8-5)**, about 10 miles.

Off the Beaten Trail: This scenic route should only be driven during good weather. Wet conditions make these roads very slippery. A high-clearance vehicle is strongly recommended.

Cimarron Scenic Route (6-5) offers some of the most breath-taking views. This 25 ½ miles drive spurs north off of the **Curtis Hill Route (6-4)**. South of the Cimarron River Bridge on Hwy 281, go 1.6 miles and turn west onto E0360 Rd. Go 3 ½ miles on E0360 and turn north onto N2280 Rd. This road has many curves that continues to take the traveler north and west on E0300, then E0297, then E0295, then E0290 and then N2190 Rd. Turn north onto N2190 and continue travel until the road curves left and becomes E0280. At intersection of N2170, turn south onto N2170 and take road until it intersects E0300. Take E0300 Rd west almost 2 miles to Hwy 50. North on Hwy 50 takes you to Freedom and south on Hwy 50 takes you to Hwy 412 at Mooreland.