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Fresh & Easy Ideas

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special home section

GOOD DESIGN GOES GREEN

The Three Sides of (Chef) Emeril

EDITORS' PICKS

The Best Interstate Exits

OUR TEST KITCHENS'

Secret Ingredient

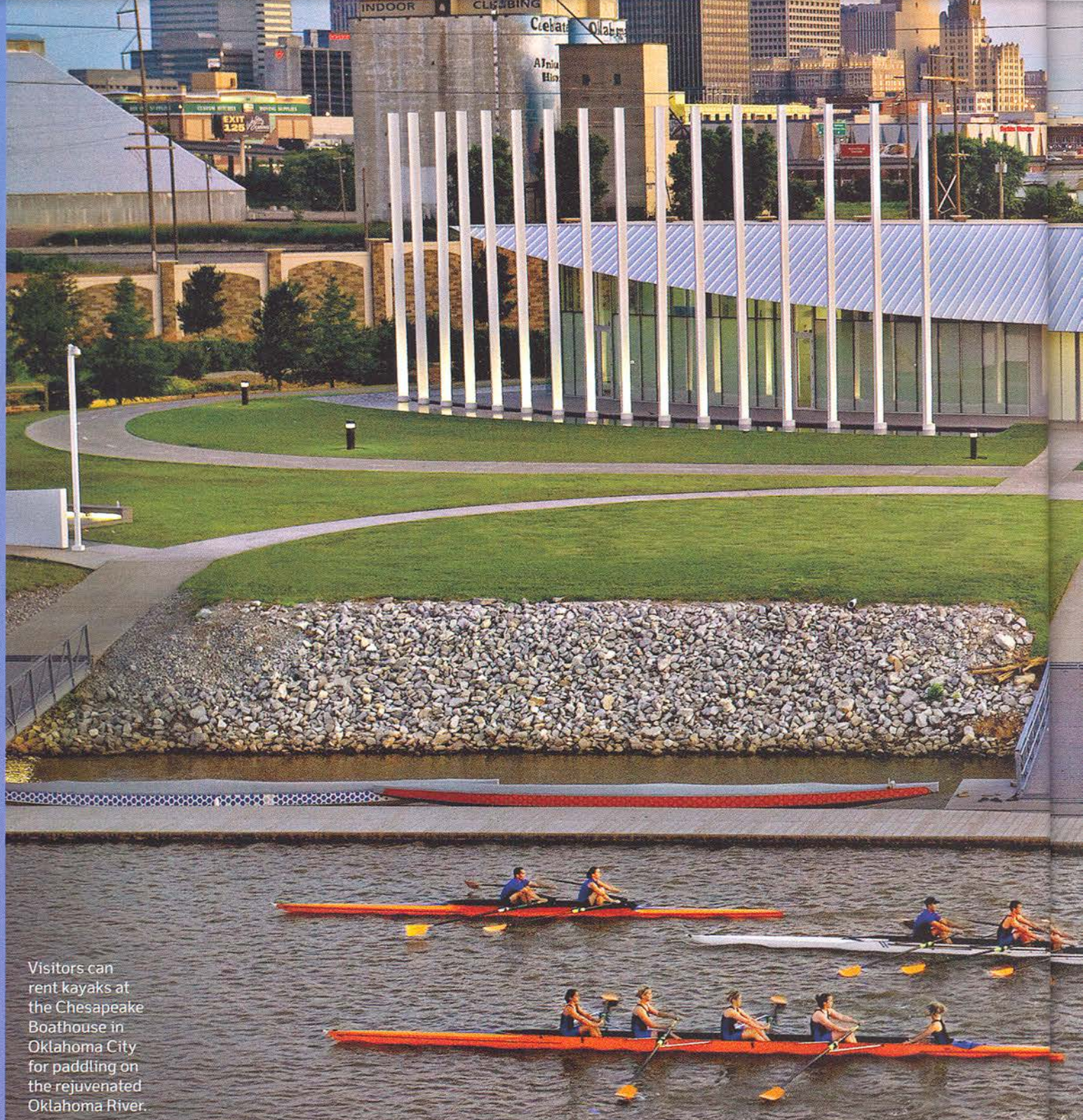
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Travel

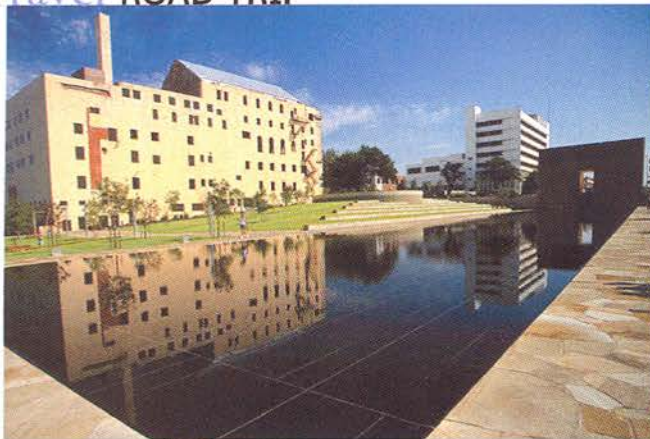


Visitors can rent kayaks at the Chesapeake Boathouse in Oklahoma City for paddling on the rejuvenated Oklahoma River.

Use our interactive maps to explore the best stops along I-35: southernliving.com/may2008

Best Exits Off I-35

Driving through the heartland of Oklahoma and Texas on I-35 can be a walk in the park. It can also be a trip down a river or a barbecue joint with a drive-through window. To find these gems, we assembled a crackerjack team of travel writers who've all lived in this region and sent them to drive the interstate again. The result? An exit strategy that highlights the best stops. So slow down, and put some fun in your trip. By **Jennifer McKenzie Frazier, Warner McGowin, Les Thomas, Cassandra M. Vanhooser**, photography **Joseph De Sciose**



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: Guthrie (Exits 153 and 157) was born during the 1889 Land Run. A monument (Exit 1E or 1F) documents the Oklahoma City bombing. Water taxis help visitors navigate Bricktown (Exit 1C).



Oklahoma
EXITS 153 AND 157: Guthrie

Distance from I-35: 3 miles
Victorian splendor meets Old West in this small Oklahoma town. Take a break, and poke around downtown's restaurants, shops, and museums. Mark's Drug serves as an informal welcome center, plus they make a wicked milk shake. We love Winans chocolates too. *Chamber of Commerce*; (405) 282-1947.

Editors' Note: In Oklahoma City, I-35 skirts the eastern side of the city and merges with I-40 on the southern edge, before angling off and heading south toward Dallas. Technically there's no real exit off I-35 for these great attractions, but they're all very close and easy to get to from I-40, I-235, or I-44.

EXIT 1C (OFF I-235): Bricktown Canal and Entertainment District, Oklahoma City

Distance from I-35: 1.4 miles
From industrial wasteland to classy entertainment district—that could be the motto for this urban hot spot. Pause for a quick bite, or make it an overnight stay. You can see the Redhawks play baseball, savor a steak at Mickey Mantle's, or get out on the water at the new Chesapeake Boathouse. *Take I-40W, and exit at Sheridan Avenue.*

EXIT 1E OR 1F (OFF I-235): Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum
Distance from I-35: 2.3 miles

A serene and sobering memorial has replaced the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. If you haven't seen it, you should. Parking is easy, and the parklike setting offers a great place to stretch your legs. *620 North Harvey Avenue*; (405) 235-3313.

EXIT 70: Bedré Fine Chocolate, Pauls Valley

Distance from I-35: 100 yards
Owned by the Chickasaw Nation, Bedré makes the chocolate-covered potato chips sold at Neiman Marcus. Tour the factory, and then stock up on Meltaways, clusters, and chocolate-covered popcorn. *2001 West Airline Road*; (405) 207-9320

EXIT 51: Original Fried Pies, Davis

Distance from I-35: 100 yards
Roadside signs with bold, black letters lead the way to this yummy stop. Try the fried pecan, chocolate cream, or new savory flavors. Call ahead, and they'll have fresh, hot pies waiting for you. *State 77*; (580) 369-7830.

Texas
EXIT 478: Babe's Chicken Dinner House, Sanger

Distance from I-35: 1.1 miles
The Babe's Chicken Dinner House empire started in Roanoke, Texas, near Fort Worth, but they now have five more locations, including one in Sanger. The wait can be long, but this is some of the best fried chicken in the South. *204 North Fourth Street*; (940) 458-0000. **➔ turn to page 28**



I-35 stretches more than 1,500 miles from Laredo, Texas, on the U.S.-Mexican border to Duluth, Minnesota, not far from the U.S.-Canadian line. We tackled the part of the road that hurries through Texas and Oklahoma—740 miles in all. It takes you past some of the best the Southwest has to offer.