Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site
May 22 (Tue)

This "Wonderful Woolen Getaway" takes us to the rolling hills of Northwest Missouri where we see the last fully equipped 19th century woolen mill in the United States! Once there were hundreds of mills dotted through the countryside. There were flour mills, cotton mills, and woolen mills like this one, built by Waltus Watkins in the late 1850's. The most amazing thing about this woolen mill is that it still retains its original equipment and layout as well as the wear patterns and marks left by the workers. It is the only remaining fully equipped 19th century woolen mill in the United States and has been designated a National Historic Landmark and a National Mechanical Engineering Landmark. Nowhere else can you see what work was like for independent mill owners and textile workers in the late 1800's. Established in 1839 as a small livestock farm in the northeast corner of Clay County, Mo, it expanded into a 3,660-acre agricultural and industrial enterprise known as Bethany Plantation. Today the site is known as Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site and Park. We'll also tour the 1850 Classic Revival home of the Watkins family. The visitor center and museum offers a look into the lives of the Watkins family and their life and business ventures on the plantation. Afterwards, we'll travel to the historic Elms Resort & Spa in Excelsior Springs for lunch. As we are dining, we'll hear a narration of interesting stories and learn about the history of the Elms Resort and Excelsior Springs. Undergoing multi millions in renovation, you will be one of the first to see the completed new look! After lunch, we'll visit the Excelsior Springs Hall of Waters and Cultural Museum. The building boasts art deco detailing and houses the largest mineral water bar in the world! It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

$82 INCLUDES:

- ✓ Motor Coach Transportation
- ✓ Tour Director
- ✓ Watkins Woolen Mill
- ✓ 1850 Classic Revival Home
- ✓ Visitor Center & Museum
- ✓ Lunch at Elms Resort & Spa
- ✓ Excelsior Springs Hall of Waters Museum
- ✓ $5.00 Group Getaways Green
- ✓ Tax

Reservations: Call 913-369-3939
Checks Payable To: Group Getaways, PO Box 503, Tonganoxie KS 66086
Cancel Policy: By Apr 06- Full Refund / After Apr 06- No Refund
Optional Trip Cancellation Insurance: $11
Pick Up Locations: Topeka & Lawrence