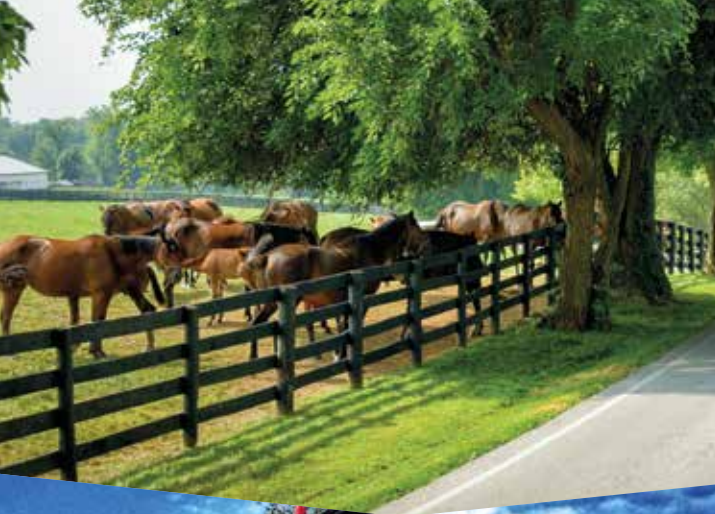




KENTUCKY

The Bluegrass
State



KENTUCKY

About Kentucky

There is a lot of history in the Bluegrass state. Kentucky is the birthplace of many great people. Abraham Lincoln, Muhammad Ali and the father of Bluegrass music, Bill Monroe, just to name a few!

Visit Kentucky and uncover the storied traditions of the region of Appalachia. Walk historical sites such as American Civil War battlefields. Follow the path of the explorer, Daniel Boone. Wander around the fascinating downtowns of Main Street Kentucky's cities and towns for fashion, gifts and antiques unique to Kentucky state history.

Lovers of the great outdoors will marvel at the Mammoth Cave National Park, where you can see the world's longest known cave system - over 400 miles of it! It's not only the gargantuan cave that draws visitors; Mammoth Cave National Park also contains more than 70 miles of backcountry trails through forested Kentucky hills which are just perfect for hiking, horseback riding, or cycling.

Due to the State's rich history and heritage, you'll find dozens of Kentucky museums and memorials commemorating everything from the Civil War to music, bourbon and horses. Celebrate the legends of Kentucky horse racing at Churchill Downs' Kentucky Derby Museum, and the International Museum of the Horse at the Kentucky Horse Park. Visit the childhood home of Abraham Lincoln in Hodgenville, or view the Civil War battlefields of Perryville and Richmond. Hear some of the earliest, most influential sounds of American music, and discover dozens of famous native Kentucky musicians at the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame Museum. While in Owensboro, don't forget to stop by The International Bluegrass Music Museum.

There's only one Kentucky, and it's waiting for you to discover!



KENTUCKY

Louisville

Nestled in the bluegrass hills of Kentucky is Louisville - a big city with the heart of a small town that is steeped in tradition. Brimming with history, culture, bourbon, and a penchant for southern hospitality, it's no wonder this charming metropolis is becoming an increasingly popular destination.

The largest city in Kentucky was founded on the Ohio River in 1778 and named in honour of the French King Louis XVI. The city's main claim to fame is the annual Kentucky Derby horse race, held at Churchill Downs the first Saturday in May, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors, who descend on the city for this single event. Visitors can learn more about the race at the Kentucky Derby Museum.

In addition to equestrian endeavours and bluegrass roots, Louisville boasts a range of exciting attractions the whole family can enjoy. Stroll through Central Park, in the historic district, to people-watch and get a real feel for the city.

Visit other nearby parks for hiking, biking and fossil-hunting. Baseball fans will love the Louisville Slugger Museum, a celebration of the sport's legends. The museum is easy to spot, just look for the enormous bat that leans against the building.

For art and history, explore venues such as the Mellwood Arts Centre, the Speed Art Museum, the Frazier International History Museum and the Muhammad Ali Centre (museum and cultural centre that honours the internationally known, world-champion heavyweight boxer and his values).

Whiskey Row - Located on Louisville's historic "Whiskey Row," you will find the Evan Williams Bourbon Experience, an artisanal distillery, featuring tours, tastings and celebrating the legacy of Evan Williams, Kentucky's first distiller and the namesake of Heaven Hill's flagship Bourbon brand.



KENTUCKY

Lexington

Nestled in the heart of Kentucky's beautiful Bluegrass Region, this cosmopolitan city offers the perfect blend of city and country.

Lexington's historic downtown area offers a mix of charming neighbourhood's rich with art galleries, parks, theatres and restaurants with one of the largest malls in the State just a short drive away. Venture just a few minutes outside of the centre of Lexington and you will discover acres upon acres of pristine pastureland, and a quintessential view of the Southern countryside complete with white fences, impressive barns, and hundreds of horse farms. There's a reason Lexington is known as the Horse Capital of the world and there are plenty of ways to see horses. There are over 500 horse farms, many of which are open to the public. The Kentucky Horse Park features films, horse shows and exhibits. Be sure to tour the American Saddle Horse Museum,

dedicated to the native Kentucky breed, and watch races at the lovely Keeneland Race Course in season.

You don't have to be an avid racehorse fan to enjoy the natural beauty, culture and history that this exciting city has to offer. Explore Bourbon Country with Lexington as your home base! Within 35 miles of Lexington, Kentucky, you can enjoy tours and tastings at twelve working distilleries. At the Raven Run Nature Sanctuary, trails wend their way through forests, meadows and gentle creeks, taking you past historic landmarks; there's even a night-time guided walk for admiring the stars. Historic sites are plentiful here, including the Waveland State Historic Site, the childhood home of Mary Todd Lincoln and the Ashland estate of famed Kentucky statesman Henry Clay.



KENTUCKY

Horses, Bourbon and Bluegrass Self Drive

DAY 1-2: COVINGTON

Arrive at Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati Airport before transferring to Covington, Kentucky, overlooking the Ohio River and the cityscape of Cincinnati.

2 Nights in Covington, Kentucky

Must Do's

- 1 Stroll across the Roebling Suspension Bridge (a prototype of the Brooklyn Bridge) spanning the Ohio River and take in the Cincinnati River Front with its parks, baseball and American football stadiums plus neighbouring entertainment and dining districts.
- 2 The banks of the Ohio River in Cincinnati meant freedom to entrapped slaves and the striking National Underground Railroad Freedom Center portrays three centuries of slavery from its introduction into the Americas to its abolition at the end of the American Civil War.
- 3 Before there was Las Vegas... there was Newport, Kentucky. Rising from the profits of bootlegging during Prohibition, Newport quickly became the premier gaming destination of the United States. Join the gangster guides for a raucous, high energy presentation inside an old casino to explain the historic significance of Newport and discover how this little town gave birth to the modern gaming industry.

DAY 3-4: LEXINGTON

Depart Covington and head south toward Lexington.

2 Nights in Lexington, Kentucky

Must Do's

- 1 The Ark Encounter is a large representation of Noah's Ark based on the Genesis flood narrative contained in the Bible. It is 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high. This is a state-of-the-art facility that brings Noah's story to life.
- 2 Enjoy the Lexington - Horse Capital of the World and home to more than 450 Thoroughbred and Standardbred farms with many open to the public. For a true equine experience visit the Kentucky Horse Park, the only park in the world dedicated exclusively to the horse.
- 3 If you are in Lexington in April or October make an afternoon of racing at Keeneland Race Course, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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DAY 4-5: LOUISVILLE

Depart Lexington and head west to Louisville.

2 Nights in Louisville, Kentucky

Must Do's

- 1 Louisville is the home of the Kentucky Derby held each May at Churchill Downs. There is racing at Churchill Downs in April, May, June, October and November and the track is open for tours year-round. The next-door Kentucky Derby Museum is an excellent hands-on experience and has a magnificent audio-visual display that captures the Derby Day atmosphere on a 360o screen.
- 2 The Ali Center details the life and legacy of the great Muhammad Ali.
- 3 Don't miss the Slugger Museum and Factory and be sure to sample the Urban Bourbon Trail along Whiskey Row.

DAY 7: OWENSBORO

Travel to the heart of Kentucky Bluegrass Music, Owensboro.

1 Night in Owensboro, Kentucky

Must Do's

- 1 Visit the birthplace and homestead of the Father of Bluegrass, Bill Monroe, in Rosine.
- 2 The Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum is dedicated to the international history of bluegrass and honours bluegrass pioneers and other legends. There are wide variety of tours, jam sessions, concerts and festivals.
- 3 For dinner head to Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn in Owensboro. Foodies, celebrities and even former president Bill Clinton love the barbecue here. Try the Kentucky speciality – mutton BBQ.



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DAY 8: PADUCAH

Follow the Ohio River to Paducah, a UNESCO Creative City.

1 Night in Paducah, Kentucky

Must Do's

- 1 Discover the National Quilt Museum - a true global destination. Here you cannot only experience the art of today's quilters, but you can also take part in a quilt making workshop that will bring you even closer to this amazing art.
- 2 See the colourful revitalization of the Lower Town Arts District of 19th Century architecture in Historic Downtown.
- 3 Tour the Hotel Metropolitan and learn of its famous guests such as Billie Holiday and BB King.

DAY 9:

Drive from Paducah to Nashville Airport for your flight home or extend your stay in Nashville and/or Memphis.



KENTUCKY

A Guide to the Kentucky Derby

Known as the “fastest two minutes in sport,” the Kentucky Derby is one of the most exciting and prestigious sporting events in the United States.

WHAT IS THE DERBY?

The Kentucky Derby is the most prestigious annual horse race in America, and the first jewel of the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing. It is held at Churchill Downs considered by many a cathedral of horse racing.

Every year since 1875, the Kentucky Derby brings the world to Churchill Downs in Louisville for a week of excitement, suspense and spectacle. What you see, hear, taste and smell at the Derby may be easier to imagine, but the feeling of being at Churchill Downs for the Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby is unmatched.

In Louisville, they turn the Fastest Two Minutes in Sports into two fun-filled weeks of food, bourbon, shows, traditions, and fun events! They also celebrate the spirit of the Derby all year through the culture and tradition of the sport of kings at the legendary track.

WHEN IS THE DERBY?

The longest annually held sporting event in the US, the Kentucky Derby is always held on the first Saturday in May.

WHERE IS THE DERBY?

The Kentucky Derby is held in Louisville at Churchill Downs, the legendary and historic horse-racing track.



KENTUCKY

Top 10 things to do in Kentucky

Horses, bourbon and bluegrass are the well-known signatures, but the Commonwealth of Kentucky offers the finest in dining, arts, entertainment, history and thrilling outdoor adventure too.

Muhammad Ali Centre

The Muhammad Ali Centre in Louisville is a multicultural centre with an award-winning museum dedicated to the life of the legendary Muhammad Ali.

Mammoth Cave National Park

Mammoth Cave National Park is the world's longest known cave system, with over 400 miles of caverns and passages for the adventurous visitor to explore.

Corvette Museum

Visit the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Known as "America's Sports Car," the museum features over

80 Corvettes in periodic settings, including mint classics, one-of-a-kind prototypes and modern day wonders of engineering and design.

The Kentucky Bourbon Trail

Awaken your senses and explore the birthplace of Bourbon as you embark on a self-guided journey to discover the story inside every bottle on The Kentucky Bourbon Trail.

Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum

The Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum, based in Owensboro is the only museum of its kind dedicated to preserving and showcasing Bluegrass Music.



KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Derby!

Known as the 'fastest two minutes in sport,' the Kentucky Derby is one of the most exciting and prestigious sporting events in the United States. See page 9 for more information.

Festivals in Kentucky

Kentucky hosts large music festivals like ROMP, Forecastle, Bourbon and Beyond and Railbird and food festivals including the International BBQ Festival in Owensboro, Kentucky Bourbon Festival in Bardstown and the World Chicken Festival in London.

Cumberland Falls

Known as the "Niagara of the South," the thundering waters of Cumberland Falls are 65 feet high and 125 feet wide.

Cumberland Falls provides a mesmerising display day or night but it's only on a clear night during a full moon that you can see the falls' mystical "Moonbow."

Visit a Horse Farm

Tour magnificent private farms, home to the world's most expensive horses in Lexington, Kentucky.

Newport Gangster Tour

What happened in Newport, stayed in Newport! The Newport Gangster Tour explores the streets where the mob made their millions and gamblers lost their lives. Did you know the Tommy Gun was invented in Northern Kentucky?



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