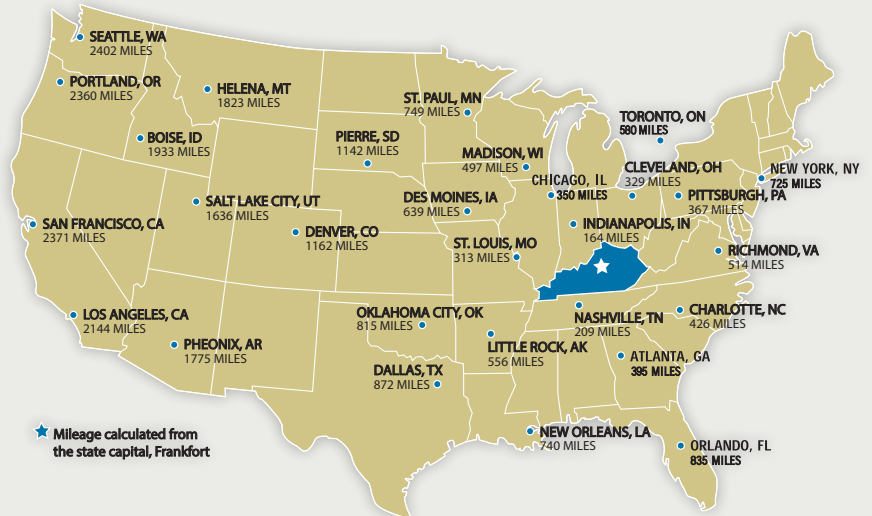


Kentucky Department of Tourism



Blaze Your Own Trail and Enjoy Our Natural Beauty Along the Way!

Getting away from it all doesn't have to mean being in the middle of nowhere. Kentucky's state park system and designated Trail Towns will put you near the best outdoor action in the state – including hundreds of miles of trails, woods and waters – and in most cases, keep you near cities and towns offering hotels, restaurants, attractions, entertainment and other conveniences to round out your stay.



Sounds of Kentucky: Bluegrass & Beyond



The folk-tinged take on country music known as Bluegrass is forever tied to Kentucky, where music-lovers from across the world can catch lively performances everywhere from intimate front porches and tiny local bars to major festivals. Performances accompany exhibits, oral histories, memorabilia and more at Owensboro's newly renovated Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum. In the heart of Rosine, the newly opened Bill Monroe Museum also pays homage to the life and career of the "Father of Bluegrass Music."

But the soundtrack of Kentucky goes far beyond just Bluegrass. Travel along the Country Music Highway (U.S. 23) in Eastern Kentucky, where you'll find the birthplace of legends like Loretta Lynn, Dwight Yoakam, Ricky Skaggs, The Judds and Billy Ray Cyrus. Visit the Country Music Highway Museum in Paintsville and the Country Music Hall of Fame in Renfro Valley.

Then listen for contemporary sounds taking over the airwaves by top Kentucky artists like Chris Stapleton, Sturgill Simpson, J.D. Shelburne, Jordan Smith and Cage the Elephant – all bringing their Kentucky roots to a whole new generation of music fans.

Visit [KentuckyTourism.com/KY-Things-To-Do/Music](https://www.kentuckytourism.com/KY-Things-To-Do/Music) for more!

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Explore Kentucky

Start your Kentucky adventure by exploring our new online episodic series, available at kentuckytourism.com/get-inspired-ky/photos-videos/. Learn about some of our signature industries, then come visit and explore to create your own Bluegrass memories!

Arts

- **Small towns** feature unique treasures, from **Berea** in central Kentucky that's called the "arts and crafts Capital of Kentucky" to **Paducah** in western Kentucky that has been designated a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts & Folk Art.
- Performing arts theaters across the state from the **SKyPAC** in Bowling Green to the **Paramount Arts Center** in Ashland offer entertainment all year long.
- **Kentucky Performing Arts** in Louisville brings together **Louisville Orchestra**, **Kentucky Opera**, **Louisville Ballet**, **Stage One Family Theatre**, top musical acts and more!



Bourbon

- Kentucky is the birthplace of **bourbon**, and the Bluegrass State has the perfect natural mix of climate, conditions and pure limestone water necessary for producing the world's greatest **bourbon**.
- Kentucky **crafts** 95 percent of the world's supply of bourbon. There are **now two barrels** of bourbon for every person in Kentucky!
- The total number of all **aging barrels in the Bluegrass State** is more than 9.1 million, the most ever in the modern era of American whiskey!



Culinary

- Kentucky's **signature dishes** include: **barbeque**, **beer cheese**, **Benedictine**, **bourbon balls**, **burgoo**, **goetta**, **Hot Brown**, **spoonbread**, and **more**.
- Hidden gem of Southern fare, featuring **one-of-a-kind restaurants** and **chefs** specializing in local ingredients and distinctive cuisine.
- **Nine regional meals** offer unique tastes of the state.



History

- **Abraham Lincoln**, the 16th U.S. president, was born in Kentucky near Hodgenville.
- The **Harlan Sanders Café and Museum** in Corbin honors Colonel Harlan Sanders, the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken.
- Kentucky has five sites on the **U.S. Civil Rights Trail**: Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, SEEK Museum in Russellville, Lincoln Hall at Berea College, Louisville Downtown Civil Rights Trail and Whitney M. Young Jr.'s birthplace in Simpsonville.



Horses

- The **American Saddlebred** is Kentucky's oldest native horse breed.
- Louisville is home to the **Kentucky Derby** – known around the world as the "greatest two minutes in sports."
- Surrounded by over 450 horse farms and in the center of **Horse Country**, Lexington is known as the "Horse Capital of the World." Historic **Keeneland** is the world's largest and Thoroughbred auction company and also has racing twice annually, while the **Kentucky Horse Park** is a 1,224 acre working horse farm and equine theme park.



Music

- Kentucky is the "**Birthplace of Bluegrass**," and Bill Monroe (**born in Rosine**) is known as the "Father of Bluegrass." Located just down the road from Rosine is the **Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum** in Owensboro.
- **Country Music Highway (U.S. 23)** in eastern Kentucky is the birthplace of several country musicians, including **Loretta Lynn**, Dwight Yoakam, Chris Stapleton, and many more.
- **Listen for contemporary sounds** taking the airwaves by storm by top Kentucky artists Chris Stapleton, Sturgill Simpson, Tyler Childers, J.D. Shelburne and Cage the Elephant.



Outdoors

- **45 State Parks** throughout the state offer opportunities for hiking, biking, caving, kayaking, white-water rafting, horseback riding and more!
- In western Kentucky, the **Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area** offers wildlife viewing, nature hikes, paddling or kayaking through waterways, and fishing adventures, plus **Mammoth Cave National Park** is the world's longest known cave system!
- In eastern Kentucky, **Cumberland Falls** is known as the "Niagara of the South." The mist of the footlong wide waterfall curtain creates the magical "**moonbow**," the only place in the Western Hemisphere where this unique phenomenon occurs. The **Red River Gorge Geological Area** (RRG) is world-renowned for rock climbing and rappelling opportunities! **Natural Bridge** (located within RRG) is a 78-footlong sandstone arch and one of the most visited attractions in the state.

