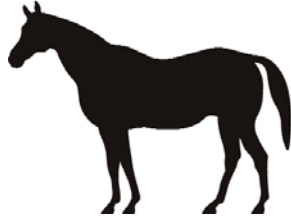


IDEA GUIDE



LEXINGTON CONVENTION
AND VISITORS BUREAU

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ANTIQUÉ SHOPPING

*From Fine Furniture to Fun Collectibles,
“Great Finds” Await in Lexington
and the Bluegrass*

In Lexington and surrounding communities, antique shopping is an activity that never, so to speak, gets old.

In fact, to visit all the antique shops in the area, you'd have to plan to stay a while. There are more than 200 antique shops, ranging from large multi-dealer malls to small specialty stores, ready to tempt you with old Kentucky cabinetry, quilts, imported furniture, Shaker items, Depression glass, collectibles — you name it!

There's enough great antiquing within Lexington itself to keep you busy for days. In addition, virtually

every surrounding community includes at least a few antique malls and shops, so it's easy to combine antique shopping with general sightseeing. As a writer for *The New York Times* put it, antiquing in the Bluegrass is “a chance to unearth some great buys in American antiques and, in the bargain, enjoy some of the most beautiful rural countryside anywhere.”

Such a deal! And while all Bluegrass roads eventually lead to an antique shop or two, here are a few suggestions to get you started.

In Lexington

Antique shopping is definitely a main attraction in Lexington. In fact, you'll find some great shops right on Main Street. **Heritage Antiques** (238 East Main Street; 859-253-1035) offers 18th, 19th and 20th-century

furnishings and accessories. Continuing east on Main, you can stop at **Ann Greely Interiors and Antiques** (497 East Main Street; 859-367-0200), a yellow mansion full of exquisite furniture, decorative items and paintings. The **Thoroughbred Antique Gallery** (637 East Main Street; 859-233-9375) brings together outstanding antiques, interiors, garden accessories and fine art. Inventory ranges from period 18th century pieces to mid-century modern.

In the Shops at Lexington Center on West Main, you'll find **Lafayette Galleries** (859-253-1633) with antiques as well as new American and English silver, collector's plates, crystal and prints. Further west on Main, the street's name changes to Leestown Road, and about a mile west of Rupp Arena, you'll find the **Meadowthorpe Antique Mall** (1455 Leestown Road; 859-255-2607), where about 50 dealers offer a little bit of everything. Open

daily except Mondays. Across the road, you'll find **Feather Your Nest Antiques, Collectibles & Accessories**, open daily (859-381-1505).

While downtown, browse through **Shelley's Limited Antiques** at 765 East 7th Street (859-225-7426), specializing in antique trunk restoration. **January**, at 193 North Limestone, has an eclectic mix of furniture, lamps, silver and decorative objects.

Nearby, you can have luncheon tea or afternoon tea and browse fine period furnishings and *objet d'art* at the **Green Tree Tea Room**, 521 West Short Street (859-455-9660). Just next door, Debbie Chamblin at **Belle**

Bluegrass Note: Two monthly antique shows make their home in Lexington. An Antique Affair (859-296-2429) and Athens Schoolhouse Antiques (859-255-7309) are large shows offering an astounding array of antiques and collectibles from hundreds of dealers on selected weekends year round.

Maison is a direct importer of French antiques. She also has an intriguing collection of planters, urns, arbors and statuary for your garden (859-252-9030).

Flag Fork Herb Farm, a little bit of country right in the city, has always delighted visitors to the Cafe with their clever assortment of gifts; now they offer antiques in one of their out-buildings. (900 North Broadway; 859-252-6837.)

On the east side of town, you'll find Todd and Dana Moore's **Bluegrass Antique Market** (801 Winchester Rd.; 859-258-2105). From Victorian bric-a-brac to 50's style dinettes, you'll find plenty to satisfy your appetite for browsing. Check out the **Cow Girl Attic** nearby (1535 Delaware Avenue; 859-225-3876). You'll find architectural artifacts, furniture, garden relics, iron gates, art, estate items, and more!

Close by is another treasure trove. **Lenabelles Antiques** (732 National Avenue; 859-253-0137) has 18th to 20th century fine furniture as well as art and a selection of decorative items.

If it's an old Kentucky long rifle you're shooting for, try **Antique and Modern Firearms** (2263

Nicholasville Road; 859-276-1419). **Glover's Bookery** (862 South Broadway; 859-253-0614) is a house full of old books and prints, including many regional items.

In a quaint old church (1850!) on the Fayette/Jessamine county line, you'll find **Claire Bourne Antiques** (4648 Nicholasville Road; 859-272-4648). The building houses some fine country pieces, quality furniture, mirrors and decorative items.

In the Region


In a state that's as antique-laden as Kentucky, it takes a lot of bravado (and old stuff) to call yourself the "antiques capital." **Georgetown**, 13 miles north of Lexington, backs up its claim with 12 antique malls and shops downtown on Main Street alone. One of them, **Georgetown Antique Mall** (502-863-1891), encompasses two buildings and is open seven days a week. Another, **Central Kentucky Antique Mall**, is a great source for early silver, estate jewelry and Civil War items. (502-863-4018). In the **Oxford Antiques District**, five miles east of Georgetown on US 62 you'll

find even more shops.

North of Lexington, the quaint town of **Paris** has a number of shops clustered in a five-block area. Go see Dan Graham at **Graham's Antiques** on East 4th Street for antique and country furnishings as well as hand-tied rugs (859-987-5566). While in Paris, be sure to stop in at **Loch Lea Antiques** at 410 Main St. (859-987-7070), a favorite of antique lovers for the past 20 years.

Frankfort is more than just the seat of state government and home to the Kentucky History Center. It is also a haven for antique stores. You'll find an assortment of shops featuring classic collectibles. At Wilma's Linens and Lace Antiques at 202 West Broadway (502-223-1976), neatly pressed antique linens are featured along with an impressive collection of antique glassware, crystal, china and pottery.

In Woodford County, west of Lexington, several shops are found in **Midway** and **Versailles**. But what is perhaps the most well-known of all Bluegrass antique shops is found in the tiny community of **Nonesuch**. The term "shop" hardly describes **Irish Acres**, 4205 Ford's Mill

Road (859-873-7235). You'll find everything from affordable whatnots to pricey museum-quality pieces on three floors in this 32,000 square foot former school building. Take the beautiful country drive Tuesdays through Saturdays, mid-March through December. You'd better pack a lunch – or, even better, make reservations to have lunch in the on-site tearoom, **The Glitz** (859-873-6956). You have to see it to believe it! 

Bluegrass Note: Wakefield-Scearce Galleries in Shelbyville, 47 miles west of Lexington via I-64, is a bit of the "British aisles" in the Bluegrass. Established in 1947, the shop specializes in imported English furniture, fine silver, paintings and objects of art. Sterling silver julep cups from Wakefield-Scearce are a popular Kentucky gift.

**For more information contact the
Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau
at 800-845-3959.**

*By Teresa Day, a freelance travel writer based in Georgetown, KY
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