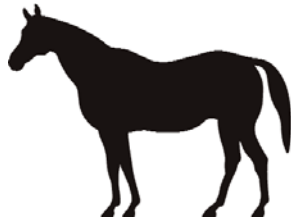


## IDEA GUIDE



LEXINGTON CONVENTION  
AND VISITORS BUREAU

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# THE RIGHT STUFF

*From Brand Names to Bargain Buys,  
Great Shopping Abounds in Lexington*

Shopping and travel have been a favorite combination for centuries. Remember Marco Polo? He made history by bringing home those spices and silks from the Orient. Your own goal may be more modest — a new outfit, an addition to a favorite collection; or an interesting gift or souvenir — but the fact remains that here in 21st century America, shopping is the #1 favorite pastime, at home or away. Lexington definitely rises to the occasion in responding to this national passion. Whether you're a bonafide browsing junkie or just looking for a special souvenir, you'll find plenty of interesting shops full of fun and fascinating stuff. It isn't just your imagination that there are shopping centers on virtually every corner here. As the retail hub for a good portion of Kentucky, Lexington actually has a relatively high concentration of retailers for its size.

The variety is great, too — Lexington stores range from charming boutiques to mega centers; bargain-priced places to the totally upscale and the classic to the trendy. You can find your favorite national retailers and without looking too hard, are sure to discover locally owned shops that are pure Kentucky.

Here's an "insider's guide" to get you started. We've focused on making you aware of a variety of interesting local shops; showcasing the one-of-a-kind places you'll find only in Lexington; and directing you to the

high-volume shopping areas. Most of the shops listed are favorites of avid shoppers on the Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau staff.

### High-Volume Shopping

For many shoppers — and especially if there's a teenager in your group — the essential shopping question is: "Where's the mall?" Lexington has several indoor malls and large shopping areas that are a good bet if you're looking for concentrated volume and variety.

**The big one:** The main mall in town is **Fayette Mall**, and it's a big one — more than 120 stores covering about 1.1 million square feet. It's the largest mall in Kentucky. Along with department stores Macy's, Dillard's, Sears, and J.C. Penney, you'll find many of the best-known specialty shop names in America — Banana Republic, The Gap, Victoria's Secret, J. Crew, The Disney Store, Abercrombie & Fitch — plus restaurants including P.F. Chang's and The Olive Garden. There's a large food court as well with more than 21 eateries. And if you have a non-shopper in the group, he or she can pass the time playing games at the arcade near the food court, or catch a movie at one of the sixteen theaters at Cinemark Fayette Mall.

Fayette Mall is located at 3401 Nicholasville Road, just south of New Circle Road. This is the heart of a retail corridor. Several other shopping centers and discount stores are nearby.

**Bluegrass Note:** How about hours? Malls and large stores are open seven a days a week.

Many specialty shops are closed Sundays and evenings. Hours may also vary seasonally, with extended shopping during the holiday season.

Call to verify hours.

**Books to briefcases:** The centerpiece of **Lexington Green**, just north of Fayette Mall, is **Joseph-Beth Booksellers**, one of the region's largest independent bookstores. A large, attractive store with CDs, gifts, and a good restaurant as well as books, "Jo-Beth" is a favorite see-and-be-seen spot. Lexington Green also includes a variety of small specialty shops, including **Leather, Inc.**, and the locally owned specialty women's clothing store **World's Apart**.

### Downtown, Upscale

Specialty clothing and gift shops create an upscale mood at **The Shops at Lexington Center** and **Victorian Square**, two shopping areas connected by covered pedways in the heart of downtown Lexington.

The Shops at Lexington Center are part of the Rupp Arena/Heritage Hall convention center complex. From **Lafayette Galleries**, with its fine crystal, china, and silver items, to home grown products at the **Kentucky Proud Market**, the Center offers three levels of specialty shopping.

Across Main Street at Victorian Square, specialty shopping continues. You'll find fine men's clothing and accessories at Howard & Miller. Get ready for your next black tie event at **Miss Priss**. There's a wide selection of formal wear including pageant and prom gowns. Victorian Square also features a variety of gift and collectible shops, artist's studios, and full-service restaurants.

Take home a true Kentucky original from **Savane Silver** at the corner of Short and Broadway. Designer pieces include unique jewelry made from Kentucky agate. Agate, a form of quartz, is only found in six counties in Kentucky.

### Other Fashionable Places

Women's clothing boutiques in Lexington suit a wide range of personal tastes — from furry to funky. Shop around a little, and you just may decide that Lexington should be called the "clothes-horse capital of the

world."

If fur's your thing, be sure to visit **Embry's**, 3363 Tates Creek Road. A full-service furrier in business since 1904, Embry's carries a beautiful selection of fine

furs, along with St. John knits and other quality items.

There's always something tempting on display in the windows of **Bella Rose**, 126 West Maxwell Street (between downtown and the University of Kentucky campus). This women's boutique offers fashions for all occasions, casual to formal, and carries such chic lines as Nicole Miller.

Tucked away in a yellow cottage at 116 Clay Avenue, east of downtown, is **AJ's Casuals**, a little boutique that can drop

some big names — like Trina Turk, Lafayette 148, Laundry, Laurie B and Kate Spade. Dazzling designs and friendly service are the shop's hallmarks.

**Hopscotch**, down the street, offers classic children's apparel for newborns through preteens, plus a charming assortment of wooden toys and stuffed animals.

Brand names like Sigred Olsen, Garfield & Marks, Tommy Bahama, Central Falls and Hanky Panky — along with great service that even includes an entertainment room for kids so mom can shop — have won **Cotton Patch** a loyal following of local customers. The boutique carries casual, career, and tennis wear, and is located in the Lansdowne Shoppes shopping center at 3367 Tates Creek Road.

If your tastes turn more to the fun-and-funkier end of the fashion spectrum, check out **Helen's Boutique** at 235 Woodland Avenue. The owner's dogs, Riley and Gus, may greet you at the door.

### Bargain Spots

Several Lexington clothing stores specialize in high fashion at low prices. The **Talbots Surplus Store**, off Sir Barton Way out at Hamburg, offers tempting discounts (about 50 to 70 percent) on Talbot's classic-styled dresses, sportswear, and accessories. **TJMaxx** at Regency Center, 2311 Nicholasville Road, attracts shop-

**Bluegrass Note:** Lexington, like other cities across the United States, has become home to numerous megacenters shopping zones in recent years. Not malls, but sprawling collections of strip centers and discounters, these are a shopping phenomenon you either love or hate. Lexingtonians are split in feelings about Hamburg Place, located off Man o' War Blvd. near I-75. The entry and parking areas are mazelike, but shoppers brave them in droves to take in the array of shops ranging from big discounters Target, Meijer, and Garden Ridge to teen haven Old Navy to the immense pet-and-tack shop PetSmart.

pers on the prowl for designer clothing and shoes as well as houseware items. Other designer discounters include **Stein Mart** in the Woodhill Shopping Center, 1555 East New Circle Road; and two locations of **Marshall's**, one at Hamburg Place and one at 4001 Nicholasville Road.

### Upscale Resale

Going to a consignment shop isn't just shopping; it's a treasure hunt. Resale in Lexington goes far beyond **Goodwill** (although we've got that, too, at 3101 Clays Mill Road; 1441 Leestown Road; and 3640 Boston Road).

An upscale consignment shop, **Sassy Fox**, 3101 Richmond Road, carries women's clothing, casual and formal, including a fantastic selection of bridal dresses and veils.

**Apres Vous**, 183 Moore Drive, offers a terrific selection of designer clothing for every occasion, including evening wear, furs, and jewelry. **Stephen Lawrence, Ltd.**, 1200 South Broadway, features top label fashions for women, men, and children. This shop offers things for the abode as well as the bod, with a selection of beautiful furniture and home accessories. For teens, there is a **Plato's Closet** at 2220 Nicholasville Road.

### Eclectica Extraordinaire

Some shops are a little hard to categorize, but definitely worth exploring:

**Flag Fork Herb Farm** isn't on a farm. It started out that way, but eventually Mike and Carrie Creech moved their shop to a 1790 stable building at 900 North Broadway. The country's loss is the city's gain: This is a charming place to browse, buy rustic and crafty gifts, decorative items, and plants (in season). Make reservations for lunch at the adjacent cafe.

Could there be a more intriguing name than **The Black Market**? Don't worry; nothing illegal's going on, just a lot that's unusual. At this downtown shop at 516

East High Street, you'll find interesting sterling silver jewelry, candles, incense, bath products, even clothing items at great prices. There's a whole room devoted to shoes!

Maybe you'll find what you're looking for in **Julie's Closet**. This little shop in the Woodlands at the corner

of Main Street and Woodland, brings together gifts and home accessories and a hand-picked selection of women's fashion, including versatile and colorful Bala Bala jackets. And don't overlook **Third Street Stuff**, 257 North Limestone near downtown. The focus is on the brightly painted artwork of shop owner Pat Gerhard. A Pittsburgh native and University of Kentucky graduate, she creates wooden postcards, clocks, and furniture. Her

shop also sells wild-and-crazy stuff from all over, "gifts that remind us of the world's wonderful diversity," she says.

**Peggy's Gifts & Accessories**, 112 Clay Avenue, is packed with hand-picked goodies you won't find elsewhere. Owner Peggy Queen picks fabulous sterling jewelry, special baby and wedding gifts and unique home accessories.

If you're feeling guilty about leaving Fido at home, stop by **Bluegrass Barkery** across the street at 113 Clay Avenue. With treats in 31 flavors and unique gift items, you'll surely find something to please your pooch.

Elegant, whimsical, practical, fun... it takes a lot of different words to describe what you'll find at **Artique**. From some serious jewelry and beautiful hand-blown glass to hilarious folk art "yardbirds," Artique carries handmade arts and crafts items made by artisans across the United States. Artique has two locations, at the Lexington Shops in downtown Lexington, and at Lexington Green.

**The Gift Box**, at 3330 Partner Place, is packed full of Candleberry candles, Boyd bears, Rowe pottery and pewter items.

**Bluegrass Note:** Gift stores at some of Lexington's favorite tourist attractions are worth a trip in themselves. The **Kentucky Horse Park Gift Shop**, located in the park's Visitor Center, 4089 Iron Works Pike, has everything for the horse lover, from prints and original oils to jewelry and Kentucky souvenirs. Many items are Kentucky-made. Another haven for equine-themed items is **The Keeneland Shop**, which carries products ranging from jewelry to kidstuff. There's also a great selection of Keeneland Race Course shirts, hats, and jackets. Kentucky julep cups, watercolors, and regional cookbooks can be found at the **Museum Shop at Ashland**, the Henry Clay Estate, along with books and items relating to Henry Clay. A visit to **Shaker Village** (about 40-minutes from Lexington via US 68) isn't complete without browsing the lovely gift shop, with its handmade Shaker-style furniture and mirrors, Kentucky-made pottery, and handwoven textiles.

## Home and Garden

Dress your bed, bath and table at **Linens Limited**, 114 Clay Avenue. They carry selections from finest hand-embroidered linens from Portugal & Madeira, several lines of home fragrances, Juliska ceramics and glass, Arte Italica pewter and several prestigious table top and gift lines.

More “table top couture” can be found at **L.V. Harkness**, 531 West Short Street. This shop offers an intriguing mix of antiques, fine dinnerware and crystal, and personal accessories. Shop owner Meg Jewett, who also owns Walnut Hall horse farm, even commissioned Europe’s oldest porcelain manufacturer, Meissen, to create a place setting called “Bluegrass Series.” It costs \$1,893 per five-piece place setting, but, hey, no charge for looking. And tucked amid the pricey stuff are more modestly-priced finds. The shop is next door to the Greentree Tea Room, a lovely setting for a special lunch.

You could browse for hours at **Carpenter’s Dish Barn**, 2019 Lexington Road, Nicholasville. There are dishes and glassware galore, but it is also a garden center. Patio furniture and planters may be more than you want to tote, but there is also a delightful selection of smaller items to add interest to your garden back home.

You just never know what you’ll find at **Bluegrass Home Interiors**, 4371 Old Harrodsburg Road. A constantly changing inventory includes furniture new and old. But the best things are the accessories; unique items in all price ranges.

*Note: Lexington has oodles of antique shops.... so many that they have their own feature story. Ask the Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau for additional information.*

## Some Real Gems

Looking for some very special baubles? **Shelia’s Fine Jewelry**, located downtown in the convention center, is a local favorite for top designer jewelry from

around the world. Custom-design pieces are created by the store’s own award-winning designers. **Miller and Woodward Jewelers**, 2220 Nicholasville Road, Suite 152, specializes in antique and estate jewelry as well as newly crafted items.

## Into the Wild Blue Yonder

Lexington even has its own category of shops. Just call them “Blue-tiques.” These are entire stores devoted to items emblazoned with University of Kentucky sports logos. Perhaps the premier Blue-tique is **Kentucky Korner**, with two locations, in the Shops at Lexington Center downtown, and at Fayette Mall. Here you’ll find everything

imaginable — T-shirts, sweatshirts, pajamas, hats, key-chains, even trash cans — all kinds of “True Blue” gear and gifts. Another great source is Wildcat Wearhouse, with three locations: 353 Southland Drive, 415 South Broadway and in Fayette Mall.

Well, there it is, enough shopping to keep you busy for days. In Lexington, you’re sure to find stores worth writing home about. When you are at the visitors center at 301 East Vine Street, be sure to pick up a (free) unique postcard and do just that! It features Lexington’s famous “blue horse”. 

**Happy browsing!**

**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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**Bluegrass Note:** Here's the ultimate souvenir—your very own race horse. Lexington’s **Keeneland** holds major Thoroughbred sales in September, November, and January. It’s not just for royalty: Prices range anywhere from the thousands to the millions. Of course, buying the horse is just the beginning. Then you have to feed it. Another exotic equine-related shopping experience in Lexington is found at **Le Cheval Ltd.**, 711 Red Mile Road. Owner Paige Kahn tailors custom riding apparel for clients from coast to coast. Stop by for a gander at the loveliest in equine couture. (859)252-3481. **Becker Brothers**, 115 Walton Avenue, also offers custom-made riding apparel. (859) 233-0700