

But Wait...
There's More!



LEXINGTON CONVENTION
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ANTIQU 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** (380 East Main

Street; 859-253-1035) offers more than 10,000 square feet of 18th, 19th and 20th-century furnishings and accessories; look for the knight in armor out front.

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 **Lexington Antique Gallery** (637 East Main; 859-231-8197) brings together 22 dealers and offers three floors of 18th and 19th century furniture, coin and sterling

silver, linens and accessories. Explore **Lexington Antique Oriental Rugs** at Main and Clay (they have porcelain and furniture, too; 859-258-9027).

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 60 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

Blue Note: You can bid for fine estate and other items at Thompson & Riley auctions, usually held on Tuesdays at 710 East Main Street (859-252-6677). A listing of items usually runs in the preceding Sunday's classified section of the *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

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 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!

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 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 from furniture to linens and lace.

Antique malls and shops also can be found in downtown **Nicholasville** just south of Lexington via US 27. Don't miss **Antiques on Main**, (859-887-2767).

Continue on US 27 south to **Lancaster**, 35 miles from Lexington, to explore the 10,000 square foot **Lancaster Market** (102 Hamilton Avenue, Lancaster. 859-792-4536). Open by appointment.

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. 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!

**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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Blue Note: Wakefield-Scarce 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 Scarce are a popular Kentucky gift.