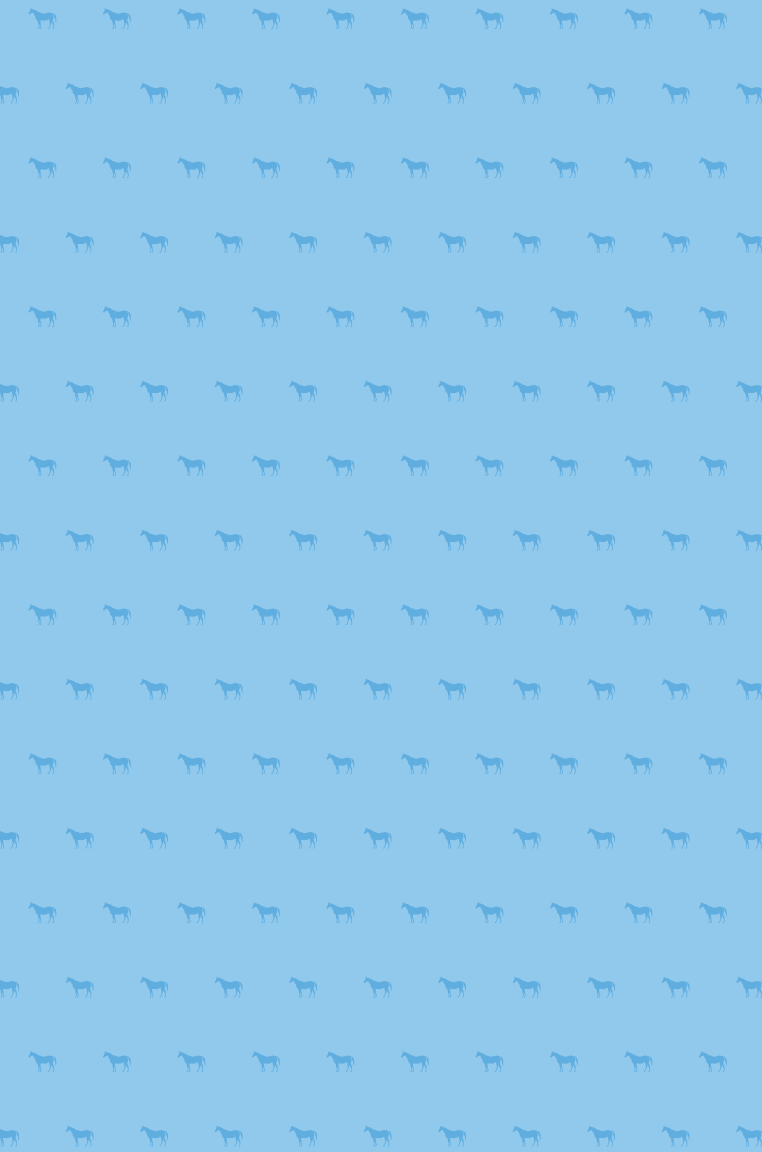




THE BEST OF  
*Lexington*



Your Guide to the  
Horse Capital of the World



## *A front porch kind of city*

Welcome to Lexington, where we pride ourselves on defying expectations.

We're not quite Southern. Certainly not Northern.

We're not the Midwest, rural or urban, big or small, too busy or too boring.

Instead of your typical meetings destination hotspot, Lexington is more like the sweet spot. We like to carve out our own comfort zone and invite you, our guest, to discover surprisingly cool new experiences at your own pace.

Think of Lexington as a front porch kind of city. A place to unwind in comfort and style, where everyone is welcome. A place to gather with friends, family and colleagues, put your feet up, sip a glass of bourbon, and savor an unforgettable meal.

A place where breathtaking natural beauty, like bluegrass hills and stunning Thoroughbreds, lives just a stone's throw from the vibrant culture and exciting nightlife of a walkable downtown.

It's a place you can return to again and again.

Let this guide inspire you to see for yourself that the very best of the Bluegrass State is right here in Lexington—The Horse Capital of the World—and nowhere else.

There's always room on the porch for one more.

# Top 13 things to do in Lexington

Here's a few tips to make the most of your time in town.

1. Soak up the history of the Distillery District
2. Place your bets at Keeneland Race Course
3. Make your way to a bourbon distillery
4. Trot on over to the Kentucky Horse Park
5. Shop local & nationally known brands at The Summit
6. Get up close and personal at a horse farm
7. Stir things up with Lexington's best cocktails



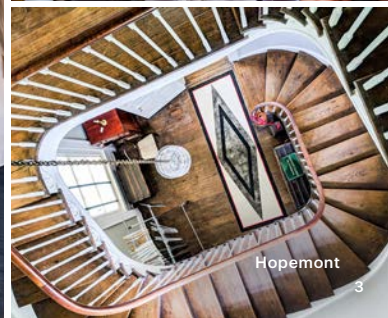
Keeneland Race Course



The Summit



Bites of the Bluegrass



Hopemont

“20 Best Places to Travel in 2024”

– Reader's Digest



8. Explore our neighborhoods & districts
9. Enjoy farm-to-table fresh cuisine on a Bites of the Bluegrass tour
10. Step back in time at Shaker Village
11. Enjoy one of Lexington's many live music venues
12. Tour Lexington's historic houses
13. Explore downtown Lexington



For more information,  
scan the QR Code.



Belle's Rooftop Bar



Kentucky Horse Park



Buffalo Trace Distillery Tour



Burl Arcade and Live Music Venue

# *The Horse Capital of the World*

Lexington is the undisputed Horse Capital of the World. When you're here, you're never more than 10 minutes away from breathtaking bluegrass hills, fence-lined pastures and more than 450 horse farms.

We're also the center of the Thoroughbred breeding universe, and home to both the iconic Kentucky Horse Park and the historic Keeneland Race Course.

These are just a few equine experiences you won't want to miss.



Horse Farm Tours



WinStar Farm



Old Friends Farm

## Horse Country Tours

A one-stop shop for unforgettable equine experiences, Visit Horse Country can help you meet Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup Classic winners on tours of the world's most successful Thoroughbred breeding operations. They can also arrange eye-opening visits to stallion farms, nurseries, vet clinics, feed mills, and aftercare facilities.

*visithorsecountry.com*

## Keeneland Race Course

During the months of April and October, experience the thrill of Thoroughbred racing at Keeneland. Tour the perfectly manicured grounds of this National Historic Landmark, go behind the scenes of the world's leading Thoroughbred auction house and visit the largest library dedicated to the Thoroughbred any time of the year.

*keeneland.com*



Keeneland Race Course

## Kentucky Horse Park

Visit famous racehorses in the Hall of Champions, explore the International Museum of the Horse or see the Parade of Breeds show to understand the history and characteristics of horses from all over the world.

*kyhorsepark.com*

## Old Friends Farm

This aftercare facility is dedicated to providing a dignified retirement to Thoroughbred horses. Stop by to see Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Silver Charm, along with many other retired racing champions! With multiple tours to choose from, Old Friends Farm is a must-see Horse Country destination.

*oldfriendsequine.org*



For more information,  
scan the QR Code.



# Welcome to Bourbonland

Beneath the rolling bluegrass hills of Lexington, Kentucky, a rare limestone formation filters natural spring water for the world's finest bourbon, fueling a magical culture of creativity and innovation.

Explore 18 bourbon distilleries within just 45 miles of our charming downtown. Then grab a stool at one of the many world-class bourbon and cocktail bars around town.



Woodford Reserve Distillery



Fresh Bourbon



Bluegrass Tavern

## Bourbonland Distilleries

*Tours and tastings are available at these innovative bourbon distilleries in and around Lexington. Visit them all to capture the full experience of Bourbonland.*

### LEXINGTON DISTILLERIES

### DISTANCE FROM DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON

Fresh Bourbon Distillery	0.2 mi, 1 min
Lexington Brewing and Distilling Co.	0.9 mi, 4 min
Barrel House Distilling Co.	1 mi, 4 min
Bluegrass Distillers	1 mi, 4 min
James E. Pepper Distillery	1 mi, 4 min
RD1 Spirits	1 mi, 4 min
Bespoken Spirits	1.3 mi, 5 min
Dark Arts Whiskey House	2.2 mi, 7 min

### REGIONAL DISTILLERY

### DISTANCE FROM DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON

Hartfield & Co.	18 mi, 29 min
Woodford Reserve Distillery	21 mi, 33 min
Wild Turkey Distillery	22 mi, 34 min
Four Roses Distillery	24 mi, 32 min
Buffalo Trace Distillery	26 mi, 38 min
Castle & Key Distillery	27 mi, 34 min
Glenns Creek Distillery	28 mi, 36 min
Whiskey Thief Distilling Co.	28 mi, 40 min
J. Mattingly 1845 Distillery	29 mi, 38 min
Wilderness Trail Distillery	42 mi, 1 hr

## Get Your Official Bourbon Trail Passport & Field Guide

This book is a great planning resource for more than 46 different distilleries. Collect enough stamps along the way and you can even earn rewards!

Order yours at [kybourbontrail.com/field-guide](http://kybourbontrail.com/field-guide)



For more information, including a full list of distilleries, scan the QR code



A close-up photograph of a bartender's hands pouring a golden-brown liquid through a fine-mesh metal strainer into a snifter glass. The liquid is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash. The background is softly blurred, showing the bartender's uniform and the bar's environment. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

## *Bourbon, bars, & experiences*

### **In Lexington, Every Bar Is A Bourbon Bar**

Bourbon lovers and expert mixologists alike flock here to enjoy a truly authentic bourbon-drinking experience. While you're here, you might as well see what all the hype is about. Pull up a stool at any one of these iconic Lexington watering holes, and enjoy a world-class bourbon cocktail.

## Belle's Cocktail House

Named after Lexington's notorious madam Belle Brezing, this three-story bar displays its diverse, 100+ bourbon collection with an impressive rooftop to boot.

## Bluegrass Tavern

Regularly listed as one of the best bourbon bars in the South, and for good reason. Bluegrass Tavern has the largest bourbon selection in Kentucky, including a number of bourbons you won't be able to taste anywhere else.

## Centro

Popular with locals, the stunning bar features original brick and tile work laid in 1898, and serves more than 100 different types of bourbon.

## Elkhorn Tavern

One of the highlights of the Distillery District, this lounge and taproom is known for its inventive cocktails, cozy atmosphere, and delicious regional fare.

## Fresh Bourbon

The first Black-owned bourbon distillery since slavery, Fresh Bourbon has an elegant downtown tasting room where they hold dynamic sampling experiences, mixology classes, and more.

## Whiskey Bear

Whiskey Bear highlights Kentucky's heritage with an impressive selection of bourbons, with everything from Kentucky bourbon and rye to Japanese and Irish whiskeys.

# Hop on the Brewgrass Trail

Bluegrass. Brewgrass. Get it? When you combine Lexington's rich history of distilling with our passionate creative spark, you get a craft beer scene unlike anywhere else in the world. Take a trek on the Brewgrass Trail and sample a mind-boggling selection of artisanal beers, ciders and more at 19 independent breweries.

Sign up for the digital Brewgrass Trail Passport to make the experience even more rewarding. The more stops you make on the trail, the more free swag you get!

[brewgrasstraillex.com](http://brewgrasstraillex.com)



## **BLUE STALLION BREWING CO.**

[bluestallionbrewing.com](http://bluestallionbrewing.com)  
Lexington, KY

## **COUNTRY BOY BREWING**

[countryboybrewing.com](http://countryboybrewing.com)  
Lexington, KY

## **ETHEREAL BREWING**

[etherealebrew.com](http://etherealebrew.com)  
Lexington, KY

## **MIRROR TWIN BREWING CO.**

[mirrortwinbrewing.com](http://mirrortwinbrewing.com)  
Lexington, KY

## **ROCK HOUSE BREWING**

[rockhousebrewing.com](http://rockhousebrewing.com)  
Lexington, KY

## **THE VOID SAKE COMPANY**

[thevoidsake.com](http://thevoidsake.com)  
Lexington, KY

## **WEST SIXTH BREWING**

[westsixth.com](http://westsixth.com)  
Lexington, KY

## **WISE BIRD CIDER CO.**

[wisebirdcider.com](http://wisebirdcider.com)  
Lexington, KY



For more information,  
including a full list of breweries,  
scan the QR code.

## *Best places to grab a bite*

Lexington's culinary scene is on fire, with new restaurants, cafés, food trucks and bistros popping up at every turn. Combine that with dishes from around the world, made with farm-to-table ingredients from local farms, and you have the recipe for foodie heaven.

Here are a few of our favorites.



Graddam Restaurant



Epping's on Eastside



ItaIX



## Chevy Chase

*Distance from Downtown: 2 miles, 8 minutes*

Chevy Chase is a great spot for shopping, and the restaurants are just as good—if not better. From fresh cuts of meat to Mediterranean cuisine, there's something here that'll hit the spot.

\$\$	Athenian Grill
\$\$	Bear & the Butcher
\$\$	Bella Cafe
\$	Bourbon 'n Toulouse
\$\$	Josie's
\$\$	The Sage Rabbit

## Distillery District

*Distance from Downtown: 1.6 miles, 4 minutes*

Here, distilleries are just the beginning. This charming area has become a local hotspot for food, drinks and live entertainment. [lexingtondistillerydistrict.com](http://lexingtondistillerydistrict.com)

\$	Barrel House Distilling Co.
\$	Crank & Boom
\$	Desperados Cantina
\$	District 7
\$\$	Elkhorn Tavern
\$	Ethereal Brewing
\$	Goodfellas Pizzeria
\$	James E. Pepper Distillery
\$	Wise Bird Cider

## East End

*Distance from Downtown: <1 Mile*

The restaurants in the East End serve up mouthwatering dishes with Instagram-worthy presentations—with everything from smoked brisket, to wood-fired pizza and ceviche.

\$	Blue Door Smokehouse
\$\$	Carson's Food & Drink
\$\$\$	Cole's 735 Main
\$\$	East End Tap & Table
\$	El Cid
\$\$	Epping's on Eastside
\$	Martine's Pastries
\$	Rolling Oven at Mirror Twin

## Jefferson Street

*Distance from Downtown: <1 Mile*

Jefferson Street is home to some of Lexington's most beloved restaurants—a trip to this area is one you won't forget.

\$\$\$	Blue Heron Steakhouse
\$\$	County Club
\$\$	Distilled on Jefferson
\$\$	Smithtown Seafood
\$	Stella's Deli
\$\$	The Goose

## Limestone

*Distance from Downtown: <1 Mile*

Limestone is a buzzing downtown area where you'll find the perfect spot to grab anything from brunch to a late-night cocktail.

\$	Doodles
\$\$\$	Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse
\$\$\$	Le Deauville
\$	Minglewood
\$\$	Pearl's
\$	Sidebar Grill

## Main & Broadway

*Distance from Downtown: <1 Mile*

Located in the city center, here you'll find inventive cocktails, high-end steakhouses and stellar views.

\$\$	Big Blue Martini
\$	Bourbon On Rye
\$\$	Buddha Lounge
\$	The Grove
\$\$	Infinity Cafe
\$\$\$	ItalX
\$	LexLive
\$\$	Lockbox
\$	Nat's
\$	Nic & Norman's
\$\$\$	Tony's
\$	Vinaigrette

## Short Street

*Distance from Downtown: <1 Mile*

At the heart of downtown, you'll find Short Street, which is home to local landmarks and everything from small plates to award-winning cuisine.

\$\$	Corto Lima
\$\$\$	Dudley's On Short
\$\$\$	Frank and Dino's
\$\$	Mama Tequila
\$\$	School Sushi
\$	The Horse & Jockey Pub
\$\$	Zim's Café



For more information, including a complete list of Lexington eateries, scan the QR code.



Ethereal Brewing

## Creative culture

Lexington has long been a place for intellectuals, progressive thinkers and artists to gather. It's that history which has led to the vibrant culture we have here today. Here you'll find galleries, murals, festivals, live music, theaters and some of the most creative people you'll ever meet—all coming together to make Lexington feel like a living, breathing work of art. Below are just a few of the ways that you can get a taste of Lexington's creative culture.



Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center



Live Music at the Lexington Opera House



Lexington Mural Challenge



## 21c Museum Hotel

167 W Main Street

A flock of blue penguin statues mark the spot of this museum-hotel, which hosts rotating exhibits of contemporary artwork in an effort to bring a deeper appreciation of modern art to the Lexington community.

[21cmuseumhotels.com](http://21cmuseumhotels.com)

## Arts Walk

Meets at 167 W Main Street

Enjoy a leisurely walk through the heart of downtown while taking in landmarks, visiting galleries, and hearing stories about some of the remarkable individuals who have contributed to Lexington's rich history and artistic culture.

[artsconnectlex.org](http://artsconnectlex.org)

## Headley-Whitney Museum of Art

4435 Old Frankfort Pike

Browse a collection of stones, jewelry and elaborate dollhouses at this husband-and-wife founded museum, which also features a rose garden and shell grotto. The museum's design was built to embody elements of a jewelry box, with brass finishings and rosewood doors.

[headley-whitney.org](http://headley-whitney.org)

## Lexington Mural Challenge

As you explore Lexington, you'll find whimsical doodles alongside sky-high commissioned works of art—street artists from all over the world have turned our city into a colorful art gallery. Take the Lexington Mural Challenge and snap a picture in front of five different murals!

For more information, scan the QR code or go to [visitlex.com/mural-challenge](http://visitlex.com/mural-challenge)



## Lyric Theatre

300 E Third Street

Featuring rotating exhibits that celebrate a variety of diverse cultures, especially African-American heritage, the Lyric Theatre features the works of local, regional and national artists and is always free to the public.

[lexingtonlyric.com](http://lexingtonlyric.com)

## UK Art Museum

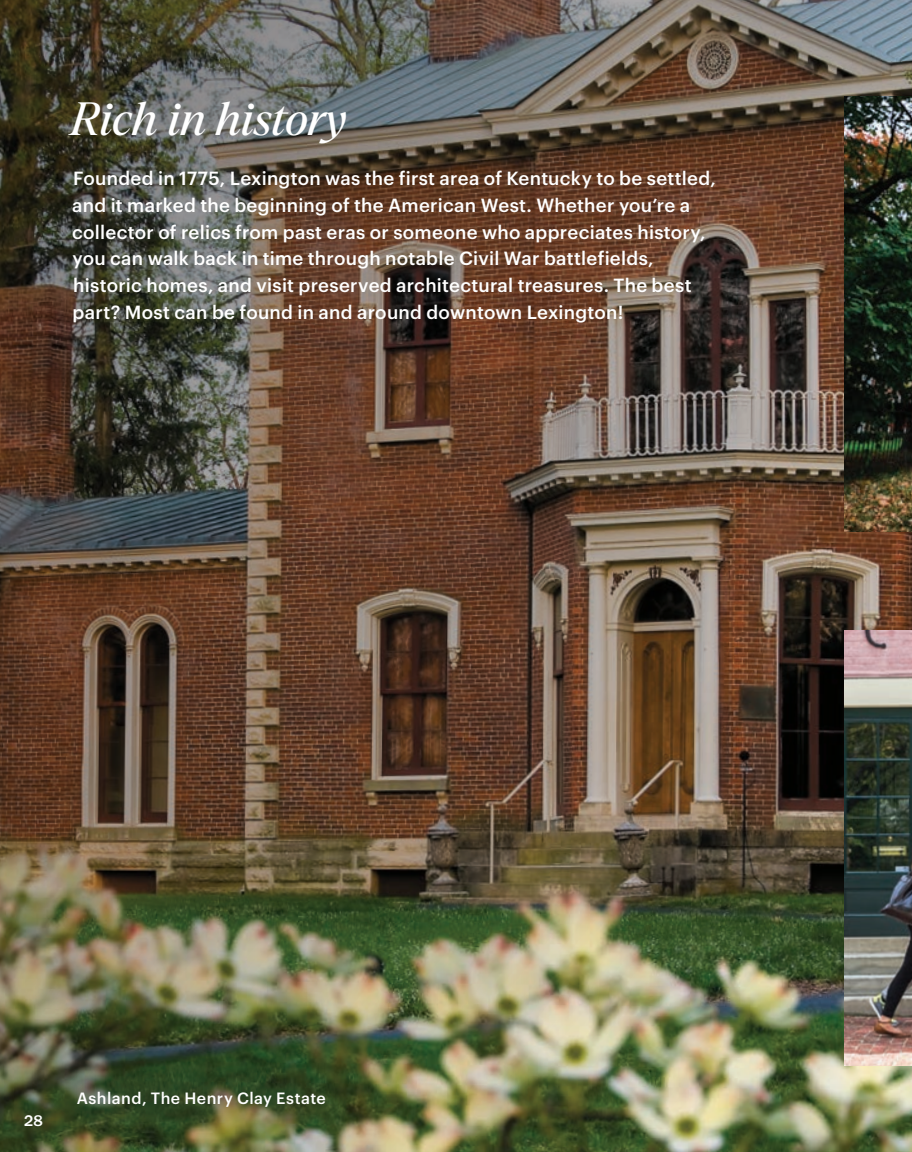
405 Rose Street

Home to a collection of more than 4,800 objects including American and European paintings, drawings, photographs, prints and sculpture, the UK Art Museum presents both special exhibitions and shows of work from its permanent collection.

[finearts.uky.edu/art-museum](http://finearts.uky.edu/art-museum)

## *Rich in history*

Founded in 1775, Lexington was the first area of Kentucky to be settled, and it marked the beginning of the American West. Whether you're a collector of relics from past eras or someone who appreciates history, you can walk back in time through notable Civil War battlefields, historic homes, and visit preserved architectural treasures. The best part? Most can be found in and around downtown Lexington!



Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate



Mary Todd Lincoln House



Gratz Park Historic District

## Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate

*120 Sycamore Road*

Ashland, home of 19th-century statesman Henry Clay, sits near downtown Lexington on a beautiful 17-acre wooded estate. Take a guided tour—like their signature tour or the Slavery at Ashland tour—or stroll the grounds and English parterre garden at your own pace.

[henryclay.org](http://henryclay.org)

## Gratz Park Homes

*Mill & Market Streets between Second & Third*

Comprising 16 historic buildings, stroll past the idyllic former homes of some of Lexington's first leaders in this quaint area in the heart of downtown Lexington.

[gratzpark.org](http://gratzpark.org)

## Kentucky Theatre

*214 East Main Street*

This historic downtown cinema first opened its doors in 1922 and showcases foreign, independent and art films as well as occasional concerts. Its rich ornamental walls and glowing stained glass fixtures give an old-timey feel to this Lexington landmark.

[kentuckytheatre.org](http://kentuckytheatre.org)

## Lexington Cemetery

*833 West Main Street*

A private cemetery and one of the most beautiful arboretums in the country, the Lexington Cemetery is the burial site of many notable Kentuckians. Look for the historic monuments honoring General John Hunt Morgan, Vice President John C. Breckenridge, and Statesman Henry Clay, whose limestone monument stands 120 feet tall.

[lexcem.org](http://lexcem.org)

## Lexington History Museum

*210 N Broadway*

Originally established in 1998, the Lexington History Museum, now known as LexHistory, is dedicated to telling the stories of Lexington's rich heritage. Located in the historic Thomas Hunt Morgan House, the museum features exhibits pertaining to Lexington's history.

[lexhistory.org](http://lexhistory.org)

## Mary Todd Lincoln House

*578 West Main Street*

With the distinction of being the first historic site to be restored in honor of a First Lady, the Mary Todd Lincoln house is the childhood home of President Abraham Lincoln's wife. Learn about her life here and as First Lady on a guided tour.

[mtlhouse.org](http://mtlhouse.org)



# Shopping

From quaint boutiques and eccentric bookstores, to the largest mall in the state, when it comes to shopping, Lexington really has it all. Below are just some of our favorite spots we think are worth checking out while you're in town.



The Summit at Fritz Farm



Albert Couture



Draper James

## Chevy Chase

*Distance from Downtown: <1 mile*

Chevy Chase is full of shops, boutiques and restaurants that are unique to Lexington.

## Clay Avenue

*Distance from Downtown: 1.5 miles, 5 minutes*

Home to a collection of shops that sell custom stationery, children's fashions, fine linens, jewelry, furniture, antiques, collectibles, ladies clothing, photography and more.

## Hamburg

*Distance from Downtown: 5.9 miles, 18 minutes*

Hamburg is home to a wide variety of national retailers like Target and DSW, popular chain restaurants, a movie theater and even a trampoline park.

## Lansdowne

*Distance from Downtown: 4.3 miles, 15 minutes*

Shop women and children's apparel, fine jewelry and much more. With a growing dining scene, this has also become an area known for its charming patio seating options.

## The Summit At Fritz Farm

*Distance from Downtown: 5.6 miles, 18 minutes*

A finely curated, mixed-use destination with a wide variety of street-level shops, including Warby Parker and Anthropologie. Best of all, you can actually sip a cocktail at any of these spots while you shop here.

## Woodland Triangle

*Distance from Downtown: 1.2 miles, 4 minutes*

Discover a variety of specialty shops, including: antiques, clothing boutiques and more.





## Take the scenic route

Sometimes you just have to stop and smell the bluegrass. Get an up-close and-personal view of Lexington with a guided tour. Whether you prefer to walk or drive, there's a tour that's perfect for you.



Bites of the Bluegrass



Driving Tour



Abraham Lincoln Mural



Scan the following QR codes to learn more about each tour.



### **HISTORIC DRIVING/ WALKING TOURS**

Get an up-close look at the iconic landscape of the Bluegrass by walking, driving or cycling the roads in and around Lexington.



### **BITES OF THE BLUEGRASS**

This guided tour of Lexington's food scene lets you enjoy delicious Southern fare all while you learn about Lexington's history, architecture, and street art.



### **AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE GUIDE**

Learn about the people, places and events that played a significant role in the advancement of equality in Lexington—shaping it into the city it is today.



### **PRIDE OF PLACE WALKING TOUR**

This self-guided, downtown walking tour lets you visit over a dozen sites that tell the remarkable stories of LGBTQIA+ courage, perseverance, and their fight for equality.



## *After the meeting*

Looking for something to do with your evening once you're finished with meetings for the day?

We've got you covered.



Creaux



Battle Axes



Thursday Night Live

## LexLive

90,000 square feet of entertainment in downtown Lexington. Includes a luxury bowling alley, 10 movie screens, a restaurant, and three bars showcasing live sporting events from around the world.

[lexlive.com](http://lexlive.com)

## Battle Axes

Test your hatchet throwing skills and sample over 100 canned beers, ciders, cocktails, and wines. Soda and snacks are available as well.

[battleaxesky.com](http://battleaxesky.com)

## The Burl Arcade

Party like it's 1988 in an old Texaco garage that houses 30+ vintage arcade cabinets and the largest pinball collection in town. Plus there's a fully stocked bar with craft beer, cocktails, and Lexington's only Mojito on draft.

[theburlky.com](http://theburlky.com)

## Thursday Night Live

From summer through early fall, dance the night away with live music and local vendors right on Lexington's Main Street every Thursday evening.

[downtownlex.com](http://downtownlex.com)

## Main Event

Their name says it all. With bowling, laser tag, VR experiences, billiards, an extensive arcade, plus a full kitchen and bar, an afternoon here is more than an outing, it's an event.

[mainevent.com](http://mainevent.com)

## Malibu Jacks

Indoor mini golf, laser tag, go karts, and more family-friendly activities under one gigantic roof. While you're there, watch the big game or grab a bite to eat at Jack's Sandbar & Grill.

[malibujacks.net](http://malibujacks.net)





## *We're here to help.*

The Lexington Visitors Center, located in Lexington's Historic Courthouse, is open Monday–Saturday between 10:00 a.m and 4:00 p.m. Our award-winning staff of local hospitality professionals can provide you with maps, brochures, the most up-to-date information, and recommendations tailored just for you. Stop by and let us help you enjoy an unforgettable stay in Lexington.



We hope that this guide serves as inspiration for your Lexington experience. When you visit, please be sure to share everything you love about Lexington on social media using #ShareTheLEX.

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### Lexington Visitors Center

215 West Main Street, Ste. 75  
Lexington, KY 40507

(800) 845-3959  
(859) 233-7299

 [VisitLEX.com](http://VisitLEX.com)

 [Vacation@VisitLEX.com](mailto:Vacation@VisitLEX.com)

 [@VisitLex](https://www.instagram.com/VisitLex)

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Paid in part by the KY  
Department of Tourism

TEAM  
KENTUCKY

