

Old Kentucky Turnpike

My Old Kentucky Home



4 Days/3 Nights

Gateway City: Louisville, Kentucky



It's a picturesque route starting at the Falls of the Ohio, that travels deep into the rich, green wooded landscape further south. And the story you'll discover is the story of Kentucky itself. When statehood arrived on the frontier in 1792, most of the residents were poor, scratching out a living farming and traveling by flatboat and wagon. By the time the Antebellum era arrived in the early 1800s, Marylanders and Virginians began moving in to find fresh land to grow tobacco, building great plantation houses, and acquire massive spreads. A network of stagecoach roads, including the Old Kentucky Turnpike, were constructed to make it easier for the new planters to get their crops to market. When it became evident that War would come, many residents migrated to Tennessee and Missouri to avoid disputes that ultimately split the state, which was part Northern and part Southern, and its families in two. It was into this milieu that Abraham Lincoln, the US President during the Civil War, and Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy were both born in Kentucky, just a few years apart. Self-taught Lincoln was the son of a hardscrabble frontier farmer and Davis, who was raised on a prosperous farm, would go on to West Point. The route itself begins at My Old Kentucky Home State Park, where his cousin's prestigious Antebellum mansion, Federal Hill, inspired the great American composer Stephen Foster to write what was likely his most recognized song. The story of the struggle during

the Civil war is told in Bardstown at the Civil War Museum, where you can also ride the Old Kentucky Dinner Train for an evening of gracious dining and enjoy a carriage ride through a historic downtown. The rest of the Byway moves deep into the back country, where you'll discover the hardscrabble life of Abraham Lincoln as he struggled to learn and make a living. It's quite a story that's revealed in a short 28 miles. One of great contrasts, like the state itself.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Louisville, Gateway to the South. A visit to Farmington Historic Plantation, the centerpiece of a 55 -acre spread constructed in 1816, lets you begin your visit in the Antebellum era. From there, tour Old Louisville, 1,200 acres of finely detailed, impeccably preserved, massive Victorian homes, where there is a walking tour or an option to drive. Next up, the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, a must see, and in the evening enjoy a dinner cruise on the Belle of Louisville, the only authentic steamboat from the packet boat era still on American waterways. Two options for evening accommodations include the

1840 Tucker House, which lets you stay in the Old South, or the Inn at St. James Court, located in Old Louisville. There's also The Brown Hotel, Louisville's classic historic hotel built in 1923. On Day Two, you have the option to visit the Kentucky Derby Museum or chose from a selection of 9 other museums in downtown Louisville. Customize this part of your trip however you wish.

On Day Three, it's time to head to Bardstown, to visit My Old Kentucky Home State Park and take A Walk Through Time, in town. Museum Row includes the Civil War Museum, the unique Women in the Civil War Museum, and a military museum. Old Bardstown Village, features a collection of 18th and 19th century log buildings, a covered bridge and stone mill. The Wickland Governor's Home was constructed in 1828. Accommodations at the 1819 Jailer's Inn, converted into six individually styled guest rooms, lets you stay in the period. The Old Talbott Tavern dating from 1779, is another option.

Back on the Byway heading for Hodgenville, stop at the Abbey of Gethsemani founded in 1848 and considered the motherhouse of all Trappist monks in the United States. Knob Creek Farm, 10 miles north of Hodgenville, was Lincoln's boyhood home from 1811 to 1816. The reconstruction is set in an idyllic location of fertile fields, steep wooded hills and Knob Creek itself, from which, as a boy, Lincoln was rescued by a family friend. Further on, the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, reveals more stories from Lincoln's life, the Lincoln Museum, and other locations on the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail. The centerpiece is an impressive memorial building which, according to the inscription, was built to house "the log cabin where Abraham Lincoln was born." From here, we wish you safe passage if you're traveling another Kentucky Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.

DAY ONE



Louisville

If there is only one city in the South you can visit, choose Louisville. The city has a genteel southern lifestyle, southern hospitality, and southern heritage. Chartered by Thomas Jefferson in 1780, Louisville was named after Louis XVI of France, whose soldiers aided the American Revolution. Soon, the first library opened, the University of Louisville, the Louisville Medical Institute, and the Louisville Collegiate Institute were all founded. The city became the home of horse racing in 1875 with the first running of the Kentucky Derby and the next year, witnessed the launch of professional baseball. Today, Louisville's traditional southern charm is coupled with all the amenities of a major metropolitan area; nightly cultural entertainment, history, the arts, urban fun, great shopping, historic districts, theme parks, world-class natural areas, scenic byways, and an eclectic and interesting collection of museums.



Farmington Historic Plantation

Farmington, which resembles Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, was built in 1816, using a Jefferson plan as the center of a thriving 550-acre hemp plantation. The 14-room home had rooms for servants and children in the basement. When the property was restored as a 19th-century plantation, the only change made was the installation of a metal roof for fire safety. In summer of 1841, Abraham Lincoln visited Farmington for three weeks, forming a friendship that sustained through the Civil War.

3033 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205, 502-452-9920, Tu-F tours on the hour 11AM-3PM, Sat tours 11, Noon & 1, Adults \$10

Walking Tour of Old Louisville

Even though the homes in Old Louisville were not built in the Antebellum era, the 1200-acre National Register Historic District is a must see. Considered the city's more exuberant neighborhood, built primarily in the 1870s, it was one of the city's first suburbs. Architectural styles range from Renaissance Revival to Queen Anne and Chateausque, built in a variety of colors, materials and sizes. The New York Times recommends David Domine's 90 minute Louisville Historic Tour for a guided walk through neighborhoods where bourbon barons, racetrack royalty, and tobacco titans lived. Begin at the Welcome to Old Louisville sign at the corner of South Fourth Street and West Ormsby Avenue. Tours offered March 15-November 15 at 11AM and 1PM. You also have the option to take the 45-minute Limerick driving tour offered by the Old Louisville Information Center, 1340 S. 4th Street in Central Park, Louisville, KY 40208, 502-635-5244 Tu-F 1PM-5 PM



Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft

Founded to build on Kentucky's craft heritage, the museum's initial success ultimately led to a one-of-a-kind collection of 300 works of American Folk Art now housed in a four-story historic cast iron structure. As you tour, you'll discover an overview of Kentucky's culture in displays featuring items from agriculture, domestic life, religious beliefs and pastimes, that also point out differences in economic participation and social class in the state.

715 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202, 502-589-0102, Wed-Sun 10AM-4PM

Belle of Louisville Dinner Cruise

Indulge in a truly special evening aboard the Belle of Louisville, the city's own paddlewheel steamboat, which at 105 years old, is the only remaining authentic steamboat still on the water. The Captain's Dinner Ticket includes a delectable, chef-prepared meal, with a choice of a bottle of wine and a behind-the-scenes tour through the engine and boiler rooms. Meet Master Captain Mark Doty and crew between 6PM-7:30PM and enjoy a Sunset Cruise between 8PM and 10PM. The roof of the Pilot House provides the best view of the river.

401 West River Road, Louisville, KY, 502-574-2992, Adults \$59.99



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

1840 Tucker House Bed and Breakfast, 2406 Tucker Station Road, Louisville, KY 40299, 502-297-8007

The original 1840 Tucker House, still surrounded by a stone spring house, dry-laid masonry wall and quarry that supplied stone for the foundations, sits on five acres of striking beauty. The adventurous can float on a raft in the pool, while gazing at the clouds. Four guest rooms, each with its own private bath, are meticulously appointed with antiques of the era. Three have queen beds, and the fourth, an authentic 1820's rope bed.

Inn at St. James Court, 1440 St. James Court, Louisville, KY 40208, 502-883-3140

If staying right in town is your preference, the Inn at St. James Court sits at the center of tree-lined Old Louisville. You can enjoy a made-from-scratch breakfast under the shade of the wraparound porch and follow the footsteps of Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla who strolled around the Court. The property has been meticulously maintained to preserve its original character, while the interior was extensively updated to enhance guest comfort. The stained-glass windows, hand-carved moldings and other original appointments were all retained. Three guest rooms offer personal service that larger lodgings simply can't provide.

Destination Distinctive Dining

The Brown Hotel Lobby Bar and English Grill, 335 West Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202, 888-888-5252

Contemporary classic meets Old World opulence at the 1923 Brown Hotel Lobby Bar and English Grill, widely considered Louisville's finest dining. The menu offers a selection of appetizers, homemade soups, salads, and entrees. Save room for the Chocolate Striptease, a signature dessert finished with flaming Bacardi 151 Rum.

Jack Fry's, 1007 Bardstown Rd, Louisville, KY 40204, 502-452-9244

Established in 1933 by Jack Fry and his wife, this former sportsman's hangout has been transformed into a fine dining staple. This history-laden, eatery offers high-end Southern fare and cocktails in an old-world setting.

610 Magnolia, 610 Magnolia Avenue, Louisville, KY 40208, 502-636-0783

This restaurant in Old Louisville is the epitome of elegance with original wood beams, mullioned windows and French doors that open to an outdoor garden. A modern approach to the Southern table is focused on harmony between cuisine trends and southern hospitality.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Koi Gallery @ Galt House Hotel, West Suite 328, 140 North 4th Street, Louisville, KY 40202, 502-216-9398 or 502-568-4896

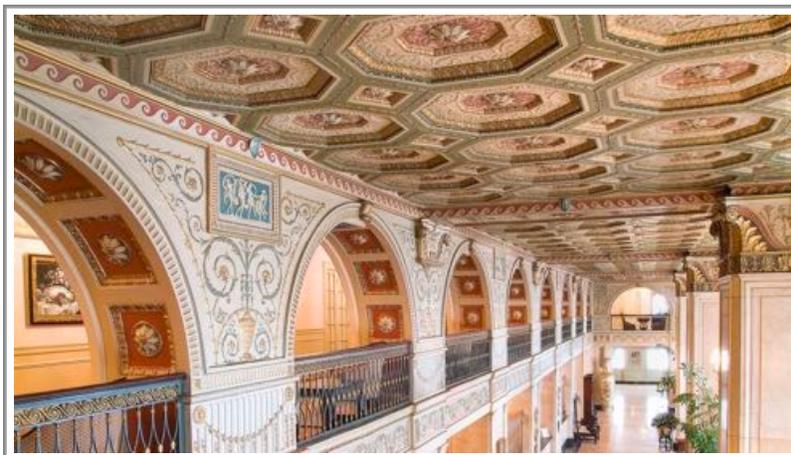
Featuring one-of-a-kind sterling silver, semi-precious and precious gemstone jewelry, wearable art, fine art paintings, photographs, metal and fiber sculptures, hand-painted silk scarves, stained glass, ceramics and collectables.

Revelry Boutique & Gallery, 742 E Market Street, Louisville, KY 40202, 502-414-1278

A carefully curated boutique and gallery featuring over 100 regional artists, full of diverse, inspiring one-of-a-kind pieces including jewelry, prints, art and home décor, and a collection of handmade goods for children. The exhibits rotate monthly.

Fleur de Flea Vintage Urban Market, 947 E Breckinridge Street, Louisville, KY, 502-365-3563

A 25,000 square foot warehouse is filled with vintage goods from more than 150 vendors.



DAY TWO

Kentucky Derby Museum

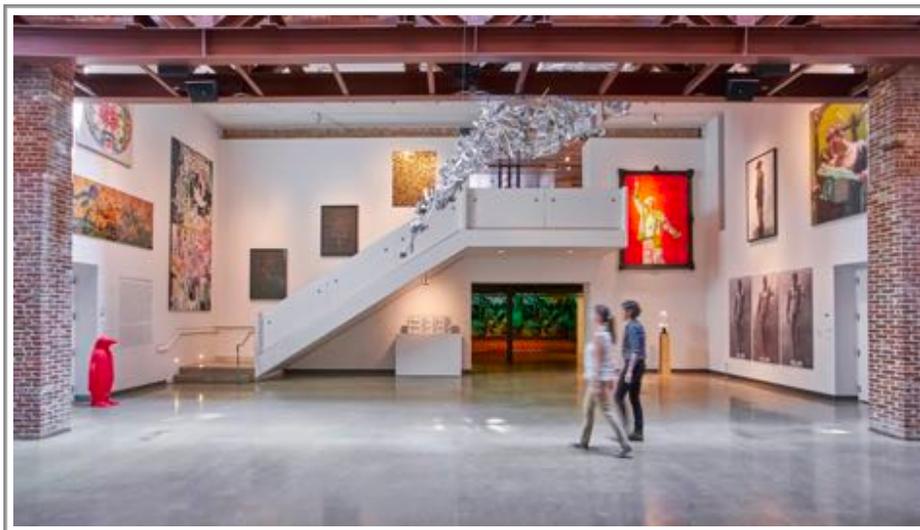
If you're interested in horses, Louisville's flagship Kentucky Derby Museum is a living celebration of the traditions, history, hospitality and pride of this world-renowned event. The tour includes a 30 minute guided walk through Churchill Downs, interactive exhibits and the 18-minute movie, "The Greatest Race." The second floor houses the legacy, possessions, trophies, and history of legendary trainer D. Wayne Lukas and jockey Bill Shoemaker. You can have breakfast or lunch at the Derby Cafe Express and enjoy a mint julep at cocktail hour. Upgraded tour options are available.

704 Central Avenue, Louisville, KY, 40208, 502-636-4400, Mon-Sat: 9AM-5PM, Sun 11AM- 5PM, Adults \$16

Museum Row Main Ticket Pass

Spend the better part of the rest of the day exploring downtown Louisville's many museums, consider purchasing the Main Ticket Pass to visit 9 attractions within a few blocks: (1) Frazier History Museum, (2) Louisville Slugger Museum, (3) Kentucky Science Center, (4) Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, (5) Evan Williams Bourbon Experience, (6) Muhammad Ali Center, (7) Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, (8) Peerless Distilling Company, and (9) 21c Museum Hotel Louisville, which has a magnificent art collection.

West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202, 888-568-4784, Adults \$45.99



DAY THREE

Bardstown

Often referred to as the “Most Beautiful Small Town in America,” Bardstown looks like it came straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting or the pages of Mark Twain. Settled in 1780, the historic district is filled with nearly 200 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The stagecoach stop built in 1779 is now a tavern, restaurant, and Bed & Breakfast.

My Old Kentucky Home State Park

Start your visit in Bardstown at My Old Kentucky Home State Park, where you can hear Stephen Foster’s famous song performed by the park’s talented guides. Learn stories of deadly duels, horse racing, fortune, fame, and demise, that involved the original residents who were surrounded with original fine antiques, paintings and beautiful architecture.

501 E Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004, 502-348-3502, Daily 9AM-4PM. Winter Jan. 1- March 10, Wed-Sun 9AM-5PM Adults \$14



Bardstown Walking Tours

Discover what makes Bardstown legendary on A Walk Through Time, a self-guided hour and a quarter tour of historic downtown, and/or The Whiskey Walks & Bourbon Talks 2 hour tour, that takes you past the homes and hangouts of distillery owners, distillers, purveyors, and characters from the city’s bourbon past.

220 N. Fifth Street, Bardstown KY 40004, 502-348-5947

Museum Row and Bardstown Colonial Village and Park

Museum Row hosts three museums: The **Civil War Museum** is America's largest and most complete Museum devoted to the Western Theater of the War. Carefully balanced exhibits illustrate the struggle between the Union and Confederacy in the Appalachian Mountains, Mississippi, Georgia, and the Gulf of Mexico. Specialty rooms feature the politics of the time, slavery, infantry, cavalry, artillery and Navies. The **Women of the Civil War Museum** chronicles the achievements of women of all backgrounds, races, and creeds, during the 1800's and Civil War, the only museum of its kind featuring women in science, medicine, nursing, writing, journalism, civil rights, suffrage, the arts, military service and more. Exhibits in the **War Memorial of MidAmerica and General Hal Moore Military Museum** cover the American Revolution up to today's conflicts in the Middle East, featuring Kentuckians who served. Museum Row is adjacent to the Old Bardstown Village, a collection of ten original 18th and 19th Century log structures from a Colonial settlement, along with a covered bridge and Brown's Mill.

310 E. Broadway, Bardstown, KY 40004, 502-349-0291 Spring and Summer
10AM – 5PM Adults: \$12





Wickland Governor's Home

Wickland, home to two Kentucky governors and one from Louisiana, is considered one of the best examples of Georgian architecture in the South. The property served as the Wickland Inn, the Fairfield Distillery which produced Pride of Nelson whiskey, and a renowned antique shop before the County purchased the property to preserve it to showcase the beautiful architecture and intricate details of a bygone era.

550 Bloomfield Road, Bardstown, KY 40004, 502-348-4877 or 800-638-4877,
May-Labor Day, Fri.-Sun., 10AM-2PM

Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Jailer's Inn Bed & Breakfast, 111 West Stephen Foster, Bardstown, KY 40004.
502-348-5551

A stay at the 1819 Jailer's Inn Bed and Breakfast puts you in the Antebellum period. The Inn which housed moonshiners and outlaws until 1897, has been transformed into an award-winning Bed and Breakfast in the heart of downtown with nine guest rooms and private baths. The upper floor of the native limestone building built behind in 1874, has 30-inch thick walls and two cells in an "upstairs dungeon" used to house prisoners.

Old Talbott Tavern, 107 W Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004, 502-348-3494

Another option right downtown is the 1779 Old Talbott Tavern, one of the oldest buildings in Bardstown. The thick Flemish bond stone walls, deep window casings, heavy ceiling timbers and built-in-cupboards resemble Warwickshire Inns in England. Andrew Jackson and Henry Harrison found cheer in the central room and General George Rodgers Clark used the tavern as a base. His provisions and munitions from Virginia were stored in the cellar. Murals uncovered in 1927 had bullet holes from Jesse James who "saw" birds moving in them and shot at the murals. Stephen Foster stayed here as well as Abraham Lincoln who, at the age 5, stayed at the Tavern with his parents.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Rickhouse Restaurant, 112 Xavier Drive, Bardstown, KY 40004, 502-348-2832

Located in the basement of Spalding Hill, this restaurant prides itself on providing people with a dining experience bursting with beautiful colors, delicious smells, and full flavor.

Kurtz' Restaurant @ Parkview Hotel 418 East Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004

502-348-8964

A family restaurant since 1937, four generations have served Southern cuisine including skillet fried chicken, Kentucky country ham, homemade soups and casseroles. The desserts are award-winning.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Mammy's General Store 97 W Flaget, Bardstown, KY 40004, 502-331-6032

A modern little general store with a little bit of everything!

Hurst Soda Fountain & Gifts, 102 N. Third Street, Bardstown, KY 40004, 502-348-9261

Unique gifts of inspiration, cards, candles, Maker's Mark items, and home-made fudge.

Bardstown For the Arts Gallery, 90 Court Square, Bardstown, KY 40004, 502-348-0044

Featuring fine art and crafts by over 30 local artists; paintings, photos, sculpture, jewelry, fiber, clay and wood art pieces.

DAY FOUR

Abbey of Gethsemani

Traveling the Byway this morning, you'll come upon the Trappist motherhouse, the Abbey of Gethsemani. Originally from Switzerland, Trappists traveled first to Pennsylvania and Louisville, before finally landing in Bardstown. They left in 1809 after a bad seasonal flood only to return when a French Abbot sent two more monks to Kentucky in 1847 to find land to build a monastery. Today the Abbey is part of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance, it is the oldest monastery in the United States still in operation. The Welcome Center includes a film and display about monastic life, plus a shop carrying products made by the monks. No advance arrangements are needed to attend church services or walk the grounds. 3642 Monks Road, Trappist, KY 40051, 502-549-4406. Shop open Mon-Sat 9AM-5PM, with the exception of public holidays and holy days of obligation.

Knob Creek Farm

Before you reach Hodgenville, you'll come upon Knob Creek Farm, where then two year old Abraham Lincoln lived for a time. In 1860 Lincoln wrote that his earliest recollections were of this place.

2995 Lincoln Farm Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748, 270-358-3137



Hodgenville

Founded in 1818, Hodgenville petitioned to be its own county and built a courthouse the following year. In spite of that not occurring, the town grew to include a distillery on the Rollin Fork River, a rail spur to the village, and the LaRue Seminary. County residents wanted no part of the impending Civil War and indeed, the county did escape major fighting and later violence. By 1885, Hodgenville had two banks, the Classical and Normal College, a newspaper, the Illinois Central Railroad and an ice plant.

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park

Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin at Sinking Springs Farm on February 12, 1809. The experiences of his early years on the frontier instilled homegrown values that remained with him throughout his life. Although he did not remember his time at the Sinking Spring Farm some of the landmarks associated with Lincoln's time and the early farm remain. The centerpiece of the site is a symbolic birth cabin enshrined in a Neoclassical Memorial Building atop a hill that features 56 steps to signify the years of Lincoln's life. The 195-year-old white oak tree nearby was the “last living link” to Lincoln.



Lincoln Museum

The museum in the Hodgenville National Historic District explores the life of the 16th President in life-size dioramas and period artifacts, complemented with a superb collection of wax figures representing the major events in Lincoln's life from the "Cabin Years" to "Fords Theatre." Galleries are filled with civil war artifacts, a collection of original Lincoln art, a funeral train exhibit and more.

66 Lincoln Square, Hodgenville KY 42748, 270-358-3163, Mon-Sat
8:30AM-4:30PM. Sun 12:30PM-4:30PM Adults \$5



Destination Distinctive Dining

Lincoln Jamboree, 2579 Lincoln Farm Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748, 270-358-3545

Hodgenville Grill, 704 S Lincoln Blvd, Hodgenville, KY 42748, 270-358-0053

Sweet Shoppe Dessert Café, 100 S Lincoln Blvd, Hodgenville, KY 42748, 270-735-3558

Destination Distinctive Retail

Almost Home, 48 Lincoln Square, Hodgenville, KY 42748, 270-358-8513

Lincoln's Loft Bookstore, 25 Lincoln Square, Hodgenville, KY 42748, 270-358-0124