



## Explore Kentucky's African American History with New Travel Itineraries

*Discover the Untold and Unforgettable Stories that Shaped the Region*



**KENTUCKY, October 2019** – [Kentucky Tourism](#) is thrilled to unveil new itineraries that highlight the state's rich African American history and invite visitors to uncover the unforgettable stories of legendary heroes like famed boxer and activist Muhammad Ali, Civil War hero George Thomas Prosser and Allison Dunnigan, the first female African American reporter in the White House press corps.

The itineraries are divided by geographical region and include [Louisville & Surrounding Areas](#), [Lexington and Surrounding Areas](#) and a [Statewide Itinerary](#). Perfect for three- or five-day trips, the family friendly tours promise to enrich any vacation. Visitors will witness the state's history come to life as they tour National Historic Landmarks, a UNESCO World Heritage site and expertly curated museums. Below is a sneak peak into the many stories waiting to be discovered along the journey.

### **Louisville & Surrounding Areas Itinerary**

#### *Day 1: Louisville*

- **Kentucky Derby Museum** – The museum's galleries feature achievements of African Americans in Kentucky Derby history, including the fact that 13 of the 15 jockeys who ran the first Derby in 1875 – 145 years ago – were African American.
- **Muhammad Ali Center** - Visitors can immerse themselves in three levels of interactive exhibits, multimedia galleries, historic videos and artifacts highlighting Ali's extraordinary life and career, and later his experiences and contributions as a world humanitarian.

#### *Day 2: LaGrange & Frankfort*

- **Oldham County Historical Society – This National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site** offers in-depth educational presentations, hearth cooking demonstrations, period dinners and more. It features an extensive exhibit on Henry Bibb, plus an important collection of historical papers and records related to African Americans in the region. Tours are also available of the property's grounds, which once played a key role in the slave trade, and later, the Underground Railroad.
- **Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History** – The center is home to the **Kentucky Historical Society**, which has preserved a massive collection of Kentucky memorabilia since its founding 120 years ago. It features the "Kentucky Hall of Governors" and houses the only known 19<sup>th</sup>

century portraits of African American freedmen Dennis and Diadama Doram. In addition, the Center features Kentucky's premier genealogy library.

- **Old State Capitol** – A former setting for lively political debates as lawmakers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century grappled with issues like slavery and Civil War. Today, the Old State Capitol houses fascinating exhibits in its picturesque limestone halls.

#### *Day 3: Mammoth Cave*

- **Mammoth Cave** – A UNESCO World Heritage Site and the world's longest cave system, Mammoth Cave was primarily discovered by brave African American slaves, including Stephen Bishop, a talented explorer and one of the first enslaved guides. In addition to Bishop, 19<sup>th</sup> century visitors to the cave were given tours by a number of enslaved guides, including Nick Bransford, who purchased his freedom by selling the unique eyeless fish found in the cave's waters.

#### *Bonus Day:*

- **West Kentucky African American Heritage Center** – A variety of exhibits within a historic campus, including a research center located in Russellville's Black Bottom Historic District, transports visitors through the lives of Civil Rights leaders and trailblazers. The fascinating stories of Alice Allison Dunnigan, the first African American female reporter in the White House press corps, Alex Kimbrough, the first African American in Logan County to sit on a jury and Mary Ann Fisher, Ray Charles' first female vocalist come to life before visitors' eyes.

### **Lexington & Surrounding Areas Itinerary**

#### *Day 1: Lexington & Nicholasville*

- **African Cemetery No. 2** – This eight-acre, 5,000-grave cemetery honors African-Americans who fought for social, political and economic change during and after the Civil War. Visitors will find the headstones of many important figures including African American jockeys and thoroughbred horse trainers, 43 soldiers who served in the United States Colored Troops and George Thomas Prosser, a member of the legendary 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment.
- **Kentucky Horse Park** – Featuring the International Museum of the Horse, this destination is a must-see for any traveler exploring Kentucky. The museum features the "Black Horsemen of the Kentucky Turf" exhibit, which celebrates the forgotten contributions of African Americans to the state's horse industry.
- **Camp Nelson National Monument** – Regarded as one of the best-preserved landscapes and archaeological sites associated with the United States Colored Troops of the Civil War, Camp Nelson features over five miles of interpretive marked trails. Visitors can also explore the **Camp Nelson Heritage Park Interpretive Center** and a restored antebellum home.

#### *Day 2: Frankfort*

- Day 2 of Lexington & Surrounding Areas takes visitors to the **Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History** and the **Old State Capitol**. See the above Louisville & Surrounding Areas Itinerary for details.

#### *Day 3: Mays Lick/Maysville*

- **Colonel Charles Young's Birth Cabin** – This historic cabin was the birthplace of Colonel Charles Young, who was born into slavery. Young was also the third African American graduate of West

Point Military Academy, the first African American national park superintendent and military attache and the first African American to achieve the rank of Colonel in the United States Army.

- **May's Lick Negro School** – Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald partnered to build more than 5,000 “Rosenwald” schools, shops and teacher homes for African Americans in the 20th century, one of which was **May's Lick Negro School**. This four-room schoolhouse, constructed of brick (a rarity of these schools), is one of the few still standing and is now being restored as a community museum and activity center.
- **National Underground Railroad Museum** – Visitors can see a documented safe house for those fleeing the institution of slavery, authentic servants' quarters complete with hidden chambers used to conceal freedom-seekers, as well as artifacts, documents and other memorabilia documenting the local abolitionist movement.

### **Statewide Itinerary**

A five-day journey through Kentucky culture and history, the Statewide Itinerary combines the cultural attractions of the Lexington and Louisville three-day itineraries.

For more information on the new itineraries, please visit: <https://www.unforgettableky.com/>

### **About Kentucky**

[Kentucky](#) offers a world of outdoor adventures, vibrant arts scenes, fascinating cultural heritage, expansive distilleries and micro-breweries, and an explosive culinary scene. From legendary Horse Country and the grandstands of America's most storied thoroughbred racing tracks to the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, Kentucky invites you to come and explore. For information, please visit <http://www.kentuckytourism.com>. Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#).



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