



## Kentucky Honors African Americans' Role in American Horse Racing

*New museum exhibits, African American Heritage Trail reveal untold story of cherished tradition*



**KENTUCKY, November 2019:** Horse racing is one of America's oldest and most cherished traditions. From the Kentucky Derby, which celebrated its 145th anniversary in 2019 to the annual Keeneland auctions, Kentucky is the epicenter for American horse culture. Beginning in 2019, the Bluegrass State introduced new heritage itineraries and museum exhibits to pay homage to our African American history, including the horsemen who helped shape this culture.

The first Kentucky Derby was run in 1875 with a majority of African American jockeys, including the first-ever winner, Oliver Lewis. Before Jim Crow laws and acts of segregation pushed the horsemen out of the spotlight, African American jockeys won 15 of the first 28 Derbies. Kentucky's new itineraries and exhibits pay tribute to the passion, honor and unforgettable stories of these legendary athletes.

### **NEW Unforgettable Kentucky African American Heritage Experiences**

Three itineraries covering 27 attractions piece together the untold and unforgettable stories of African American history in Kentucky. The itineraries are divided by geographical region and include [Louisville & Surrounding Areas](#), [Lexington & 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 attractions such as the Kentucky Horse Park, Kentucky Derby Museum and African Cemetery No. 2. For more information or to view the three routes, please visit: [www.unforgettableky.com](http://www.unforgettableky.com).

### **NEW Kentucky Horse Park Exhibit *Black Horsemen of the Kentucky Turf***

This new exhibit follows the racing careers of legendary jockeys, including Oliver Lewis, Isaac Murphy and Jimmy Winkfield, the last African American to win the Kentucky Derby in 1902. The exhibit includes rare works by equine artist Edward Troye, who documented African American horsemen when few would. Visitors will see an Edward Troye painting of Harry Lewis with famed racehorse Richard Singleton, among other artifacts in this permanent exhibit. While at the Kentucky Horse Park, visitors may pay their respects at the grave of jockey Isaac Murphy, the first African American jockey inducted into the Hall of Fame, who is buried just feet away from legendary racehorse Man o' War. For more information, please visit: [www.kyhorsepark.com](http://www.kyhorsepark.com).

### **Kentucky Derby Museum African American Exhibit**

Many believe Isaac Murphy was one of the greatest jockeys of all time. He competed in the Kentucky Derby 11 times and won three of those. The Kentucky Derby Museum's African American Exhibit follows Murphy's life and imparts valuable lessons of honor and virtue to the next generation of jockeys, historians and horse lovers. Included in the exhibit is Isaac Murphy's original grave marker from African Cemetery No. 2. For more information, please visit: [www.derbymuseum.org](http://www.derbymuseum.org).

### **African Cemetery No. 2**

Burials at this cemetery date back to the early 1800s with more than 5,000 graves, of which 1,200 are marked. Many great jockeys are known to be buried here, including James "Soup" Perkins, who won the Kentucky Derby at just 15, and Oliver Lewis, the first Kentucky Derby champion, while rusted horseshoes decorate other unrecognizable graves, hinting at other passionate horsemen. Isaac Murphy was originally buried here before his body was exhumed and reinterred at the Kentucky Horse Park. For more information, please visit: [www.kentuckytourism.com/african-cemetery-2](http://www.kentuckytourism.com/african-cemetery-2)

### **About Kentucky**

[Kentucky](http://www.kentuckytourism.com) 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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