



What's New in Kentucky

Arts & Culture

New Kentucky African American Heritage Trail includes nearly 50 sites – Launched in June 2025, the Kentucky African American Heritage Trail features nearly 50 historic sites statewide and highlights significant locations such as the Muhammad Ali Center and Camp Nelson National Historic Monument. The trail's purpose is to celebrate the individuals and communities who shape Kentucky's Black history. The trail is accessible via Apple Maps and the Kentucky Tourism website, providing an educational and comprehensive look at the state's diverse heritage. <https://www.travelandleisure.com/kentucky-new-african-american-heritage-trail-11755124>

Cadiz art museum unveils exhibit featuring work by local sculptor - The Janice Mason Art Museum in Cadiz is hosting "The Last Banquet," an exhibit by clay artist Susan Bergman. Bergman, who now works from a converted barn in Hopkinsville, is known for her absurd and baroque-inspired ceramic characters. The exhibit, which also features work from her students, runs through October 3, 2025. https://www.heraldedger.com/uncategorized/janice-art-museum-to-host-exhibition-by-susan-bergman/article_44a2c321-3469-5eac-836b-d7dd13d73bcd.html

Kentucky Center for Performing Arts renovation nears completion – Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts is nearly finished with a \$4 million renovation of the venue's front plaza. Despite weather delays caused by winter weather, the project is slated to be completed by late October. The two-phase project addresses 40 years of wear on the 1983-opened venue. The center has remained open, ensuring continued access for patrons. This structural replacement aims to enhance pre- and post-show experiences, with future plans for "behind the scenes" updates to benefit performers at this top Louisville attraction. <https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2025/05/16/kentucky-center-details-4m-renovations.html>

Kentucky Center for African American Heritage commemorates Black jockeys - A new exhibit, "Reflections N Black – Kentucky Derby Jockeys," has opened at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, features quilts by Eugene Poole Jr. These vibrant, full-scale quilts commemorate Black jockeys who were instrumental in the early Kentucky Derby. Poole meticulously researches each jockey and their racing silks, aiming to permanently stitch their overlooked contributions into history through his textile artistry. Located in Louisville, the Center is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. <https://www.lpm.org/news/2025-04-17/quilts-show-black-kentucky-derby-jockeys-in-full-color-and-scale>

Kentucky State Capitol adds four new portraits to "Kentucky Women Remembered" exhibit – Gov. Andy Beshear and Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman helped unveil the portraits of the four newest inductees to the Kentucky Women Remembered exhibit at the Kentucky State Capitol. The exhibition features portraits honoring inspiring women who have significantly contributed to the Commonwealth's history and development. This year's inductees include civil rights activist Alberta Jones, poet laureate Ada Limón, author Kim Michele Richardson, and sculptor Amanda Matthews. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/human-interest/2025/03/31/2025-ky-women-remembered-portraits>

Kentucky site added to National Underground Railroad Network - A historic Greenup County site, where 58 enslaved people revolted in 1829, has joined the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. The group, being forcibly marched to Mississippi, killed two traffickers before 16 attempted escape; all were recaptured, and five later executed. In addition to highlighting a forgotten chapter in

history, this designation makes the site eligible for federal grants and preservation assistance.

<https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/kentucky/article305739391.html>

Kentucky town embraces 'Celtic Village' theme – Hazel Green, located in the heart of eastern Kentucky, is undergoing a significant revitalization effort centered around a "Celtic Village" project. The initiative aims to transform the town's identity and boost its local economy, drawing inspiration from a previous economic impact study that suggested a themed village. Residents and local leaders are actively involved in the project, with plans including a Celtic festival and students learning folk dances.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/hazel-green-kentucky-gets-makeover-020000541.html?guccounter=1>

Behringer-Crawford Museum celebrates 75th anniversary with new exhibition – After a temporary closure, the Behringer-Crawford Museum reopened to the public with a new exhibition aimed at celebrating the Covington museum's 75-years of devotion to art, culture and community. The museum-wide exhibit will highlight the key moments in the museum's journey, the visionaries behind its growth, and some of the change most cherished collections and exhibits.

<https://nkytribune.com/2025/02/behringer-crawford-museum-reopens-with-historic-anniversary-exhibit-75-years-in-the-making/>

Bold new exhibit comes to National Quilt Museum - The National Quilt Museum presents Victoria Findlay Wolfe: Option Expedition, showcasing the award-winning artist's bold, innovative quilting. Known for her striking designs and creative techniques, Wolfe pushes boundaries in modern quilting. This exhibit, which runs through September 2025, highlights her exploration of color, pattern, and improvisation, inspiring quilters and art lovers alike. Don't miss this stunning display of contemporary quilting mastery. <https://quiltmuseum.org/victoria-findlay-wolfe-option-expedition/>

National Corvette Museum debuts new photography exhibit – In March 2025 the National Corvette Museum opened an exhibit featuring Richard Prince photography. The exhibit displays more than 40 different pieces on various media. It also showcases rarely seen Corvettes along with the photos. This unique combination of art and automobiles will offer visitors a fresh perspective on the iconic American sports car. The exhibit will be on display through December 2026.

<https://www.corvetteblogger.com/2024/12/18/the-national-corvette-museum-to-host-a-richard-prince-photography-exhibit-in-2025/>

Bernheim Forest unveiled new large-scale outdoor art experience – Bernheim Forest and Arboretum has opened a new art experience called L+A+N+D, which stands for Landscape + Art + Nature + Design, the exhibit features large-scale outdoor installations that explore the human connection to nature, sustainability, climate, and other environmental issues. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/things-to-do/2025/02/01/worth-the-drive-bernheim-forest-and-arboretum-in-clermont-kentucky-bullitt-county-louisville/77850908007/>

Attractions

Indoor theme park set to open in former Owensboro mall - A portion of the former Towne Square Mall in Owensboro, Kentucky, is being converted into a new Malibu Jack's indoor entertainment hub. The multi-million dollar, 109,000-square-foot project, a partnership with TS Entertainment LLC, will be the third largest Malibu Jack's facility. Construction and renovation on the vacant retail space will begin immediately. The new attraction will feature go-karts, laser tag, mini-golf, and a variety of arcade games. Development on the site began in spring 2025 and is projected to conclude by April 2026, aiming to draw a significant portion of visitors from outside Kentucky. www.14news.com/2025/08/25/indoor-theme-park-malibu-jacks-coming-owensboro/

Louisville's Mega Caverns debuts updated tram tour - Louisville's Mega Cavern has introduced a revamped Historical Tram Tour as a perfect escape from summer heat. The guided, educational ride takes visitors on an immersive journey through the cavern's history, highlighting how its limestone shaped Kentucky's past, from filtering water for bourbon to nourishing the bluegrass for racehorses. The tour maintains a steady 58 degrees year-round. Tickets are \$19.99, and the cavern is open seven days a week. <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/articles/looking-cool-thing-louisville-mega-090303111.html>

National Corvette Museum puts corvette designers personal car on display - After a multi-year preservation effort, the only Corvette ever owned by Zora Arkus-Duntov is making its public debut at the National Corvette Museum. Nicknamed the "Godfather of the Corvette," his personal 1974 Stingray, a retirement gift from Chevrolet, has been meticulously preserved as a historical artifact. It will be the centerpiece of a new exhibit, offering visitors a unique look into the life of the man who helped shape the iconic sports car. <https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a65450840/zora-arkus-duntov-only-corvette-restored/>

Indoor pickleball facility opens in Lexington - PKL LEX, a new indoor sports facility, has opened in Lexington, offering a mix of activities for the growing number of pickleball enthusiasts. Located on Walton Avenue, the venue features nine pickleball courts, including three championship-sized courts. Beyond pickleball, it also provides golf simulator bays, a full bar, and a restaurant in partnership with Country Boy Brewing. The facility aims to be a social hub where people can play, eat, and drink, with a goal of appealing to diverse interests. It operates from 6 a.m. to midnight and offers various membership and pay-as-you-go options. <https://fox56news.com/news/local/lexington/pkl-lex-brings-indoor-fun-to-lexington-amid-pickleball-mania/>

Newport to overhaul public parks on Ohio River - The City of Newport has unveiled a \$15 million plan to overhaul its riverfront, focusing on enhancing public spaces and accessibility. The project, which is a community-driven effort, will begin by revamping General James Taylor Park to include a dog park, pickleball courts, and a kayak launch. This phase is expected to break ground by summer 2026. The plan also addresses concerns about pedestrian and traffic safety to ensure the riverfront is easily accessible for all residents. <https://www.fox19.com/2025/06/18/newport-debuts-overhaul-plans-riverfront-parks/>

All inclusive museum set to open in 2026 in Louisville - The American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville is opening The Dot Experience, a new museum and educational center in fall 2026. The project, which begins construction in February 2026, aims to be fully inclusive from the start. The museum will feature a hands-on approach, encouraging visitors to learn through touch. It will include exhibits on living with blindness, a dedicated section on the life of Helen Keller, and factory tours showing how Braille books are made. The goal is to raise awareness about disabilities and challenge biases. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2025/05/27/the-american-printing-house-for-the-blind>

Kentucky Black Sports Hall of Fame to move to Roots 101 Museum in Louisville - The Kentucky Black Sports Hall of Fame is relocating to downtown Louisville. The move is scheduled for 2026, with the Hall of Fame taking up residence in the Roots 101 African American Museum. This relocation is intended to better support the organization by moving it to a metropolitan area. Inductees include notable athletes such as Muhammad Ali and Wade Houston. https://www.wdrb.com/news/business/kentucky-black-sports-hall-of-fame-to-relocate-to-downtown-louisville/article_67a94ce3-7aeb-4d6e-b95a-9e2e91462b7f.html

John James Audubon State Park launches family friendly gnome-themed scavenger hunt - The "Gnomes of Audubon Forest" Scavenger Hunt Experience has launched at John James Audubon State Park. This free, self-guided adventure invites visitors to find ten hidden gnome homes, each with a unique gnome character and QR code for a special message. Participants use clues to locate the homes, and those who find all ten can claim a prize at the Audubon Museum & Nature Center gift shop. The experience blends nature, storytelling, art, and education. <https://hendersonky.org/press-release/gnomes-of-audubon-forest-scavenger-hunt-experience-launches-at-john-james-audubon-state-park/>

Louisville opens \$15 million Riverfront Park for play and learning - A new \$15 million "PlayPort" has officially opened at Louisville Waterfront Park. This 3.5-acre interactive playground, part of the park's Phase IV expansion, offers STEM-based learning through custom-built equipment from repurposed materials. It celebrates the Ohio River's heritage with authentic artifacts converted into play structures. Developed in partnership with the Kentucky Science Center, PlayPort includes educational signage and QR codes linking to science activity videos, providing an inclusive and engaging experience for all ages. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2025/03/26/interactive-15m-playground-opens-at-louisville-waterfront-park/82237204007/>

Dinosaur World opens new indoor exhibit 'Jurassic Jungle' - The Jurassic Jungle exhibit at Dinosaur World in Cave City, Kentucky, invites visitors on an unforgettable adventure through a prehistoric habitat. This immersive experience allows guests of all ages to encounter and discover hidden wonders of a long-past world. As daring explorers, participants unearth mysteries amidst life-sized dinosaurs, making it an engaging and educational journey into the age of giants. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/things-to-do/2025/04/05/dinosaur-world-in-cave-city-kentucky-what-to-know-about-the-park/82600301007/>

Kentucky Kingdom debuts new park section 'Discovery Meadow' — Kentucky Kingdom unveiled Discovery Meadow, a new section featuring three new rides and eleven reimaged attractions with fresh storylines. This new addition is part of a \$25 million investment planned over the next two seasons. The area also boasts new restaurants, a playground, and retail shops, all designed with customer feedback in mind. Celebrating Kentucky's nature and animals, Discovery Meadow aims to provide an immersive experience for guests. The park is seven days a week through Labor Day weekend. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/tripideas/kentucky-kingdom-s-new-land-discovery-meadow-now-open/ar-AA1EVJCQ?apiversion=v2&noservercache=1&domshim=1&renderwebcomponents=1&wcseo=1&batcheservertelemetry=1&noservertelemetry=1>

Louisville based CBD producers to give tours of Louisville facility – Louisville based CBD company, Cornbread Hemp, plans to start giving tours of its production facility. Similar to a distillery tour, the Cornbread Hemp tour will allow visitors an up-close look at how their favorite CBD gummies are made as well as showcase Kentucky's hemp industry. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/money/companies/2025/01/31/cornbread-hemp-opens-hemp-tourism-facility-in-kentucky-sell-new-products-cannabis-medical-marijuana/76568839007/>

Owensboro Racing and Gaming opens for business – Owensboro Racing and Gaming had its grand opening in February 2025. Located on Highway 60 just outside of Owensboro, the new facility boasts 600 historical racing machines, a retail sportsbook, simulcast wagering and a restaurant. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/owensboro-racing-gaming-officially-opens-202235436.html>

National Corvette Museum Debuts New Pop Culture Exhibit - The National Corvette Museum's new pop culture exhibit discusses the Corvette's appearances in movies, music, and literature. The exhibit features cars from TV shows like Hawaii Five-0 and movies like Transformers. It also highlights celebrities who owned Corvettes, such as Reggie Jackson and Jim Lowell. The exhibit will run throughout 2025. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2024/10/23/national-corvette-museum-pop-culture->

Bourbon

*See the separate document, [What's New in Kentucky Bourbon](#), for a list of new and expanded bourbon experiences.

Culinary

New Filipino restaurant to open in Louisville - Chef Emil David is opening a new Filipino restaurant called Maynila in the former Come Back Inn space at 909 Swan St. in Louisville. The restaurant will be a new concept for David, who is also known for his Italian and European cuisine at Perso. Maynila will focus on Filipino-style small plates, offering a more approachable, sharable dining experience. The restaurant is expected to open in late 2025 or early 2026. <https://www.courier->

[journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/08/20/chef-emil-david-to-open-filipino-restaurant-at-former-come-back-inn/85682226007/](https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/08/20/chef-emil-david-to-open-filipino-restaurant-at-former-come-back-inn/85682226007/)

LGBTQ+ centered food tour now offered in Louisville - A new walking food and queer history tour, "Pride Plates," is now offered in Louisville. The tour takes participants through the Highlands, one of the city's historic gayborhoods, blending tales of Kentucky's LGBTQ+ community with local culinary traditions like fried chicken and spoonbread. Likely the only queer food tour of its kind in the country, the experience draws from extensive archives to highlight moments of queer joy and activism. It aims to showcase Kentucky's rich and often-overlooked queer history. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/food/2025/06/23/louisville-food-tours-launches-pride-plates-queer-food-tour/83951650007/>

Louisville Thai restaurant debuts in-house bakery - Chef Katherine Aphaivongs-Harrod, owner of Louisville's popular All Thai'd Up restaurant, has opened a new bakery inside her existing location. Dubbed "The Bakery Inside," the counter offers an array of homemade pastries, cakes, and cookies. The restaurant will continue opening at 11 a.m. for lunch and dinner, but the bakery opens for business at 8 a.m. daily. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/07/25/all-thai-d-up-restaurant-opens-the-bakery-inside-in-louisville/85322809007/>

Popular NuLu restaurant awarded huge grant - Locals Food Hub & Pizza Pub, a restaurant and small grocery in Louisville's Smoketown neighborhood, has received a \$50,000 grant. The funding comes from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express through their Backing Historic Small Restaurants program. Locals was one of 50 historic restaurants chosen across the U.S. to receive the grant, which aims to help them renovate and grow their businesses. Owners opened the restaurant in a historic building in late 2024, offering wood-fired pizzas and local products. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/08/25/locals-food-hub-pizza-pub-in-louisville-earns-historic-grant/85742133007/>

Historic tavern in Berea debuts revamped dining room - The Historic Boone Tavern Hotel & Restaurant in Berea has unveiled its newly rebranded dining room, now called "Crafted at Boone Tavern." The renovation blends historic charm with a fresh design, featuring handcrafted furnishings by Berea College students. The new space includes a full-service bar for the first time, along with a private dining room. Its farm-to-table menu highlights locally sourced ingredients from the Berea College Farm, and the restaurant continues to be staffed in part by students. <https://www.lanereport.com/182714/2025/07/boone-tavern-hotel-reopens-its-crafted-restaurant/>

Hybrid bar and outdoor space set to open in Meriwether section of Louisville - A new bar and outdoor event space, The Jubilee Field Bar, is opening in Louisville's Meriwether neighborhood fall 2025. Located next to The Bard at 529 E. Burnett Ave., the nearly one-acre venue is owned by Isaiah and Courtney Dietrich. It will feature a full-service bar, a large green space for games and live music, and an indoor area for private events. The venue is designed to be a community hub with room for up to eight food trucks, aiming to create a unique entertainment corridor. https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2025/06/23/jubilee-field-bar-opening.html?utm_source=st&utm_medium=en&utm_campaign=EX&utm_content=LO&ana=e_LO_EX&=40422847&senddate=2025-06-24

Lexington welcomes new establishments to its restaurant scene - Several new restaurants are now open in Lexington. First Watch recently opened its fifth location on Towne Center Drive. Son of a Burger is now serving smashburgers at Greyline Station. Jasmine Rice Thai and Vietnamese Restaurant has reopened in a new location on Lima Drive. Additionally, a new event space, Alpha Reserve, has debuted on Cedar Street, offering a spot for private parties and social gatherings. <https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/restaurants/article310767715.html>

Azur reopens restaurant in Lexington - Azur Restaurant and Patio, a long-standing Lexington establishment, reopened in May after a five-month closure due to lease negotiations. The revamped Azur will feature a new chef, Nathan Vazquez, who plans to infuse the menu with Puerto Rican influences while retaining popular staples like bourbon fried chicken. The restaurant will initially offer dinner and Sunday brunch. <https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/restaurants/article306476821.html>

Kentucky food and culture highlighted in new docuseries - Ouita Michel, award winning chef, restaurateur and Kentucky native, is the subject of a new docuseries that is premiered at the 2026 ATX TV Festival in Austin, Texas and the Tribeca Festival in New York City. The eight-episode show, entitled "You Belong Here," explores Kentucky's diverse food and culture. Michel travels the state, conversing with chefs and farmers, aiming to present a more nuanced view of Kentucky than typically seen in national media. A worldwide release date has not been set. <https://www.kentucky.com/entertainment/tv-movies/article306724931.html>

Kentucky chefs named James Beard Awards finalists - Two Kentucky chefs were named finalists for the 2025 James Beard Awards' "Best Chef: Southeast": Sara Bradley, with Freight House, Paducah and Noam Bilitzer of MeeshMeesh Mediterranean, Louisville. Bradley widely known for her "Top Chef" run and Bilitzer for his restaurant's acclaim. <https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/restaurants/article307350836.html>

Goodwood Brewing and Spirits opens new location on Whiskey Row – Goodwood Brewing and Sprits has opened another venue in the W. L. Weller Building on West Main Street in downtown Louisville. The 20,000-square foot space features live music, a sports bar as well as Goodwood's craft beer and line of wine and spirits. Goodwood Whiskey Row also includes the Blade & Bow Suite which is a three-bedroom short-term rental property located on the top floor of the venue. <https://www.brewbound.com/pr/2025/02/10/goodwood-whiskey-row-now-open>

Several restaurants open shop in Louisville throughout the early spring - March saw a dynamic shift in Louisville's restaurant scene, with several new establishments opening their doors. Among the notable additions are Bourré Bonne Steakhouse for fine dining, Chubby Ninja for Asian fusion and all-you-can-eat sushi, and Khao Boys offering Thai-inspired Mediterranean cuisine. Other new spots include Mi Ranchito Grill's second location, M. Peppers French bistro, and Smash'D Burger Bar. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/03/31/5-restaurants-opened-2-closed-in-march-in-louisville-what-to-know/82417858007/>

High-end restaurant Cypress & Oak opens in downtown Frankfort – Cypress & Oak is open for business on E. Broadway Street in Frankfort. Operating independently in the same building as the newly opened Delegate Hotel, Cypress & Oak offers fine dining in an elegant steakhouse setting. https://www.state-journal.com/business/cypress-oak-offers-an-atmospheric-dining-experience/article_f079ae2e-b1a7-11ef-9d2a-e3d2f90f10f3.html

Louisville Brewery to move to NuLu neighborhood – After eight years on Baxter Avenue in Phoenix Hill, Gravely Brewing Co. is relocating its taproom to NuLu, marking a significant move for the popular Louisville brewery. Gravely will continue production at its original address. Also making the move with the taproom will be Eliana's Hondouran Cafe, which currently operates at the Baxter Avenue location. The move is expected to be completed by Fall 2025. <https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2025/05/13/gravely-taproom-relocating.html?j=39852915&senddate=2025-05-13>

Michelin-starred chefs open Byrdie's restaurant in Louisville - Byrdie's, the new Louisville restaurant from Michelin-starred Chef Jenner Tomaska and Katrina Bravo (of Chicago's Esmé), has quickly become a hot spot. Located in Hotel Genevieve, the chic restaurant offers a menu blending French elegance and Southern soul. Dishes range from deviled eggs and fried oysters to a dry-aged duck for two. A robust cocktail menu and French wine list complement the cuisine. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/05/13/byrdies-restaurant-louisville-what-to-know/82417858007/>

[journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/01/03/first-look-at-byrdies-french-restaurant-now-open-in-louisville/77055167007/](https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/01/03/first-look-at-byrdies-french-restaurant-now-open-in-louisville/77055167007/)

Dirty Bird fried chicken restaurant opens in Louisville – Dirty Bird, a new restaurant located at 1022 Clarks Lane, features quirky décor, including a red-eyed rooster mascot, honky-tonk vibes, and a future mechanical chicken ride. Co-owner Allan Rosenberg, known for Hauck's Corner and Breakfast AF, has long dreamed of a fried chicken spot. The menu includes whole, half, or quarter chickens, plus dishes with cheeky names like "What Up Shawty" (short rib sandwich). With room for 165 guests and a lively atmosphere, Dirty Bird opened for business in February 2025, bringing bold flavors and fun to Louisville. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/02/06/dirty-bird-fried-chicken-restaurant-to-open-in-louisville/78221710007/>

Horses

Keeneland Fall Meet will debut track's phase one construction upgrades - Keeneland's Fall Meet will debut the first phase of its multi-million-dollar construction upgrades. The renovations include a reimagined Saddling Paddock with repositioned saddling stalls for better viewing. A new Stakes Winner's Circle has been created from the former Walking Ring, and a more accessible East Entrance now serves as a new gateway to the grounds. These enhancements are designed to improve the race-day experience for fans and horsemen alike. <https://www.wkyt.com/2025/08/19/keeneland-tickets-sale-wednesday-new-construction-brings-new-experiences/>

Keeneland picked to host 2026 Breeders' Cup World Championship - The Breeders' Cup World Championships will return to Keeneland in Lexington, Kentucky, on October 30-31, 2026. This marks the fourth time Keeneland will host the prestigious event. The track is undergoing a significant \$100+ million capital construction project, including a new Paddock Building, to enhance the fan experience. The championships will coincide with major Thoroughbred auctions, solidifying central Kentucky's role as the Horse Capital of the World. <https://www.wky.com/article/breeders-cup-world-championship-kentucky-2026/64904296>

Kentucky Derby Museum opens new exhibit dedicated to Derby fashion - The Kentucky Derby Museum has unveiled a new, permanent "Derby Fashion" exhibit. Opened in July 2025, display showcases the bold and unique fashion of the Kentucky Derby, from its origins in the 1870s to modern times. The exhibit, which includes dozens of physical outfits and over 150 items accessible via interactive touchscreens, is designed to give visitors a year-round taste of the iconic race's atmosphere and style. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/kentucky-derby/fashion/2025/08/01/derby-fashion-exhibit-opens-at-kentucky-derby-museum/85440047007/>

Kentucky Derby Museum opens new Winner's Circle exhibits - The Kentucky Derby Museum unveiled its updated Winner's Circle exhibit in early June, honoring Sovereignty, the 151st Kentucky Derby champion. Artist Mike Prather meticulously crafted a life-sized replica of Sovereignty, capturing its unique dark coppery color and distinct blaze using a multi-layered painting technique. This exhibit, alongside an updated lobby banner and a \$2 million refreshed "The Greatest Race" film, aims to showcase Sovereignty's historic win to hundreds of thousands of visitors. <https://sports.yahoo.com/article/stakes-winner-camp-hope-ensconced-220911201.html>

Kentucky Derby Museum unveils updated 360° film - The Kentucky Derby Museum completed the upgrade to its 360° film, "The Greatest Race," for its 40th anniversary in 2025. The \$2.3 million project, led by Donna Lawrence Productions, features new footage, advanced lighting, and a state-of-the-art playback system. The revamped film is an immersive experience with a fresh perspective on the Derby. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/kentucky-derby/2025/04/11/kentucky-derby-museum-2-million-project-upgrades-360-degree-immersive-film-light-show/78191972007/>

The Kentucky Derby Museum turns 40 in 2025 - The Kentucky Derby Museum celebrated its 40th anniversary in April 2025. The museum has welcomed over 7.2 million guests since 1985. Dedicated to preserving Derby history, the museum has invested \$10 million in recent upgrades, including a \$2.3

million enhancement to its signature 360-degree film. <https://www.wave3.com/2025/04/11/kentucky-derby-museum-announces-multimillion-upgrade-greatest-race/>

Construction underway for quarter-horse track in Boyd County — Construction has begun on the \$10 million Sandy Ridge Racetrack in Ashland, KY. The facility will be Kentucky's only quarter horse track. It's expected to create hundreds of jobs and boost local economy. The track, set to open in 2026, will host races and other events. The track will be an addition to \$70 million gaming facility that opened in 2024. <https://www.wsaz.com/2025/04/22/construction-progress-update-sandy-ridge-racetrack/>

Churchill Downs completes massive renovation of grandstand and pavilion ahead of Derby - Churchill Downs completed an \$80-\$90 million renovation project ahead of Derby 151, transforming the grandstand and pavilion. This massive upgrade replaces old bleachers with 8,300 new comfortable seating options, including stadium-style seats and rail boxes. The project also enhances amenities with new concessions, bars, and wagering windows, creating an upscale outdoor garden environment. These improvements aim to provide an elevated guest experience while honoring Churchill Downs' rich history. https://www.wdrb.com/derby_events/churchill-downs-crews-finishing-80-million-courtyard-pavilion-project-ahead-of-derby-151/article_813febc2-5425-4a6f-9461-2b6b159649c0.html

Mustang Classic competition returns to Kentucky Horse Park - The Mustang Classic returns to Kentucky in September 2025, offering over \$125,000 in cash and prizes. Open to adult adopters of wild Mustangs from the Bureau of Land Management, the competition showcases the versatility and trainability of these horses. Exhibitors compete in various disciplines, with the top ten advancing to the Championship Finals for a chance to win the \$50,000 grand prize. <https://www.americanhorsepubs.org/newsgroup/mustang-classic-returns-to-kentucky-in-2025-with-over-125000-in-total-cash-and-prizes/>

Hotels & Lodging

Retreat Center in Red River Gorge expanding - Dappled Light Adventures, a family-owned business in Red River Gorge, is expanding with a new community space called "the Rookery." The 1,500-square-foot cliffside building will officially open in September 2025, offering a dedicated space for retreats and large groups. While the company will still offer its "glampsites" for individual travelers, the new facility is designed to enhance its focus on providing transformational experiences for business, youth, and other organized groups. <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/articles/dappled-light-adventures-red-river-090251415.html>

Eastern Kentucky County plans to open a mountaintop resort - Letcher County tourism leaders are planning the Raven Rock Resort, a new mountaintop destination in Jenkins. The resort, set atop Pine Mountain, will feature a lodge, cabins, and biking trails. It is designed to attract tourists traveling along Route 23, who might otherwise miss the town. According to the EKY Heritage Foundation, the project is in the design phase and is scheduled to open by 2027. <https://www.weku.org/the-commonwealth/2025-08-10/letcher-county-tourism-leaders-work-to-open-mountaintop-resort>

New Trail Hotel in Bardstown offers luxury to bourbon enthusiasts - Bardstown, Kentucky's new Trail Hotel is a bourbon lover's dream, featuring five unique bars including the speakeasy Bourbon Vault. This ninety-five-room property offers eight bourbon-themed suites and a dedicated Bourbon Butler service to arrange distillery tours and tastings along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, with a daily trolley for convenience. Additional amenities include a golf simulator, IV drips, and a Southern-inspired steakhouse, all designed to immerse guests in the bourbon experience. <https://gardenandgun.com/feature/bardstowns-newest-hotel-is-a-bourbon-lovers-dream/>

New Homewood Suites opens in Newport - Homewood Suites by Hilton has opened in Newport's Ovation district, a \$1 billion, 130-acre mixed-use development. The hotel offers 126 suites with fully equipped kitchens, separate living and sleeping areas, and complimentary Wi-Fi. It also features a fitness center, indoor pool, and free hot breakfast. Located near the Newport Aquarium and various dining options, the hotel provides convenient access to attractions and businesses in the Cincinnati-Northern

Kentucky area, catering to both extended-stay and leisure travelers.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2025/02/28/homewood-suites-opens-ovation-newport>

Jenny Wiley State Park to undergo \$5.5 million renovation - Jenny Wiley State Resort Park's lodge will undergo renovations starting September 1, 2025, with a \$5.5 million state investment for improvements to dining and meeting rooms, reopening summer 2026. Additionally, a new \$1.45 million archery center will break ground in fall 2025. While the lodge, cottages, and campground are temporarily closed, the park will continue to offer outdoor activities like hiking, biking, and fishing.

<https://nkytribune.com/2025/06/jenny-wiley-state-resort-parks-lodge-to-undergo-renovations-add-archery-center/>

Hyatt Regency in downtown Lexington set to begin \$58.5 million renovation – The Hyatt Regency, located just steps away from Rupp Arena in downtown Lexington, announced that it will begin a \$58.5 million renovation in late 2025. The project, which has received preliminary approval for state tourism tax incentives, will update rooms and amenities across the property. Renovations on the 50-year-old hotel are expected to be complete by 2027. <https://www.kentucky.com/news/business/article306933061.html>

Hotel Bourré Bonne opens in downtown Louisville - The new Hilton property, Hotel Bourré Bonne opened just in time for the Kentucky Derby. The hotel is part of Hilton's Curio Collection and is located in the heart of downtown, a block from the KFC Yum Center. The \$60 million hotel offers 168 rooms across five stories, as well as an outdoor pool, rooftop ballroom and restaurant.

<https://www.whas11.com/article/news/local/new-hotel-opens-downtown-louisville-during-kentucky-derby-week/417-17332f9a-0029-4f7e-a5fc-77a01da3f5b5>

Seelbach hotel Celebrates 100th anniversary of 'The Great Gatsby' - 2025 marks a century since novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald published his most famous book, 'The Great Gatsby'. Fitzgerald was known to frequent the Seelbach Hotel, now Seelbach Hilton, in downtown Louisville. Additionally, he made it a backdrop in his novel. To celebrate, the Seelbach has debuted a two-room Great Gatsby Suite, styled after two of the book's characters. The suite's lavish art deco decor befits the book's decadence, glamour and "new money versus old money" juxtaposition. <https://thepointsguy.com/hotel/seelbach-hilton-great-gatsby-suite/>

Boutique hotel The Delegate opens in downtown Frankfort – The Delegate, located on E. Broadway, features 48 rooms in a historic building. The boutique property also houses Cypress & Oak, a high-end steakhouse with a gourmet menu and extensive bourbon and wine selection.

<https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/restaurants/article295544139.html>

The Ashbrook Hotel opens in downtown Frankfort - The Ashbrook Hotel on Washington Street, formerly the home of Col. E.H. Taylor is now open. The inn features 14 uniquely designed rooms, a fine dining restaurant focused on southern cuisine and a location right in the middle of bourbon country.

<https://gardenandgun.com/feature/the-ashbrook-hotel-combines-pops-of-color-and-a-bourbon-pedigree-in-frankfort-kentucky/>

My Old Kentucky Home State Park to upgrade campground - My Old Kentucky Home State Park in Bardstown is undergoing a \$4 million renovation to enhance its campground facilities. Improvements include upgrading electrical and water lines, adding sewer connections, renovating bathhouses, expanding sites, and improving roadways. The park features an early 19th-century historic mansion, welcome center, gardens, playground, picnic shelter, tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, outdoor amphitheater, gift shop, and campgrounds. The project on schedule to be completed by Fall 2025.

<https://www.lanereport.com/178646/2025/01/my-old-ky-home-state-park-campground-getting-4m-upgrade/>

Lake Barkley State Resort Park to undergo massive renovation - Lake Barkley State Resort Park will undergo a \$17 million renovation, starting September 2, 2025, and temporarily closing the main lodge and pool. Upgrades include structural repairs, a new roof, pool enhancements, and a sun terrace. Cabins, cottages, and the Little River Lodge will remain open, along with other park facilities like the restaurant, beach, and golf course. https://thesouthern.com/life-entertainment/play/lake-barkley-state-resort-park-to-undergo-17m-in-renovations/article_2e60910a-8603-56aa-ba9b-6038b7e290b3.html

Corbin to expand conference center and build new hotel – Corbin City Council has allocated \$3.5 million to expand the city’s current conference space, The Corbin Center, by an additional 15,500 square feet. The funding will also go toward building a dual branded hotel adjacent to the center. The combination Fairfield Inn and TownPlace Suites will feature 113 rooms and a covered walkway connecting the hotel to the Corbin Center. The hotel is set to open November 2025.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/corbin-city-council-allocates-3-163200745.html>

Cumberland Falls State Resort Park to undergo renovations - The Dupont Lodge and Riverview Restaurant at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park will undergo \$10 million in renovations to enhance visitor experiences. The lodge and restaurant will be temporarily closed starting November 2025 and officials have not released a completion date. People can still reserve cabins and all other facilities will remain open while the renovations are happening. <https://www.wymt.com/2024/11/19/cumberland-falls-state-resort-park-undergo-renovations/>

Music

Bourbon & Beyond 2025 set for September – Dozens of legendary musicians are set to perform across five stages at Highland Festival Grounds at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville Sept. 11-14. This year’s lineup includes Sturgill Simpson, Phish, Alabama Shakes, Jack White and dozens more.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/music/2025/08/21/bourbon-beyond-announces-daily-set-times-lineup-for-2025/85565270007/>

Lawrenceburg to host new Wildfolk Music Fest - The first-ever Wildfolk Music Fest will debut in Lawrenceburg on September 20-21. This free, family-friendly event will be two days of rockabilly, bluegrass, and Americana music. Beyond live performances, the festival will feature local food, artisan vendors, an instrument petting zoo from the Lexington Philharmonic, and even dog cuddling stations. The event is a celebration of music, art, and community spirit.

https://www.pmg-ky1.com/the_anderson_news/lawrenceburg-launches-new-wildfolk-music-fest/article_44883476-ebbd-5951-a941-2458a781767f.html

Slayer to headline Louder Than Life 2025 in Louisville - Slayer will headline the 2025 Louder Than Life festival in Louisville. In addition to Slayer, world famous metal acts like Rob Zombie, Breaking Benjamin, Deft Tones and dozens more will all take the stage. The 2025 festival will take place on September 18-21, 2025, at the Highland Festival Grounds.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/music/2025/08/19/louder-than-life-lineup-full-2025-set-times-locations/85662089007/>

Healing Appalachia 2025 music fest comes to Ashland in September - Healing Appalachia, the world's largest recovery-based music festival, is moving to Ashland, Kentucky, in 2025. Founded by Tyler Childers, the festival has raised over \$5 million for Appalachian communities impacted by the opioid crisis. After five years in West Virginia, the festival will be held near the Boyd County Fairgrounds, September 19-20. This year’s lineup includes Tyler Childers, Chris Stapleton, Molly Tuttle, Lukas Nelson and many more.

<https://www.wymt.com/2025/07/09/healing-appalachia-unveils-full-lineup/>

Eastern Kentucky County to host Music and Mud Fest - Whitley County is set to host its first Music & Mud Festival from October 16-18 at the Whitley County Fairgrounds. The three-day event will feature a demolition derby, mud bog, camping, and a full lineup of local and regional musicians. The festival will have themed music nights, including Gospel, Bluegrass, and Country. Admission is \$10 per day or \$25 for a weekend pass, with food vendors also on-site.

<https://www.thenewsjournal.net/whitley-county-to-debut-new-music-mud-festival-oct-16-18/>

America’s River Roots festival to celebrate the Nations’s 250th Anniversary– Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati are planning a massive festival to kickstart celebrations for the Nation’s 250th Anniversary, October 8-12, 2025, as well as the culture and heritage of the regions on both sides of the Ohio River. The festival will feature performers on multiple stages along both sides of the river, tall stacks riverboat cruises, and educational programs, celebrity chef presentations, bourbon and craft beer tastings, multicultural food vendors, and regional food artisans.

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/entertainment/music/2025/07/08/weezer-maren-morris-headlining-americas-river-roots-festival-2025/84503988007/>

LouGrass concert series returns to Louisville - LouGrass is Louisville's celebration of Kentucky's bluegrass music, blending it with Americana, blues, and jazz. Running seasonally from April through October, "LouGrass Sessions" offer free live performances every weekend at various local venues. This initiative honors Louisville's deep connection to bluegrass history, from hosting major festivals to nurturing legendary musicians. Visitors can experience authentic roots music, enjoying both established icons and a new generation of artists keeping the tradition alive across "Bourbon City."

<https://www.gotolouisville.com/lougrass/>

Louisville Orchestra Performances to collaborate with Morgan Freeman and others - The Louisville Orchestra has unveiled its 2025-26 season, promising a blend of classical masterpieces, innovative collaborations, and new works. Performances will feature actor Morgan Freeman, Stewart Copeland best known as the drummer for 80's rock band, The Police, and musician Ben Folds, among others. The season begins in September and performances will take place at the Whitney Hall, Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Louisville. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/music/2025/03/03/louisville-orchestra-announces-2025-26-season-tickets-dates/78421712007/>

Outdoors

Major League Fishing to help bolster fish habitats in Kentucky Lake - Major League Fishing's (MLF) Fisheries Management Division and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources partnered to deploy new fish habitats in Kentucky Lake. As part of the Minn Kota Habitat Restoration Program, officials construct and deploy specially made materials near the Kentucky Lake Dam State Park. These structures, made of recycled PVC, are designed to create long-term habitats for panfish and improve fishing conditions. <https://www.radionwtn.com/2025/06/12/fish-habitat-installed-in-kentucky-lake/>

Carter Caves State Park to renovate campground - Carter Caves State Resort Park is undergoing a \$3.8 million renovation to its campground. The project, funded by a \$40 million allocation for state parks, will enhance the visitor experience by adding a new store, bathhouse, and upgraded utilities. The campground will be closed during the 2025 season and is expected to reopen in early 2026.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/carter-caves-campground-undergoing-3-221800985.html?guccounter=1>

Shark fossils discovered in Mammoth Cave - Paleontologists have discovered the remains of a 340-million-year-old shark within Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. The newly identified species, *Macadens olsoni*, was a small shark less than a foot long that used its curved teeth to crush prey like mollusks. According to the National Park Service, this finding adds to the more than 70 ancient fish species found inside the cave, which was once a shallow saltwater sea. This discovery helps researchers better understand ancient marine life. <https://www.livescience.com/animals/extinct-species/ancient-shark-discovered-deep-inside-worlds-longest-cave-system>

Leg of a professional bass fishing series scheduled for Kentucky in 2026 - Major League Fishing announced its 2026 Toyota Series schedule, which includes a stop at Kentucky Lake. The event, part of the Plains Division, will take place from April 9-11 and will be hosted by the Kentucky Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau in Gilbertsville. This tournament series offers anglers high payouts and the opportunity to advance to the nationally televised Toyota Series Championship. The full schedule features competitions on diverse fisheries across the country, showcasing professional bass fishing at its highest level.

<https://thebasscast.com/2025/08/12/major-league-fishing-reveals-2026-toyota-series-schedule/>

Former golf course in Northern Kentucky to be converted into multi-use park - Kenton County leaders are investing \$20 million to transform a former golf course in Independence into a new 200-acre park. Located at the old Fox Run Golf Club, the park will feature multi-use trails, a playground, and pickleball courts. The project also includes restoring existing creeks to their natural flow. Leaders believe the park will enhance the region's outdoor offerings and attract more visitors, improving the quality of life for residents. Construction is expected to begin in January 2026. <https://local12.com/news/local/former-kenton-county-northern-kentucky-golf-course-become-one-areas-biggest-parks-park-acres-nature->

[outdoors-vitality-independence-multi-use-trails-playground-courts-creeks-funding-funds-cost-money-construction-cincinnati](#)

First Frontier of Appalachian Trail System to be built in eastern Kentucky - Owsley County will be the home to a new tourism project that will build trails designed for ATV and UTV enthusiasts. This initiative, funded by a \$7.8 million grant and a \$1 million legislative match, will create a new bridge and a 40-acre trailhead. Owsley is the first county to officially sign the deal. The project aims to provide a secure place for ATV and UTV riders to access trails in several counties, boosting tourism and offering economic opportunities for local residents through businesses like campgrounds and cabins.

<https://www.wave3.com/2025/07/25/major-tourism-project-underway-eastern-kentucky/>

Fish habitats installed in eastern Kentucky lake to improve fishing conditions - New fish habitats were installed at Buckhorn Lake, located in Perry County, to improve fishing conditions. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources partnered to complete the project, which used concrete and brush to create the structures. The new habitats will highlight the quality of fishing in Perry County and boost tourism. <https://www.wymt.com/2025/07/11/new-fish-habitat-structures-buckhorn-lake/>

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens completes construction on Castle Gardens project - Yew Dell Botanical Gardens in Crestwood, Kentucky, finished construction on its \$5 million Castle Gardens project. This transformation creates accessible gardens, water features, and educational opportunities around the historic Yew Dell castle. Yew Dell, a nationally registered historic site and garden center, welcomed approximately 30,000 visitors last year. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/home-garden/2025/06/12/yew-dell-botanical-gardens-castle-undergoes-5-million-renovation/83874548007/>

Contactless kayak rentals aim to make outdoor adventure more accessible - Georgetown, Kentucky, has launched new contactless kayak rentals at Cardome Park on Elkhorn Creek. This innovative system allows users to rent kayaks, paddles, and life jackets via a smartphone app and QR code, offering easy, affordable, and self-service access to the waterway. Operated by Rent Fun, this initiative aims to make outdoor adventure more accessible and convenient for both locals and tourists.

https://fox56news.com/news/local/georgetown/_trashed-58/

Other

Lexington's airport to streamline traveler experience - Blue Grass Airport in Lexington is implementing new changes to streamline the travel process. Travelers can now leave their shoes on at TSA security checkpoints, a move already in effect. Additionally, the airport is addressing parking issues with a new lot currently under construction that will add over 800 spaces. This expansion, part of a 20-year master plan, aims to accommodate the growing number of passengers. The airport recently also introduced license plate scanning for garage parking. <https://www.wtvq.com/blue-grass-airport-undergoing-major-upgrades/>

Kentucky Tourism launches new webpage centered on accessible travel - Kentucky is emerging as a top destination for accessible travel, offering a wide range of inclusive experiences. The state has launched a new Accessible Kentucky webpage to help visitors find barrier-free bourbon tours, wheelchair-accessible trails, and inclusive museums. The site features tips from accessibility advocate Cory Lee. With thoughtful design and welcoming programs, locations like the Kentucky Derby Museum and Mammoth Cave National Park are ensuring every traveler, regardless of their needs, can enjoy the state's culture and attractions. https://takingthekids.com/kentucky-offers-more-accessible-travel-destinations/#google_vignette

Lawrenceburg to host 2025 national triathlon event — Lawrenceburg, Kentucky will host the 2025 USA Triathlon Long Course National Championships on September 25, 2025. This prestigious event will bring hundreds of athletes and spectators to the town, boosting its economy and national recognition. The event will include various triathlon and duathlon races. https://www.pmg-ky1.com/the_anderson_news/lawrenceburg-to-host-2025-national-triathlon-event/article_22d73835-be49-5202-b96a-48bbe46f26c5.html

Kentucky Tourism sets economic impact records for third year in a row - Kentucky's tourism industry had a record-breaking year in 2024, generating an economic impact of \$14.3 billion and supporting over 97,000 jobs. This marks the third consecutive year of record growth for tourism in the state. According to a study, 80 million travelers visited Kentucky, spending over \$10 billion on food, lodging, transportation, retail, and recreation. <https://www.lanereport.com/181772/2025/06/ky-tourism-generated-a-record-year-14-3-billion-in-economic-impact-more-than-97000-jobs-in-2024/>

Event organizer names Louisville as host for 2026 trade summit - Informa, North America's largest event producer, has chosen Louisville, Kentucky, to host its 2026 Connect Spring Marketplace. The three-day event, scheduled for April 14-16, will bring thousands of meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions (MICE) industry professionals to the city. Louisville was selected for its central location, convention facilities, and hospitality, making it an ideal setting for the networking-focused event. This marks Informa's fourth event in Louisville, highlighting a strong partnership. <https://www.tsnn.com/event-planning/informa-selects-louisville-to-host-connect-spring-marketplace-in-2026>

Construction underway on Kentucky Exposition Center renovation - The Kentucky Exposition Center is undergoing a \$460 million renovation, and fairgoers at the 2025 Kentucky State Fair got a sneak peek. The initial phase is a \$180 million investment in a new 350,000-square-foot exhibit hall, expected to be finished by late 2026. This project aims to boost Kentucky's economy by attracting more events and tourism. Future plans include redeveloping the West Wing and West Hall, adding even more exhibit space and amenities. <https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2025/08/25/renderings-detail-460m-expo-center-renovations.html>

Kentucky Tourism unveils brand new tourism campaign 'Find What Moves You' - Kentucky has launched "Find What Moves You," a new tourism campaign showcasing the state's diverse experiences and welcoming environment. Emphasizing inclusivity, the campaign, anchored by exploration, authenticity, connection, and inspiration, utilizes dynamic digital and social media content. It aims to attract visitors by promoting new experiences and aligns with the "New Kentucky Home" initiative, fostering economic investment, talent attraction, and increased tourism by highlighting Kentucky as a place for personal and professional growth. <https://www.lanereport.com/180405/2025/04/exploring-kentucky-find-what-moves-you/>

Kentucky Golf Trail looks to better combine golf and tourism - The Kentucky Golf Trail, combining golf with bourbon and horses, recently launched in May 2025. The trail offers access to meticulously maintained courses between Lexington and Louisville. Visitors can also experience bourbon distillery tours, thoroughbred farm visits, and horse racing at Keeneland and Churchill Downs, along with diverse culinary and cultural attractions in both cities. <https://www.golfdaily.com/kentucky-golf-trail-launches-at-iaqtos-north-american-golf-tourism-convention/>

Frontier Airlines launches non-stop flights from Northern Kentucky to Texas and Dominican Republic - Frontier Airlines now offers direct flights from Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International (CVG) to Austin, Texas (AUS) and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Flights to Austin are scheduled for twice a week and flights to the Dominican Republic will be once a week. <https://www.wlwt.com/article/frontier-airlines-flight-cvg-airport-austin-texas/64088620>
<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2025/02/03/frontier-airlines-route-cincinnati-cvg-punta-cana-dominican-republic/78183779007/>

Louisville airport has record year in 2024 - 2024 was a record-breaking year for Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport (SDF) with passenger traffic surpassing previous highs. Growth is driven by increased flight options, larger aircraft, and strong travel demand. Officials anticipate continued expansion as SDF sees rising tourism and business travel. Travelers are encouraged to plan ahead as the airport experiences its busiest period yet. <https://www.whas11.com/article/travel/louisville-airport-sdf-passenger-traffic-record-2024/417-71e2ab37-d3c5-4293-b197-5bec61f5599e>

Lexington celebrates 250th anniversary throughout 2025 - 2025 marks 250 years since Lexington was founded. To celebrate, the city's anniversary commission will hold events throughout the year dedicated to different aspects of life in Lexington such as health, history, sports, and the future.

<https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/mayor-gorton-announces-plans-for-lexingtons-250th-anniversary-celebration>

Construction of film industry sound stages set to begin in Louisville – Louisville is set to begin a \$10 million renovation that will turn the historic Louisville Gardens into a movie soundstage. Once completed, the facility will feature 40,000-square-feet of production space and offices respectively and will be able to accommodate production of both television and feature film projects. Construction is set to begin in late 2025. <https://outoday.6amcity.com/city/louisville-gardens-sound-stages-construction>
<https://www.lanereport.com/179388/2025/02/city-directing-10m-to-louisville-gardens-sound-stage-project/>

Lexington Airport restarts direct flights to New York City — Blue Grass Airport and Delta Air Lines have resumed non-stop flights from Lexington to LaGuardia Airport in New York City. This is the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic that Blue Grass Airport has been able to offer this route year-round. Flights to and from New York are available six days a week from Sunday through Friday.
<https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/article306070271.html>

Air Canada begins daily flights between Northern Kentucky and Montreal — Air Canada now offers daily nonstop flight between Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) and Montreal. CVG officials note that this addition will give customers more connecting options between Kentucky and European destinations. In addition to Montreal, Air Canada also has twice daily service between Toronto and CVG. <https://www.wlwt.com/article/air-canada-new-flight-montreal-cvg-airport-route/64893022>

Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport undergoing \$1 billion expansion - Since 2019 the Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport has undergone a massive \$1 billion expansion project. To date work crews have added 30,000 square feet to the Jerry E. Abramson Terminal which increased TSA screening capacity by 60%. The project, the largest terminal expansion in 35 years, is funded by federal grants and airport authority funds. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2026.
<https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2025/02/06/muhammad-ali-international-airport-upgrades>

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