Quilts, Culture & Nature

The following is a suggested group tour itinerary. For more tour ideas of each area, visit kentuckytourism.com. Times shown below are Eastern Time.

Day 1

3:30 p.m. Arrive in Paducah and check into Hampton Inn & Suites or other Paducah area lodging facility.

Paducah is a Quilt City USA and has been designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as the world's seventh City of Crafts and Folk Art.

4:30 p.m. Tour the Whitehaven Mansion.

Kentucky’s most unique Welcome Center is Whitehaven Mansion, which features period furnishings and memorabilia of Paducah native Alben Barkley, who served as Vice President under Harry Truman. The historic restored 1860s Southern home is one of the finest Classical Revival residential structures in Kentucky and is the only historic home serving as an interstate Welcome Center.

6:00 p.m. Dinner at freight house or other Paducah area restaurant.

The freight house restaurant is owned by Chef Sara Bradley who was featured on Bravo’s Top Chef Season 16: Kentucky. The mission of this farm-to-table dining experience is to provide delicious dinners, drinks and desserts using seasonal, local ingredients.

7:30 p.m. Optional after-dinner experience: explore “Wall to Wall” Murals along Paducah’s riverfront.


Day 2

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at your hotel or other Paducah area restaurant.
8:00 a.m. Begin tour of Paducah area which may include: the National Quilt Museum, with 500+ quilts on display presenting the art of quilting; the Yeiser Art Center, where rotating exhibitions spotlight a diverse range of art forms, styles and techniques; the River Discovery Center, a celebration of Paducah’s maritime legacy and lore with interactive water-filled exhibits; and others as time allows.

11:00 p.m. Lunch at Shandie’s or other Paducah area restaurant.

12:00 p.m. Depart for Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.

As part of America’s great outdoors since 1963, Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area manages over 170,000 acres of forests, wetlands, and open lands on a peninsula between Kentucky and Barkley lakes in Western Kentucky and Tennessee. The family friendly recreation area offers one of the largest blocks of undeveloped forest in the eastern United States. With 300 miles of natural shoreline, lake access provides idyllic settings for camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing and water sports.

1:00 p.m. Explore Land Between the Lakes. Tour may include: the Woodlands Nature Station, the Elk & Bison Prairie, the Golden Pond Planetarium and The Homeplace as time allows.

4:00 p.m. Check into Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park or other Grand Rivers area lodging facility.

4:30 p.m. Optional - Explore Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park.

5:00 p.m. Dinner at Patti’s 1880s Settlement or other Grand Rivers area restaurant.

7:00 p.m. Take in a show at The Badgett Playhouse in Grand Rivers (seasonal, depending on schedule).

Day 3

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at your hotel or other Grand Rivers area restaurant.

8:00 a.m. Depart for Hopkinsville.

9:00 p.m. Tour Hopkinsville area which may include: the Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, a historic park used during the forced removal of the Cherokee people; Casey Jones Distillery, which produces authentic moonshine; Alhambra Theatre, a historic landmark and community performing arts center; and others as time allows.

Also in the area (about a 30-60 minute drive from Hopkinsville) are three more state resort parks: Lake Barkley, Kenlake and Pennyrile.

12:30 p.m. Lunch at Main Street Tavern Restaurant or other Hopkinsville area restaurant.

2:00 p.m. Depart for Princeton.

2:30 p.m. Tour Adsmore Museum in Princeton, a living history museum. (Tours change seasonally.)

The Adsmore Museum was originally built in 1857 and purchased by the Smith-Garrett family in 1900. It offers visitors an authentic and interactive opportunity to spend a day in the life of an early 1900s family living in western Kentucky. When John Parker and Nancy (Nannie) Smith purchased the house in 1900, they quickly began to renovate the original
property into something extraordinary and ahead of its time. They commissioned several more additions; thus, the brick house came to be known as the Adsmore House.

3:30 p.m. Depart for Henderson.

5:00 p.m. Check into Holiday Inn Express or other Henderson area lodging facility.

6:00 p.m. Dinner at Hometown Roots or other Henderson area restaurant.

7:30 p.m. Optional – Historic Downtown Walking Tour in Henderson.

Day 4

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at hotel or other Henderson area restaurant.

8:00 a.m. Tour Henderson area which may include: Preston Arts Center, a community performing arts center with a unique lake-side setting; the John James Audubon State Park, which preserves the peaceful woods where the famed naturalist observed the subjects for his paintings and offers a nature center and museum, Ellis Park Race Course, featuring simulcast horse racing year-round and live racing in summer months; and others as time allows.

12:00 p.m. Depart for Owensboro.

12:30 p.m. Lunch at Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn or other Owensboro area restaurant.

Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn is a world-famous restaurant and buffet with homemade sides, burgoo and desserts, plus a full salad bar. What began as a 30 seat roadside restaurant in 1963 is now a 350 seat dine-in or carry-out award-winning restaurant with an extensive catering department. Recognized by Food Network, USA Today, Southern Living, The LA Times, and KY Monthly Magazine as one of the top barbecue spots in the nation, Moonlite Bar-B-Q is one of Kentucky’s most famous traditions.

1:30 p.m. Tour Owensboro area which may include: the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum, featuring incredible exhibits in the museum and world-class artists in its 450 seat theater; Green River Distilling Co., home of the most expensive whiskey ever sold, where visitors can taste, see and smell the 10th oldest Kentucky Bourbon Distillery in the world; Western Kentucky Botanical Garden, with over 12 acres of gardens, historic buildings and garden art; the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, which has historic painted glass windows, multiple bronze sculptures and a rotating array of world-class paintings; the Owensboro Museum of Science & History, which has many hands-on learning adventures including SpeedZeum, a permanent motor sports gallery.

Also in the area (about a 45 minute drive from Owensboro) in Rosine is the birthplace of The Father of Bluegrass Music, Bill Monroe.

5:00 p.m. Check into Holiday Inn Owensboro Riverfront or other Owensboro area lodging facility.

5:30 p.m. Dinner at Colby’s Fine Food & Spirits or other Owensboro area restaurant.

7:00 p.m. Take in a show at the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum (seasonal, depending on schedule).

Home to the only bluegrass hall of fame, this brand-new facility hosts world-class bluegrass, newgrass and Americana artists in its 450 seat state-of-the art theater and features incredible exhibits dedicated to the home of bluegrass music.
Day 5

7:30 a.m.  Breakfast at hotel, Ole South Barbeque or other Owensboro area restaurant.

8:30 a.m.  Depart for home.

*Before visiting Kentucky attractions and restaurants, please check businesses’
websites and social channels for the latest COVID-19 information.*