Kentucky’s Bourbon & History

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
4:30 p.m. Arrive in Frankfort and check into Fairfield Inn & Suites Frankfort, Holiday Inn Express & Suites Frankfort or other Frankfort area lodging facility.

Frankfort is the capital city of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Surrounded by rolling pastures where thoroughbred horses run and forest canopies that bring beauty in every season, the State Capitol rises above the city and overlooks the Kentucky River as the waterway ambles to the north making a unique S shape through the historic downtown.

6:00 p.m. Enjoy dinner at Serafini or one of Frankfort's many area restaurants; or for larger groups, allow the Visit Frankfort team to arrange for a private meal for your group.

8:00 p.m. Optional – Finish the evening off with a cocktail from The Cooperage Bar.

Day 2
7:30 a.m. Breakfast at your hotel or other Frankfort area restaurant.

8:30 a.m. Begin tour of Frankfort area which may include stops at: Buffalo Trace Distillery, the oldest continuously operating distillery in America; Rebecca Ruth Candy Tours & Museum, honoring Ruth Hanly Booe, the “Mother of Bourbon Balls”; the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, a museum and educational complex operated by the Kentucky Historical Society; and others as time allows.

11:30 a.m. Try Bourbon on Main or enjoy a casual lunch around downtown at a Frankfort area restaurant or reach out to the Visit Frankfort team to set up a private meal held at a historic location featuring Kentucky favorites!

12:45 p.m. Tour the State Capitol and visit the Floral Clock.

Completed in 1910, the Kentucky State Capitol building features 70 columns, sculptures of Kentucky dignitaries and decorative murals. The Capitol is on the National Register of Historic Places and is noted as one of the most impressive Capitols in the nation.
The colorful Floral Clock is located on the West Lawn of the Capitol Grounds. It was erected in May of 1961 by Gov. Bet Combs. The face of the clock is 34 ft. across and planted with thousands of plants that are changed out seasonally. For good luck, toss a coin into the fountain!

1:45 p.m. Depart for Castle & Key Distillery.

Castle & Key Distillery is located on the site of the historic Old Taylor Distillery in Millville, KY. After sitting abandoned to fall into ruin, new owners purchased the property in 2014. Production began at the distillery in late 2016 for the first time in over 40 years. Castle & Key produces premium spirits made from scratch.

2:00 p.m. Tour Castle & Key Distillery.

3:00 p.m. Depart for Bardstown.

4:15 p.m. Check into Hampton Inn or other Bardstown area hotel.

5:00 p.m. Dinner aboard My Old Kentucky Dinner Train or other Bardstown area restaurant.

Relive the elegance of railcar dining as you travel through beautiful Bourbon Country in Kentucky on My Old Kentucky Dinner Train. Experience a gourmet meal, impeccable service and true Southern hospitality. Available year-round on Fridays-Sundays; reservations recommended.

Day 3

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at your hotel, Mammy’s Kitchen or other Bardstown area restaurant.

8:30 a.m. Begin tour of Bardstown area which may include: the Bourbon Heritage Center at Heaven Hill Distillery, a museum telling the story of bourbon in the area; My Old Kentucky Home State Park, a 19th-century estate with costumed tour guides; the Oscar Getz Museum of Whiskey History, which displays a 50-year collection of rare artifacts and documents concerning the American whiskey industry; Barton’s 1792 Distillery, the oldest fully-operating Distillery in Bardstown, Kentucky; and others as time allows.

12:30 p.m. Lunch at Kitchen and Bar at Bardstown Bourbon Company or other Bardstown area restaurant.

2:00 p.m. Depart for Clermont/Bullitt County.

2:30 p.m. Driving tour of Bullitt County which may include: Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest, Kentucky’s Official State Arboretum; the Jim Beam Distillery American Stillhouse, a 200-year-old landmark that serves as Jim Beam’s flagship distillery; The Forest Edge Winery, a family-owned winery with award-winning wines; and others as time allows.

5:30 p.m. Check into Country Inn & Suites or other Bullitt County area lodging facility.

6:30 p.m. Dinner at Cattleman’s Roadhouse or other Bullitt County area restaurant.

Day 4

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at your hotel or other Bullitt County 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.