



Kentucky River Cities Tour

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

11:30 a.m. Arrive in [Louisville](#). Have lunch at [the Cafe](#) at [Paristown](#) or [other Louisville area restaurant](#).

Also an option in the area is a lunch cruise on the Ohio River aboard the [Belle of Louisville](#); seasonal, depending on schedule. However, a dinner cruise is suggested below – if choose lunch, will need to adjust afternoon touring schedule.

1:00 p.m. Tour of Louisville area which may include: [Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory](#), where you'll see a Louisville Slugger baseball bat being made from beginning to end; The [Frazier History Museum](#), a history museum that serves at the official starting point of the [Kentucky Bourbon Trail](#); [Muhammad Ali Center](#), which tells the story Ali's life and legacy and is a new stop on the [U.S. Civil Rights Trail](#); [Evan Williams Bourbon Experience](#), the first distillery on Whiskey Row; and others as time allows.

5:00 p.m. Check into [The Galt House](#) or [other Louisville area lodging facility](#).

6:00 p.m. Dinner cruise on the Ohio River aboard the [Belle of Louisville](#) or [other Louisville area restaurant](#).

Other seasonal options (depending on schedule) include: after-dinner entertainment at [4th Street Live!](#), [The Kentucky Center](#), or [Louisville Mega Cavern](#).

Day 2

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at [Walker's Exchange](#) or [other Louisville area restaurant](#).

9:00 a.m. Depart for tour of the [Kentucky Derby Museum](#) and [Churchill Downs](#).

The Kentucky Derby Museum is an American Thoroughbred horse racing museum dedicated to preserving the history of the greatest two minutes in sports. The tour includes the history of the Derby, memorabilia and interactive displays. Next door is Churchill Downs, "Home of the Kentucky Derby" and the longest continually running sporting event in America. In 1875, Churchill Downs officially opened its gates in Louisville and began its tradition. You may be able to catch thoroughbreds going through their morning workouts during a backside tour of 147-acre racetrack.

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch at [Wagner's Pharmacy](#) or [other Louisville area restaurant](#).
Wagner's Pharmacy is an iconic spot located across from Churchill Downs that has been serving hearty American breakfasts and lunch since 1922.
- 1:00 p.m. Depart for [Carrollton](#).
Carrollton is a small town in northern Kentucky, located at the convergence of the Kentucky and Ohio Rivers. It serves as the county seat for Carroll County.
- 2:00 p.m. Begin tour of the Carrollton area, which may include: the [Masterson House](#), the first two-story brick structure built between Louisville and Cincinnati in 1790; [The Highland House Estate](#), a 12-room National Historic Landmark that now serves as an event facility; [General Butler State Resort Park](#), a historic site and a place of great natural beauty with a stone overlook showing a beautiful view of the Ohio River; [Butler-Turpin State Historic House](#), a brick federal-style residence preserved by General Butler State Resort Park; and others as time allows.
- 5:00 p.m. Check into [General Butler State Resort Park](#), [Hampton Inn Carrollton](#) or [other Carrollton area lodging facility](#).
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner at Two Rivers Restaurant (at [General Butler State Resort Park](#)), [Welch's Riverside Restaurant](#) or [other Carrollton area restaurant](#).

Optional – After dinner, stroll along the River Walk to relax and catch a beautiful sunset at [Point Park](#), located at 101 W Main St. at the confluence of the Ohio and Kentucky rivers.

Day 3

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at your hotel or [other Carrollton area restaurant](#).
- 9:15 a.m. Depart for [Boone County Distilling Co.](#)
- 10:15 a.m. Arrive at and tour [Boone County Distilling Co.](#)

Boone County Distilling Co. offers daily tours of its fully functional bourbon and rye whiskey distillery. The tours last about 40-45 minutes and include a sampling of products at the end (about 15 minutes). The company's tag line, "Made By Ghosts®", hearkens to the early pioneers who crafted spirits in Boone County more than 100 years ago.
- 11:30 a.m. Depart for [Covington/Newport](#) area.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch at the [Hofbräuhaus](#) or [other Covington/Newport area restaurant](#).

Hofbräuhaus Newport is an authentic German restaurant modeled after the legendary 400+ year-old Hofbräuhaus in Munich, Germany. Guests will enjoy many of the traditions from Germany that have made Hofbräuhaus famous. From the traditionally decorated rooms in the building to the beer that is brewed on-site, and of course the excellent German fare, it's a memorable experience for all!
- 1:30 p.m. Tour the [Newport Aquarium](#).

The Newport Aquarium is located at Newport on the Levee, across the river from Cincinnati. The aquarium has 70 exhibits and 14 galleries, including five seamless acrylic tunnels totaling over 200 feet in length. Visitors can get an up-close and personal look at aquatic life such as sharks, rays, otters and more.

2:30 p.m. Tour of the Covington/Newport area, which may include: [Newport on the Levee](#), a popular dining and entertainment complex on Northern Kentucky's riverfront; the [John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge](#), which was recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 1975 and served as an engineering prototype for the Brooklyn Bridge; the [National Underground Railroad Freedom Center](#) in Cincinnati, a museum showcasing the history of the Underground Railroad and the struggle for freedom; the [Railway Museum of Greater Cincinnati](#), an outdoor experience in a rugged railroad yard environment showcasing numerous historic rail artifacts; and others as time allows.

5:30 p.m. Check into [Hampton Inn & Suites Newport](#) or [other Covington/Newport area lodging facility](#).

6:30 p.m. Dinner cruise with [BB Riverboats](#) or [other Covington/Newport area restaurant](#).

BB Riverboats is the Official Riverboat Cruise Line of Cincinnati since 1979, offering premier sightseeing, dining, and private event cruises on the scenic Ohio River. BB Riverboats gets its name from the initials of the people who were instrumental in getting the business started; Ben Bernstein and Betty Blake. Although both have passed on, portraits of Ben and Betty are displayed on the Belle of Cincinnati, which is now the flagship of BB Riverboats' fleet of riverboats.

Day 4

7:00 a.m. Breakfast this morning at your hotel or [other Covington/Newport area restaurant](#).

8:00 a.m. Depart for [Maysville](#) (and [Old Washington](#)).

Old Washington is a neighborhood of the city of Maysville located near the Ohio River in Mason County. It is one of the earliest settlements in Kentucky and also one of the earliest American settlements west of the Appalachian Mountains.

9:30 a.m. Begin tour of the Maysville area, which may include: [Old Washington](#), a historic settlement; the [Kentucky Gateway Museum Center](#), where dynamic collections, exhibits and a genealogical historical library bring all the stories of the Maysville region into fascinating focus; and others as time allows.

12:00 p.m. Lunch at [Two Twelve Market](#) or [other Maysville area restaurant](#).

1:30 p.m. Depart for [Frankfort](#).

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.

3:30 p.m. Tour the [Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History](#).

The Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History is a museum and educational complex operated by the [Kentucky Historical Society](#). Visitors can walk through and experience Kentucky's history from its beginning to present day via interactive exhibits, hands-on activities and museum theatre dramatizations.

- 5:00 p.m. Check into [Fairfield Inn & Suites Frankfort](#), [Holiday Inn Express & Suites Frankfort](#) or [other Frankfort area lodging facility](#).
- 6:30 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.
- 8:30 p.m. Optional – Finish the evening off with a cocktail from [The Cooperage Bar](#).

Day 5

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at your hotel or [other Frankfort area restaurant](#).

8:30 a.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!

10:00 a.m. Tour of the 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”; and others as time allows. Knowledgeable Step-on guides can add entertainment to your visit and are available through [Visit Frankfort](#).

12:00 p.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!

If time allows after lunch, spend time in downtown Frankfort, perusing the eclectic [shops](#) and enjoying the [public art](#) before heading home!

1:00 p.m. Depart for home.

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