Kentucky’s Horses & Horsepower 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

2:00 p.m. Arrive in Georgetown and begin tour of the Georgetown area at Old Friends Farm, a retirement home for thoroughbred racehorses whose racing and breeding careers have come to an end. Get up close and personal with such stars of the turf as Kentucky Derby winner Silver Charm and Breeders’ Cup Champions Alphabet Soup and Amazombie.

4:30 p.m. Check into Country Inn & Suites by Radisson or other Georgetown lodging facility.

6:30 p.m. Dinner at Wilshire’s or other Georgetown area restaurant.

8:00 p.m. Optional after-dinner entertainment: Open by appointment – At Ward Hall, journey among the skeletons in the closets of this circa 1850s antebellum home – one of the finest Greek Revival-style mansions in the United States and described by a descendant as “a veritable palace, surrounded by a fairy garden.”

Day 2

8:00 a.m. Breakfast at Fava’s Restaurant or other Georgetown area restaurant.

9:00 a.m. Walk and explore the historical downtown area, with dozens of eclectic art, boutique and antique shops.

10:30 a.m. Depart for tour at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, America’s first and the world’s largest Toyota manufacturing facility.

12:00 p.m. Enjoy lunch at Country Boy Brewing, a laid-back taproom which serves craft beers.

1:30 p.m. Depart for the Kentucky Horse Park.

2:00 p.m. Explore the Kentucky Horse Park.

The Kentucky Horse Park is a working horse farm and an educational theme park. Visitors can meet Thoroughbred legends at the Hall of Champions, see interesting breeds at the Parade of Breeds Show or head out for a walking barn tour to meet police
horses, see the blacksmith facility and explore a kids’ barn with stories and activities perfect for young visitors. Visit the museums for a comprehensive look at horse history and culture around the world—there’s nothing else like it! Celebrate history’s greatest horses at the memorials and statues located around the park.

5:00 p.m. Depart for Lexington.

5:30 p.m. Check into DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Lexington or other Lexington area lodging facility.

6:30 p.m. Dinner at Zim’s Café or other Lexington area restaurant.

After-dinner seasonal options (depending on schedule) are: Explore The Lexington Distillery District, catch a live music show at The Burl or catch a live taping of the WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Show (note: Monday’s only).

Day 3

7:00 a.m. Depart for Keeneland.

Keeneland is the world’s largest and most prominent Thoroughbred auction house and hosts world-class racing twice annually. Keeneland, which opened for racing in October 1936, was established on property purchased a year earlier from John Oliver “Jack” Keene, a colorful character and successful Thoroughbred trainer in Russia and Japan in the early 1900s. Keeneland hosts three sales a year: January Horses of All Ages Sale, September Yearling Sale and November Breeding Stock Sale. Keeneland has also been host to the Breeders’ Cup World Championships.

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at the Track Kitchen, followed by a tour of the racecourse, watching morning workouts and some time to shop in the Keeneland Gift Shop.

Breakfast at the Track Kitchen is the perfect way to start a morning at Keeneland! Rub elbows with jockeys, owners and trainers while enjoying a hearty and inexpensive Southern breakfast buffet—biscuits and gravy, grits, home fries and more. The kitchen is open all year, but has extended hours during the Keeneland September and November sales. Call ahead to confirm hours.

9:30 a.m. Schedule an area horse farm tour through Horse Country.

Book a tour with Horse Country to explore the homes of champions, see new foals frolic in their pastures and learn about the care and husbandry of Kentucky’s signature athletes. From nursery farms to stud farms, training facilities to aftercare – the organization includes a variety of horse farms, equine medical clinics and equine attractions where you can get up close and personal and go behind the scenes of Horse Country in Central Kentucky.

12:00 p.m. Lunch at Honeywood or other Lexington area restaurant.

1:30 p.m. Tour of the Lexington area which may include: the Mary Todd Lincoln House, which was the family home of Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of 16th president Abraham Lincoln; Ashland, the 19th century estate of politician Henry Clay Estate; and others as time allows.
3:30 p.m.  Depart for Shelbyville.
4:30 p.m.  Check into Hampton Inn or other Shelbyville area lodging facility.
6:00 p.m.  Dinner at the Claudia Sanders Dinner House or other Shelbyville area restaurant.

The Claudia Sanders Dinner House restaurant is located behind the final home of Colonel Harlan Sanders, founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken, and his wife, Claudia. The restaurant combines Southern hospitality and old-fashioned, family-style cooking.

Optional after-dinner entertainment: the Outlet Shoppes of the Bluegrass, Kentucky’s only designer outlet shopping center with 90+ stores.

Day 4
7:30 a.m.  Breakfast at your hotel or other Shelbyville area restaurant.
8:30 a.m.  Begin tour of the Shelbyville area, which may include: tour of Kismet Farm LLC, a Saddlebred horse farm; Wakefield-Scearce Galleries at the Shops of Science Hill, a high-quality antique gallery located in a historic shopping area; the Whitney M. Young Center, birthplace of an important civil rights leader; the Outlet Shoppes of the Bluegrass, Kentucky’s only designer outlet shopping center with 90+ stores; and others as time allows.
12:00 p.m.  Lunch at Red Lion or other Shelbyville area restaurant.
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.