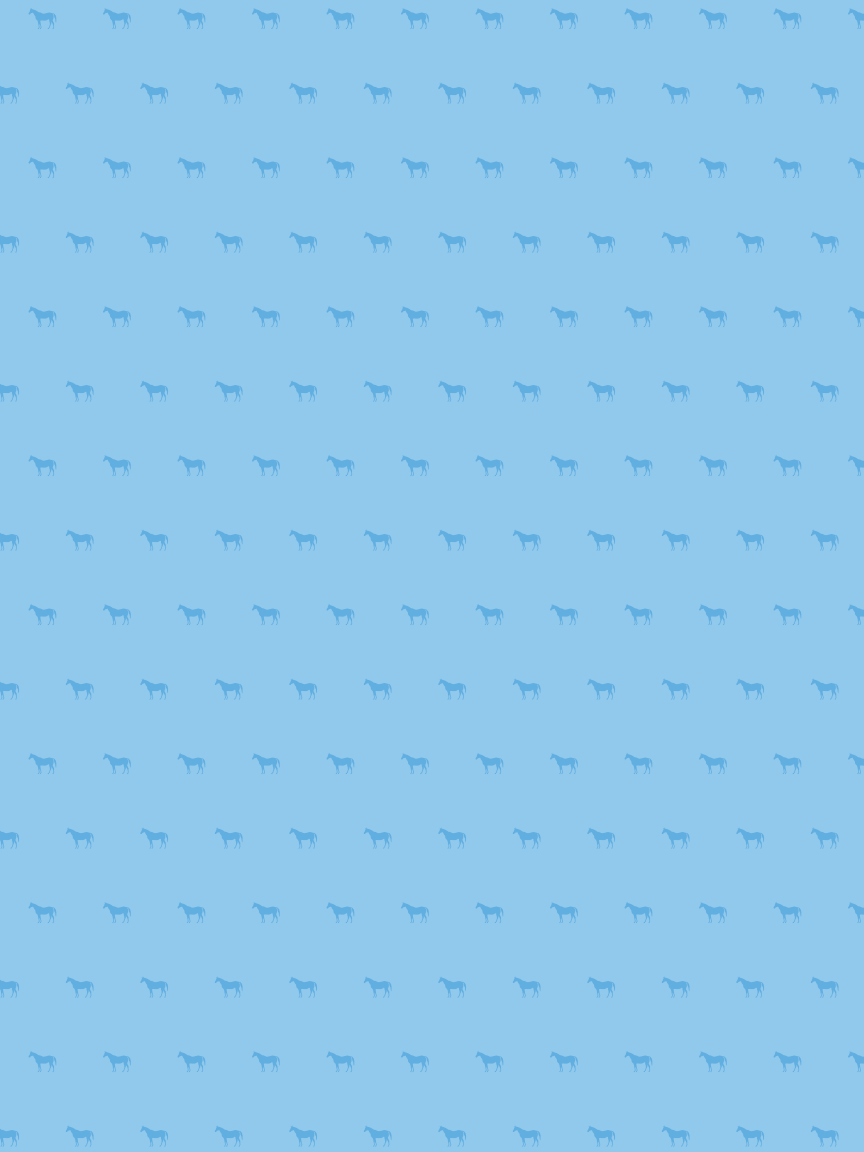


Horses

A Pocket
Guide to
Equine
Attractions
in Lexington,
Kentucky



VISITLEX





Welcome to Lexington

Whether you're already here or planning a trip sometime soon, let us be the first to welcome you to Lexington, Kentucky—The Horse Capital of the World.

VisitLEX Pocket Guides are a fantastic overview of Lexington's most iconic attractions and activities. In these pages you'll get a glimpse into our famed equine industry and its rich history that inspires so much of our local culture.

If something grabs your interest, VisitLEX has in-depth resources and an award-winning team of hospitality pros that you can rely on for expert travel tips. We're always here to help.



The Horse Capital of the World

With stately farms in every direction and pastures filled with a variety of horse breeds, it's clear why Lexington is the Horse Capital of the World. So, how did that happen?

Lexington sits atop a limestone shelf that purifies our water and adds minerals to our famous bluegrass, making it the perfect fuel for racehorses. And our rolling hills are an ideal training ground for foals and yearlings.

In 1789, Lexington's first formal racetrack opened downtown. Runnymede, the oldest continuously operating Thoroughbred farm in Kentucky, was founded here in 1867.

Today, Lexington is the center of the equine universe, welcoming millions annually for racing and events.



More than 75% of Kentucky Derby winners are bred in the Lexington area.

Left: Overbrook Farm

Founded by Lexington businessman and philanthropist William T. Young, Overbrook Farm produced legendary sire Storm Cat and Kentucky Derby winner Grindstone.

An aerial photograph of a horse farm. The image shows several circular dirt tracks, some with wooden fences, set in a lush green field. In the center, there is a large barn with a dark roof and a smaller structure. A paved area with a few vehicles is visible near the barn. The overall scene is a well-maintained equestrian facility.

Horse Farm Tours

There are about 450 horse farms in the Bluegrass region. Around 150 of those are right here in Fayette County. Here's how you can go behind the scenes to admire their gorgeous grounds, revisit racing history, meet Kentucky Derby winners, and discover an exciting variety of horse breeds.

Book directly with a farm

A number of farms welcome individual visitors. Since these are all private, working farms, make sure you make prior arrangements through the appropriate channels.

Book through Visit Horse Country

Visit Horse Country specializes in connecting guests to Kentucky's horse industry through immersive experiences at farms, equine medical clinics, and other attractions.



Learn more
about booking
horse farm tours



Explore with a tour provider

Ride along with an area expert. Local providers have regularly scheduled guided tours that you can join. Check online to find one that best suits your interests.

Customize with a private tour

Private tours let you tailor a VIP experience based on your interests. Search for companies that can chauffeur small groups or provide a step-on guide for a larger group.



Kentucky Horse Park

The Kentucky Horse Park is dedicated to humanity's relationship with the horse. Nearly 50 breeds graze upon its 1,200 acres of lush pastures. Plus there's a campground, recreational facilities, and an indoor arena that hosts some of the world's most prestigious equine experiences like the four-star Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event. Schedules vary seasonally so be sure to check hours and availability beforehand.

Activities

The Hall of Champions is an elite group of champion horses that reside at the park and is a must-see for horse enthusiasts of any age.

The Parade of Breeds is a regular show that brings to life the history of horsemanship with music and narration. Horses perform in colorful attire that represents the culture and customs of their native land.



THE ARABIAN HORSE
الحصان العربي
Of an Ancient and Noble History

As one of the oldest breeds on earth, the Arabian has been appreciated for thousands of years for his intelligence, his grace, his endurance and his beauty. This noble and intelligent breed will take you back to the heart of the culture that shaped him through the centuries. The Arabian is the only breed to have been bred in his own country.

Museums

The Kentucky Horse Park is home to several fascinating museums that you won't find anywhere else. **The International Museum of the Horse** examines the role of horses throughout world history.

The American Saddlebred Museum highlights the role Saddlebred horses have played in America and the **Wheeler Museum** focuses on show jumping horses and competitions.

Horseback Riding

Giddy Up and Go

There's no more fitting or thrilling way to explore the Bluegrass than on horseback. Check online or call ahead before saddling up at these locations.

The Kentucky Horse Park offers guided horseback trail and pony rides for first-time riders. **Stepping Stone Ranch** has riding areas for

all skill levels. **Whispering Woods** has 250 trail-filled acres, and **Shaker Village** offers **Horse Drawn Wagon Rides** around their idyllic property. Most of these places will allow you to ride on their property if you have a horse of your own, but there may be a fee.



A silhouette of a person riding a horse on a track at sunset, with large text overlaid. The text is arranged in a vertical stack, with some words in a serif font and others in a script font. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a field with trees in the distance.

I'LL
RUN
LIKE
THE *Wind*
THROUGH
Sun AND
Rain

F. J. Burgess poem

Keeneland

Since 1936, Keeneland has been a gem of Thoroughbred culture.

With its tranquil setting and lovely stone architecture, this National Historic Landmark is one of the most genteel and beautiful racetracks in the world.

The world's best horses and horsemen converge at Keeneland to compete in "racing as it was meant to be," but it's open to visitors year round and offers countless ways to experience its timeless traditions.



The Keeneland Sales Pavilion hosts lively Thoroughbred auctions several times a year that are open to the public.

Grab a homestyle breakfast at the Keeneland **Track Kitchen**, a hidden gem frequented by professional horsemen, and watch horses have their daily **Morning Workouts** as the sun rises.

Study up at the Keeneland Library. With more than 30,000 books and millions of photographic negatives, it's the world's largest repository of the Thoroughbred industry open to the public.

Keeneland also offers **Guided Tours** for a behind-the-scenes peek at Keeneland's racing and sales operations.





Driving Tours Take the Scenic Route

If you want to appreciate the astonishing scope of Lexington's Bluegrass landscape on your own time, a drive through the countryside is a great way to explore the Horse Capital of the World.

Lush pastures, miles of plank and stone fencing, grazing horses, magnificent homes and barns—they're all just a few minutes outside of our vibrant downtown. For a more curated experience, call or stop by the Visitors Center for a free printed copy of our Bluegrass Country Driving Tour maps.

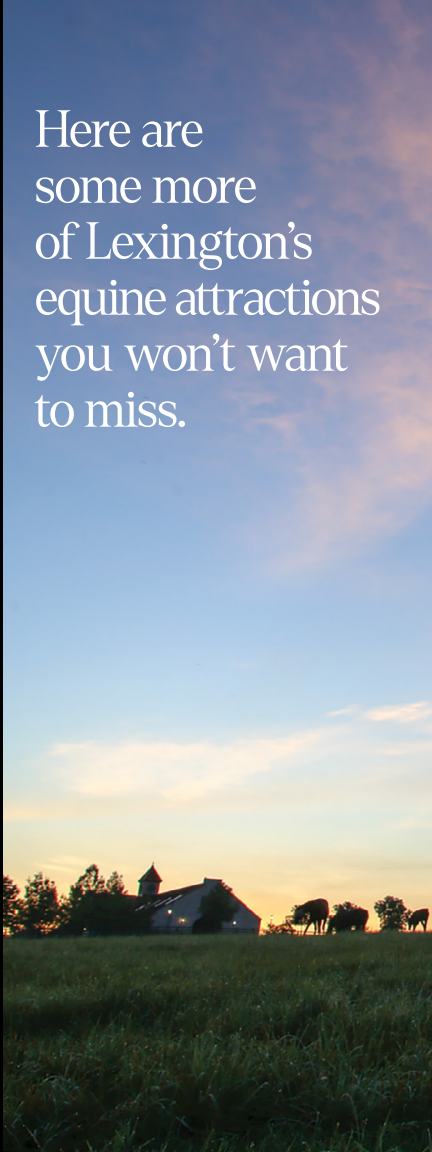


*Poetry
in motion*

Pastures are sized to provide about 2.5 acres of grazing per horse.



Here are
some more
of Lexington's
equine attractions
you won't want
to miss.



The First Race Course Historical Marker on South Broadway marks the spot where, in 1780, pioneers established Kentucky's first race path.

African American Cemetery No. 2 on East Seventh Street is where famed Black jockeys Oliver Lewis and James "Soup" Perkins are buried.

Claiborne Farm is one of the world's most iconic horse farms and the final resting place of Triple Crown winner Secretariat.

Darby Dan Farm provided the setting for Disney's major motion picture Secretariat.

Megson Farms specializes in the breeding of rare white and multi-colored Thoroughbreds.

The Man o' War Statue at the Kentucky Horse Park pays tribute to the legendary horse. Peerless African-American jockey, Isaac Murphy, is buried nearby.

Thoroughbred Park in downtown Lexington contains seven lifelike bronze racehorses and more artwork honoring historic racing figures.

The Secretariat Statue at the intersection of Alexandria Drive and Old Frankfort Pike is a larger-than-life sculpture of the almost mythical Triple Crown winner by artist Jocelyn Russell.

Horse Mania is Lexington's once-a-decade public art initiative celebrating our equine heritage. Local artists decorate the colorful horse statues seen throughout the city.

Red Mile Gaming & Racing is the second oldest harness racing track in the world with over 900 Instant Racing gaming terminals.





Equine Care

In Lexington, horses receive the best of care throughout their lives. If you're interested in equine medicine or just have a passion for these beautiful animals, these specialized facilities are well worth a visit. Check online or call ahead for tour availability.

Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital and **Hagyard Equine Medical Institute** are known for the expert care they provide to all breeds of horses.

At the **Secretariat Center**, off-track Thoroughbreds are prepared for successful post-track careers.

New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program is the nation's oldest and largest, and **Old Friends Farm** is a Thoroughbred retirement and rescue facility in nearby Georgetown.

Hallway Feeds, a family-owned business for 50 years, has provided nutrition for 14 Kentucky Derby winners.

Shopping & Art

Find a souvenir for yourself or a gift for the horse lover in your life at these local shops.

The Keeneland Shop has a huge selection of official Keeneland-branded merchandise and more.

Keeneland Mercantile in downtown Lexington sells beautifully-crafted goods from throughout the South.

The **Kentucky Horse Park Gift Shop** offers official park merchandise and more equine-themed items. A Breyer Flagship Retailer, the shop also has a large selection of Breyer model horses.

L.V. Harkness & Co. is a provider of fine gifts, homegoods, and other keepsakes with an equine flair.

Fennell's Horse Supplies and **Pinkston's Turf Goods** sell a variety of horse tack, personalized leather goods, and gifts for horse lovers.

Empire Saddlery Lexington carries saddles and other equestrian accessories, plus apparel for riders.

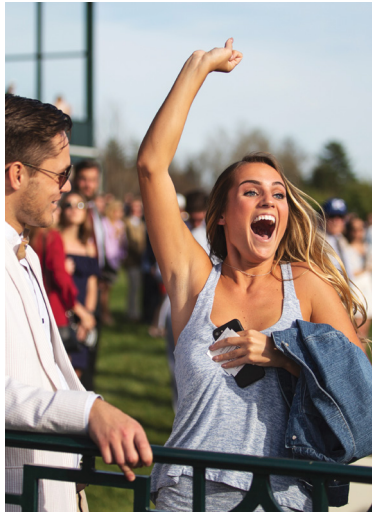
New Editions Gallery and **Cross Gate Gallery** are both excellent options if you're interested in equestrian art.



Helpful Tips

- Horse farms are private businesses. Many welcome visitors, but you need to make prior arrangements with them directly or through a tour company.
- Every farm and facility has their own rules. For the well-being of the horses and your own safety, follow those guidelines at all times.
- Equine culture practically has its own language. Consider studying up on the terminology so you'll be able to tell the colts from the fillies.
- Some equine experiences are seasonal. Breeding and foaling seasons are in the spring. Yearling prep takes place in the summer and fall.
- Horses spend most of their time indoors during the winter, but a sunrise over frosty bluegrass makes a trip to Lexington's countryside just as memorable.
- Check out our events calendar at VisitLEX.com. There might be a festival or something else special happening that you can add to your itinerary.
- Venture just outside Lexington to any of the neighboring towns and see more of what makes this area unique. Visit www.bluegrasskentucky.com to find the best resource for your adventure.
- Don't forget about the bourbon! Many of the world's most iconic distilleries are near Lexington's equine attractions.

Questions? Feeling lost? Call or stop by the Lexington Visitors Center for the most up-to-date information and friendly advice from our award-winning team of hospitality pros.



A photograph of a horse in profile, facing left, silhouetted against a bright sunset. The sun is a large, glowing orb in the upper center, casting a warm, golden light across the scene. The horse's mane and tail are slightly illuminated by the low sun. In the foreground, a dark metal railing is visible, partially obscuring the horse's lower body. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

“
**Take care
of the horse,
and it will take
care of you.**”

Alice Chandler, Founder of Mill Ridge Farm

Looking for more expert travel tips? The perfect gift or souvenir? VisitLEX is here to help.

Call or stop by for assistance from our award-winning team of hospitality pros.

Lexington Visitors Center

215 West Main Street, Ste. 75
Lexington, KY 40507

(800) 845-3959

(859) 233-7299

 VisitLEX.com

 Vacation@VisitLEX.com

 @VisitLex

Paid in part by the KY
Department of Tourism

TEAM 
KENTUCKY.

