

Tour Paducah, KY



A Convergence of Creativity



On the banks of the Ohio River in the heart of America's inland waterways, the historic city of Paducah overlooks the flowing currents that carried explorers and tradesmen to Western Kentucky centuries ago. One of only nine UNESCO Creative Cities in the United States, Paducah is celebrated globally for its important role in connecting cultures through creativity. Today, this creative and burgeoning community welcomes visitors to explore the fascinating history reflected in its architecture, attractions and authentic cultural heritage.

Here, historical sites and markers — and a gorgeously decorated floodwall — illustrate Paducah's position as a Southern economic hub, providing valuable ports for steamboats on the Ohio and Tennessee rivers and along with the railway system, fostering economic growth in Western Kentucky in the mid- 19th century. Learn how Paducah became a focal point in both Union and Confederate campaigns during the Civil War and how the city's long tradition of creativity established Paducah as an artistic and musical center of the South in the 20th century, attracting some of the most famous entertainers of all time.

Today, museums, public art pieces and long-revered landmarks weave a tapestry of remarkable experiences waiting to be unfolded and stories to be told. Learn more about Paducah and, like those who came before, explore the possibilities that exist in this wonderfully creative community.



Creative Facts About Paducah



Originally settled as Pekin in the early 1820s, the city was laid out and renamed Paducah by famed explorer and surveyor William Clark in 1827.

Established as a town in 1830 and incorporated by state legislation in 1838.

One of nine designated United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural (UNESCO) Creative Cities in the United States.



Located in the Four Rivers Region, where four of America's most important inland waterways — the Ohio, Tennessee, Cumberland, and Mississippi rivers — converge.

Became a hub for the Illinois Central Railroad due to the city's proximity to coal fields north and east of the city. The railroad began construction on a locomotive workshop that would ultimately become the largest employer in the city and be renowned for rebuilding steam and diesel engines as technology progressed.



Home to the National Quilt Museum, featuring some of the most extraordinary quilts from both national and global artisans.

Well known for its distinct style of Western Kentucky barbecue, characterized by pulled or chopped pork with signature sauces.

Offers a wide array of lodging options, including more than 30 nationally branded hotels.

Voted one of USA Today's 10 Best Small Towns for Shopping in 2019.



Liz Hammonds
Director of Marketing
and Communications
liz@paducah.travel
(270) 443-8783

PADUCAH
UNESCO CREATIVE CITY

TEAM
KENTUCKY

The Top 5 *Must-Visit Places* in Paducah

A day or two spent in Paducah isn't complete without checking out some local landmarks. Paducah's most popular destinations are reflections of both the fascinating history of the community and the hospitable, natural environs that nurtured our ancestors and provide moments of tranquility today.

1 *National Quilt Museum*

215 Jefferson St.

Showcasing some of the most breathtaking and innovative quilts from around the world — these aren't your grandmother's quilts.

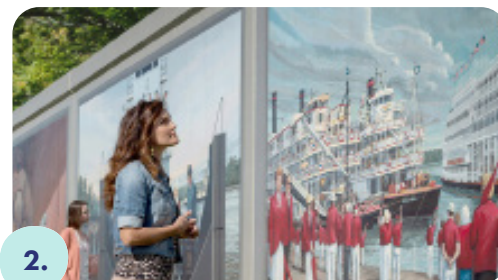


1.

2 *"Wall to Wall" Murals*

200–298 S. Water St.

Stunning masterpieces by the renowned Dafford Muralists adorn the city's floodwall.



2.

3 *The Carson Center for the Performing Arts*

100 Kentucky Ave.

This state-of-the-art performing arts center hosts a wide range of live entertainment from nationally known acts — including concerts and Broadway productions — as well as meetings, seminars, exhibitions and parties.



3.

4 *Hotel Metropolitan*

724 Oscar Cross Ave.

Restored 1908 hotel that has hosted African American athletes and luminaries including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and B.B. King. Listed in *The Green Book*.



4.

5 *Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area*

238 Visitor Center Drive | Golden Pond, KY

This 171,280-acre green space features attractions like the Elk & Bison Prairie, Golden Pond Planetarium, Nature Station and a 19th-century working farm called The Homeplace, as well as space for biking, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting and watersports.



5.



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Travel Inspiration

Take the stress out of your Paducah, KY getaway. This convenient, two-day itinerary will take you to some of the favorite spots around the Quilt City to help make the most of your trip. Of course, feel free to mix and match stops — in Paducah, creativity is encouraged!



Day 1

Fuel up with the most important meal of the day at **Etcetera Coffeehouse (320 N. Sixth St.)**. Serving piping hot coffee and tea in the Lower Town Arts District, this is the perfect spot to kick-start your day with some tasty, fresh baked goods — or on the weekends, a savory quiche.

Next, enjoy a mid-morning stroll along the floodwall and soak in the breathtaking “**Wall to Wall Murals**”. Painted by Robert Dafford and the Dafford Murals Team, these spectacular public art pieces capture the fascinating history of Paducah and the city’s connection to creativity.

For lunch, stop by **Artisan Kitchen (1704 Broadway St.)**. Here, cooking is an art form, and it’s reflected in masterful, made-from-scratch sandwiches, salads, soups and desserts. This is the perfect spot to feed your stomach and your imagination!



Stunning works of art are waiting to be discovered at the **National Quilt Museum (215 Jefferson St.)**. Tour this vast collection of quilts from around the world and see how bold, innovative ideas are being expressed through fiber arts.

Afterward, grab a pre-dinner beverage at **The Foxbriar Cocktail Bar (112 Broadway St.)**. Sample exquisite, handcrafted cocktails in an intimate Downtown setting — reach for your go-to drink or discover a brand-new favorite! Then, enjoy a delicious, farm-to-table meal at **Freight House (330 S. Third St.)**, serving

traditional Southern flavors with locally sourced meats and garden-fresh veggies for a sensational and savory dinner. Pair your meal with their massive menu of bourbons or seasonal cocktails and craft beers.

Ready to spend an evening out on the town? Enjoy the melodic notes of the Paducah Symphony Orchestra at the **Carson Center (100 Kentucky Ave.)**. Under the instruction of Maestro Raffaele Ponti, the PSO has brought classical music to life in the heart of Paducah since 1979. Or catch a performance at **Market House Theatre (132 Market House Square)**, featuring nationally recognized, award-winning musicals, dramas and comedies.

For a nightcap, you can't go wrong with **Dry Ground Brewing Company (3121 Broadway St., Suite 109)**. Located inside the historic Coke Plant, Paducah's first microbrewery boasts original crafts and guest taps — not to mention special events and live music!

Grab some shuteye at **The 1857 Hotel (210 Kentucky Ave.)**, a historic property located conveniently Downtown, and recharge for another day of exploration.

Day 2

Start with breakfast at **Kirchhoff's Bakery & Deli (118 Market House Square)**. This fifth-generation German bakery serves handmade, fresh-baked breakfast pastries daily. Remember to take a few of their famous cookies with you!

Venture beyond Downtown to the **Hotel Metropolitan (724 Oscar Cross Ave.)**, a restored 1908 hotel that, before desegregation, hosted notable guests ranging from entertainers like Ella Fitzgerald to Civil Rights icons like Thurgood Marshall. Take the living history tour, Ms. Maggie's Memories, and hear the gripping and emotional stories that took place within these walls. Listed in the famous *Green Book*, a copy of which is placed on a main floor wall of the hotel.

Break for lunch with some of the local flavors at **Starnes Bar-B-Q (1008 Joe Clifton Drive)**. Family-owned since 1955, this Midtown favorite is well known for its iconic mint green façade and the smoky pulled pork and savory sauces found inside.



Head back Downtown and learn about the fascinating history of the country's river systems at the **Inland Waterways Museum (117 S. Water St.)**, featuring numerous interactive and water-filled exhibits that put visitors in the shoes of a riverboat pilot to absorb the stories of these pioneers and tradesmen firsthand. Afterward, spend some time shopping in Historic Downtown. Named one of USA Today's 10 Best Small Towns for Shopping, the mix of antique shops and urban boutiques are brimming with one-of-a-kind gifts you just can't turn down.

Feeling hungry? Grab a slice at the landmark **Max's Brick Oven Café (112 Market House Square)**, featuring pizzas and other dishes served straight from their trademark brick oven. Don't miss special events like wine and cigar pairings and international menus!

Wrap up your two-day adventure at **Paducah Beer Werks (301 N. Fourth St.)**, a Downtown craft brewery offering a wide selection of house ales and regional and favorite craft beers set in a refurbished Greyhound terminal!



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For Truly Inspired Conventions & Meetings, *Plan on Paducah!*

Featuring more than 100,000 square feet of flexible meeting and exhibition space, the **Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center** is one of Western Kentucky's largest convention complexes. Located adjacent to the Lower Town Arts District, the Convention Center overlooks the confluence of the Ohio and Tennessee rivers with a convention hotel just steps away. Amenities include:

- **The Julian Carroll Convention Center**, featuring 52,000 square feet of breakout, pre-function and ballroom space along with 13 breakout rooms.
- **The Bill & Meredith Schroeder Expo Center**, featuring nearly 40,000 square feet of drive-in capable, multi-purpose space that can accommodate more than 200 exhibit booths.



Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center

415 Park St. | (270) 408-1346

Unique Meeting Venues

Additionally, Paducah is home to numerous boutique meeting facilities perfectly suited to small, mid-size or large events. These venues range from historic spaces, hotels and beautiful parks to high-tech performing arts venues and are adaptable to a variety of meetings, reunions or corporate events.

The 1857 Hotel & Events Center

210 Kentucky Ave.
(270) 933-1857

Blooms n' Gardens

4285 Pullen Lane
(270) 575-3366

Broussard's Cajun Cuisine

123 N. Second St.
(270) 444-5220

The Carson Center

100 Kentucky Ave.
(270) 450-4444

Clemens Fine Arts Center

4810 Alben Barkley Drive
(270) 534-3212

Commerce Center

300 S. Third St.
(270) 443-1746

The Commonwealth Event Center

5955 US-60 W
(270) 559-2465

Echo Bridge Center

1723 Kentucky Ave.
(270) 444-6882

Emerging Technology Center at WKTC

4810 Alben Barkley Drive
(270) 534-3206

The Grand Lodge on Fifth

121 N. Fifth St.
(270) 450-0749

Inland Waterways Museum

117 S. Water St.
(270) 575-9958

Jonquil Place Events Center

100 Cave Thomas Drive, B
(270) 210-9512

Maiden Alley Cinema & Gallery

112 Maiden Alley
(270) 441-7007

Manea Vineyards

2245 Lebanon Road
(270) 994-4370

Market House Theatre

132 Market House Square
(270) 444-6828

McCracken County Public Library

555 Washington St.
(270) 442-2510

Murray State University – Paducah Campus

4430 Sunset Ave.
(270) 442-4753

National Quilt Museum

215 Jefferson St.
(270) 442-8856

Paducah City Hall

300 S. Fifth St.
(270) 444-8800

Paducah Innovation Hub

500 S. 25th St.
(270) 443-6592

Paducah School of Art & Design

905 Harrison St.
(270) 408-4278

Purple Toad Winery

4275 Old U.S. Highway 45
(270) 554-0010

Renee's Event Center

2946 Cairo Road
(270) 441-0077

The Respite Bed & Breakfast

502 N. Fifth St.
(270) 709-2848

Ritz Ballroom

2201 Broadway St.
(270) 709-3095

Soiree's

2069 Irvin Cobb Drive
(270) 816-3947

W.C. Young Community Center

505 S. Eighth St.
(270) 442-6583

Walker Hall Events Center

229 Madison St.
(270) 575-4568

Yeiser Art Center

200 Broadway St.
(270) 442-2453



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Win Big in Paducah!



The spirit of competition lives in Western Kentucky! Paducah's diverse facilities can host a wide variety of sporting events and tournaments for all skill levels, including club-level, collegiate and professional events. From baseball games at historic Brooks Stadium to premier water-skiing competitions at Twin Oaks Lake, see how Paducah embodies the spirit of competition with world-class facilities.

Midtown

Brooks Stadium

2400 Brooks Stadium Drive
(270) 519-7845

Carson Park

300 N. 30th St.
(270) 444-4744

Stuart Nelson Park

175 Stuart Nelson Park Road
(270) 444-8508

West Paducah

Country Club of Paducah

6500 Turnberry Drive
(270) 554-7914

West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area

(270) 488-3233

Historic Downtown

John W. Keiler Field

401 Walter Jetton Drive
(270) 444-5650

Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center

415 Park St.
(270) 408-1346

I-24 Exit 11

Twin Oaks Lake

2345 Oaks Road
(270) 898-4250



Hotel & Motel Meeting Facilities

Country Inn & Suites

145 McBride Lane
(270) 442-2201

Courtyard by Marriott

3835 Technology Drive
(270) 442-3600

Drury Inn

3975 Hinkleville Road
(270) 443-3313

Drury Inn & Suites

2930 James Sanders Blvd.
(270) 441-0024

Fairfield Inn & Suites

3950 Coleman Crossing Circle
(270) 442-1700

Hampton Inn & Suites

3901 Coleman Crossing Circle
(270) 442-0200

Holiday Inn Express

3396 Hinkleville Road
(270) 442-8874

Holiday Inn Paducah Riverfront

600 N. Fourth St.
(270) 366-7614

La Quinta Inn & Suites

3960 Coleman Crossing Circle
(270) 443-4800



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Get the Scoop on Our Creative Community

Incredible things are happening in Paducah, KY — and the whole country knows it! Check out some of our favorite headlines from national publications and see the buzz Paducah is creating!



Best Small Towns in KY

[Southern Living](#)

**The Most Charming Small Towns
in Every State**

[Reader's Digest](#)

**The Best Christmas Towns
in Kentucky to Visit This
Holiday Season**

[Southern Living](#)

**10 Unique Hotels in Kentucky
You Should Book This Fall**

[The Travel](#)

Meet Kentucky's Museums

[Small Market Meetings](#)

Passport to Paducah

[Good Grit](#)

20 Things to Do in Paducah, KY

[Travel2Next](#)

**Crafting the Perfect Weekend
Travel Guide to Paducah, Kentucky**

[Wayward Blog](#)

**A Creative Turnaround in
Paducah, Kentucky**

[Garden & Gun](#)

**This Undiscovered Arts Destination
Is Also One of the Few UNESCO
Creative Cities in the U.S.**

[Travel + Leisure](#)

Small Markets with Big Impact

[Convention South](#)

**These Small Towns Are
Packing a Big Punch for Their
Pride Celebrations**

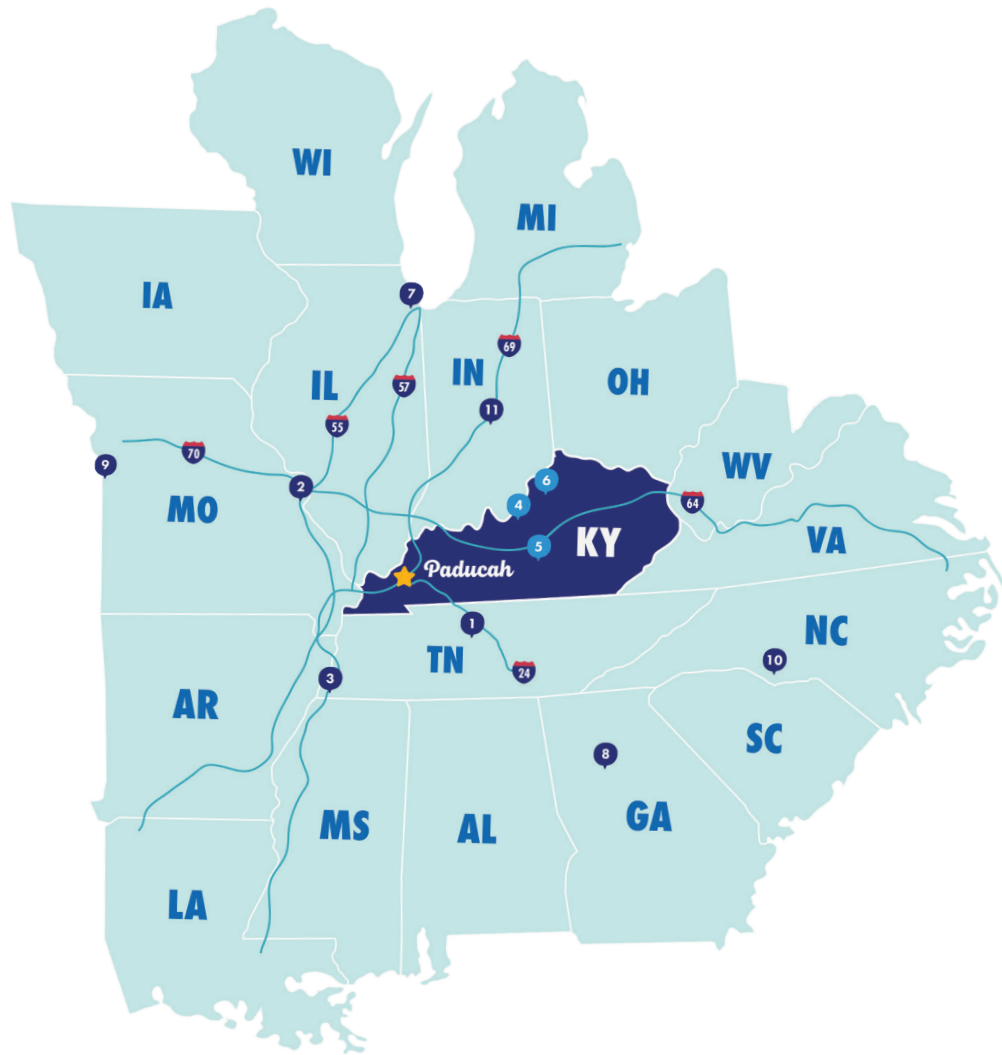
[Thrillist](#)

**The Best Things to Do in Paducah,
Kentucky's Creative City**

[Southern Living](#)



Center of Major Markets



DISTANCE FROM: - - - - -

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. NASHVILLE, TN — 137 MILES (2 HOURS, 16 MINUTES) | 7. CHICAGO, IL — 374 MILES (5 HOURS, 41 MINUTES) |
| 2. ST. LOUIS, MO — 174 MILES (2 HOURS, 49 MINUTES) | 8. ATLANTA, GA — 387 MILES (6 HOURS, 4 MINUTES) |
| 3. MEMPHIS, TN — 179 MILES (3 HOURS, 15 MINUTES) | 9. KANSAS CITY, MO — 420 MILES (6 HOURS, 16 MINUTES) |
| 4. LOUISVILLE, KY — 216 MILES (3 HOURS, 23 MINUTES) | 10. CHARLOTTE, NC* — 546 MILES (8 HOURS, 49 MINUTES) |
| 5. LEXINGTON, KY — 255 MILES (4 HOURS, 1 MINUTE) | |
| 6. ARK ENCOUNTER — 299 MILES (4 HOURS, 35 MINUTES) | |

*Direct flights from Charlotte Douglas International Airport to Paducah's Barkley Regional Airport.



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About the Paducah CVB

The Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is the official destination marketing organization (DMO) for Paducah, KY. The CVB exists to create new economic opportunities through destination marketing, management and tourism development.

CVB Staff

Liz Hammonds

Director of Marketing and Communications

liz@paducah.travel

Liz Hammonds is your media concierge to Paducah! She is available to answer questions, schedule interviews, make connections, provide photo assets and generally take care of anything you need while you're learning about the city. Call, text or email at your leisure — Liz is here to help!

Mark H. Thompson

Acting Manager

thompson@paducah.travel

Lynda Peters-Jones

Director of Sales

lynda@paducah.travel

Hannah Caronongan

Marketing Manager

hannah@paducah.travel

Fowler Black

Director of Operations

fowler@paducah.travel

Amina Watkins

Group Travel Sales Manager

amina@paducah.travel

April Roper

Visitor Services Manager

april@paducah.travel

City VIPs

The City of Paducah, KY

Mayor: George Bray

gbray@paducahky.gov | (270) 444-8504

City Manager: Daron Jordan

djordan@paducahky.gov | (270) 444-8504

Communications Manager:

Pam Spencer

pspencer@paducahky.gov | (270) 444-8669

Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce

President/CEO: Sandra Wilson

swilson@paducahchamber.org

Vice President — Operations:

Jill Hester

jhester@paducahchamber.org

Greater Paducah Economic Development

President/CEO: Bruce Wilcox

bruce@epaducah.com

Director of Operations:

Meg Morrow

meg@epaducah.com

Paducah Main Street

Paducah Planning Department

planninginfo@paducahky.gov | (270) 444-8690

Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center

Executive Director:

Michelle Campbell

michelle@paducahconventions.org

Director of Sales & Marketing:

Angela Yeisley

angela@paducahconventions.org

"Wall to Wall" Murals

info@paducahwalltowall.com | (270) 519-1321

National Quilt Museum

Executive Director: Bonnie Schrock

bschrock@quiltmuseum.org | (270) 442-8856

River Discovery Center

Executive Director: Julie Harris

director@inlandwaterways.org

Assistant Director: Lindsay Ramsey

lr Ramsey@riverdiscoverycenter.org