



**INSIDER  
GUIDES**  
from VisitTheUSA

# BOURBON, BLUEGRASS AND HORSE COUNTRY

TENNESSEE - KENTUCKY - OHIO - INDIANA

# BOURBON, BLUEGRASS AND HORSE COUNTRY

Nashville to Tullahoma, Tennessee	1 hour 55 minutes / 114km
Tullahoma to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee	4 hours 28 minutes / 328km
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, to Lexington, Kentucky	5 hours 1 minute / 372km
Lexington to Versailles, Kentucky	25 minutes / 22km
Versailles, Kentucky, to Cincinnati, Ohio	2 hours 11 minutes / 158km
Cincinnati, Ohio, to Indianapolis, Indiana	2 hours 48 minutes / 185km
Indianapolis, Indiana, to Louisville, Kentucky	2 hours 57 minutes / 185km
Louisville to Owensboro, Kentucky	2 hours 24 minutes / 177km
Owensboro, Kentucky, to Nashville, Tennessee	3 hours / 206km





Nashville, Tennessee

## NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Start off your trip in Nashville, Tennessee, with a tour of **Ryman Auditorium**. A historical marker by the Tennessee Historical Commission notes the Ryman Auditorium as the "Birthplace of Bluegrass." This auditorium was the site of Bill Monroe's 1945 performance, a performance that became what we now know as bluegrass. Bill Monroe is the father of bluegrass and his performance here with the Blue Grass Boys was a monumental moment for the genre of bluegrass and music as a whole.

Nashville has many places to hear bluegrass music while you are in town. Ryman Auditorium hosts "Bluegrass Nights" every summer and **Friends of Warner Parks** has "Full Moon Pickin' Parties" throughout the year. Or, head to the **Station Inn**, an intimate venue that has played host to some major musical talent. Pair your musical experiences with a tour of **Nelson's Green Brier Distillery**. Learn about the distillery's German founder and taste some of the hand-crafted Tennessee whiskey.

*Accommodation: Nashville, Tennessee*

## NASHVILLE TO TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE

● ● ● ● ● 1 hour 55 minutes / 114km

Depart Nashville, and drive for one-and-a-half hours to your first stop, the **Jack Daniel's Distillery** in Lynchburg. Select a tour that fits your taste and then explore the town. Lynchburg is a small town that is big on hospitality. Don't pass up the chance to eat down-home cooking at **Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House and Restaurant** or to see memorabilia at the **Lynchburg Hardware General Store**.

On your way to Tullahoma, take a half-hour detour to **Short Springs Natural Area**. Lush scenery and lively waterfalls make this a great spot to stretch your legs and get some photos. From **Short Springs Natural Area**, drive for 10 minutes to Tullahoma, where it's time to visit another distillery. **Cascade Hollow Distilling Co.** is where **George Dickel Tennessee Whiskey** is handmade by a small team. Tour the distillery and learn the history of this Tennessee brand.

*Accommodation: Tullahoma, Tennessee*





Woodford Reserve, Versailles

## LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Start your first full day in Lexington meeting thoroughbred horses at **Darley at Jonabell Farm**, where Kentucky Derby winning stallions have been bred. Tour the stables and see three Kentucky Derby winners, Nyquist, Animal Kingdom, and Street Sense. Only a couple of minutes away is internationally renowned racecourse, **Keeneland**. Catch a race or take one of the behind-the-scenes tours of the racetrack and auction house that include the horse barns, winner's circle and auction ring. Wrap up your day with house-smoked barbecue at **Blue Door Smokehouse**.

Continue your journey in horse country at **Claiborne Farm**, where famed

stallion Secretariat lived after retiring from racing. Soak in more than 100 years of thoroughbred racing history and see some of today's champion racehorses in the barn. Then, pay a visit to the cemetery where over 20 champions are buried, including the legendary Secretariat. After paying homage to one of the greatest racehorses of all time, learn about horse racing culture and history at the **Kentucky Horse Park**. Walk through the hall of champions, see different breeds at the parade of breeds show and take a walking barn tour.

*Accommodation: Lexington, Kentucky*

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# LEXINGTON TO VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY

● 25 minutes / 22km

Soak in the beauty of horse country on the half-hour drive from Lexington to Versailles. Make a stop at **WinStar Farm**, a top force for thoroughbred breeding and racing that's home to award-winning stallions. Tour the farm and see the stallion barns and breeding sheds, and learn about the farm's history. If you visit during the spring or summer, you may see young foals in the pastures. Next up in horse country is **Lane's End Farm**. Meet their thoroughbreds and visit a statue made in honor of A.P. Indy, the Belmont Stakes and Breeders' Cup Classic champion.

All of your travels will have worked up quite an appetite and Kentucky cuisine won't disappoint. Eat lunch at **Melissa's Cottage Café** and then make the 10-minute drive to **Lawrenceburg's Wild Turkey distillery**. Situated high above the Kentucky River, this distillery offers spectacular views and premium Kentucky straight bourbon whiskey. Take a tour and watch bourbon poured into hand-crafted oak barrels, then relax and enjoy a tasting of Wild Turkey and Russell's Reserve.

A half-hour drive outside of Versailles is one of Kentucky's most revered distilleries: **Buffalo Trace**. This distillery has won more than 500 accolades worldwide and is a National Historic Landmark. Although the distillery offers a selection of different brands, two of the most famous are Buffalo Trace and Van Winkle. Buffalo Trace Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey pays homage to the native buffalo and pioneers. This bourbon whiskey has been made the same way for over 200 years. If there's such a thing as bourbon royalty, it's the Van Winkle line. One of the rarest bourbons there is, there are only around 7,000 cases each year of Pappy Van Winkle. The Buffalo Trace tour includes a history of the distillery as well as a visit to the renowned Blanton's bottling hall to see signature bourbons being bottled. Top off the tour with a tasting of some award-winning whiskeys.

Return to Versailles, and gear up to visit another iconic distillery. The **Woodford Reserve distillery** is also a National Historic Landmark and one of Kentucky's oldest and smallest distilleries. Take in a panoramic view of the scenic horse country grounds while enjoying a glass of bourbon in the tasting room. Afterwards, indulge in a late lunch at the distillery at **Glenn's Creek Café** before departing for Ashford Stud farm.

**Ashford Stud farm** is the U.S. base of Coolmore Stud, the largest thoroughbred racehorse breeding operation in the world. Tours must be pre-booked and are only available at specific times, so plan ahead to see these majestic animals. Behind the historic stone walls is a rich racing legacy that includes some of the most famous stallions in the world like American Pharoah, Justify and Kentucky Derby winner Fusaichi Pegasus.

**Accommodation:** Versailles, Kentucky

Woodford Reserve Distillery



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# INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, TO LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

● ● ● ● ● ● ● 2 hours 57 minutes / 185km

Drive two hours to the mecca of American horse racing in Louisville, Kentucky. **Churchill Downs** is the home of the famous Kentucky Derby horse race. Look out for the iconic twin spires that sit atop the grandstands and then head to the **Kentucky Derby Museum**. The museum preserves the history of the Kentucky Derby with various exhibits, films and photographs. Churchill Downs offers a selection of tours, depending on the time of year and race schedule. You may be able to tour the horse barns, where you can see where Secretariat was housed before his historic victory, the jockey club and the Millionaires Row seating area.

After a day at the track, what's better than some bourbon? The whiskey experience at **Stitzel-Weller Distillery** is located just 5 miles from downtown Louisville. This historic distillery opened on a derby day in 1935. Home to the Bulleit Bourbon brand, Stitzel-Weller Distillery gives visitors the opportunity to tour the warehouse where the rickhouse barrel storage system was invented in 1879. For dinner, try **Doc Crow's**, which is located in the historic Whiskey Row of downtown Louisville and blends American southern cuisine and classic Kentucky cooking. And if you haven't had enough Kentucky bourbon, you'll enjoy its large selection.

*Accommodation: Louisville, Kentucky*

# LOUISVILLE TO OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

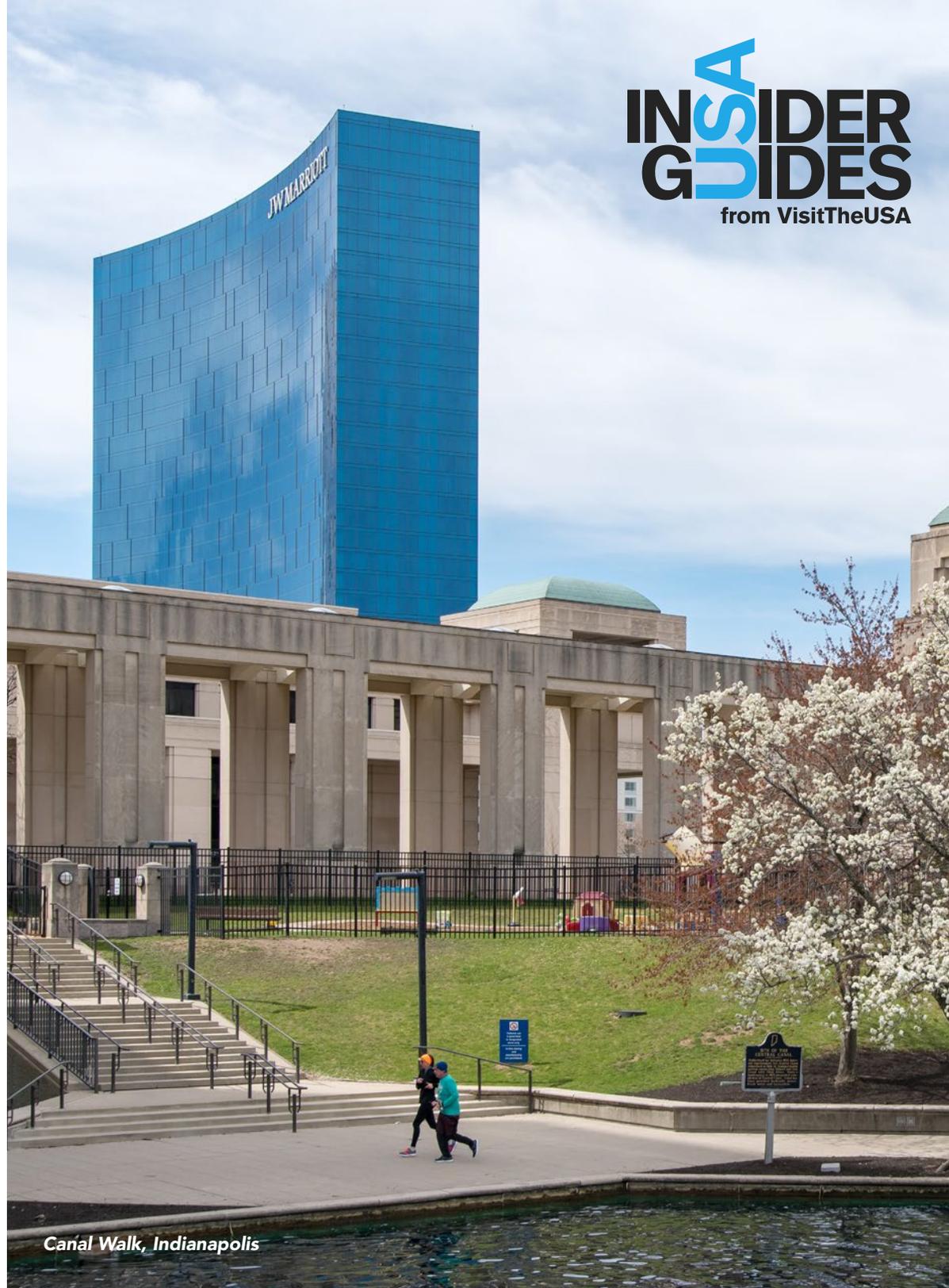
● ● ● ● ● ● ● 2 hours 24 minutes / 177km

Drive half-an-hour south to the rolling foothills of Clermont, Kentucky, home of the **Jim Beam American Stillhouse**. Learn about the bourbons on a complimentary, self-guided walking tour or an in-depth guided tour that covers the entire distilling process. For lunch, grab a meal at bourbon-inspired café, **Fred's Smokehouse**.

Next up is the **Oscar Getz Museum of Whiskey History**, a 20-minute drive away. This museum has a collection of rare whiskey artifacts from the pre-colonial period to post-Prohibition days.

View Abraham Lincoln's liquor license, rare antique bottles and a moonshine still. After the museum, drive half-an-hour south to visit the **Maker's Mark distillery** in Loretto. Considered the oldest working distillery on its original site, the grounds of this distillery are also an arboretum. Tours take guests through the entire bourbon-making process, including the process of hand-dipping each bottle in a signature red wax seal. You can even hand-dip your very own bottle. After enjoying the beautiful grounds and delicious whiskey, drive two-and-a-half hours to Owensboro, Kentucky.

*Accommodation: Owensboro, Kentucky*



Canal Walk, Indianapolis

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