



# LOUISVILLE'S EVENTS & FESTIVALS

## LOUISVILLE'S CAN'T-MISS EVENTS & FESTIVALS

Named one of the best cities for festivals and events in North America by the International Festivals & Events Association, you'll never find a shortage of things to do in Louisville, regardless of the season. Whether you're into the arts, music, history, eating or shopping, there is something to see and do for everyone.

### Here's a rundown of some of Louisville's most popular festivals and events:

**Bourbon Classic** - Designed for both the Bourbon connoisseur and enthusiast, this weekend event, held in February, explores the best of the best in the world of Bourbon, from the craftsmanship of distilling to the enjoyment of the spirit in its many forms. Noted mixologists from across the country compete in the World's Best Bourbon Cocktail Competition.

**Brew at the Zoo** - This summer event, held at the Louisville Zoo, features tastings from local craft breweries, wineries and restaurants, as well as a silent auction, animal encounters and live entertainment.

**Derby City BrewFest** - The plaza at KFC Yum! Center is hopping at this Derby-Eve event featuring live music and more than 60 beers from local and regional craft brewers.

**Festival of Faiths** - A nationally acclaimed annual interfaith event of music, poetry, film, art and dialogue with internationally renowned spiritual leaders, thinkers, and practitioners. Held in the spring, festival programming honors the union between thinking globally and acting locally.

**Forecastle Festival** - Founded in 2002 by Louisville native JK McKnight, Forecastle has grown from a neighborhood event to one of the country's most anticipated summer festivals, drawing tens of thousands of fans from across the world to Louisville's scenic 85-acre Waterfront Park. In addition to featuring a who's who of musical acts, Forecastle promotes local artists, as well as environmental activism and outdoor recreation.

**Holiday in the City** - This month-long celebration of the holidays in Louisville transforms an area at Fourth and Jefferson streets in downtown Louisville into a Holiday Square. A city Christmas tree, ice-skating rink, live music and shopping are highlights. It kicks off the Friday after Thanksgiving with **Light Up Louisville**, a city holiday tradition for more than 30 years, featuring Santa, the lighting up of downtown Louisville and fireworks.

**Humana Festival of New American Plays** - Held at the internationally acclaimed Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Humana Festival celebrates contemporary playwrights by presenting a repertoire of up to seven new works incorporating a wide spectrum of themes, theatrical forms and styles of dramatic literature.

**I Am Ali Festival** - This community festival pays tribute to Louisville's most famous native son, Muhammad Ali. Several area attractions and organizations will celebrate the legacy of the boxing legend and global humanitarian with a variety of special events and exhibits throughout the city.

**IdeaFestival** - This world-class event attracts leading and highly diverse thinkers from across the nation and around the globe every September to explore and celebrate innovation, imagination and cutting-edge ideas.

**Ironman Louisville** - One of North America's most popular Ironman races, this triathlon, held in October, consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. The event serves as a qualifier for the Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

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**Jack O' Lantern Spectacular** - This fall event features more than 5,000 artistically-carved pumpkins lighting up a one-third-mile trail in Louisville's scenic Iroquois Park.

**Kentuckiana Pride Festival** - Held on the Belvedere in downtown Louisville in June, the weekend festival has been a tradition for more than 15 years. It kicks off with a parade through downtown Louisville and features local and regional entertainment.

**Kentucky Bourbon Affair** - Bourbon lovers can enjoy cocktail parties, polo on the Waterfront and a slew of other festivities centered around Kentucky's native spirit at this June shindig.

**Kentucky Derby** - The most prestigious horse race in America, and the first jewel of the Triple Crown, takes place every year on the first Saturday in May at legendary racetrack, Churchill Downs.

**Kentucky Derby Festival** - The Kentucky Derby is transformed into a nearly month-long party at this premier festival, which kicks off with Thunder Over Louisville, one of the nation's largest annual fireworks extravaganzas. Other highlights include: The Great Balloon Race, the Great Steamboat Race, Marathon/MiniMarathon and the Pegasus Parade.

**Kentucky Reggae Festival** - Live reggae music, ethnic food, unique vendors and more are highlights of this May festival.

**Kentucky Shakespeare Festival** - Held in Old Louisville's Central park every summer, Kentucky Shakespeare presents the Bard's most popular works. It's the longest-running free festival of its kind in the country.

**Kentucky State Fair** - The annual end-of-summer tradition features a midway of rides and a slew of attractions, including rooster crowing contests, pig-racing contests and top-name concerts.

**Lights Under Louisville** - Load up the car for an underground light show at Louisville Mega Cavern (the only light show of its kind in the world). With more than 850 displays and two million lights, Lights Under Louisville has been named a top holiday attraction by *Southern Living* magazine. The 30-minute glowing journey will take visitors through part of 17 miles of underground passageways.

**Louisville Brewfest** - This celebration of local beers and breweries features dozens of delicious brews crafted by breweries from Louisville and around Kentucky every September. Be sure and check out the Brewseum, a self-guided trip through exhibits and demonstrations highlighting the history of craft beers in Louisville.

**Louisville International Festival of Film** - This fall fest gives independent filmmakers a chance to screen artistic films not usually shown at commercial venues. Seminars, events and parties are also part of the lineup.

**Louisville Pride Festival** - This street festival, under way in Louisville's Highland's neighborhood, is the city's second annual Pride Festival. Taking place in September, the event celebrates art, entertainment food, the LGBT community and more.

**Louder Than Life** - This fall festival celebrates rock music and features a star-studded lineup. Bourbon, craft beer and local cuisine also reign supreme.

**Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Awards** - This star-studded event publicly recognizes and celebrates the greatness of people from all around the world who are making significant contributions toward securing peace and/or social change in their communities and on a global basis.

**NuLu Festival** - This fall celebration of all things local offers live music, micro-brewed beers, food and shopping.

**St. James Court Art Show** - This juried fine arts and fine crafts show host 725 artists from North America on the first full weekend in October. Held in the heart of historic Old Louisville among the country's largest collection of Victorian homes.

**Tailspin Ale Fest** - This premier February festival for the craft brewer and craft beer drinker features more than 150 craft beers in a revived World War II airplane hangar at the oldest continually operating airfield in North America.

**World Fest** - International music, dance and food are the stars of this three-day annual festival held Labor Day weekend.