BOURBON IN LOUISVILLE

Bourbon may belong to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but the spirit has a special place in the heart of Louisville. From distillery tours and tastings, to hitting the stops along the Urban Bourbon Trail, there’s no better place, or time, too experience the magic of America’s native spirit.

There are now five bourbon distilleries open with more scheduled to open soon. In 2013, the Evan Williams Bourbon Experience became the first distillery to open on Louisville’s historic Whiskey Row since Prohibition. It was also the first that the public could tour in Louisville; several others soon followed. The Bulleit Frontier Whiskey Experience opened at the historic Stitzel-Weller Distillery. The father and son team of Carson & Corky Taylor resurrected a family label with the opening of the Peerless Distillery and the Jim Beam Urban Stillhouse opened in downtown’s entertainment district. Angel’s Envy Distillery is the newest distillery to open. And, Old Forester plans a distillery and visitor experience in two former barrel warehouses dating back to the 1850’s. The new Whiskey Row attraction will open in 2017. Rabbit Hole Distillery is scheduled to open in 2017 in Louisville’s NuLu neighborhood.

Copper and Kings brings brandy to “bourbon country,” distilling brandy in used bourbon barrels in the historic Butchertown neighborhood.

The pub crawl that is the Urban Bourbon Trail continues to grow alongside the popularity of bourbon with over 30 stops, each well-stocked with at least 50 bourbons; some as many as 150. BourbonCountry.com

MUSEUM ROW ON MAIN

Museum Row includes 10 original attractions within four walkable blocks. Museum Row on Main partners offer a reciprocal discount. Just show your ticket from one partner when buying a ticket at another Museum Row attraction, you’ll get a $1 off admission.

21c Museum Hotel
Evan Williams Bourbon Experience
Frazier History Museum
Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts
Kentucky Science Center
KentuckyShow!
KMAC
Louisville Glassworks/Payton Glass Center
Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory
Muhammad Ali Center
Actors Theatre of Louisville
Internationally known as one of America’s foremost regional theatre companies, Actors Theatre presents a diverse array of stage plays. Actors is housed in a National Historic Landmark building with a restaurant and art gallery. The theatre hosts the annual Humana Festival of New American Plays that is hailed as “the most important event in American theatre.” Its annual productions of “Dracula” and “A Christmas Carol” are always holiday sell-outs. ActorsTheatre.org

Belle of Louisville and Spirit of Jefferson
Celebrating over 100 years, the Belle of Louisville is the oldest Mississippi-style steamboat still in operation in the world. She also claims the distinction of being a National Historic Landmark. No other river steamboat in America has lasted as long, been to as many places, or traveled as many miles. She continues to cruise the Ohio River from Memorial Day to the end of October. Her “baby sister,” the Spirit of Jefferson, is a diesel powered, smaller vessel made to look like a steamboat. She cruises year-round. BelleofLouisville.org

Churchill Downs
Churchill Downs is America’s most historic racetrack and one of the most hallowed grounds in thoroughbred racing. This is the track, with its iconic twin spires, where horse racing royalty is made. The Kentucky Derby, the “fastest two minutes in sports,” is held every year on the first Saturday in May. Since 1875, when the track was built, the pageantry and tradition of this most famous race has captured the hearts of millions. The track is the oldest continuously operated racetrack in the U.S. Its grandstand, with its twin Edwardian spires, is a National Historic Landmark. ChurchillDowns.com

Fourth Street Live!
This buzzing entertainment district is just a few blocks from almost everything you want to see and do downtown, including Museum Row on Main and many hotels. The complex offers bars, restaurants and clubs, including Hard Rock Café, TGI Friday’s, Guy Fieri’s Smokehouse and Gordon Biersch Brewery and Restaurant. Warmer weather brings outdoor concerts and events to Fourth Street Live! 4thStLive.com

Frazier History Museum
This world-class museum provides an unforgettable journey through history with ever-changing and interactive exhibits, daily performances by costumed interpreters and engaging special events and programs. An ever-changing selection of unique and intriguing temporary exhibits compliment the permanent collection of historical artifacts and exhibits. FrazierMuseum.org

Kentucky Derby Museum
Adjacent to Churchill Downs, visitors can experience the history and pageantry of the Kentucky Derby year-round. The thundering hooves of the thoroughbreds and the excitement of the fans that arises each Derby season is beautifully captured in a 360-degree high definition multimedia show. The museum also features interactive exhibits, memorabilia, a gift shop and a café overlooking a paddock with a resident horse. Admission to the museum includes a guided tour of Churchill Downs. DerbyMuseum.org

Kentucky Kingdom and Hurricane Bay
Kentucky Kingdom and Hurricane Bay is the place for summer-time fun. The 63-acre amusement park and water park reopened in 2014 after a total revamp. While the park kept some of its old favorites, it continues to add new, thrilling rides each season. Its Storm Chaser roller coaster captured the number one spot when it was named USA Today’s 10Best Readers’ Choice 2017 for New Amusement Park Addition. With roller coasters, a Giant Wheel, water rides, a wave pool, plenty of good food, games to play and shows to entertain, there is something for everyone for a day of fun. KentuckyKingdom.com

Kentucky Science Center
The Kentucky Science Center is the State Science Center of Kentucky. It features over 40,000 square-feet of hands-on exhibits and a four-story digital theater. Explore three floors of exciting, interactive exhibitions that offer educational science for both children and adults. It’s a place where people of all ages are encouraged to do science in engaging, educational and entertaining ways to inspire a lifetime of learning. KyScienceCenter.org

KentuckyShow!
If Kentucky was a movie, then KentuckyShow! would be its trailer. KentuckyShow! is an exciting, emotionally compelling large screen multi-media experience that captures Kentucky’s people, culture, history, music, spirit and more! Narrated by Kentucky’s own Ashley Judd, KentuckyShow! is shown daily on Kentucky’s only state-of-the-art, 4-story white screen, 3D digital theater in the Kentucky Science Center. kentuckyshow.com
KFC Yum! Center
Catch a game or see a show at the KFC Yum! Center, the state-of-the-art arena in downtown Louisville that has become the hub of some of the biggest sporting and entertainment events in the city. This 22,000+ seat arena is home to both the women's and men's University of Louisville basketball programs, as well as the stop for major concert tours. Since its opening in 2010, the Yum arena has hosted such superstars as Bruce Springsteen, Taylor Swift, Justin Timberlake, Garth Brooks, the Who, Coldplay and Madonna to name a few. KFCYumCenter.com

KMAC
Founded in 1981, the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft (formerly Art and Craft Foundation) was started as a way to build interest in the state's rich craft heritage, which lead to a collection of American Folk Art from the region. The Museum explores the relationship between art and craft by identifying art as big ideas and craft as the intersection between process, materials and labor. Admission is free to the museum through June 2017. KMACMuseum.org

Louisville Glassworks/Payton Glass Center
The art of glass is alive and well in Louisville. Originally opened as Glassworks, the facility was the first of its kind in the United States when it opened over 10 years ago. It is a unique mix of retail, commercial and residential space all dedicated to the art of glass. Visitors can experience flameworking, glassblowing, hands on workshops, art classes, studio tours, glass galleries and gift shops. PaytonGlassCenter.com

Louisville Mega Cavern
Louisville Mega Cavern is an underground adventure rich in history, geology, mining, recycling, green building technology and just simply huge in scale. The man-made cavern is part of 17-miles of corridors located beneath the city of Louisville. It is one of the largest caverns in the United States. The cavern is home to Mega Tram - an underground tour that highlights the uniqueness of the cavern; Mega Zips - the world's only fully underground zip lines; Mega Quest - the world's only fully underground ropes course and Mega Bike Park - the world's only underground bike park. During the holidays, Mega Cavern is home to a spectacular underground light display known as Lights Under Louisville. LouisvilleMegaCavern.com

Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory
Watch the makings of the legendary Louisville Slugger baseball bat and leave with your very own sample at one of the city's most iconic attractions. Admire the world's biggest bat and discover a prehistoric baseball glove. Count the home run notches Babe Ruth carved into his Louisville Slugger, and hold the actual bats used by such baseball legends as Micky Mantle, Johnny Bench, David Ortiz, Derek Jeter and many more past and present heroes. SluggerMuseum.com

Louisville Zoo
The Louisville Zoo is one of the most popular attractions in the region. You'll discover over 1,700 exotic animals in naturalistic and mixed animal settings representing both geographical areas and habitats. Get up-close-and-personal to Western lowland gorillas and pygmy hippos in the Gorilla Forest. Glacier Run provides a truly unique experience where one can visit the animals, talk to the keepers about conservation and become temporarily immersed in the life of the tundra. The exhibit recreates the natural habitat for some of the zoo's most popular residents including polar bears, seals and sea lions. The town of Glacier Run is modeled after Churchill, Canada, the polar bear capital of the world. LouisvilleZoo.org

Muhammad Ali Center
As a boxer, Muhammad Ali brought unprecedented speed and grace to his sport, while his charm and wit changed forever what the public expected a champion to be. A vision of the Ali family, the Muhammad Ali Center opened in 2005 and celebrates the life and legacy of the world-class boxer and global humanitarian. The six-story multicultural center and award-winning museum features exhibits spotlighting the six core values Ali strived to live by throughout his life: Confidence, Conviction, Dedication, Respect, Giving and Spirituality. Highlights include a mock boxing ring, Ali boxing memorabilia, a theater that screens a short film showcasing Ali's life, and a full-size boxing ring, where a projector displays “The Greatest,” his signature fight. AliCenter.org

Muhammad Ali Childhood Home Museum
Ali lived in the West Louisville house during his childhood in the 1940s through the early 1960s. The home was recently renovated (and returned to its original pink color) and reopened for public tours in spring 2016. A bronze marker located in front of the house reads: “Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. was born on Jan. 17, 1942, at Louisville General Hospital. He grew up and lived in this house...Here is where young Clay's values were instilled.” AliChildhoodMuseum.com
21c Museum Hotel
Pose with the red penguins and discover why this uber-cool museum is the city’s epicenter of culture, activity and artistic expression. 21c is North America’s first museum dedicated solely to collecting and exhibiting contemporary art of the 21st century. 21chotels.com

Old Louisville Tours
Old Louisville is considered to be one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the city. Declared a historic preservation district in the 1970s, Old Louisville is home to the largest collection of Victorian homes in the country. Constructed mainly between 1880 and 1905, the residences of Old Louisville showcase a wide variety of building styles. The neighborhood also claims to be the most haunted in the country, and is host to the annual St. James Court Art Show. Walking tours, ghost tours and architectural tours are available year-round. LouisvilleHistoricTours.com

Speed Art Museum
The Speed is the oldest, largest and the foremost museum of art in Kentucky. It reopened in spring 2016 with the completion of a $60 million renovation and expansion. Along with renovating the existing Speed, the expansion added new exhibit space, a cinema, indoor café, museum store and a Grand Hall for performances, lectures and special events. The overall space has been doubled and gallery space was tripled. A new art park and public piazza was also added that features sculptures created specifically for the Speed. Admission is free to the museum on Sundays through 2020. SpeedMuseum.org

Waterfront Park
With 85 acres of green in the middle of downtown and grand views of the Ohio River, Waterfront Park is a playground of all ages. Visit the water fountains or throw a Frisbee on the Great Lawn. Rent a surrey and peddle your way to a picnic lunch. Or walk or bike across the Big 4 Bridge – the crown jewel of the waterfront. The bridge connects Louisville to Southern Indiana and is open for public use 24/7. Waterfront Park is also the site of dozens of concerts, festivals and community events. LouisvilleWaterfront.com