

Kentucky's business climate is greatly enhanced by its quality of life. Life outside the office just couldn't be better than it is in Kentucky. World renowned as the home of the Kentucky Derby, an international bourbon industry, four automotive production plants producing some of the nation's best-selling vehicles and an array of natural attractions, including Mammoth Cave and Cumberland Falls, the Commonwealth is a place that can claim many superlatives.

Kentucky is also an ideal place to locate permanently for its affordable housing, top-notch medical facilities, quality schools, low cost of living, low crime rate and plentiful recreational amenities.

Vibrant Cities

Kentucky boasts some of the finest communities anywhere. Diverse with its metropolitan and micropolitan areas, the Bluegrass State also has a significant amount of beautiful suburban and rural areas making it one of the nation's top 10 states for number of farms.

- Lexington ranks 7th among major U.S. metros for its quality of life. Source: *Business Facilities*, July/August 2010.
- Lexington ranks 6th and Louisville ranks 31st on the list of "The 100 Best Places to Raise a Family" in *Children's Health* magazine. October 2009.
- Owensboro was recognized as one of the "Best Places to Raise Your Kids: 2010" in the November 2009 issue of *Bloomberg Businessweek*. The publication cited the combination of low crime, outstanding school test scores and a low cost of living in its ranking. Louisville and Bowling Green were listed as runners up. November 2009.
- *Forbes* magazine rated Frankfort 20th nationally as "The Best Small City to Raise A Family in the South". October 2010.
- Owensboro ranks in the top 100 "Best Places to Live" and Lexington ranks 3rd as the "Best Place to Retire" according to *Money* magazine. August 2010.
- Louisville ranks 10th among major U.S. metros for its Economic Growth Potential and 8th as an Alternative Energy Industry Leader. Source: *Business Facilities*, July/August 2010.
- *RelocateAmerica's* Top 100 Places to Live in 2010 includes Lexington and Louisville. These two metros have been described as "poised for recovery and future growth." The editorial team at *RelocateAmerica* "...discovered communities with strong local leadership, employment opportunities, thriving community commitment, improving real estate markets, growing green initiatives, plentiful recreational options and an overall high quality of life. These are all communities moving in the right direction." 2010.

Cost of Living

Each of the Kentucky cities surveyed by C2ER in its ACCRA *Cost of Living Index* has a composite index of less than the national average of 100%. The index includes grocery items, housing, utilities, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous goods and services.

ACCRA Cost of Living Index	
City	100% Composite Index
Bowling Green	91.0
Covington	88.6
Lexington	95.4
Louisville	87.6
Paducah	86.4
U.S.	100.0

Source: C2ER, ACCRA Cost of Living Index, Second Quarter 2010.

Low Crime Rate

Kentucky's violent crime rate is far below the national rate of 429.4 crimes per 100,000 inhabitants according to *Crime in the United States, 2009*, a Federal Bureau of Investigation publication. The state's violent crime rate of 258.7 per 100,000 inhabitants is also quite low when compared to its peer states. Source: *Crime in the United States, 2009*. U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Residential Utility Costs

Both business and residential customers in Kentucky enjoy some of the lowest utility prices in the country. The state's abundant supply of coal means electricity is very affordable. Kentucky's residential electricity prices were the **fifth lowest in the nation** at 7.94 cents per Kwh. (Energy Information Administration, 2008). Kentucky's natural gas costs, in the industrial, residential and commercial sectors, are competitive, particularly within the midwest and southeast regions of the nation.

Homeownership and Housing Costs

Housing affordability is one of the many advantages of living in Kentucky. Kentucky ranked 16th in home ownership rate for 2008: 72.8%. The national average homeownership rate was 67.8%. Source: Morgan Quitno State Rankings 2010, from U.S. Census Bureau, "Housing Vacancies and Homeownership, Annual Statistics: 2008."

Residents of Kentucky's major metropolitan areas of Louisville, Lexington, and Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky benefit from housing costs significantly below the national average. In 2009 nationally, a median-priced existing single family home cost \$172,100 compared to \$131,100 in Louisville,



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\$141,400 in Lexington, and \$125,800 in the Cincinnati, Ohio/Kentucky/Indiana metropolitan area.
Source: National Association of Realtors.

Median Residential Sale Price for Kentucky Counties July-December 2009					
County	Median Sale Price	Number of Homes Sold	County	Median Sale Price	Number of Homes Sold
Adair	\$55,500	50	Knox	\$85,000	39
Allen	\$83,000	44	Larue	\$75,000	37
Anderson	\$122,000	139	Laurel	\$106,500	138
Ballard	\$48,000	20	Lawrence	\$60,000	26
Barren	\$89,450	218	Lee	\$56,350	30
Bath	\$59,100	36	Leslie	\$82,000	28
Bell	\$76,500	38	Letcher	\$52,750	62
Boone	\$157,250	602	Lewis	\$35,000	21
Bourbon	\$110,000	59	Lincoln	\$89,200	74
Boyd	\$95,000	104	Livingston	\$68,000	35
Boyle	\$123,000	111	Logan	\$79,900	89
Bracken	\$66,000	29	Lyon	\$114,500	56
Breathitt	\$51,500	24	Madison	\$143,750	382
Breckinridge	\$68,250	96	Magoffin	\$84,000	31
Bullitt	\$132,950	326	Marion	\$94,000	58
Butler	\$61,000	30	Marshall	\$83,750	184
Caldwell	\$60,125	46	Martin	\$60,000	23
Calloway	\$111,000	201	Mason	\$75,000	50
Campbell	\$126,250	385	McCracken	\$116,000	357
Carlisle	\$49,000	29	McCreary	\$62,881	20
Carroll	\$79,000	33	McLean	\$58,000	29
Carter	\$80,000	39	Meade	\$123,214	80
Casey	\$37,000	27	Menifee	\$47,750	21
Christian	\$100,000	181	Mercer	\$115,800	98
Clark	\$125,000	165	Metcalfe	\$59,652	21
Clay	\$45,000	21	Monroe	\$42,450	21
Clinton	\$42,750	20	Montgomery	\$95,000	116
Crittenden	\$57,000	35	Morgan	\$73,000	37
Cumberland	\$68,000	33	Muhlenberg	\$69,950	108
Daviess	\$108,700	496	Nelson	\$110,000	299
Edmonson	\$71,750	34	Nicholas	\$66,650	36
Elliott	\$64,500	26	Ohio	\$76,000	43
Estill	\$65,000	23	Oldham	\$217,500	400
Fayette	\$149,730	1,633	Owen	\$75,500	37
Fleming	\$68,750	26	Owsley	\$64,850	24

Median Residential Sale Price for Kentucky Counties July-December 2009					
County	Median Sale Price	Number of Homes Sold	County	Median Sale Price	Number of Homes Sold
Floyd	\$85,000	84	Pendleton	\$69,800	29
Franklin	\$129,500	259	Perry	\$101,000	47
Fulton	\$48,750	26	Pike	\$100,000	109
Gallatin	\$85,000	25	Powell	\$83,375	28
Garrard	\$122,800	37	Pulaski	\$94,900	289
Grant	\$100,900	68	Robertson	\$67,050	25
Graves	\$73,000	123	Rockcastle	\$43,500	34
Grayson	\$76,000	64	Rowan	\$97,750	62
Green	\$62,450	34	Russell	\$65,000	40
Greenup	\$88,950	122	Scott	\$135,000	279
Hancock	\$76,692	35	Shelby	\$131,323	237
Hardin	\$135,000	479	Simpson	\$85,100	64
Harlan	\$63,750	42	Spencer	\$165,000	99
Harrison	\$99,000	48	Taylor	\$72,750	112
Hart	\$74,000	48	Todd	\$66,500	30
Henderson	\$105,000	158	Trigg	\$93,750	70
Henry	\$93,000	59	Trimble	\$97,000	29
Hickman	\$35,670	28	Union	\$66,250	32
Hopkins	\$87,000	202	Warren	\$126,000	537
Jackson	\$65,900	32	Washington	\$98,750	40
Jefferson	\$140,000	3,085	Wayne	\$85,000	47
Jessamine	\$146,400	221	Webster	\$51,500	29
Johnson	\$100,000	60	Whitley	\$77,700	50
Kenton	\$131,000	657	Wolfe	\$51,000	29
Knott	\$60,000	35	Woodford	\$149,950	116

Source: Kentucky Department of Revenue.

Quality Health Care

A good hospital is a valuable asset to any community, not only for the health care provided, but also for the generous employment opportunities afforded to its citizens. In Kentucky, the work ethic, knowledge and dedication of health-care providers is evident in the awards received by many hospitals throughout the state.

- Numerous hospitals made the list of "[2010 Best Places to Work™](#)" in Kentucky. They are Pikeville Medical Center, Frankfort Regional Medical Center, King's Daughter's Medical Center, Baptist Hospital East, Central Baptist Hospital, Pattie A. Clay Regional Medical

Center, Kindred Healthcare (support center), Norton Healthcare, Georgetown Community Hospital, Clark Regional Medical Center and Lexington Clinic.

- St. Elizabeth Healthcare Edgewood, Grant and Covington were re-designated Magnet Status by the [American Nurses Credentialing Center \(ANCC\)](#) in September 2010. Only 6.47% of all U.S. hospitals have reached this designation. Magnet designation is the highest honor awarded nursing services and the status is valid for four years. Several other Kentucky hospitals have received this status in the past: Central Baptist Hospital, Baptist Hospital East, Kosair Children's Hospital, and the University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital.
- Three Kentucky community hospitals have been named [Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by Thomson Reuters](#). They are Saint Joseph (London), Western Baptist Hospital (Paducah), and Baptist Hospital East (Louisville). *Thomson Reuters* National Benchmarks Award Winners, 5-Time, are King's Daughters Medical Center (Ashland), St. Elizabeth Healthcare (Edgewood), University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital (Lexington), Baptist Hospital East (Louisville), and Meadowview Regional Medical Center (Maysville).
- St. Elizabeth Healthcare Edgewood and Baptist Hospital East (Louisville) were awarded among [HealthGrades America's 50 Best Hospitals](#) in 2010 for their "consistent clinical excellence and represent the highest scoring of the nation's full-service hospitals for the most consecutive years."

Educational Opportunities

Few would argue that education is the primary ingredient to a higher standard of living and better quality of life. Kentucky has proven its commitment to ensuring that its citizens are well educated with the far-reaching educational reforms of the 1990's, a national model for school reform. In 2010, there were 1,249 public schools and 184 non-public schools in Kentucky. Below are just some of the indicators of success achieved by Kentucky schools:

Six Kentucky schools have been designated as 2010 [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) by the U.S. Department of Education. From 2003 through 2009, 45 Kentucky schools were named Blue Ribbon Schools. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students. The program is part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals, including those that beat the odds.

The international headquarters for the [World Council for Gifted and Talented Children](#) are housed at the offices of Western Kentucky University's Center for Gifted Studies (CGS). Almost 28,000 young people from all 50 states and 33 countries have attended the CGS's summer and Saturday programs. The center also houses the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education and offers a number of educational services for gifted and talented students, their parents and professional

development for educators, bringing thousands to Western Kentucky University each year.

More than 2,000 Kentucky teachers have earned National Board certification, and Kentucky now ranks in the top 10 nationwide in the total number of National Board Certified Teachers. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, as of 2008, 57.5% of Kentucky's public school teachers held master's degrees. Kentucky has the seventh-highest percentage of teachers with master's degrees in the U.S. Source: Kentucky Department of Education.

The Jefferson County Public School District is one of only 49 school districts in the nation to be awarded a federal matching grant of nearly \$26 million from the U.S. Department of Education for [Investing in Innovation](#) to support a cohesive approach to transforming the high school experience for students attending six of Louisville's 16 high schools. Additionally, the District was one of 28 recipients of a Smaller Learning Communities grant from the Department of Education. Jefferson Community and Technical College has pledged as much as \$600,000 in tuition remission to help [Western High School's Early College](#) students earn college credits.

Kentucky is the [first state](#) in the U.S. to build schools that generate renewable energy. Richardsville Elementary (Warren County Public Schools) and Turkey Foot Middle School (Kenton County School District) opened for fall classes in 2010. Both schools generate renewable electrical energy via solar photovoltaics. Strategies used reduce energy consumption making the endeavors financially viable.

Postsecondary Education

Kentucky's system of higher education is focused on building an economically competitive workforce and a higher quality of life for citizens through educational attainment. The college and university system includes eight four-year public universities, 20 independent institutions and 16 community and technical colleges, accounting for more than 30,000 faculty and staff and 255,000 college and university students. Source: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

Forbes ranked Centre College located in Danville, Kentucky, as the #1 Best Private College 2010 in the South. In the August 2010 special report of America's Best Colleges by *Forbes*, 12 of Kentucky's private and public colleges and universities ranked highly on its list of the top 600 in the nation.

[Gateway Community and Technical College](#) ranks among the 50 fastest-growing community colleges its size in the nation, according to Community College Week. This is the second consecutive year Gateway's growth has put it in the top 50 ranking. Overall enrollment at Gateway has grown 550% in the past decade. The college expects continued rapid growth in light of its proposed new Urban Campus in downtown Covington and expanded campuses in Edgewood and Boone County.

The [University of Louisville](#) leads the nation with the highest percentage of Fulbright Scholarship winners in the nation for 2010-11. The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 by Arkansas Senator J. William Fulbright and gives students the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research abroad.

[Northern Kentucky University](#) was one of 22 schools in the nation to be awarded a nearly \$1 million grant by the National Science Foundation in 2010. The grant will be used to recruit and attract students majoring in the critical Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs.

The [Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education](#) has been awarded a grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education to participate in Tuning USA, a faculty-led pilot project designed to define what students must know, understand and be able to demonstrate after completing a degree in a specific field. Kentucky is one of the first five Tuning USA states to adopt the process that involves students and employers in linking college degrees to workplace relevance and students' mastery of agreed-upon learning objectives. December 2010

[Project Graduate](#) is Kentucky's collaborative effort to reach out to the 11,000 Kentuckians who have earned 90 or more credit hours and encourage them to return and complete their bachelor's degree. The program was launched in November 2007, and the public universities began their outreach efforts in the spring 2008 term. Since that time, 10 independent institutions have adopted the program. Through spring 2010, a total of 374 students had earned bachelor's degrees from Kentucky's public universities.

Over the past four years, distance learning credit hours are up 163%. This is evidence of Kentucky's rapid adoption of new technology and its focus to become economically competitive in a global society. Source: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

According to the *Brain Gain, Retaining Kentucky Graduates* report, the vast majority of people who earn degrees at Kentucky's public colleges and universities stay in Kentucky after graduation. Source: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

University Partnerships and Initiatives

The University of Kentucky [Commonwealth Collaboratives](#) are initiatives aimed at improving the lives of Kentuckians by addressing issues relating to healthcare, economic development, education, environment and quality of life. The collaboratives are a partnership binding UK's researchers, K-12 educators, independent health-care providers, entrepreneurs, industries, local government officials and private citizens. One example is the [Marty Driesler Cancer Project](#). Researchers at the UK Markey Cancer Center were enlisted to develop early-detection studies focused on lung, liver and esophageal cancers and to work with regional and local physicians and hospitals.

In April 2010, the plan for [A Museum Without Walls](#) was unveiled. A nine-mile long, publicly-owned [Legacy Trail](#) leading from downtown Lexington to the Kentucky Horse Park is a walking trail designed by University of Kentucky students and a consortium of local businesses. The purpose of the walking trail is to instigate thought and action to address the concerns facing Kentuckians as presented through art.

Development of a 30-block health sciences area in downtown Louisville received a huge boost with the recent announcement of a \$2.5 billion capital investment in expansion, renovation and

infrastructure over the next two decades in an area that includes the [University of Louisville Health Sciences Center](#). The investment will support construction of research labs and other buildings; hiring of new faculty, and researchers and support staff at the University of Louisville; growth of new businesses to generate economic activity across Kentucky; and infrastructure for researchers and entrepreneurs to take health science technology to the marketplace.

The University of Louisville (UofL) was also recently awarded a \$4.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish the [Center for Environmental Genomics and Integrative Biology](#). The center, one of only 22 NIH-designated environmental health centers nationwide, will study the interaction between genes and environmental factors that negatively impact human health, whether through disease or through developmental problems. UofL's center will be one of only four in the nation focusing on the links among genetic makeup, environmental interaction and disease.

In the fall of 2010, the University of Louisville celebrated its opening of the [KFC Yum! Center](#). It is the fifth largest college basketball arena in the nation. Although primarily the home of the UofL women's and men's basketball teams, the arena is multi-purpose and will be used for concerts, conventions and collegiate sporting championships.

The [Center for Renewable and Alternative Fuel Technologies \(CRAFT\)](#) at **Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)** is a new research and development facility where alternative forms of energy will be developed. The facility will be comprised of two large laboratories for biomass analysis and algae research, as well as a smaller lab for algae incubation and microbiology research, administrative offices and offices for researchers. The EKU initiative includes numerous partnerships with private industries, government agencies, local governments and other universities.

The [Kentucky-Argonne Battery Manufacturing Research and Development Center](#) located in Lexington at the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research, is a partnership among the Argonne National Laboratory, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. The center will help develop and deploy manufacturing technologies to ensure domestic competitiveness in advanced-battery technologies for vehicles and other applications that will aid in securing U.S. energy independence, reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and helping to strengthen the economy. This type of production is considered especially important to Kentucky, being the nation's third leading producer of automobiles, since it will allow the state to position itself on an international level in the development and production of advanced-battery technologies for motor vehicles.

The [Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education \(KUPEE\)](#) is a partnership of Centers for Environmental Education located at all state universities in Kentucky. The Partnership's mission is to increase the environmental literacy of all citizens of the Commonwealth through environmental education to assure the protection and sustainable development of Kentucky's natural and cultural resources.

Telecommunications

Kentucky is served by one of the most extensive telecommunications networks in the country, providing an important link to information-intensive businesses around the world. Fiber optic, wireless radio, digital microwave, and satellite technologies are integrated into a sophisticated infrastructure capable of handling the most demanding needs. Full statewide deployment of ATM and Frame Relay networks has been completed. This technology provides the flexible bandwidth required for high-speed transport of voice, data, image, and video simultaneously.

Working to expand the state's telecommunications network is [ConnectKentucky](#). ConnectKentucky's primary initiative is the *Prescription for Innovation* – Kentucky's comprehensive plan to accelerate technology growth, particularly in the areas of broadband service and technology use. Currently, more than 95% of Kentucky homes can access broadband. Up-to-date statewide broadband coverage maps can be found for each area in the state via the mapping section of ConnectKentucky's website at www.connectkentucky.org.

Transportation

Kentucky has three major airports in addition to smaller airports located throughout the state. [Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport \(CVG\)](#) is a Delta hub with flights to over 70 cities nonstop. [Louisville International Airport \(SDF\)](#) offers service to more than 20 destinations and convenient connections to cities worldwide. Louisville International ranks third in North America—and seventh in the world—in the total amount of cargo handled as home of UPS's international air-sorting hub. [Lexington Blue Grass Airport \(LEX\)](#) is serviced by seven major airlines providing 14 non-stop destinations and over 86 flights daily.

[Amtrak](#) currently operates two Midwest train routes with stops at one or more of Kentucky's five stations: Ashland, Fulton, Louisville, Maysville and South Shore.

Five major interstates criss-cross the Bluegrass State: **I-64** (east-west from Ashland to Louisville); **I-75** (north-south from Covington through Williamsburg); **I-71** (north-south from south of Covington to Louisville); **I-65** (north-south from Louisville past Franklin); and **I-24** (east-west from south of Hopkinsville past Paducah).

Topography and Climate

Kentucky is renowned for its varied geology, including expansive cave and karst systems. In fact, underground limestone caves create the gently rolling hills characteristic of much of the state. The state also has valuable coalfields, critical wetlands and lush forests. Kentucky's 90,000 miles of stream systems provide one of the most expansive and complex stream systems in the nation.

The state's geographical location produces a moderate climate with four distinct seasons. Summer days are warm and sunny while the nighttime air can become pleasantly cool. In the spring and fall,

Kentuckians enjoy comfortable temperatures; however, outerwear may be needed for activities outdoors on some days. Heavy coats are a necessity for the chilly winter season.

Annual mean temperatures vary from approximately 58°F in the southwest to approximately 52°F in the northeast. January is the coldest month with mean temperatures ranging from approximately 35°F in the south to approximately 29°F in the north. July is the warmest month with mean temperatures from 79°F to 74°F across the Commonwealth. [The Kentucky Climate Center](#) at Western Kentucky University is an excellent resource on the state's climate.

Recreation and Sports

From the mountains of eastern Kentucky to the massive lakes of western Kentucky, the state's natural beauty lends itself to an abundance of outdoor activities. Boating, golf, fishing, hiking, white-water rafting and water skiing are among the many recreational opportunities Kentuckians enjoy. In addition, Kentucky has the largest elk herd east of the Rockies.

The [Kentucky State Parks](#) system, with 51 resort, recreational and historic parks, display the great diversity of Kentucky's landscape and offer a full range of recreational activities.

Mammoth Cave National Park, the **world's longest known cave system** with more than 365 miles explored, is in southcentral Kentucky. A visit to the park may include cave tours, surface hikes, canoeing on the Green River, a cruise on Miss Green River II, picnicking, horseback riding, bicycling, camping and more.

The **Big South Fork River and Recreation Area** is in southeast Kentucky and Tennessee and protects the free-flowing Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and its tributaries. The area boasts miles of scenic gorges and sandstone bluffs, is rich with natural and historic features and has been developed to provide visitors with a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.

John James Audubon State Park is the recipient of the 2010 National Dorothy Mullen Arts and Humanities Award for its presentation of the annual Audubon Arts & Music Festival. The award is from the National Recreation and Park Association and is for the most innovative and effective arts and humanities programs across the country. The arts festival serves special needs children from five western Kentucky counties – Henderson, Daviess, Hopkins, Union and Webster. About 500 students attend the festival, held in September each year.

The **Red River Gorge Geological Area** in eastcentral Kentucky consists of approximately 26,000 acres located within the Daniel Boone National Forest. There are scenic drives with overlooks, trails to hike, historic sites to see, picnic areas, and camping open all year. The Red River Gorge contains the most natural rock formations in one concentrated area east of the Rocky Mountains. The Gorge is also a very popular place for rock climbers with many unique routes for the beginner to the most experienced climber.

Western Kentucky is one of the nation's finest outdoor recreation areas. The state's two largest bodies of water are in western Kentucky: the 160,000-acre **Kentucky Lake** and 58,000-acre **Lake Barkley** surround the 170,000-acre outdoor recreational area called the **Land Between the Lakes**.

In far southeastern Kentucky, the panoramic **Cumberland Gap National Historical Park** is the largest national historical park in the country with 20,305 mountainous acres.

Kentucky's scenic beauty makes it ideal for golf. Golf courses in the state are as varied as the topography in the state. Many courses have gently rolling terrain, courses in eastern Kentucky feature beautiful mountain views, and in western Kentucky golfers enjoy playing by the vast lakes that characterize the area.

The **Valhalla Golf Club** in Louisville is the site of the 37th Ryder Cup played in 2008. Team USA defeated Team Europe giving them the first win in nine years. The course, designed by Jack Nicklaus and opened for golf in June 1986, will be host of the [2011 Senior PGA and 2014 PGA Championship](#).

College basketball is popular in Kentucky. The University of Kentucky's men's basketball team (Wildcats) are seven-time NCAA national champions and the University of Louisville's men's basketball team (Cardinals) are five-time NCAA national champions. Kentucky is also home to triple-A and single-A baseball teams, the Louisville Bats and the Lexington Legends, respectively. Just minutes from Northern Kentucky, the Cincinnati Reds baseball and Cincinnati Bengals football teams provide major professional sports venues.

The **Kentucky Speedway** in Sparta, Kentucky, hosts NASCAR, ARCA, Indy Racing League and many other racing series. For the first time ever, the Speedway will host the [Sprint Cup](#) in July 2011.

Kentucky has long been known as the heart of the thoroughbred horse industry. The most famous of Kentucky's racetracks are Keeneland in Lexington and Churchill Downs in Louisville. In fact, the premier thoroughbred racing event in the world is the [Kentucky Derby](#), held annually the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs. Central Kentucky also holds the world's greatest concentration of thoroughbred breeding farms, many such as Calumet Farm are world-renowned.

The **Kentucky Horse Park** in Lexington is the only park of its kind in the world. The park features two museums, twin theaters and 50 different breeds of horses. The Horse Park is also home to some of the world's champion horses. In 2010, the **Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games** were held in Lexington at the Kentucky Horse Park. It was the first time the Games were staged outside of Europe and also the first time the Games were held at a single venue. No other site in the world has comparable facilities to those available at the Kentucky Horse Park. The FEI Games, which take place every four years and include world championships of seven equestrian sports, represented the largest equestrian sporting event ever held in the United States and the largest sporting event ever held in Kentucky. It was also the first time in history the para-equestrian events were part of the Games.

Find out more about Kentucky's many attractions at www.kytourism.com.

Cultural and Historical Amenities

Kentucky leads the nation in developing cultural tourism, based on the personal, authentic experience of a region's culture. U.S. Route 23 through the eastern Kentucky mountains is promoted as the **Country Music Highway** to celebrate the lives of dozens of famous country music stars that grew up along the route. Eastern Kentucky is rich with cultural and musical history and has produced performers such as Loretta Lynn, Wynonna and Naomi Judd, Billy Ray Cyrus, Ricky Skaggs, Tom T. Hall and more. A historic landmark near the route is the **Paramount Arts Center** in Ashland, first opened as a movie theatre in 1931. It is now a performing arts theatre featuring an average of 120 performances per year.

Kentucky is also home to many artisans creating both traditional and trend-setting folk art and crafts. The Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen hosts one of the top-rated national craft fairs every fall and spring of each year in Berea. Kentucky's thriving arts community includes the Kentucky Artisan Center in Berea and the Kentucky Appalachian Artisan Center in Hindman. Paducah is home to the Museum of American Quilter's Society, which houses the largest collection of contemporary art quilts in the world.

The **Artist Relocation Program**, an internationally known program that has attracted artists from as far west as Hawaii and as far east as Germany, is also located in Paducah. Lowertown, the oldest neighborhood in Paducah, has witnessed a rebirth since its transformation to an arts district. Many historic homes and grocery stores have been restored and now house galleries and artists from across the country.

The Kentucky Museum on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green features the new permanent exhibit, "[Recommended by Duncan Hines](#)" (opened in August 2007). The exhibit includes 11 sections featuring the life and work of the Bowling Green native. An extensive collection of artifacts are on hand including the outstanding collection from the Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors' Bureau. The exhibit features these artifacts along with state-of-the-art media tools so visitors will learn about Hines' career as a writer on travel, dining and entertaining, as well as his transition to a name-brand icon and pioneer in the world of packaged food.

The **Kentucky History Center** in Frankfort is a state-of-the-art museum and research library. The **Speed Art Museum** in Louisville is Kentucky's oldest and largest art museum with over 12,000 pieces in its permanent collection. The **Headley Whitney Museum** in Lexington is nationally unique in its focus on decorative arts. Other notable art collections and exhibitions may be found in Ashland, Bowling Green, Covington, Owensboro, Paducah and Richmond.

Louisville supports a broad range of high-quality performing arts groups. Actors Theatre of Louisville is host to the Humana Festival of New American Plays dubbed "the hottest ticket of the national art scene." Horse Cave Theatre has received national critical acclaim for its productions. The Lexington Children's Theatre, established in 1938, is one of the oldest continuously operating theatres for young people in America. Bowling Green, Lexington, Louisville, Northern Kentucky, Owensboro and Paducah all have professional orchestras.



Cabinet for Economic Development

Quality of Life

Northern Kentucky offers a wide array of attractions from theatre and museums to historic districts and Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort. The city of Newport in northern Kentucky is a revitalized community and home to the 10-acre Newport on the Levee and the **Newport Aquarium**. The aquarium is a state-of-the-art facility, highlighting its amazing animals with 200 feet of clear underwater tunnels, see-through floors, walk-around exhibits, a touch pool and one of the nation's largest open-air shark viewing exhibits.

Northern Kentucky's communities claim a rich historical and cultural legacy. Covington's MainStrasse Village is a historic district and community with unique shops and restaurants set in a neighborhood of parks and Victorian and Classic Italianate homes of the mid to late 1800's. Newport's Hofbrauhaus located at 3rd and Saratoga at the Levee, is America's first authentic German Hofbrauhaus featuring Bavarian cuisine and world famous beers of the Royal Brewery in Munich. Maysville, on the southern bank of the Ohio River, is home to the Underground Railroad Museum.

The [Muhammad Ali Center](#) in Louisville serves as both a destination site and an international education and cultural center inspired by the ideals of its founder, Muhammad Ali. The Ali Center's innovative and immersive visitor experience, public and educational programming, and global initiatives, including conflict resolution training and management, carry on Ali's legacy and continue his life's work. Two-and-a-half levels of interactive exhibits and captivating multi-media presentations present Ali's life story through the six core values of his life: *respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, giving, and spirituality*.

Kentucky is also the birthplace of the 16th president of the United States - [Abraham Lincoln](#). Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in Hodgenville. Recently, Kentucky joined in the national bicentennial celebration created by Congress to inform the public about the impact Lincoln had on the development of our nation and to honor his accomplishments. In addition to visiting his birthplace, tourists may visit his childhood home, the childhood home of his wife, Mary Todd, and the site of his parent's wedding.

Preserving Natural Beauty and Diversity

Preservation of Kentucky's landscape has been important to Kentucky citizens for many years. This is obvious in the large number of state parks, among the finest in the nation and also in the vast acreage permanently set aside for wildlife habitats. The [Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission](#) owns and/or manages a system of dedicated state nature preserves, state natural areas and conservation easements encompassing 23,379 total acres of ecological communities and natural habitat for rare species across the state.

Stewardship of the land, air and water is an important legacy for future Kentuckians. To learn more about how Kentucky protects its abundant natural resources go to the Department for Environmental Protection's website <http://www.dep.ky.gov/>.

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