

Southern Living

Three Ways to See Louisville

Whether you want to hobnob with the horses, enjoy a day of fun, or take a walk on the artistic side, check out our picks for what to see and do in this lively city.

No matter which way you see Louisville, you'll make it to the winner's circle. A bumper sticker sums it up perfectly: "I wasn't born in Kentucky, but I got here as fast as I could."

Few other cities have such a diversity of activities to fit any taste and budget. Sneak an inside peek at the Thoroughbreds that gallop around the track at historic Churchill Downs, or wander the hot, new downtown entertainment district. You can even nourish your love for the arts at the first-rate theaters and museums. Come along for the ride as we show you three ways to enjoy this fun-filled city.



Take a behind-the-scenes tour of Churchill Downs offered by the Kentucky Derby Museum, and watch Thoroughbreds go through their morning workouts.

Galloping Good Times

For you horse lovers out there, visit Louisville now to take advantage of the track tours offered by the Kentucky Derby Museum (\$6 for tour, \$9 admission to museum) at recently refurbished Churchill Downs. Get up early; the tours start at 6:45 and 8 a.m. (beginning in mid-March). Trip Trivia: If you're lucky, a trainer will invite you over to pet a Thoroughbred as it munches on its morning hay. Speaking of breakfast, walk over to Wagner's Pharmacy, where trainers and jockeys eat. The drugstore/diner, open since 1910, also features a tack shop. Order a fried-egg sandwich for \$2.25, and look at all the photos of famous horses and jockeys.

Shopping with an equine theme is easy in Louisville. The best place to find horse-related items is A Taste of Kentucky. Sherry and John Hassmann fill their friendly store with everything from sterling

popular souvenir? A dirty, old horseshoe from Churchill Downs for \$3--bound to bring you lots of good luck.



Goods made in the Bluegrass State fill the shelves at A Taste of Kentucky.

Another great shopping spot is Louisville Stoneware. Pick up some of their hand-painted china depicting thundering Thoroughbreds, a fleur-de-lis, or the original Bachelor Button pattern (\$30 per plate) before lunching at The Brown hotel's J. Graham's Restaurant, home of the Hot Brown (\$11.50). The delicious combination of turkey, bacon, and cheese sauce on toast was invented here. Trip Trivia: Follow up with a piece of Derby-Pie (\$5.50), which originated in Louisville at Kern's Kitchen and can be found in restaurants around town. This delicacy is filled with chocolate and pecans and topped with whipped cream.

Now it's time to visit a venue that represents another sport of kings--boxing. The new Muhammad Ali Center (\$9 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 students, \$4 ages 6-12) features exhibits, a theater, and two art galleries.

Continue the equine theme into dinner at Equus restaurant. A Louisville favorite for 20 years, this venerable spot offers more than 250 bottles of wine in its cellar, and chef/owner Dean Corbett uses the finest regional produce in his fabulous cuisine. Order the deservedly famous Parmesan-crusted sea bass (\$30). Trip Trivia: Cross the sweet finish line with their signature dessert--Equus Chess Cake, a confection filled with chocolate, ice cream, and cream filling (\$8).

You'll sleep well in the new Marriott Louisville Downtown, where crisp white linens and wonderful service promise and deliver a great experience.

Big Fun in the Bluegrass

You can have a great time in Louisville without spending a lot of money. Go visit the Louisville Zoo, where the first daffodils of spring turn the pathways into a yellow-brick road. This one-time cornfield now bursts forth with five major exhibit areas spread over 134 acres. Don't miss the "Gorilla Forest," one of the most popular spots in the 1,300-animal menagerie. Trip Trivia: Buy a ZooTram ticket for \$2.50, and ride all day. (Admission: \$10.95 adults, \$7.95 ages 2-11.)

Take a shopping-and-dining break at the hottest new venue in town. Fourth Street Live occupies an area of downtown once filled by a sleepy indoor mall. Open now for a year-and-a-half, the lively space

has enticed visitors and locals alike back to the heart of the city. Don't miss a pin-popping game of bowling in Lucky Strike Lanes, and grab a gigantic burger at Hard Rock Cafe (\$9). Peruse Borders for books by local authors, and then plan to come back in the evening, when lights and live music fill this place with a rollicking crescendo of fun.



Watch the Louisville Bats play baseball at Slugger Field, where you'll score a great night of fun.

But before the music starts, take in a Louisville Bats baseball game at Slugger Field (home games begin April 14). You'll love the stadium, with its friendly feel and excellent food. Browning's, one of the restaurants in the ballpark, serves up a great pulled-pork barbecue sandwich (\$7.25) and a plate of miniature cheeseburgers (\$7.50).



Choose from 60 different bourbons at Maker's Mark Bourbon House & Lounge.

Now, head back to Fourth Street Live. Just follow the sound of music and laughter. Have a drink at Maker's Mark Bourbon House & Lounge. Toast the town with a perfectly made mint julep (\$8), or just sip on a smooth Woodford Reserve bourbon (\$6). They have Late Night Bites and drink specials after 11 p.m. every Friday and Saturday. Walk on over to the Marriott Courtyard Downtown or Galt House for a night of sweet Kentucky dreams.



Have a burger and a brew at Browning's, one of the two restaurants at Slugger Field.

Looking Lovely



You'll be off to a great start if you begin your day of artsy fun in Louisville at Lynn's Paradise Cafe. Enjoy the Greek Scramble or the killer French toast, with a side of BLT fries. Don't miss the

fabulous, quirky gift shop.

Before you begin exploring the city's artistic side, have a memorable breakfast at Lynn's Paradise Cafe. The Greek Scramble (\$9.50) is a real winner, as is the French toast (\$6.75).

Head over to The Speed Art Museum, where you'll see a special exhibit that includes works by Rembrandt. Permanent exhibits feature bronze sculptures by Henry Moore and paintings by Cézanne, Picasso, and Chagall. Have lunch in the museum's Café Bristol, where their chicken salad sandwich (\$5.75)--spruced up with celery, raisins, and pecans--is pretty and delicious.



Explore the Speed Art Museum, where you'll find Reclining Figure: Angles by sculptor Henry Moore.

After browsing the Speed's museum shop, continue that same trend at Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft. Not only will you find wonderful exhibits, such as innovative woodwork and textile creations, but you'll also discover terrific gift items by 200 different artists. The gallery shop holds its derby hat show every spring, with lots of fancy toppers to try on (starting at \$150). Trip Trivia: Pick up a pair of handcrafted earrings for \$20.



See artists at work at Glassworks, and then buy something beautiful in the shop.

More art and shopping await at Glassworks, where you can watch the glassblowers at work and then buy a finished piece. Discuss your evening activity choices over dinner at Artemisia. Try Chicken Marchan de Vin (\$17). The New Orleans-style dish comes with a red wine sauce and aromatic veggies.

This month (March 7-April 8) features the Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre, which showcases new productions each year. Or take in an event at The Kentucky Center, where you'll see a ballet, symphony, or Broadway play.

For a perfect ending, check in to The Brown hotel, with its large rooms and picture-perfect lobby. Sleep well, and dream of places yet to see.

It's a sure bet that you'll love Louisville in the spring.

For more information: Call (502) 582-3732, or visit www.gotolouisville.com.

WHEN YOU GO

Churchill Downs: (502) 636-4400 or www.churchilldowns.com.

Kentucky Derby Museum: (502) 637-7097 or www.derbymuseum.org.

Wagner's Pharmacy: (502) 375-3800.

A Taste of Kentucky: (502) 244-3355 or www.atasteofky.com.

Louisville Stoneware: (502) 582-1900 or www.louisvillestoneware.com.

Muhammad Ali Center: (502) 584-9254 or www.alicenter.org.

Equus Restaurant: (502) 897-9721 or www.equusrestaurant.com.

Marriott Louisville Downtown: (502) 627-5045 or www.marriottlouisville.com.

Louisville Zoo: (502) 459-2181 or www.louisvillezoo.org.

Fourth Street Live: www.4thstlive.com.

Louisville Bats Baseball, Slugger Field: (502) 212-2287 or www.batsbaseball.com/sluggerfield.cfm

Browning's Restaurant & Brewery: (502) 515-0174.

Maker's Mark Bourbon House & Lounge: (502) 568-9009 or www.makerslounge.com.

Marriott Courtyard Downtown: 1-800-533-0127.
The Galt House: (502) 589-5200 or www.galthouse.com.
Lynn's Paradise Cafe: (502) 583-3447 or www.lynnsparadisecafe.com.
The Speed Art Museum: (502) 634-2700 or www.speedmuseum.org.
Café Bristol: (502) 634-2723.
Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft: (502) 589-0102 or www.kentuckyarts.org.
Glassworks: (502) 584-4510 or www.louisvilleglassworks.com.
Artemisia: (502) 583-4177 or www.artemisiarestaurant.com.
Actors Theatre: (502) 584-1205 or www.actors theatre.org.
The Kentucky Center: (502) 584-7777 or www.kentuckycenter.com.
The Brown, A Camberley Hotel: (502) 583-1234 or www.brownhotel.com.

"Three Ways to See Louisville" is from the March 2006 issue of *Southern Living*. Because prices, dates, and other specifics are subject to change, please check all information to make sure it's still current before making your travel plans.

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