

Day Trip #2—South through Kentucky

From **The Weller Haus** follow **I-471 South** to **I-275 West** and then hook up to **I-71/75 South**. You'll be making a beeline straight south toward Lexington. The 75 mile trip takes about 75 minutes (of course, depending on how heavy your foot is!) and you'll pass through beautiful, hilly countryside and farmland.

Because times have changed, many top horse breeding farms have closed their grounds to the public. The Commonwealth of Kentucky came to the rescue, restored a 1,032 acre estate that had been part of a well-known breeding farm and opened it to the public as the **Kentucky Horse Park**. Visitors can see operations of a real working horse farm showcasing over 40 breeds of horses. The park is easily located at **exit 120 off I-75**. Be sure to explore the several museums, & watch the Parade of Breeds that is staged twice daily. You can get your photo taken on horseback (for a fee) and do some guided trail riding (again, for a fee). A special barn is reserved for the Hall of Champions, the elite of the equine world. Champion horses are shown three times a day in the show pavilion.

Continue south on I-75 and once you reach **Lexington**, you'll be in Kentucky's second largest city, the center of Bluegrass country, and the world's largest burly tobacco market. Known as the Horse Capital of the World, the city has the largest and most famous horse farms on its periphery.

Things you to see while you're in Lexington:

Gratz Park—It captures Lexington in the 1800's with a score of historic homes built on the fringes of the park between 1794 and 1901. A little tidbit of history says that Beethoven's First Symphony was premiered in the US at Gratz Park in 1817.

UK Basketball Museum—Yes, folks, true Kentuckians love their Wildcat's Basketball team at UK. The Civic Center near Rupp Arena is an interactive museum and a tribute to the history of the UK Wildcat program.

The Thoroughbred Center—**Exit 113 off I-75**—This facility specializes in training of horses. Visitors can tour the Thoroughbred Center and get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the industry, including watching horse workouts on two different tracks.

Mary Todd Lincoln House—**578 Main Street**—Recently restored, you'll find numerous personal articles from the Lincoln and Todd families.

Hunt-Morgan House—**201 N. Mill Street, Gratz Park Area**—Kentucky's first millionaire, John Wesley Hunt built this mansion in 1814. Now operated as a museum, the house still has its original carriage house.

We can't forget the shopping on any trip. Be sure to hit up **Victorian Square at 401 W. Main Street** where 16 Victorian Era buildings have been renovated into upscale shops.

For dining we recommend **The Coach House** at 855 South Broadway in Lexington. A popular dining spot, the chef prepares regional and continental specialties. If you're looking for **Southern style** continental cuisine, try the **Merrick Inn**. It's situated in the manor house of the old Cal Milam horse farm—3380 Tates Creek Road.

Frankfort, the capital of Kentucky, is **24 miles northwest of Lexington via Interstate 64**. While it has a small population, it has one of the grandest statehouses in the nation. The town is situated on the Kentucky River and enjoys a large share of the state's bourbon whiskey production because of its natural limestone springs.

Things to see while you're in Frankfort:

The Kentucky State Capital—South end of Capital Avenue—Its size alone makes it impressive. Inspired by the temples of ancient Greece, there are steps, terraces and more than 100 Ionic columns. You'll see two murals depicting events in the life of Daniel Boone as well as statues honoring five of the states famous native sons.

The Floral Clock—West Lawn, behind the Capital—Imagine a round layer-cake pan, 34 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep. Visualize it imbedded in a grassy slope, near a reflecting pool. It's filled with dirt and flowers of the season in the design of a clock face. There are contrasting flowers for the numerals and the hands are planted using plants/flowers matching the numerals. Buried beneath this hundred-ton assembly are huge clockworks that move the hands. When the hands are filled with dirt and plants, they weigh nearly half a ton. 20,000 or more plantings are needed throughout the year.

The Executive Mansion—East Lawn of the Capital—Home of Kentucky's Governors since 1914 and restored in the 1980's. It boasts 70 monolithic columns and sculptures of Kentucky dignitaries.

Daniel Boone's Gravesite—215 East Main Street in the Frankfort Cemetery.
Enough said. It is what it is...and you can't really expound upon it!

Buffalo Trace Distillery—1001 Wilkinson Blvd, Frankfort—Bourbon has been distilled here since the 1800's and it's the oldest continually operating distillery in the US. Free tours and samples for those over 21!

Here's that **shopping** requirement, once again—You can't pass up **Rebecca Ruth Candy—112 East 2nd Street**. These are the home kitchens of the bourbon whiskey-candy originators.

For eats, we highly suggest **Serasini's Restaurant—243 W. Broadway**. Housed in a historic building, the chef uses Italian and traditional Kentucky fare, creating an upscale dining experience with the flair of a five-star restaurant.