

Summer in Lexington: Local Favorites

There is never a shortage of things to do in Lexington in the summer months. Whether you enjoy a beautiful hike in nature, going to concerts, watching horse events or browsing local community festivals, the city and surrounding counties offer something for everyone. Want to see what Lexingtonians are enjoying this summer? Keep reading to find out.

For the Horse Lover

Even when the races aren't running, Keeneland Race Course offers tours, morning workouts and even just exploring the grounds is very popular with locals and newcomers. You can find more information on all things Keeneland at <https://www.keeneland.com>



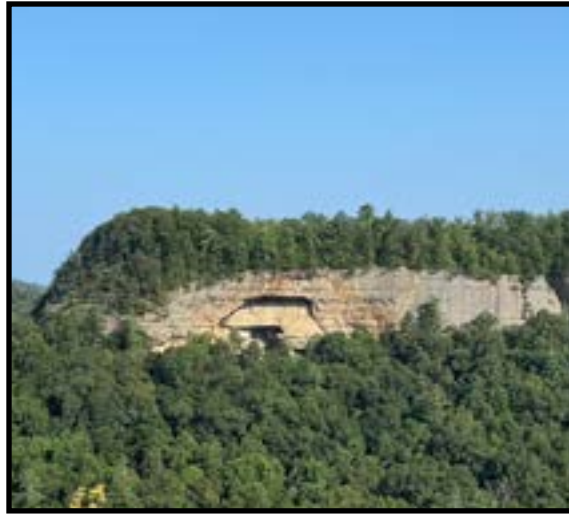
More of a horse show lover than racing fan? The Kentucky Horse Park has a full calendar of horse shows and events. While you're there you can tour the park and visit the International Museum of the Horse, meet some famous horses in the Hall of Champions and take a trail ride around the park. A full calendar of events and information on all the park has to offer can be found at <https://kyhorsepark.com>

Want a behind the scenes look at how a horse farm works? You can schedule a farm tour to get a glimpse of daily life on a horse farm by visiting <https://www.kentuckytourism.com/things-to-do/horses/horse-farms-and-tours> Other tour companies/farms include: <https://visithorsecountry.com/> <https://uniquehorsefarmtourslexington.com/> <https://www.spycoastfarm.com/>

Hiking Opportunities

There are several popular destinations for the nature lover and hiking enthusiast. Raven Run Nature Sanctuary is a unique, 734-acre nature sanctuary dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the Kentucky River Palisades and early Kentucky history. As a city of Lexington park, access to the over 10 miles of hiking trails is free of charge. The trails provide access to streams, meadows and woodlands and accommodate over 200 species of birds throughout the year. For more information on the park and trails visit <https://ravenrun.org>

Cove Spring Park & Nature Preserve is a short drive from Lexington and consists of approximately 240 acres of wetlands, streams, springs, waterfalls, forested ravines and other natural and historic features. The park is a nature lovers paradise and is intended for activities such as walking, hiking, nature observation, environmental education, picnicking and other passive activities. For more information visit <https://www.frankfort.ky.gov/751/Cove-Spring-Park>



The Red River Gorge is a premier 29,000 acre canyon system renowned for its massive sandstone arches, steep cliffs, and deep, forested ravines located in the Daniel Boone National Forest about an hour drive from Lexington. It is a top-tier destination for hiking, rock climbing and camping offering iconic spots like Gray's Arch, Sky Bridge and Natural Bridge State Resort Park. One day not enough to see everything? Cabin rentals offer the opportunity to stay for as long as you need. See all the Gorge has to offer at <https://redrivergorge.com>

Outdoor Concerts

The Railbird Festival on June 6-7, 2026 is a huge local draw with music, bourbon, food and Kentucky culture at the Red Mile. Headliners this year include Tyler Childers and The Lumineers. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.railbirdfest.com>



Gatton Park on the Town Branch offers the OVG Concert Series with 6 concerts from July through September. This beautiful new venue is located in the heart of downtown Lexington. To learn more about the concerts and purchase tickets visit <https://gattonpark.org/events/ovgconcerts>

The Southland Jamboree has a very “Lexington local” vibe featuring music, food trucks and a community atmosphere. Summer concerts are offered on Thursdays at 7pm at the Moondance Amphitheater and admission is free, no tickets required. To see the full concert series lineup visit <https://southlandjamboree.org/schedule>

Community Festivals and Farmers Markets

Every Thursday night from April through mid-October you can join the locals for downtown's happy hour from 5-8pm at Thursday Night Live in the heart of the city. You'll find food, beverages, art and live music from local bands. You can find the band schedule at <https://downtown-lex.com/central-bank-thursday-night-live>

Crave Lexington is a popular food and music festival featuring local restaurants, breweries and live entertainment. It will be held July 31st-August 1st this year at Gatton Park on the Town Branch. To find information on admission, vendors and live entertainment visit <https://www.cravelexington.com/>

The Distillery District in downtown hosts outdoor concerts, markets, bourbon events and food festivals and is home to several restaurants and bars as well as retail shops, a brewing company and distillery tours. This is a popular destination for dining and nightlife. You'll find a list of all the attractions at <https://www.lexingtondistillerydistrict.com/attractions>



Lexington boasts several Farmers Markets where you can buy fresh local produce, flowers, baked goods and other locally made wares. The Lexington Farmers Market has a market nearly every day of the week in multiple locations. For a complete schedule of days, hours and locations visit <https://www.lexingtonfarmersmarket.com>

Looking for something a little more art focused? The Woodland Art Fair is a huge neighborhood art fair with an average attendance of more than 70,000 people. It's located in Woodland Park near downtown Lexington and with food and drink, musical performances throughout the weekend, and nearly 200 of the nation's finest artists, it has something for everyone. You can find more information at <https://www.woodlandartfair.org>

No matter how you choose to spend your summer, Lexington offers countless ways to experience the best of Central Kentucky. From the excitement of horse country and the beauty of nearby hiking trails to live music, local festivals, and one-of-a-kind dining experiences, there's always something happening around town. Whether you're a longtime resident or just visiting for the season, summer in Lexington is the perfect time to explore, connect with the community, and create lasting memories. So grab your calendar, gather your friends and family, and make the most of everything Lexington has to offer this summer.