



BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY

Population: 12,998

WHY WE'D MOVE THERE: Kentucky's second-oldest city and the "Bourbon Capital of the World," Bardstown sits at the head of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, and it's home to six distilleries. Much of the local culture revolves around this industry—roughly 80% of the world's bourbon is housed within 20 miles of downtown—but Bardstown's appeal runs much deeper.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT: This town has an eclectic population, a mix of longtime residents and a younger generation who have lived elsewhere and returned with a new appreciation for their roots.

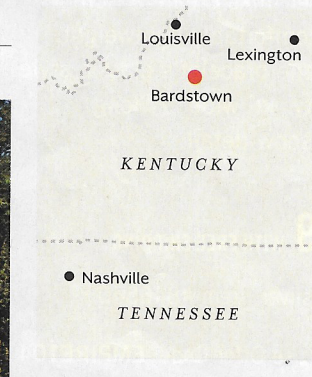
PLAN YOUR VISIT: Have a good night's sleep and a full country breakfast at **Bourbon Manor Bed & Breakfast Inn** (bourbonmanor.com). Check out the grand homes on North Third Street, aka "Distiller's Row."



The Historic District, framing Courthouse Square, buzzes with restaurants and shops such as **Gallery on the Square** (bardstowngalleryonthesquare.com), **Shaq & CoCo** (shaqandcoco.com), and **Kentucky Bourbon Marketplace** (kybourbonmarketplace.com).

Explore the lush grounds of **My Old Kentucky Home State Park**, and have lunch nearby at **Kurtz Restaurant**, which has been serving Southern fare since 1937. parks.ky.gov; bardstownparkview.com

Drive to **Willett Distillery**, a family-run boutique operation that was founded by Thompson Willett in 1936. Take the distillery tour, which ends with a tasting. kentuckybourbonwhiskey.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Explore Bardstown from a carriage with one horsepower. Have a Shaved Vegetable Salad at Harrison-Smith House. Shop boutiques like Shaq & CoCo.



Stop by **Old Talbott Tavern**, which has welcomed travelers since the late 1700s. Brothers Jim and John Kelley—owners of the restaurant, bar, and six-room B&B—recently purchased two adjacent buildings that were built by their great-grandfather and are converting them into 15 guest rooms. talbotts.com

Walk around the corner for a bitter-sweet boulevardier cocktail at **Harrison-Smith House**. Chefs Newman Miller and Josh Smouse use locally sourced ingredients to create what Miller describes as food "of a place." harrisonsmithhouse.com

DON'T MISS: This month marks the 25th anniversary of the six-day **Kentucky Bourbon Festival**, a popular family-friendly celebration. kybourbonfestival.com