

## **Kentucky's Heritage Landmarks Corridor GENERAL OVERVIEW**

### **LOCATION:**

The Heritage Landmarks Corridor, located in southeastern Kentucky's Cumberland foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, consists of Boyle, Casey, Garrard, Jessamine and Lincoln counties. Major routes through the region include US Highways 27, 127 and 150 and Kentucky Highways 34, 37 and 70. The landscape features low areas near creeks, gently rolling farmlands, broad valleys, ridges and the oldest cliffs in Kentucky. Elevation ranges from 497 feet in the river bottomlands of Jessamine County to 1789 on the higher ridges of Casey County

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The five counties have a combined population of 120,340. Major towns include the county seats of Danville, Lancaster, Liberty, Nicholasville and Stanford. The region has a wildlife refuge and three nature preserves.

Some of the oldest family records in Kentucky are found in Heritage Landmarks Corridor. Genealogical research is an important draw to the area. Visitors can research their family trees using resources at the Casey County Library Genealogy Center, Casey County Courthouse, Harvey Helm Library, Lincoln County Courthouse, Jessamine County Genealogy Room, Garrard County Library, Boyle County Genealogical Association, and Forkland Community Genealogy Resource Center. There are numerous cemeteries to be explored including Buffalo Springs, Crab Orchard, McCormack Christian and Camp Nelson National Cemetery.

Life happens at a relaxed pace in the small towns and farmlands of Heritage Landmark Corridor. Visitors shouldn't be surprised to encounter Amish and Old Order Mennonite horse-drawn buggies on the roads.

### **HISTORY:**

The Wilderness Road brought many of the early pioneers to the region. As evidenced by the writings of William Whitley, the trip from neighboring states was long and dangerous. Whitney described terrain so rough that the horses had to be unpacked and the household goods carried over the mountains. He states that the journey from Virginia to Kentucky with his family took 33 days. After arriving to the relative safety of Fort Logan, Whitney describes attacks by Indians. By the late 1700s several small towns had been created including Danville in 1783 and Lancaster in 1797. Kentucky's first seat of government was created in Danville in 1792.

The William Whitley State Historic Sitef near Stanford interprets this important phase of Kentucky's pioneer history. Middleburg in Casey County is the site of General Christopher Riffe's cabin and grave. A state historic marker is located at the site. General Riffe (1764-1850) was one of the first settlers of Casey County. Kentucky statehood is interpreted at Constitution Square State Historic Site in Danville.

During the Civil War, Camp Nelson near present-day Nicholasville was the supply depot for the Union Army of the Ohio. It was also the country's third largest recruitment center for African-American soldiers. Many enlistees brought their families to camp. On October 10, 1862, one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War took place at Perryville.

After the war, new opportunities came to the region along with the railroads. Farmers were able to get their products to market. The lumber industry increased in importance. Today, the major industries are farming and light manufacturing.

## **TRANSPORTATION:**

### Airports

Lexington Blue Grass Airport (859-425-3114) is served by ATA Connection, Continental Express, Delta, Northwest AirlinK, United Express, and US Airways Express. The airport is located approximately 11 miles from Nicholasville, 29 miles from Lancaster, 36 miles from Danville, 48 miles from Stanford and 55 miles from Liberty. From Lexington, the Heritage Landmarks Corridor is accessible by driving US 27 South.

Stuart Powell Field Airport (859-236-8917) in Danville and Liberty-Casey County Airport (859-739-4773) in Liberty are options for small aircraft.

Major car rental companies are located at Lexington Blue Grass Airport.

## **TIME ZONE:**

Eastern Standard Time

## **THINGS TO DO:**

### Heritage Sites and Museums

Heritage Landmarks Corridor's history is preserved at its museums and historical sites. Please refer to the heritage offerings feature for more information on:

Camp Nelson Heritage Park  
Camp Nelson National Cemetery  
Valley View Ferry

William Whitley House State Historic Site  
Wilmore Railroad Museum  
Garrard County Jail Museum  
Historic Stanford Depot  
Lincoln County Courthouse and Stanford Historic District  
Penn's Store  
Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site  
Danville Historic District and Constitution Square State Historic Site  
McDowell House & Apothecary Shop  
Old Centre  
William Owsley House  
Willis Russell House

### Cultural Venues

The region offers several opportunities to experience its rich cultural heritage. Please refer to the culture offerings sheet for more information on:

Norton Center for the Arts  
Pioneer Playhouse  
West T. Hall Community Theater  
Driving Tour through Casey County's Amish and Mennonite Communities  
Fine Arts Tour of Danville  
Lincoln County Historic Driving Tour  
John J.D. Bowling Miniature Train Museum

### Recreational Activities and Areas

Heritage Landmarks Corridor offers a wide variety of outdoor activities including boating, fishing, golfing, hiking, horseback riding and wildlife viewing. Please refer to the outdoor recreation sheet for more information on:

Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge  
Jim Beam Nature Preserve  
Tom Dorman State Nature Preserve  
Sally Brown Nature Preserve  
Logan-Hubble Park  
Sugar Creek Resort  
Stanford Reservoir  
Cedar Creek Lake  
Herrington Lake  
Lake Liberty  
Central Kentucky AG/EXPO Center

### Other Attractions

**Lincoln County Agricultural Tourism Trail** (606-365-2447) features stops at Wilderness Road Farm, Miracle's Greenhouse, Little Piece of Paradise Farms, Yoder's

Greenhouse, Byler's Produce, Clear View Acres, Brummett's Orchard, Harmon Creek Produce, and Lincoln County Produce. Many of the stops are at Amish-style family operations. Several of the roadside produce markets also offer handcrafted items.

### Festivals & Events

There's something for everyone at Heritage Landmarks Corridor's many festivals and special events. The offerings include, but are not limited to:

Kentucky Writers Day, last Sunday in April, Gravel Switch  
Ichthus Christian Music Festival, last weekend in April, Wilmore  
Wine & Vine Festival, second Saturday in May, Nicholasville  
Casey County Fair, first week of June, Liberty  
Great American Band Festival, second weekend in June, Danville  
Casey County Horse Show, third week in July, Liberty  
Spring Hollow Bluegrass Festival, second weekend in August, Dunnville  
J.D. Crowe Bluegrass Music Festival, first weekend of September, Nicholasville  
Butchertown Country Day, second Saturday in September, Liberty  
Camp Nelson Living History Weekend, second weekend in September, Nicholasville  
Historic Constitution Square Festival, third weekend of September, Danville  
Casey County Apple Festival, last weekend of September, Liberty  
Christman Mill Harvest & Wine Festival, first Saturday of October, Nicholasville  
Penn's Store Great Outhouse Blowout, first Saturday of October, Gravel Switch  
Battle of Perryville Re-enactment & Commemorative Weekend, second weekend in October, Perryville  
Forkland Festival & Heritage Revue, second weekend of October, Gravel Switch  
Riverfront Arts & Crafts Festival, first weekend in December, Liberty

### Shopping:

Antique lovers can enjoy looking for a treasure at a variety of stores. One-stop shopping is available at the region's antique malls including Paint Lick Antique, Antique Mall of Historic Danville, Lancaster Antique Mall and Coach Light Antique Mall in Nicholasville.

The art galleries in Danville, including Gautier Glass Studio, Gallery on the Square, Glass Mountain, Jones Visual Arts Center, Lighthouse Studio, Norton Center for the Arts, The Elements Pottery & Crafts, and Wilderness Trace Art League Gallery offer a variety of fine art including paintings, pottery, bronze sculptures, and creations in glass and stained glass.

Shop for fresh produce and home-baked goods at businesses on the Lincoln County Agricultural Tourism Trail. The Amish and Mennonite communities in Casey County also offer a unique shopping experience. Shoppers can find bulk food, oak furniture, leatherwork, greenhouse plants, quilts and many other hand-crafted items. The businesses are clustered near KY 910 near Liberty. Don't miss apple season at Beachy's Apple Basket.

Kentucky wineries are up and coming, offering vintages from both native grapes and vinifera varieties. Try a bottle of local wine from Chateau de Vieux Cobeau Winery & Vineyards or Chrisman Mill Vineyard & Winery.

Catering to group tours, Goose Creek candle & Gift Gallery, Kentucky Kandles, and Kinfolk Treasures offer handmade candles and crafts.

#### Lodging:

Travelers will find a wide variety of accommodations including floating cabins, bed and breakfast inns, historic hotels, independently owned motels and familiar chain motels.

#### Dining:

Dining choices in Heritage Landmarks Corridor will suit every palette. Country cooking is featured at many restaurants including McKinney Depot Restaurant in downtown McKinney, Emma's Café in Liberty and the Red Rooster Café and Main Street Café in Danville.

For country cooking featuring Amish/Mennonite specialties, sample the offerings at the Bread of Life Café in Liberty. The spacious restaurant is decorated with Amish quilts that can be purchased. There are two large buffets daily plus a full menu. The smaller Bread of Life Country Café in Hustonville offers home-cooked meals including breakfast.

Celebrate the region's railroad history while enjoying country cooking at Kentucky Depot in Sanford. Home-cooked favorites are available on the buffet and from the menu. After filling up, visit the railroad display and gift shop in the entry area.

Diners seeking an upscale experience can visit Three Suns Bistro in Nicholasville and Candlelight & Roses or Two Roads Café in Danville.

Lakeside dining with a view can be enjoyed at the Restaurant at Sunset Marina and Pirates Cove Restaurant at Herrington Marina. Both restaurants are open seasonally.

### **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HERITAGE LANDMARKS CORRIDOR:**

Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association  
(SEKTDA)  
2292 S. Highway 27

Somerset, KY 42501  
(877) 868-7735  
[www.tourseky.com](http://www.tourseky.com).

Danville-Boyle County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
304 S. Fourth St.  
Danville, KY 40422  
(800) 755-0076 or (859) 236-7794

Nicholasville Tourism Commission  
508 N. Main St.  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
(859) 887-4351

The Tourist & Information Center  
Gateway Park  
Liberty, KY, 42539  
(606) 787- 6463

Lincoln County Tourism  
102 E. Main St.  
Stanford, KY 40489  
(606) 365-2533

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce  
656 Stanford Rd.  
Lancaster, KY 40444  
(859) 792-2282