



The Southern & Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association (SEKTDA) can assist groups with reservations, scheduling, hospitality, boxed lunches, or special entertainment if needed. SEKTDA can also put you in touch with other local contacts.

Call toll free 1 888-733-7359 or visit us at [www.tourseky.com](http://www.tourseky.com)

## Along the Mighty Cumberland River

### Day One

Depart Lexington—or Knoxville—via I-75 for Corbin. Stop for lunch at the Harland Sanders Café & Museum, the original Kentucky fried chicken restaurant with memorabilia of Colonel Sanders and the history of KFC. After lunch, drive US 25W to Cumberland Falls. See the 'Niagara of the South.' Take a guided tour with the Park Naturalist. The more adventurous can ride the Rainbow Mist to the base of the falls. Cumberland Falls is a wonderful destination any time of year. It is especially colorful in fall, and the 125-foot wide falls give a feeling for the power of this mighty river, as it flows out of the Cumberland Mountains.

Dine and spend the night at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park. Options include the Cumberland Inn in Williamsburg, south of Cumberland Falls on I-75, or one of the many motels at I-75 Exits 41 and 38 in London or Corbin. Alternatively, en route from Lexington drive to Somerset, a convenient headquarters for exploring Cumberland Falls and the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Check in at one of the many motels along US 27, including Best Western Midtown Inn & Suites, Comfort Inn, Days Inn, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express, the Landmark Inn, and Super 8. Dine at one of the many restaurants along US 27. From Somerset, drive south on US 27 to Cumberland Falls.

Other options in the Somerset area include a visit to the Mill Springs Battlefield, site of an 1862 Civil War battle, the Mill Springs National Cemetery, and Haney's Apple Farm, all along KY 80. Tours from late November through December should visit Christmas Island, the most elaborate display of Christmas lights in all of Kentucky. In mid-July, The Center for Rural Development hosts the Master Musicians Festival.

Driving south from Lexington to Somerset on US 27, stop in Nicholasville at Camp Nelson, the supply depot for the Union Army of the Ohio and one of the main recruitment and training centers for African-American troops in the Civil War. The Camp Nelson National Cemetery is next door.

### Day Two

After breakfast, drive to Stearns and ride the Big South Fork Scenic Railway into the gorge of the Big South Fork, a major tributary of the Cumberland and the heart of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Stop at Barthell Mining Camp and Blue Heron Historic Outdoor Museum, a unique National Park Service interpretive facility on the site of a former coal mining 'camp.' Have a Coal Miner's lunch on site. After lunch, ride the train back to Stearns and visit the McCreary County Museum with interesting historic exhibits about life in local logging and mining towns. The gorge is magnificent in the fall.

Drive west to Lake Cumberland State Resort Park on the west end of Lake Cumberland. Arrange for an afternoon houseboat cruise on Lake Cumberland—at 63,000 acres it is the largest man-made lake east of the Mississippi. A houseboat cruise on Lake Cumberland makes for a unique fall foliage experience. Have a buffet dinner at the park's full-service restaurant with spectacular views of the lake. Enjoy the many park facilities, including horseback riding, swimming, and hiking. Just outside the park, tour the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery.

An option is a night at Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park, south of Burkesville on Dale Hollow Lake, another in the chain of large man-made lakes along the Cumberland. Enjoy many of the same activities. Dale Hollow also has a championship golf course, reputed to be the best in the state.

Another option is a night at Grider Hill Dock, with a dining experience at Indian Creek Restaurant or a catered meal aboard a houseboat. Take a houseboat sightseeing trip. Or, tour 76 Falls, a popular place on Lake Cumberland.

### Options & Extensions

Multiple Days can be added to your itinerary. The state resort parks at Dale Hollow Lake and Lake Cumberland are equally interesting. From either, drive west on KY 90 and south on KY 163 to the little community of Tompkinsville, renowned as the barbecue capital of southern Kentucky with eight barbecue restaurants. Large groups are welcome at Frances Barbecue. In Tompkinsville, visit the Old Mulkey Meetinghouse State Historic Site, an 1804 log meetinghouse (church) in Tompkinsville that played a part in The Great Awakening, the first religious revival that swept the young United States.

Daniel Boone's sister, Hannah, was a member of the congregation and is buried in the churchyard. Arrange for a special exhibition match at the Marble Super Dome, a truly unique place—you won't have seen anything like it, but everyone will love it—where local men play marbles; each player uses his own handmade flint marbles. Hear about world championships local players have won. Return to the state resort parks for a second overnight.

Another option is to begin or end the tour at Cumberland Gap National Historic Park on US 25E. Tour the visitor center at the park, including the new video introduction and the gift shop, which is the newest outlet of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Drive up to Pinnacle Overlook with views into three states—Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. Visit the Lost Squadron Museum, dedicated to the 'Best Generation' in Middlesboro and the Abraham Lincoln Museum in Harrogate, Tennessee. Dinner and overnight at Pine Mountain State Resort Park on top of Pine Mountain outside Pineville. There are great views of the Cumberland Mountains from the dining room. Options include overnight at the Best Western Inn or Holiday Inn Express in Middlesboro. Dine at the buffet in the park's full-service restaurant or at restaurants in Middlesboro.

