

Explore Lexington

Recommended Attractions & Local Things to Do

Lexington is a vibrant city full of history, horses, and hidden gems and we're thrilled to welcome you here for *Run for the Robots*. From scenic drives through Horse Country to museums and more, there's something for everyone. This guide highlights just a few suggestions to help you explore during your stay. If time or budget is limited, we highly recommend spending what you do have at the Kentucky Horse Park—it's the heart of Horse Country and an experience you won't want to miss.

What to Do at the Kentucky Horse Park

While you're here for *Run for the Robots*, we highly encourage teams and families to explore the Kentucky Horse Park. There's a lot to see, and thanks to our partnership, attendees can enjoy discounted admission and a full schedule of engaging equine experiences. Most Kentucky Horse Park attractions are within a 5–10 minute walk of Alltech Arena. Teams can easily explore the park between matches or after competition hours.

Discounted Admission for Attendees

We've arranged special group rates through the park:

- Adults: \$20
- Students (ages 5–17): \$11
- Children 4 and under: Free

Admission can be purchased individually. To receive the discounted rate, go to the Visitor Information Center and check in under *Run for the Robots*.

Your receipt is valid for the following day as well, so be sure and hang onto it and purchase on a day that will allow you to also visit the park the following day.

Typical Daily Park Activities

General admission includes access to all daily show activities, the International Museum of the Horse, and the American Saddlebred Museum. When you check in, you'll receive a park map that includes descriptions of each show to help you plan your visit.

Main Season Show Schedule (subject to change):

- 10:00 AM – Horse Drawn Trolley

- 11:00 AM – Parade of Breeds
- 11:45 AM – Big Barn Presentation
- 12:30 PM – Facts & Fun at the Museum
- 1:15 PM – Hall of Champions Show
- 2:00 PM – Equine Academy
- 2:45 PM – Horse Drawn Trolley
- 3:00 PM – Hall of Champions Show

Recommended shows include:

- **Hall of Champions Show** – Retired racehorses are introduced, and their racing careers highlighted
- **Parade of Breeds** – Rare breeds parade through the arena with historical narration and post-show meet-and-greet
- **Horse Drawn Trolley** – A 10-minute narrated ride through the heart of the park pulled by draft horses

Special Events at the Kentucky Horse Park

The Kentucky Horse Park regularly hosts equestrian competitions, clinics, and special events throughout the season. During the week of Run for the Robots, visitors may see a variety of horses, riders, and training activities taking place across the park's outdoor arenas and competition fields.

Many of these activities are visible simply by walking around the grounds near Alltech Arena and the surrounding competition complexes. Spectators are often welcome to observe from designated viewing areas.

If additional public events are scheduled during your visit, details will be available at the Visitor Information Center when you arrive at the park.

Events happening during *Run for the Robots*. Be sure to keep an eye on their calendar for additional events during your time in Kentucky.

The Premier at the Hunter Jumper Complex

Two AQHA World Show Qualifying Events for WP/HUS/All-Around and 3 AQHA World Show Qualifying Events for Over Fences.

Featuring Premier Sires Limited Series, Breeder Futurity and Stakes classes as well as Premier Magazine classes.

Additional Experiences Not Included in General Admission

Some activities at the Kentucky Horse Park require an additional fee and are not included with your regular admission ticket. These can be a fun add-on for families looking to enhance their visit.

Pony Rides

- **Cost:** \$6 per rider
- **Availability:** First-come, first-served; purchase tickets at the Visitor Information Center (by 2:45 PM)
- **Details:** Riders go three times around the paddock
- **Eligibility:** Ages 2–10, maximum weight 100 lbs; helmets are provided and required

Horseback Trail Rides

- **Cost:** \$30 per rider
- **Duration:** 35-minute guided ride through the park
- **Times:** Typically offered at 11:45 AM, 1:30 PM, and 2:45 PM (subject to change)
- **Eligibility:** Riders must be at least 7 years old, 4 feet tall, and no more than 240 lbs; helmets are provided and required

Note: A general admission ticket to the park is still required to participate in either activity.

What to Do while in the Lexington Area

Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm (Georgetown)

Just outside Lexington—this is a nonprofit farm where retired racehorses live out their days in peace. You can meet them up close and learn about their racing careers, rehabilitation, and care.

Perfect blend of animal science, history, and equine love.

Website: oldfriendsequine.org

Visit Keeneland (Historic Racetrack & Grounds)

Even when races aren't happening, Keeneland offers:

- Self-guided walking tours
- Stunning architecture and landscape
- A look at the *science and logistics* behind thoroughbred racing
Free to visit and a great way to understand the impact of horses on Kentucky culture.

The Living Arts & Science Center

A local gem offering a mix of art and STEM-focused exhibits. Often has hands-on installations, planetarium shows, or pop-up maker events.

Check for open hours and any public events.

Website: lasclex.org

The Kentucky Castle (Versailles, KY)

Yes, there's a real castle. It's quirky, photogenic, and has a cool story behind it. They occasionally host STEM workshops, ag-tech tours, and farm-to-table events. Even a quick visit makes for fun group photos and unique local lore.

Boone Creek Creamery

Address: 2416 Palumbo Dr, Lexington, KY

Schedule a free tour and tasting at one of the few urban artisan cheese facilities in the country. Visit the Hobbit Cave where the cheeses are aged, learn about the cheese-making process, and even become an honorary Cheese Minion by posing in a giant cheese-making pot.

Call to schedule: 859-402-2364

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary

For teams who want to get outside, this 700+ acre preserve features trails, river overlooks, and even a moon-themed astronomy program on some nights. A good decompression spot for tech-loving teens who need a nature recharge.

Lexington Equine Art Walk

1. Hidden Horses (“foal” sculptures)

- Tiny bronze foals (4–6 inches tall) are placed in planters, near buildings, and along sidewalks across downtown—about 20+ hidden horses for a scavenger hunt feel. Kind of like Pokemon!
- Spot them and share with #HiddenHorsesLexington. An engaging, playful activity perfect for STEM-minded teens and equine enthusiasts.
lextoday.6amcity.com+1wtvq.com+1.

2. Thoroughbred Park Bronze Herd

- Near Main & Midland Streets: a group of realistic life-size bronze horse statues, depicting racing and grazing thoroughbreds—ideal for striking photos and discussing sculptural techniques visitlex.com+1en.wikipedia.org+1.

Suggested Route (Approximately 1–1.5 miles total)

Stop 1: Lexington Visitor Center (Old Courthouse)

Address: 215 W Main St

What to do: Pick up a city art or walking tour guide here (or use this list!). Start your walk by looking around the square—Hidden Horses begin here.

Stop 2: Triangle Park

Address: 400 W Main St

Look for: Bronze “Hidden Horses” in planters, corners, or near benches.

Notes: Keep your eyes low—these foals are only 4–6 inches tall.

Stop 3: Main Street + Short Street Area (Between Limestone & Broadway)

Look for: More “Hidden Horses” in storefront planters, sidewalk corners, near public seating.

Notes: Roughly a dozen are within a 4–5 block stretch. Look near old banks, museums, and street sculptures.

Stop 4: Thoroughbred Park

Address: 100 Midland Ave (10–15 minute walk from Triangle Park)

What you'll see:

- 7 life-size bronze racehorses with jockeys
- 3 life-size bronze mares and foals
- Fountains and educational plaques
- Design & materials: Examine bronze vs. fiberglass, miniature casting, public art techniques.

Here's a link to a printable map:

[Lexington Equine Art Walking Tour.pdf](#)

Lexington Horse Country Scenic Drive

Take a self-guided drive through Lexington's iconic Horse Country. This loop offers stunning views of rolling pastures, black plank fences, and some of the most famous Thoroughbred farms in the world.

Route Overview

Begin in downtown Lexington and follow a loop using Old Frankfort Pike, Iron Works Pike, Newtown Pike, and Pisgah Pike. This scenic route covers approximately 30–40 miles and can take 1.5 to 2 hours depending on stops.

Featured Farms and Notable Stops:

[Claiborne Farm / Calumet Farm Area](#)

Known for Kentucky Derby legends and racing royalty, these farms are world-famous for their breeding programs and historic legacies.

[Castleton Lyons \(formerly Castleton Farm\)](#)

A beautiful estate known for its European-style barns, manicured grounds, and deep roots in equestrian history.

[Spendthrift Farm](#)

Home to top stallions and memorials to past champions, Spendthrift is one of the most active and recognized names in the industry.

Dixiana Farm

Established in 1877, this historic farm is a cornerstone of the region's horse racing story, known for producing the legendary horse "Domino."

Mount Brilliant Farm

One of the area's oldest and most picturesque farms, known for its rich heritage and commitment to sustainable land use.

Directions Summary

1. Start: Downtown Lexington
2. Take Old Frankfort Pike (KY-1681) west from town
3. Turn onto Iron Works Pike (KY-1973) near the Kentucky Horse Park
4. Head south via Newtown Pike (KY-922) or loop west onto Pisgah Pike (KY-1967)
5. Return toward town using Versailles Road (US-60) or continue exploring