

ORIGINAL JOURNEYS SINCE 1947

## **Bourbon. Horses. Kentucky.**

A Week on the Bourbon Trail

7 days | September 14 – 20, 2021

## **Our Distinctive A+R Style**

+ From family-run craft distilleries to iconic world-famous makers, our uniquely in-depth tour reveals the full range of Kentucky spirits and traditions.



- + Thrill to Twilight Racing at iconic Churchill Downs followed by dinner overlooking the track.
- + Fine Southern cooking and farm-fresh fare in Louisville and Lexington.
- + From a stud farm to the auction house and even retirement pastures, we give you a rare look into the life of champion Thoroughbreds.
- + Delight in our farewell dinner with the owners of the picturesque Sun Valley Farm.
- + With 6 nights luxury hotel; 14 meals with wine + spirits at lunch and dinner; extensive sightseeing + bourbon tastings; all transfers; all gratuities except for your Trip Leader.

# **Our Journey**

## Day 1 | Welcome to Louisville, September 14, 2021

On arrival, you'll be warmly greeted and escorted to *The Brown Hotel*, a luxury city landmark for nearly a century. This evening's dinner features *The Hot Brown*, the culinary legend created here in 1926. Meals D

#### Day 2 | A Taste of Louisville, September 15, 2021

Following breakfast, this morning's touring will begin with a special walking tour of Churchill Downs with VIP access to exclusive areas. We'll continue on to Butchertown, a charming city district that is one of Louisville's oldest neighborhoods, tracing its roots to the early 1800's. After perusing the local shops of the Butchertown Market, we'll enjoy fresh, innovative New American fare for lunch at the Butchertown Grocery before a mixology class at Copper & Kings, a craft distillery gaining fame with its fine brandies. Our day will finish at the Frazier History Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, with the evening free. Meals B+L

### Day 3 | Racing at Churchill Downs, September 16, 2021

Today begins with a private trolley tour of Old Louisville, famed for the nation's largest collection of Victorian mansions. Then it's off to Louisville's historic Whiskey Row where we'll have a tour of the Evans Williams Distillery before a visit to the Old Forester Distillery, home of the first bottled bourbon, and a demonstration of how their barrels are as finely handcrafted now as they were in the late 19th Century.

We'll return to the *Brown Hotel* to freshen-up before Twilight Racing at iconic Churchill Downs followed by dinner at legendary Matt Winn's Steakhouse overlooking the track. Meals B+D

#### Day 4 | Central Kentucky, September 17, 2021

Enjoy this morning's scenic drive into Central Kentucky where our tour and tasting at the renowned Maker's Mark Distillery ends with dipping your own bottle of bourbon into their signature red wax. After lunch at the Bottle & Bond Kitchen to enjoy its fine homemade Southern fare, you'll tour *My Old Kentucky Home*. Once the centerpiece of a 1,300-acre plantation, this handsome Federal-style mansion is now a renowned house museum filled with antiques, period art and finely restored architectural details. At the end of your visit, you'll even learn how to make the perfect Mint Julep. Then explore the history of Kentucky's Shaker community and sit down to a delightful garden-to-table dinner at Shaker Village. We'll continue to Lexington and check in to the new *Origin Hotel* for a 3-night stay. Meals B+L+D

### Day 5 | Welcome to Horse Country, September 18, 2021

Keeneland is not just a world-class race course, it's also the world's leading Thoroughbred auction house. Get an insider's look into this rarefied world with our private behind-the-scenes tour. At the James E. Pepper Distillery, a National Historic Landmark, learn about their illustrious history going back to the American Revolution. In the afternoon, we'll take you to Justin's House of Bourbon, known for its collection of rare and vintage spirits, and then to a family-owned craft distillery where you'll create your own custom blend of bourbon. This evening's unique Bourbon Flavor Wheel dinner at the renowned *Holly Hill Inn* features farm-to-table dishes that have many of the key tasting notes found in Kentucky bourbon. Created by famed chef and Inn-owner Ouita

Michel, it's a unique way to learn about food, flavors and bourbon-pairings. Meals B+D

Note: Please see our sidebar for the October 10, 2021 Keeneland Racing itinerary.

#### Day 6 | Kentucky Bluegrass, September 19, 2021

After breakfast, visit the Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm to meet their dignified residents and to learn about their innovative approach to providing care for Thoroughbreds whose racing days and breeding careers have come to an end. Then savor your lunch at the fine farm-to-table cuisine of Castle Farms before exploring the lavish halls and landscaped grounds of the Kentucky Castle. In the afternoon, you'll enjoy a private tour at one of Kentucky's renowned Thoroughbred farms. Later enjoy a magical twilight tour of Sun Valley Farm, set on rolling bluegrass pastures with well-tended fences stretching as far as the eye can see. By special arrangement, sit down to dinner with the Farm's owners, enjoying congenial conversation and a chance to learn more about their Thoroughbred broodmares, responsible for producing more than 200 Stakes winners worldwide. Meals B+L+D

### Day 7 | Departure, September 20, 2021

After breakfast, we'll take you to the Lexington airport for your homeward flight. Meals B

#### **Accommodations**

#### **Brown Hotel - Louisville, Kentucky**

Inextricably woven into the history and stories of the city, this luxury Louisville landmark has welcomed travelers for nearly a century with its Old World elegance and modern-day comfort. Behind the striking Georgian-Revival façade, you'll experience the Southern gentility hat has made the city a destination for bourbon, history and equestrian enthusiasts. Highlighted by rich fabrics and classic furnishings including a Mahogany bed, all guestrooms feature complimentary WiFi, electronic safe, a flat screen television with premium channels, and a coffee and tea maker.

### **Origin Hotel - Lexington, Kentucky**

In the heart of a pioneering urban complex with world-class shopping and dining, our brand new hotel offers a contemporary vibe blended with classic luxury. Spacious guestrooms feature stylish a décor inspired by the local Bluegrass region. You'll enjoy luxury linens, a large LED television that can pair with your personal device, and complimentary high-speed WiFi. A lavish en suite bath features a walk in rainforest shower and spa-inspired amenities.

# **Our Original Journey Value**

- + Comprehensive sightseeing with never more than 16 guests and all entry fees
- + Special behind-the-scenes experiences at Churchill Downs and Keeneland
- + 14 meals: 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 5 dinners with wine and spirits at all midday and evening meals
- + Private tours, tastings and mixology classes at a variety of distilleries
- + All on-tour transportation and transfers
- + All gratuities are included, except for your Trip Leader
- + All luggage handling, taxes and fees
- + Solo guests enjoy double occupancy accommodations throughout

## Only with A+R

Boutique craft distilleries, intimate farm-to-table dining, and family-run farms where the passion for horses runs deep. Our journey through the spectacular Bluegrass region promises a uniquely intimate foray into the world of Kentucky bourbon, horses, and new southern cuisine.