

*If you like Kentucky,
you'll*

LOVE DANVILLE *and* BOYLE COUNTY



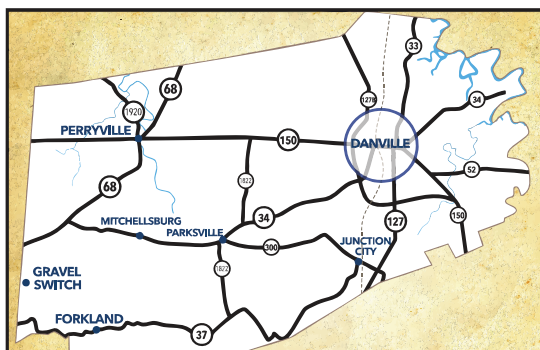
Danville
— KENTUCKY —
Historically Bold

WELCOME TO DANVILLE AND BOYLE COUNTY

We're thrilled to welcome you to the birthplace of Kentucky, where small-town hospitality, scenic beauty, and a deep sense of history come together. In Danville, the "City of Firsts," you'll discover charming downtown streets filled with local shops, restaurants, galleries, and vibrant arts venues like the **GLASS National Art Museum**, **Pioneer Playhouse** and the **Norton Center for the Arts**. Just a short drive away, the historic town of Perryville invites you to walk its picturesque **Merchants Row** and visit the **Perryville Battlefield**, one of the most significant Civil War sites in the country.

Outdoor enthusiasts can hike, bike, and explore our scenic countryside, while foodies and bourbon lovers can enjoy authentic local flavors. Whether you're here for a weekend getaway, a family adventure, or a special event, Danville and Boyle County offer unforgettable experiences and warm welcomes at every turn.

Thanks for visiting—we're so glad you're here! Let the adventure to Danville and Boyle County begin!



DANVILLE AND BOYLE COUNTY QUICK FACTS



Danville is known as the Birthplace of Kentucky since the Constitutional Conventions that led to the state's founding in 1792 were held in Danville at what is now Constitution Square.

Danville is also referred to as “The City of Firsts” for having Kentucky’s first courthouse, the first post office west of the Alleghenies, being Kentucky’s first capital, having the first political club in the West, being the location of the world’s first successful ovarian tumor removal surgery, having the first college and first law school in the West, and several other firsts.



Perryville has one of the most intact Civil War battlefields in the U.S. (which you can visit).



Danville hosts a free annual three-day festival focused on brass band musicians.



Danville is home to the GLASS National Art Museum, celebrating the works of glass artist and educator Stephen Rolfe Powell.



Penn's Store in southwest Boyle County is the oldest country store in America continuously owned and operated by the same family, dating back to 1850.



Centre College, one of America's top 50 liberal arts colleges, was founded in Danville in 1819 and plays a pivotal role in the city's cultural, educational and economic landscape.

HISTORY & HERITAGE



Danville, Birthplace of Kentucky

Constitution Square Historic Site in downtown Danville marks the birthplace of the Commonwealth. It was here in 1792 that Kentucky's first constitution was signed, officially separating it from Virginia and establishing it as the 15th U.S. state. The three-acre park features replicas of historic structures, including the original courthouse where early constitutional conventions were held, a log jail, and a meeting house. The site also houses the first U.S. post office west of the Allegheny Mountains, dating back to before 1792.

Open year-round from dawn to dusk, Constitution Square offers a peaceful setting with shaded lawns, picnic areas, and interpretive signs that share Kentucky's early history. Visitors can explore the buildings and visit the on-site **Constitution Square Visitors Center and Gift Shop**. The park also hosts community events like a weekly Saturday morning farmers' market with fresh produce and live music (May-October), the **Soul of Second Street Festival** in August, as well as the **Constitution Square Festival** in September.



Pioneer Playhouse

Pioneer Playhouse is the oldest outdoor theater in the state and one of the longest-running summer stock theaters in the U.S. Founded in 1950 by Col. Eben C. Henson, it has become a beloved cultural landmark, offering live professional theater under the stars each June through August. The charming, open-air amphitheater—built with repurposed materials—gives visitors a unique and nostalgic theatrical experience.

Each summer season features a rotating lineup of comedies, mysteries, and family-friendly shows, performed by a cast of talented actors from across the country. Guests can enjoy a pre-show dinner served on the grounds, making it a perfect evening outing. Whether you're a theater lover or just looking for a fun night out, Pioneer Playhouse promises an unforgettable blend of entertainment, history, and small-town hospitality you won't soon forget.

170
YEARS OLD



Penn's Store

Located in southwest Boyle County, **Penn's Store** holds the distinction of being the oldest country store in America continuously owned and operated by the same family. Established as a store site in 1845 and acquired by the Penn family in 1850, it has been a cornerstone of the community for over 170 years.

Stepping into Penn's Store is like taking a journey back in time. The store retains many of its original features, including weathered wooden floors, hand-rubbed countertops, glass display cases, and a Warm Morning Model 521 wood/coal stove that provides warmth during colder months. The store's rustic charm is complemented by live music performances on the front porch, where local musicians often gather to play and sing.

Today, Penn's Store continues to welcome visitors on weekends, offering a glimpse into America's rural past and the enduring spirit of community that it represents.



African American Heritage

Danville and Boyle County possess a rich African American heritage that has significantly shaped the region's history. From the early days of settlement, African Americans have contributed to the cultural and economic development of the area.

The community's vibrant past is reflected in the once-thriving African American business district on Second Street, which served as a hub for commerce and social life. Although urban renewal in the 1970s led to the loss of many of these establishments, efforts have been made to preserve and honor this legacy.

Today, the **Danville-Boyle County African American Historical Society**, located at 108 North Second Street, serves as a repository of photographs, artifacts, and stories that celebrate the enduring contributions of African Americans to the region.

Visitors can also attend the annual **Soul of Second Street Festival** each August to learn about the African American impact on the community, enjoy food and listen to live music.

A TASTE OF DANVILLE

Danville's dining scene is a flavorful celebration of local charm, creativity, and community. Whether you're craving elevated cuisine or laid-back bites, locally-owned favorites serve up something for every palate.

Start your morning in Danville with handcrafted espresso and homemade pastries at **Dry Stack Coffee Co.**, or enjoy the welcoming vibe and hearty breakfast options at **The Hub Coffee House & Café**, a local staple. Other local favorites for breakfast include **Waffle Stop Café** as well as **Red Rooster Café**.

Lunchtime brings delicious choices like gourmet sandwiches and charcuterie boards at **Murrini Café**, nestled inside the **Art Center of the Bluegrass**. In the evening, savor pizza and craft beer at **Bluegrass Pizza & Pub**, or head to **La Cosa Nostra**, where Italian classics are served in a unique setting inside an 1880s bank—complete with dining in the original vault.

Get outside of Danville and check out **Bud and Cheryl's Ice Cream Shoppe** near Junction City or the **Parksville Farmhouse Restaurant**. Two exciting new eateries are also set to open in Perryville (check www.danvillekentucky.com for the latest on those!).

For fine dining and bourbon lovers, **Copper & Oak** offers prime steaks, creative cocktails, and a cozy speakeasy atmosphere. **The Still at Blue Rook Distillery** pairs small-batch spirits with inventive dishes for a one-of-a-kind experience.

Cap off your evening at Morley's Backyard, a laid-back spot with local brews and food where you can enjoy fun events throughout the week in a repurposed garage.



In Danville, every meal tells a story—and every bite brings you closer to the heart of Kentucky.



DISCOVER DANVILLE
& BOYLE COUNTY
RESTAURANTS

DISCOVER BARS & NIGHTLIFE

Danville offers a vibrant and eclectic after-hours scene, where local establishments provide diverse experiences for night owls and cocktail enthusiasts alike.

For a nostalgic twist, **Boogie Knight's** transports patrons to the 1970s with its kitschy decor, craft cocktails, and late-night eats. This 21+ venue is known for its lively atmosphere and theme drinks.

Wine aficionados will appreciate **Wine Seller**, an independent shop offering a curated selection of global wines, as well as tastings and fresh, seasonal fare at the shop's **Communion Café**.

Beer enthusiasts should not miss **Birds Nest Brewing Company**, a locally-owned brewery offering a rotating selection of 20 taps, including house-made brews that cater to a variety of tastes.

And for the bourbon enthusiast, a tasting at Danville's own **Wilderness Trail Distillery** gives you samplings of their unique sweet mash process and blending of old traditions with a scientific approach.

Finally, **The Nook** stands out as a state-of-the-art live music lounge, martini bar, and arcade. This 21+ venue hosts live music from Thursday to Saturday nights, providing a dynamic and entertaining environment.



From sophisticated cocktails to lively entertainment, Danville's nightlife offers something for every visitor seeking to experience the town's unique charm after dark.



DISCOVER DANVILLE
BARS & NIGHTLIFE

DISCOVER DANVILLE

- ✓ **Uncover History**
- ✓ **Savor Culture**
- ✓ **Explore the Arts**



Danville, Kentucky is a destination rich in history, culture, and unique experiences that captivate visitors of all ages. Whether you're exploring the past or engaging with the arts, Danville's attractions offer something truly special.

Begin your journey at Wilderness Trail Distillery, where science and tradition come together in the crafting of small-batch bourbon. Take a guided tour to learn about their unique sweet mash process and sample award-winning spirits.



**BUILT
1792-
1820**



Step back in time at Constitution Square Historic Site, where Kentucky's statehood was born. Walk the grounds of restored frontier buildings and imagine life in the 18th century. Nearby, the Ephraim McDowell House and Apothecary honors the "father of modern abdominal surgery" with a beautifully preserved home and fascinating look into early medical practices. Take a tour to learn more.



Breathe in fresh Bluegrass air as you explore outdoor escapes like hiking and biking wooded trails, paddling scenic waterways, and discovering quiet moments in nature's beauty.



Art lovers will find inspiration at the **Art Center of the Bluegrass**, with rotating exhibits, community art programs, and on-site dining at **Murrini Café**. Right next door, the **GLASS National Art Museum** showcases a stunning collection of contemporary glass art from renowned artist Stephen Rolfe Powell.



Don't miss the whimsical world of the Great American Dollhouse Museum, where hundreds of intricately crafted miniature scenes bring American history and culture to life. See over 200 dollhouses!

**BUILT IN
1973**



Cap off your visit with a show at Norton Center for the Arts, where nationally touring productions, concerts, and performances grace the stage of this world-class venue on Centre College's campus.

Danville offers a vibrant blend of heritage and creativity, making it the perfect place to explore, learn, and be inspired.



DISCOVER PLACES TO
SEE & THINGS TO DO
IN DANVILLE

RETAIL THERAPY

Unique Shops with Local Charm

Danville offers a shopping experience that's as unique and welcoming as the town itself. Stroll through the charming downtown district and discover a variety of locally-owned shops that blend small-town hospitality with curated style and one-of-a-kind finds.

Start your journey at **Maple Tree Gallery**, a beloved boutique offering Kentucky-themed gifts, home décor, original art, and handcrafted jewelry. Just around the corner, **Cerci on Main** brings chic style to the heart of Danville with women's fashion, accessories, and gifts that reflect the latest trends with a personal touch you'll appreciate.

For a dose of local history and keepsakes, stop by the **Constitution Square Gift Shop**, where you can find souvenirs, Kentucky-made products, and books that celebrate the birthplace of the Commonwealth.



Tea lovers will delight in **Elmwood Inn Fine Teas**, a globally recognized purveyor of loose-leaf teas. Browse their extensive selection or take home a beautifully packaged gift set to remember your visit.

Fashion-forward shoppers should visit **Derby Shoppe and Raggs**, a go-to destination for upscale men's and women's clothing, shoes, and accessories that strike the perfect balance between classic and contemporary.



For families, **Plaid Elephant Books** is a treasure trove of children's literature, toys, and educational games that inspire young minds and make story time extra special.

Finally, don't miss **Camp**, a lifestyle shop full of modern home goods, artful gifts, and cozy essentials designed to spark joy and creativity.

Whether you're browsing for yourself or finding the perfect gift, shopping in Danville is always a memorable experience.



DISCOVER DANVILLE
SHOPPING HERE

DISCOVER BOYLE COUNTY'S HIDDEN GEMS

Discover the charm and character of the Danville area by exploring its surrounding communities and hidden gems, each offering a unique glimpse into Kentucky's rich heritage and natural beauty.

FAMILY
OPERATED SINCE
1850



Just a short, scenic drive from downtown Danville, **Penn's Store** is a true Kentucky treasure. Recognized as the oldest country store in America continuously operated by the same family, this landmark offers a nostalgic look at rural life and often hosts live music and storytelling events on its front porch.

BUILDING
CONSTRUCTED
1926



Nestled in the scenic Knobs region, the community of **Forkland** is a celebration of Appalachian heritage. Visit the **Forkland Community Center**, home to the **Forkland Heritage Festival** held each October, where visitors can enjoy traditional crafts, food, music, and living history demonstrations.

Nature lovers will find serenity at the **Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge**, a 500-acre preserve perfect for hiking, bird-watching and reconnecting with the natural world. Its quiet trails and diverse habitats provide a peaceful retreat year-round.

OPENED IN
1966



For high-speed excitement, **Ponderosa Speedway** in Junction City delivers heart-pounding dirt track racing action throughout the season, drawing fans from all over the region.

Speaking of Junction City, this vibrant small town adds its own flavor to the area with local eateries, community events, and welcoming hospitality.

**Explore beyond Danville and uncover
the authentic spirit of Kentucky.**

PERRYVILLE: Where History Lives



Perryville - nestled along the Chaplin River, 10 miles west of Danville - offers visitors a rich tapestry of history, scenic beauty, and vibrant community events.

BATTLE
FOUGHT IN
1862



Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site preserves the site of Kentucky's largest Civil War battle, fought on Oct. 8, 1862. The 1,200-acre park features preserved battlefields, interpretive trails, and monuments, providing a poignant glimpse into the past. Annual events, such as the annual Commemoration of the Battle of Perryville and Ghost Stories and Ghost Walk tours in October, bring history to life for visitors of all ages.

185+
YEAR OLD
BUILDINGS



Merchants Row in downtown Perryville is a charming stretch of 18th-century buildings housing antique shops, gift boutiques, and museums. This historic district offers a delightful shopping experience, allowing visitors to step back in time while exploring local treasures.



Throughout the year, Perryville hosts a variety of seasonal events that celebrate its rich heritage and community spirit. **The Perryville Commemoration Festival** in October features reenactments, living history demonstrations, and a vibrant street fair, drawing visitors from near and far.



The **Chaplin River** meanders through Perryville, offering picturesque views and opportunities for outdoor activities. The river's serene presence enhances the town's natural beauty and provides a peaceful backdrop for relaxation and recreation.



Grab a bite to eat while you are visiting Perryville or make it your basecamp by staying at the **Bottom House Bed & Breakfast** or one of the other rentals in town.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, nature lover, or seeking a charming small-town experience, Perryville offers a welcoming destination filled with stories, beauty, and community.



DISCOVER ALL THAT
PERRYVILLE HAS TO
OFFER

YEAR-ROUND EVENTS: A Celebration for Every Season



Boyle County Farmers Market

Constitution Square hosts the Boyle County Farmers Market on Saturdays (April-October) from 9 a.m.-noon. Find fresh, locally-grown produce, artisanal goods, and live music on an outdoor stage.

Downtown Downbeat Concerts

On the first Thursday of each month (May-October), Downtown Downbeat brings live music to the heart of Danville. This free concert series features local and regional bands, creating a lively atmosphere.

Great American Brass Band Festival

Celebrating its 35th year in 2025, this free, family-friendly festival fills Danville with the sounds of brass music as a lead in to summer. With performances by almost 20 bands, it's one of the city's biggest events and a must-attend festival for music lovers.



Merchants Events Downtown

Throughout the year, downtown merchants host special events, including gallery hops, sidewalk sales, Third Thursday activities and holiday-themed festivities, offering unique shopping and dining experiences.

Perryville Commemoration

Events – including history demonstrations, guided tours and special programs such as ghost walks – are held annually in October in both downtown Perryville and at the battlefield.

Soul of Second Street Festival

In August, this two-day event celebrates Danville's African American heritage with live music, food, and cultural activities, honoring the historic Second Street business district.

Forkland Heritage Festival

This annual celebration held in October honors the area's rural traditions, history and community spirit through music, crafts, food and family-friendly activities.

Constitution Square Festival

Held each September, this festival at Constitution Square features craft vendors, live entertainment, hands-on activities and other events to celebrate Kentucky's rich history.



Balloons Over the Bluegrass Festival

This August festival features hot air balloons taking to the skies, offering breathtaking views and family-friendly activities.



SEE WHAT EVENTS ARE
HAPPENING IN DANVILLE
AND BOYLE COUNTY

REST EASY: Where to Stay in Danville/Boyle County

Danville and Boyle County offer a range of accommodations to suit every traveler's needs, from modern hotels to charming short-term rentals.



Hotels:

Hampton Inn: Located along the bypass, this hotel provides comfortable rooms, an indoor pool, and a complimentary hot breakfast.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites: Next to the Hampton Inn, the Holiday Inn offers modern amenities, including a fitness center and free Wi-Fi, perfect for both business and leisure travelers.

Comfort Suites: Features spacious suites with separate living areas, ideal for families or extended stays.

Red Roof Inn PLUS+: A budget-friendly option that doesn't compromise on comfort, offering updated rooms and pet-friendly accommodations.

Quality Inn: Provides essential amenities like free breakfast and Wi-Fi, ensuring a convenient stay.

Super 8 by Wyndham: An economical choice with basic amenities, suitable for short stays.

Short-term rentals:

Discover a variety of short-term rental options to suit different preferences and budgets. Platforms like Airbnb and Vrbo feature a range of accommodations, from cozy downtown apartments to spacious homes near local attractions to houses along Herrington Lake.



Whether you're visiting for business, exploring the Bourbon Trail, or enjoying local festivals, Danville's lodging options ensure a comfortable and memorable stay.



DISCOVER PLACES
TO STAY IN DANVILLE
AND BOYLE COUNTY



KENTUCKY

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DESTINATION DANVILLE

**134 South Second Street
Danville, KY, 40422**

Plan your trip using this visitors guide, but go to www.danvillekentucky.com for the most recent and detailed information.



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