



Kentucky Bourbon Trail

“Plus” First Loop



Today eight distilleries make up the Kentucky Bourbon Trail but this loop includes the four that are sort of clustered within a 40-mile radius to the west of Lexington. Cruise through picturesque scenery to Woodford Reserve, Buffalo Trace, Four Roses and Wild Turkey distilleries via I-64, just a short drive around the Bluegrass Region. Plenty of gorgeous horse farms and historic towns are along the way.

Woodford Reserve Distillery on Glenn's Creek is surrounded by prime thoroughbred country. Head west on I-64 and exit at Frankfort (exit # 58). At the end of the ramp, turn left and motor along U.S. 60/Versailles Road (speed limit 55) approximately two miles to Grassy Springs Road. Watch for brown historical marker on the right, turn right, and follow the signs to distillery. This boutique producer of bourbon is part of the Brown Forman family of spirits. www.woodfordreserve.com

Retrace your route to U.S. 60 to move on to Buffalo Trace Distillery. Located in Kentucky's capital city—Frankfort—at the point where Kentucky River shoals allowed shallow crossing to roaming buffalo and later to white settlers, Buffalo Trace was one of very few that produced during prohibition (for medicinal purposes). At U.S.60/Versailles Road, turn left and follow 60 north (under I-64) into Frankfort. At the four-way intersection (at the junction of 421, 127, 460 and 60), rather than follow 60 to the left, go straight on U.S. 421/127. As you descend into the Kentucky River valley, Buffalo Trace is on the right with stone fence and sign out front. www.buffalotrace.com

Two more of Kentucky's world-famous distilleries are located in Lawrenceburg just south of Frankfort near U.S. 127.

Bag some Wild Turkey (we don't mean the bird) to sip by driving south on U.S.127 for approximately 11 miles. Turn left on U.S.62 and continue for 2.3 miles. Make a right onto Tyrone Rd where this distillery also overlooks the Kentucky River. www.wildturkeybourbon.com

Continue on U.S. 127 South to Four Roses Distillery which is about another six miles to the south. The distillery's beautiful Spanish architecture is a rarity in Kentucky which sometimes leans more towards Colonial and Italianate architecture. Four Roses was the top selling Bourbon in the U.S. in the 30s, 40s and 50s and is back at distilling the bourbon originally produced here. Go south to Ky. 513 (west), and turn right for one mile to the distillery. www.fourroses.us

If your taste runs more towards the fruit of the vine (we won't tell as Kentucky was the site of the first commercial vineyard in the U.S.), while in Lawrenceburg stop at Lover's Leap and taste their fine wines. Head north on U.S. 127 until you see the Lovers Leap Winery sign on the right. Turn right on McCormick Rd – which makes a sharp right and becomes Hammond Rd. After 1.2 miles and about 20 yards BEFORE the stop sign, turn left on Ninevah Rd (Rt. 326 at Ninevah Christian Church). Go 1.7 miles to Lanes Mill Rd. (second road on left) and turn left. Go about 1 mile and look for Lovers Leap Winery and their vines on the right. www.loversleapvineyardky.com

Tasting is ok but please use a designated driver if necessary.