



Lexington, Kentucky

The Derby may be in Louisville, but **Lexington** can easily justify its self-proclaimed status as Horse Capital of the World. Many top Thoroughbreds are born, trained, retired, and buried at some 450 horse farms in the region (most welcome visitors), and on April 17, **Open Stable Day**, you can watch them get warmed up before they head off for the big race at Churchill Downs on the first weekend in May (call 800-459-4677 for participating stables). For an introduction to equine history and horse shows—or to do some riding of your own—visit the **Kentucky Horse Park**, home of retired Derby winners Cigar and John Henry (www.kyhorsepark.com; **\$12**).

From Louisville, take Route 60 east for a scenic one-and-a-half-hour drive through the countryside to Lexington.

The homey **Bed and Breakfast at Silver Springs Farm** is near most stables, and it boards horses as well as people (859-255-1784; bbsilver SpringsFarm.com; doubles, **\$119–\$149**).



Jonathan at Gratz Park has regional favorites with a twist: sorghum-glazed sea scallops and fried oysters with ham bread crumbs (859-252-4949; entrées, **\$15–\$29**).

Sturdy shoes and pants for riding.

Sunny days in the 60s; some showers.

Get great itinerary ideas on visitlex.com.

For pre-Derby thrills, check out **Keeneland**—the other track (859-254-3412).