

For students who may be visiting from out of town, the Office of Admissions has prepared this guide to offer suggestions for places to **stay, eat and explore**. Even native Louisvillians might discover something new to experience in the city!

STAY

The University of Louisville is situated at the southern end of [Old Louisville](#), which boasts the largest collection of restored Victorian homes in the country. Located just 3 miles from Muhammad Ali International Airport (SDF), there are a number of [airport-area chain hotels](#) less than ten minutes from campus. If you're looking to stay somewhere uniquely Louisville, check out these nearby downtown landmark hotels:

- [21c Museum Hotel](#) is more than just a place to rest your head — it's a boutique hotel, contemporary art museum and award-winning restaurant all in one!
- A Louisville legend, the [Brown Hotel](#) is beloved for its Georgian-Revival elegance and timeless charm but might be best known as the origin of the iconic [Hot Brown](#).
- The [Galt House](#) is the a key figure of many of the city's traditions and serves as home to the command center for [Thunder Over Louisville](#), the nation's largest fireworks show.
- [Hotel Distil](#) is billed as designed "for those who thirst for new experiences" and is located directly on Louisville's historic Whiskey Row.
- A golden era treasure, the [Seelbach Hilton](#) appears on the National Register of Historic Places, and its grandeur inspired [F. Scott Fitzgerald](#), stationed at Louisville's Camp Taylor in 1918, to use it as the setting for Tom and Daisy's wedding in *The Great Gatsby*.

EAT

When it's time to grab a bite, you'll find yourself in a foodie's paradise! Delicious food abounds across town, but here are just a few fantastic options in the vicinity of campus:

- We've got brunch by the bunch! [Biscuit Belly](#), [Highland Morning](#) and [Wild Eggs](#) are three Louisville-founded options for starting your day off with a bang.
- [Dairy Del and Dairy Kastle](#) are rival neighborhood walk-up ice cream shops, and locals tend to fall on one side or the other of a great "which is better?" debate.
- [Dragon King's Daughter](#) serves a mouth-watering and inventive menu of East Asian fusion cuisine, including a wide selection of vegetarian options.
- Sister restaurants [Feast BBQ](#) and [Royals Hot Chicken](#) are right down the street from one another, so you can try both and see which is more up your alley. Patrons feeling the heat can cool off at either restaurant with their famous bourbon slushies.
- [Heine Brothers](#) and [Sunergos](#) are two Louisville-based coffeehouses that offer creative café treats and unique "bean bags" for home brewers.

- [Louisville Cream](#) offers small-batch ice cream and baked goods. Mix and match to create your own ice cream cookie sandwich!
- [Noche Mexican BBQ](#) offers a twist on classic Tex-Mex fare in a truly breathtaking space: a converted church featuring beautiful stained-glass windows.
- [Old Louisville Tavern](#) has been around since 1933 but was renovated in 2016 after a devastating fire with an updated pub-grub menu with house-made sauces.
- [Pizza Lupo](#) offers authentic Neapolitan sourdough wood-fired pizza that's consistently voted the #1 pie in Louisville.
- Local treasure [Vietnam Kitchen](#) is the longest-running Vietnamese restaurant in the city and is as delectable as it is unassuming.

EXPLORE

While you're in town, we hope you have time to check out some of its star attractions:

- [Cherokee Park](#) is just one of Louisville's 120 gorgeous [parks](#) and one of eighteen designed by world-renowned "parkitect" Frederick Law Olmsted.
- [Churchill Downs](#), home of the [Kentucky Derby](#), is undoubtedly Louisville's most visited landmark, and it's located just a stone's throw from campus.
- The [Frazier History Museum](#) is "where the world meets Kentucky" through interactive displays and teaching artists, while the [KMAC Museum](#) just steps away features contemporary art from Kentucky and around the world.
- The [Kentucky Bourbon Trail](#) is a cultural touchstone that lets Trail-blazers experience the rich history of bourbon distilleries throughout the Commonwealth.
- [Kentucky Kingdom](#) is a full-fledged theme park literally minutes from campus, or if you head an hour west, you'll find [Holiday World](#) in nearby Santa Claus, Indiana.
- Feeling *sluggish*? Visit the [Louisville Slugger Museum](#) and take home a miniature version of the iconic bat. Just remember to put it in a checked bag if you're flying!
- The [Louisville Zoo](#) offers education programs to complement their conservation efforts, and beneath it lies the [Mega Cavern](#), a former limestone mine turned family attraction.
- Explore the [Muhammad Ali Center](#) and get to know Louisville's own, the original G.O.A.T!
- Don't skip the [Speed Art Museum](#), right here on UofL's campus! Admission is free on Sundays, but once you enroll, you'll have free access to the museum every day.
- Enjoy the beautiful flora of the [Waterfront Botanical Gardens](#) or, if you're up for a quick jaunt out of town, check out the [Yew Dell Botanical Gardens](#) in nearby Oldham County!

To find out what special events might be happening during your visit to Louisville, make sure to keep your eye on the [GoToLouisville events calendar](#)!