

For students joining 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 several [airport-area chain hotels](#) less than ten minutes from campus, not to mention an [AC Hotel](#) in NuLu, just a block away from the site of our Welcome Reception. 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 Kentucky Hot Brown.
- » The [Galt House Hotel](#) is the a key part of many of the city's traditions as both the Official Host Hotel of the Kentucky Derby and home to the command center for Thunder Over Louisville, the nation's largest fireworks show.
- » [Hotel Distil](#) is for those who thirst for new experiences. It's an authentic hotel in a historic location on Louisville's Whiskey Row.
- » A golden era treasure, the [Seelbach Hilton](#) appears on the National Register of Historic Places, and its grandeur inspired [F. Scott Fitzgerald](#), who was 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, consider one of these spots near campus:

- » [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.
- » [Old Louisville Tavern](#) has been around since 1933 but was recently renovated and features an updated pub-grub menu with house-made sauces.
- » [Parlour Pizza](#) started right across the river in Jeffersonville, and its artisan pizza is now available in three additional locations, including one right downtown.
- » [Vietnam Kitchen](#) is the longest-running Vietnamese restaurant in operation in Louisville and as delicious as ever, despite panic-inducing reports of its closure during the pandemic.

If you'll be joining us for the Welcome Reception and want to stick around the bustling [NuLu](#) neighborhood for dinner, you'll find plenty of palate-pleasers there:

- » [Cultured Cheese Shop and Charcuterie Bar](#) lets you select your favorite options, whether it's for a board to serve a group or just a box for one.
- » [Feast BBQ](#) and its sister restaurant [Royals](#) are just down the street from one another, depending on whether barbecue or hot chicken (or tofu!) is more up your alley. For bourbon fans, you can cool off at either restaurant with one of their famous bourbon slushies.
- » [Louisville Cream](#) offers small-batch ice cream and baked goods. Mix and match to create your own ice cream cookie sandwich!
- » [Mayan Cafe](#) showcases the traditional cuisine of southern Mexico. Consider making a reservation, as it tends to fill up fast!
- » [The Seafood Lady](#) is a local sensation featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.

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 famous and 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 displays and teaching artists. Be sure to check out the Cool Kentucky exhibit!
- » The [KMAC Museum](#) features contemporary art from Kentucky and around the world.
- » Feeling sluggish? Visit the [Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory](#) and take home a miniature version of the iconic bat. Just remember to put it in a checked bag if you're flying!
- » Get to know one of Louisville's own, the original GOAT, at the [Muhammad Ali Center](#).
- » 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 jaunt out of town, check out the [Yew Dell Botanical Gardens](#) in nearby Oldham County!

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