



Friendliest Town in America

Come explore, relax, or even find your home in Murray Kentucky; located in Calloway County sitting thirty minutes away from the great expanse of Land Between the Lakes. Murray is the embodiment of the phrase “Feels like Home,” an expression that has been with the town since Rand McNally and USA Today visited and named the town of Murray ‘The Friendliest town in America,’ in 2012.

Murray is home to a wide variety of opportunities from Murray State University to new industry moving in like TPG Plastics LLC, and Hempwood. Murray is home to many local attractions for visitors and locals. Whether you are going to Land between the Lakes to visit the Homeplace, planetarium, elk and bison prairie or finding a place to boat, swim and camp LBL has it all. Murray is also home to many local restaurants, take a look at a small-town with big dining options. The heart loves southern home cooking, eclectic menus or visiting the newest Micro-brewery, Hop-hound Brew Pub we've got you covered. Murray provides a great community for people to raise a family, go to school, retire or even just stay for the weekend in one of our fabulous hotels. There are many activities for people of all age to do in Murray, such as visiting one of our great parks, along with the skate park located inside of Central Park, or going on one of the many Barn Quilt trails throughout Calloway County. The Arboretum provided by Murray State University is also beautiful and tranquil place everyone can enjoy! Murray has been recognized nationally, for numerous awards including [Playful City USA](#) for the last four years and [100 Best Communities for Young People](#) for four years. Murray truly is the best place to visit, shop, work, and play.

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Calloway County Quilt Trail

Central Park

Chestnut Park and Bee Creek

The Arboretum

Kentucky Dam and Marina

Kentucky Lake: Moss Creek

Elk and Bison Prairie

Homeplace 1850s Working Farm

Golden Pond and Planetarium

Woodlands Nature Station

www.tourmurray.com



Fingertip Facts

- The town of Murray was incorporated in the year 1844, named after the United States representative from Kentucky, John L. Murray.
- In the year 1902 the “radio” was discovered by Nathan B. Stubblefield and presented in a public demonstration on the courthouse lawn.
- In 2012 Rand McNally and USA Today named Murray the *Friendliest Small Town in America*. Murray has been recognized nationally and has won numerous awards including “Playful City USA” for the last four years. Murray has also been recognized nationally as being in the “Top 100 best communities for young people” for four years in a row.
- In 2018, Murray Main Street was awarded by the Kentucky Heritage Council the following honors: Best media promotion award, and Best Main Street Youth Event Honors.
- W. Earl Brown, born in 1963 and native of Murray, is a well-known actor, screenwriter, producer and musician starring in “Scream (1996), Chicago Fire, American Horror Story, The Mandalorian” among many other movies, productions and TV shows.
- In 2022, Murray State University was awarded “Top 25 Regional Universities,” and ranked 11th in “Top Public Regional University.” In addition, Washington Monthly recognized Murray State University for “Getting the best bang for the buck” as one of the most affordable schools.

Story Ideas

Where to spend the day in Downtown Murray

Despite Murray’s small size it is full of fun events, great businesses and delicious cuisine from many different restaurants. Many of the best places to visit in Murray are hidden gems. Murray is home to Murray State University which brings in many out of state and international students every year. Many of students love the great restaurants like Mugsy’s, a fan favorite Chicago style Italian restaurant, or the classic Rudy’s providing the best homecooking you can find. Downtown is also home to many diverse businesses, from 5th and Main Coffees (bookstore and coffee joint) to Redbug Yarn and Gifts, along with a plethora of other fine businesses, shops, and restaurants. So come on out and explore!



Land between the Lakes: Elk and Bison Prairie

Thirty minutes away from the small town of Murray Kentucky sits a beautiful natural preservation sanctuary known as *Land Between the Lakes*. From bike trails to a planetarium, Land Between the Lakes simply has it all. One conservation project amongst the rest quite often does not get the recognition it so deserves. The Elk and Bison Prairie is a 700-acre enclosure home to not only the obvious 'Elk and Bison' but a wide variety of small game including wild turkey, prairie animals and many species of birds. The Elk and Bison Prairie is open dawn to dusk and has a \$5 fee to open the entryway gates. It's a serene place where you can watch Bison and Elk grazing, walking, and enjoying life in the fields. There is a 3.5 mile driving loop taking visitors on a very scenic drive through the forests, past the watering holes, going over the creek. The elk and bison prairie is a truly beautiful area of land having been cultivated by these animals. Spring through summer is a great time of the year to get out and see these fascinating animals, the Bison can always be found enjoying the weather during warmer spring months.

Murray State Legend: Johnny Reagan

The Murray State baseball team has had a great year following the 33-25 record in 2021. The field they practice, and play on is aptly named after one of the greatest baseball players Murray State has ever seen, Johnny Reagan. Reagan was an athlete from 1944-48 and quickly got himself into the Racer Hall of Fame with his amazing prowess as an athlete. However, his legacy truly lies in his 36 years as a baseball coach at Murray State, in his time he led the team to win 11 Ohio Valley Conference Championships. Reagan became a 10-time OVC coach of the year and Murray State has continued to honor him by naming the very field he played, coached and won on after him.

Downtown Farmers Market: Stimulating the Local Economy

Murray's Downtown Farmers Market began in 1998, starting with only a few vendors each week. It has continued to grow in size and participation not only from vendors but customers as well. Today the Downtown Farmers Market, which is hosted by Murray Main Street, boasts more than fifty vendors in peak season from June to July. The market is open every Saturday 7a.m. to noon, May through October and is located on 5th and Maple Street. Many farmers benefit directly from coming to the Farmers Market and often sell out of their goods. It is a program helping to support local farms and artisans in the area. The market draws a substantial crowd each Saturday and is a fun way to shop locally for fresh produce, soaps, baked goods, and so much more. It is a great way to become immersed in the Murray community.



Annual Festivals & Events

Downtown Farmers Market: www.murrayfarmersmarket.com

Freedom Fest: www.tourmurray.com/freedomfest

Easter on the Square: www.murraymainstreet.org

Christmas Parade-Main St. Merriment: www.murraymainstreet.org

Downtown Car Show: www.murraymainstreet.org

Movies on the Square: www.facebook.com/downtownmurray

Fall & Spring City Wide Yard-Sale: www.tourmurray.com/citywide-yard-sale

Trivia Night: www.facebook.com/downtownmurray

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