

Bourbon Trail Planning Checklist

Your 3-Day Kentucky Bourbon Trail Trip | Print & check off as you plan

PRO TIP: The booking timeline matters more than anything else — start there. Buffalo Trace and Maker's Mark sell out weeks in advance.

1. Booking Timeline

8 Weeks Before Your Trip

- Book Buffalo Trace: Hard Hat Tour (Free, but sells out fast)
- Book Maker's Mark: Standard or Hand-Dip (\$18–\$75)

6 Weeks Before

- Book Angel's Envy: Distillery Tour or Finishing Touch (\$25–\$50)
- Book Old Forester: Standard or Bottle Your Own (\$20–\$75)

4 Weeks Before

- Book Evan Williams: Bourbon Experience Tour (\$18)
- Book Heaven Hill: You Do Bourbon or standard (\$20–\$50)
- Book lodging: Night 1 in Louisville, Night 2 near Bardstown/New Hope

2 Weeks Before

- Book Woodford Reserve: Standard or Corn to Cork (\$20–\$80)
- Make dinner reservations: Serafini or Proof on Main
- Arrange transportation: Designated driver or taxi plan

1 Week Before

- Print/save confirmations: All confirmation emails and directions
- Check weather: Forecast and adjust layers accordingly
- Pack essentials: Walking shoes, light jacket, cooler for bottles

Your Trip Details

Trip Dates: _____ Travelers: _____
 Home Base Night 1: _____ Home Base Night 2: _____

Day-by-Day Schedule

Day 1: Louisville — Whiskey Row

- 10:00 AM** **Evan Williams Bourbon Experience**
\$18 / 60 min
- 12:00 PM** **Lunch: Feast BBQ or Doc Crow's**
\$15-\$30
- 1:30 PM** **Old Forester Distillery**
\$20-\$75 / 60-90 min
- 3:30 PM** **Angel's Envy Distillery + Rooftop Bar**
\$25-\$50 / 60-90 min
- 6:30 PM** **Dinner: Proof on Main or Repeal**
\$40-\$80

Also worth visiting: Michter's (Bar 8314 upstairs), Kentucky Peerless, Rabbit Hole (NuLu)

Day 2: Bardstown — The Bourbon Capital

- 9:00 AM** **Drive Louisville to Maker's Mark (1 hr)**
Scenic drive
- 10:00 AM** **Maker's Mark Distillery (hand-dip!)**
\$18-\$75 / 60-120 min
- 12:30 PM** **Lunch: Old Talbott Tavern, Bardstown**
\$15-\$35
- 2:00 PM** **Heaven Hill Bourbon Experience**
\$20-\$50 / 60-90 min
- 3:45 PM** **Preservation Distillery**
\$15-\$30 / 45-60 min
- 5:00 PM** **Explore Bardstown square / Lux Row**
Walk-up
- Evening** **Settle in at New Hope / Bardstown lodging**

Also worth visiting: Willett, Bardstown Bourbon Co (Bottle & Bond), Log Still (New Hope)

Day 3: Frankfort — The Grand Finale

- 9:00 AM** **Drive to Woodford Reserve (45 min)**
Stop at Wallace Station
- 10:00 AM** **Woodford Reserve (optional full tour)**
\$20-\$80 / 60-120 min
- 12:30 PM** **Lunch: Serafini, Frankfort (Italian)**
\$20-\$45
- 2:00 PM** **Buffalo Trace Distillery**
FREE / 60-90 min
- 4:30 PM** **Castle & Key (bonus stop, Thu-Sun)**
\$15-\$30 / 60 min
- 5:30 PM** **Depart for home / airport**
~1 hr to Louisville

GIFT SHOP TIP: Ask Buffalo Trace what's behind the counter — Blanton's, Eagle Rare, Weller often available

My Tour Confirmations & Notes

2. Packing Checklist

- Comfortable closed-toe walking shoes (required for most tours)
- Light jacket or flannel (barrel warehouses are cool even in summer)
- Cooler for the car (bourbon + hot trunk = bad)
- Water bottles (tastings dehydrate you more than you'd think)
- Sunglasses and sunscreen (outdoor walking between buildings)
- Camera / phone charger (you'll take more photos than expected)
- Cash for tips (\$5–\$10 per tour guide is appreciated)
- Portable fan if visiting May–Sept (warehouses get hot)
- Designated driver plan or taxi numbers for Bardstown area

3. Budget Worksheet (Per Person)

Category	Budget Range	My Budget
Tours & Tastings	\$100 – \$250	_____
Lodging (2 nights)	\$140 – \$300	_____
Food & Drinks	\$150 – \$300	_____
Gas / Transportation	\$40 – \$50	_____
Gift Shop & Bottles	\$75 – \$200	_____
TOTAL	\$505 – \$1,100	_____

4. Pro Tips from Someone Who's Been

1. Book Buffalo Trace FIRST — the moment their calendar opens, grab your slot
2. Weekdays are 3–5x easier to book and less crowded at every distillery
3. Eat lunch big, dinner casual — you'll be tasting bourbon all afternoon
4. Don't order bourbon flights at bars — you've tasted enough at distilleries
5. Set a gift shop budget BEFORE you walk in — those bottles add up fast
6. The hand-dip at Maker's Mark is worth the premium — book it if you can
7. Castle & Key's cocktail bar is a hidden gem — don't skip it
8. Pace your tastings — you don't have to finish every pour (spit cups exist)
9. Bardstown taxis exist — Bardstown Taxi and My Old Kentucky Taxi for Day 2

Plan your full trip at mybourbontrailplan.com

[Interactive map](#) | [Distillery profiles](#) | [Booking guide](#) | [Trip builder](#) | [Lodging recommendations](#)