

BOWLING GREEN KENTUCKY

Geared for fun!



VISITBGKY.COM
800.326.7465

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY FACT SHEET

Bowling Green is located on the Barren River in south central Kentucky. It is conveniently located 110 miles south of Louisville and only 60 miles north of Nashville, Tennessee.

Area code: 270

County: Warren

Population: County 118,370; Bowling Green City 61,488

TRANSPORTATION

Interstate access: I-65

Parkways: William. H. Natcher, Louie B. Nunn

U.S. Highways: 31W, 68, 231

Kentucky Highways: 185, 80, 234, 1435

Airport: Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport. This airport has two paved runways that are lit for night-time flying.

TIME ZONE

Bowling Green is located in the Central Standard Time Zone. This can be confusing for some travelers because half of Kentucky is in the Eastern Standard Time Zone while the other half is in the Central Standard Time Zone. Bowling Green is within miles of the dividing line. Louisville, Lexington, and Frankfort are in the Eastern Standard Time while Nashville is Central. Please keep this in mind when traveling through airports and arriving at attractions and events.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Bowling Green has 35 hotels, including most major chains, and more than 2,800 rooms. It also has four bed and breakfasts and two campgrounds for your enjoyment.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is here to serve you! You can locate us at 352 Three Springs Road; Bowling Green, KY; 42104. For more information, please contact us at (270) 782-0800 or (800) 326-7465, fax (270) 842-2104 or log on to www.visitbgky.com.



BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY IS GEARED FOR FUN!

Where else can you go spelunking, witness an American icon in the works, go for a twisted ride in the air and come face-to-face with a guy named Big Red all in one weekend? Nowhere other than Bowling Green, Ky, a *National Geographic* Top 10 All-American City and Hot Rod City, USA. Legendary cars, wooden roller coasters, vintage railcars, and underground boat tours drive Bowling Green's ability to entertain and educate visitors, students and residents alike. Less than one hour north of Nashville, TN, off I-65, Bowling Green rolls out a red carpet experience for anyone searching for the Southern hospitality of a unique town on the move.

WHERE CORVETTES ARE BORN

As new Corvettes roll off the lines at the GM Corvette Assembly Plant, Bowling Green welcomes visitors to witness a behind-the-scenes view of an American dream in the making by participating in a plant tour. Visitors can also explore the world's fascination with the famous sports car at the National Corvette Museum, one of Edmunds' Top Ten Automotive Museums in the World, which features more than 70 Corvettes on display and interactive exhibits. New in 2014, the 184-acre facility at the NCM Motorsports Park offers high performance driving opportunities to car groups and visitors alike. If all that speed makes you long for days of slower travel, then listen to stories of life on the tracks with the push of a button and climb aboard the restored railcars at the Historic Railpark and Train Museum in the renovated 1925 L&N Depot.

EXPLORE BOWLING GREEN HIGH AND LOW

The core of Bowling Green's uniqueness lies deep within (literally). Lost River Cave offers a fascinating exploration of Bowling Green's cave system and is home to Kentucky's only underground boat tour on the river that *Ripley's Believe it or Not* claims is the shortest, deepest in the world. If you prefer higher ground, Bowling Green has that as well. Beech Bend Amusement Park's *Kentucky Rumbler* is hailed as the most twisted wooden roller coaster in seven states and will take you on a fun-filled journey that offers a bird's eye view of the park's 40+ rides and Splash Lagoon Water Park. Another breathtaking vista surrounds Bowling Green's historic house museum, Riverview at Hobson Grove, where Victorian décor and Civil War stories abound.

CLIMB "THE HILL"

High points are plentiful in Bowling Green, both in the rural areas and in the heart of the city, where Western Kentucky University's student population climbs "the hill" each semester. With renovated campus buildings and upgraded sports facilities, WKU successfully offers students and visitors state-of-the-art facilities, while still preserving its historic ambiance and natural beauty. Don't miss the Kentucky Museum's 'Recommended by Duncan Hines' exhibit for a sweet look at the Bowling Green native's career as a travel writer and packaged foods icon. Plus, the new Instruments of American Excellence exhibit showing a collection of the original instruments by which Americans have achieved extraordinary success, including tools used by Jimmy Carter, Sandra Day O'Connor, Tony Hawk and Maker's Mark.

TAKE HOME BOWLING GREEN FLAVOR

As the campus of WKU has expanded, so has the community of Bowling Green, offering an eclectic combination of shopping, dining and entertainment options to accommodate this college town's unique sense of style and contagious youthful enthusiasm. Opportunities for finding one-of-a-kind

products and nationally recognized brand name items abound. Admire artistic creations in galleries and museums, locally-distilled spirits at Corsair Distillery, one of *Fast Company's* Top 10 Most Innovative Food Companies of 2015, or find just the right attire for your sporting and travel adventures at the Fruit of the Loom Brand Shop or Camping World's headquarters. From dinnerware fresh from the kiln at Rickman Pottery to designer fashions at Greenwood Mall, Bowling Green impresses with its unique variety of items ready to take home.

AN OUT-IN-THE-COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Bowling Green offers an entertaining lesson in southern living, history, geography, engineering and agriculture. Amidst the rolling hills of Bowling Green's countryside, you'll find beautiful landscapes and chances to experience the area's rural heritage, including a visit to Chaney's Dairy Farm, where homemade ice cream and arts and crafts satisfy your appetite for Kentucky-made products (they make more than 18,000 gallons of ice cream per year). For those wanting a taste of Bowling Green's rolling hills, the Warren County Quilt Trail provides a treasure hunt of quilt squares painted on barns. Local harvests are shared at seasonal farmers' markets and high atop one of Warren County's highest elevations at Jackson's Orchard. Bowling Green is also home to one-of-a-kind restaurants offering a tasteful palate of rural heritage and a blend of new cultures.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bowling Green celebrates its uniqueness with numerous community and cultural festivals, theatrical and musical performances, concerts in the park and a wide variety of events designed to enlighten and entertain. Families can find something for everyone to enjoy throughout the year, including hot air balloon and music festivals, the Festival of Trains in December, the Duncan Hines Festival in summertime and the BB&T All-American Soap Box Derby (the third-largest of its kind) in May. Sports fans have plenty of options to choose from, ranging from athletic competitions at WKU to stock car racing at Beech Bend Raceway, the famous Medical Center 10K Classic, golf and disc golf, fishing and canoeing opportunities, championship rodeo competitions and a variety of automotive events like the National Corvette Homecoming. The newly-built Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center opened its first full season in 2012 and welcomes Broadway shows, musicians and cultural events of all types. Bowling Green also hosts the state's largest literary event, the Southern Kentucky Bookfest (a KTIA Top 10 Festivals & Events winner in 2013 and 2014) and the Holley NHRA National Hot Rod Reunion.

A ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE

The area's heritage is treasured and explored at museums and historic interpretive sites that celebrate the land, the river, the craftsmanship and culture of the region. With attractions like the Kentucky Museum on WKU's campus, the Victorian home of Riverview at Hobson Grove, Aviation Heritage Park, the Downing Museum and Baker Arboretum, local history comes to life. Bowling Green offers an entertaining experience that just keeps getting better. Its uniqueness is valued both locally and nationally, with coverage in high-profile media outlets, including HGTV, the History Channel, the Travel Channel, Sci-Fi network, *Southern Living*, *Motor Trend*, *Travel America*, the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *AAA Home & Away*, just to name a few. Come experience what everyone is talking about and plan your trip to Bowling Green, where natural beauty, tradition and innovation offer a unique blend of entertainment you can't find anywhere else.

We've highlighted a few of our visitor offerings that appeal to nature lovers, car enthusiasts, history buffs, sports fans and adventurers. For more information, contact the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-326-7465 or www.visitbgky.com. Visit the website for more detailed listings and a calendar of events.

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WATCH AMERICAN DREAMS BEING MADE IN BOWLING GREEN

Bowling Green, Ky.— There's no other place in the world like the General Motors Corvette Assembly Plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The one million square foot structure - enough space for 22-football fields - on 212 acres is just off of I-65 exit 28. The cars that roll off the assembly line actually do make dreams come true.

The Corvettes were moved to Bowling Green from St. Louis in 1981 and since then thousands of visitors have strolled through the one-hour tour and watched America's favorite sports car slowly emerge. First, the frame and body begin to take shape, then the engine and drive train merge, the windshields are attached, and finally in one of the most interesting phases of the tour, the chassis and body are joined.

The completed 'Vette weighs 3,200 pounds and contains 1,376 parts from 387 different suppliers. The ZR1 Corvette has an aluminum frame in comparison to the standard coupe and convertible's steel frame with a weight savings of over 130 pounds. During the manufacturing of the aluminum frame nearly 100% of the aluminum scrap is recycled.

Each new car is run through a water tunnel to test for leaks, revved up on a stationary wheel and monitored on the plant's latest computerized equipment. And to further add to Corvette's quality control, three of them are "audited" each morning when they are driven from the line and turned loose on the local roads and streets of Bowling Green for various stages of testing.

Even though there are more than seven miles of conveyers that move the cars and parts in the building, the Corvette is still the star of the show. Once that engine is started and the motor growls, someone's dream is made. Every Corvette made at the GM Assembly Plant has been custom ordered either by the future owner or a specific dealer. Production of the Cadillac XLR began in Bowling Green in August 2003 on a totally separate assembly line from the Corvette, but discontinued in 2009 as GM restructured and that model was discontinued. One of the major reasons the XLR was built here is that it shares the same hydro-formed frame as the Corvette. The two-seater luxury roadster also has a fully retractable convertible hardtop.

"The Corvette Plant has always been a big draw for Bowling Green," offered Vicki Fitch, Executive Director of the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. "And now with tours being offered multiple times a day, we expect even more visitors to experience the American icon in the works." The Assembly Plant was featured on National Geographic Channel's popular *Ultimate Factories* series in November 2007 and received the 2002 Kentucky Governor's Award for Industrial Leadership in Pollution Prevention.

The GM Corvette Assembly Plant reopened for public tours in October of 2013 after undergoing a major expansion. Over \$130 million was spent for production of the next generation Corvette, beginning with the 2014 Corvette Stingray.

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Tours are offered at 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday, except during model changes and holidays. For more updates and re-opening information, please visit corvetteassembly.com. Admission is \$7 and children under 7 are not admitted.

GM recently announced that the Performance Build Center, currently located at the Wixom, MI facility, will move to the GM Chevrolet Corvette Assembly Plant. The current PBC employs 29, and builds engines for the Grand Sport Coupe manual, Z06, 427 Convertible and Corvette ZR1. 3,376 engines were each built by hand at the factory

A few tips:

- Reservations can be made by going to www.corvetteassembly.com.
- The tour is only offered to groups by reservation, but reservations are recommended for individuals as tours fill up fast and the tour size is limited.
- The walk is long, can get noisy at times and is on concrete, so wear comfortable shoes.
- Special arrangements are made for wheelchairs.
- No cameras, open-toed shoes, backpacks, purses, fanny packs, open containers, weapons of any kind or children under seven allowed in the tour.
- No spiked heels or walking assists are permitted.

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NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM ENSHRINES THE HISTORY OF THE *WORLD'S* MOST FAMOUS AMERICAN SPORTS CAR

Bowling Green, Ky.— The National Corvette Museum is a museum unlike any other on earth. The exterior is immediately recognized by its space-age design, with sweeping lines that match the sport car it honors. Completely departing from the traditional rectangular museum concept, the Corvette showcase winds over an attractively landscaped 60-acre site featuring a large, circular car salon encased by a bright yellow cone-shaped roof. Above it soars a red, 12-story spire, visible for many miles and a landmark of the Bowling Green area.

The interior of the 115,000-square-foot building uses curved walls, exciting geometric shapes and full-scale diorama sights and sounds to tell the past, present, and future story of the Corvette. More than 75 Corvettes of every era - some production and some one-of-a-kind concept vehicles - are displayed inside. The Museum debuted at its 15th Anniversary Celebration in 2009 a 47,000 square foot expansion that added an exhibit hall, Conference Center, Corvette Café, and an extensive Library and Archives.

The tour begins in the 200-seat Chevrolet Theater with a brief introductory film blending the 50-year history of the legendary sports car with the mystique that sets it apart from all other automobiles. A nostalgia area houses the first exhibits with a series of realistic scenes mirroring the Corvette's early history. Continuing, the Route 66 tribute features a classic Corvette convertible and other stunning Corvettes that not only catch the eye, but also underscore the era's romance with the open highway. Next is a realistic Chevrolet dealer showroom from the 1960s.

Visitors then enter an 80-foot diameter performance area, surrounded by a giant panoramic mural of famous Corvette racing scenes. This section is exclusively devoted to Corvette performance, one of the car's best-known accomplishments. Here visitors can interact and experience the excitement of the racing pits at the "Pit Crew Challenge" exhibit or take a test drive on one of two state-of-the-art driving simulators inside the Driving Simulation Theater.

The visitor then advances to the design and development area to see how Corvettes are created at the General Motors Technical Center, and then it's on to the Enthusiasts Area where the true Corvette Lifestyle is celebrated. From here visitors enter the largest display area of the Museum, the Corvette Skydome, nearly 140 feet in diameter room and home to nearly 20 Corvettes and the Hall of Fame. Cars in this area, as in every part of the Museum, are constantly changing.

The Exhibit Hall is the final display area in the Museum, housing an ever-changing display of special-themed exhibits that rotate every few months. Rounding out the experience is the Corvette Store, a 4,600-square-foot retail store offering a wide variety of Corvette, Chevrolet and other automotive items. The Corvette Store gives way to Corvette Boulevard and the "Nursery" where visitors can

watch new Corvette purchases come to life in the Delivery Area as owners take delivery of their new Corvette at the Museum.

Throughout the Museum, figures from the Corvette's past and present help bring the exhibits to life. Learn about the men and women who are responsible for designing and engineering the car as well as those who raced the cars and made them famous. Over 20 cast-in-life sculpted figures created for the Museum by a New York artist can be found throughout the Museum.

The Museum is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., minus major holidays. Tours are self-guided. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and group rates are available. Call 800-53-VETTE or visit www.corvettemuseum.org for more information.

This quick trip through the National Corvette Museum only begins to skim the highlights of this amazing tribute to America's sports car. The excitement, color and adventure that is the Corvette must be seen first-hand to be appreciated. Discover why Bowling Green, Kentucky is known across the world as Corvette City, USA.

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*****Note:** On February 12, 2014 at 5:44. a.m., the National Corvette Museum received a call from their security company alerting them of their motion detectors going off in the Skydome area of the Museum. Upon arrival it was discovered that a **sinkhole had collapsed within the Museum**. No one was in or around the Museum at the time. The size of the hole is approximately 40 feet across and 50 feet deep.

Eight Corvettes were affected by this incident. Those cars include:

- 1993 ZR-1 Spyder on loan from General Motors
- 2009 ZR1 "Blue Devil" on loan from General Motors
- 1962 Black Corvette • 1984 PPG Pace Car
- 1992 White 1 Millionth Corvette
- 1993 Ruby Red 40th Anniversary Corvette
- 2001 Mallett Hammer Z06 Corvette
- 2009 White 1.5 Millionth Corvette

Two barrier walls were installed between the Skydome building and the rest of the Museum. One wall included a video monitor, which showed live webcam footage of the work being completed in the Skydome. The other incorporated a plexi- glass viewing area so that guests could witness the sinkhole for themselves from a safe distance. Both areas were part of the museum tour and included with regular admission. The Museum hosted a special "Great 8" exhibit April 18 - August 3, 2014, displaying the recovered Corvettes, as well as other cars that were on display in the Skydome, photographs, international media coverage of the event and more. The sinkhole has been filled and construction repairing the Skydome is set to be completed by September 2015 at the Museum's 21st Anniversary Celebration.

For details, visit www.corvettemuseum.org.

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DUNCAN HINES MORE THAN A BRAND HOMETOWN CELEBRATES FAMOUS KENTUCKIAN

Bowling Green, Ky.—August 1, 2007 - As the vacation season winds down, Bowling Green, Kentucky, is paying tribute to the pioneer of travel tips. The man who helped Americans discover the joys of road trips in the '30s and '40s is none other than Bowling Green native and cake mix icon, Duncan Hines, and the city honors him with an annual festival, a scenic byway, a stretch of highway, and now, a new museum exhibit.

“Recommended by Duncan Hines” opens at Western Kentucky University’s Kentucky Museum on Friday, August 3, an 8-section exhibit highlighting Hines’ rise to notoriety. What began as a hobby of rating the dining establishments he encountered while a traveling salesman led to his own publishing company and a full career as a travel writer. Focusing on restaurants that offered a clean environment and local flavors, Hines’ books forced the dining industry to raise its standards as more and more travelers demanded a quality meal, looking for the “Recommended by Duncan Hines” sign before they would step foot into a new place.

After turning down countless advertising offers for years, it was not until Hines was 68 years old, that he went into partnership with Roy Parks creating the Duncan Hines brand. The first product to bear his name was vanilla ice cream and then came Duncan Hines coffee, Duncan Hines china, Duncan Hines grills, even Duncan Hines cookware, to name a few! The popularity of these products proved America trusted Hines’ opinion and many of these original artifacts are on display at the exhibit.

Retro design elements throughout the exhibit conjure nostalgia, and storyboards around the sections offer insight to Hines’ personality. Even celebrity chefs today can agree with his five rules of good home cooking:

- 1) Give the food loving care
- 2) Taste as you cook
- 3) Make good, simple dishes
- 4) Know when to put it on and take it off
- 5) Food must look good, taste good, and be good for you

The exhibit opening kicks off the 11th Annual Duncan Hines Festival and additional activities at the Kentucky Museum on August 3 include the Festival Recipe Contest at 4pm, the Festival Art Awards and Silent Auction at 5pm, and a 1950s Theme Party at 7pm. Saturday, August 4, festivities begin with Hines’ favorite breakfast, country ham and eggs, and a presentation by historian Jonathan Jeffrey at 9am. The Festival Children’s Pageant is at 10am followed by a presentation of the Kentucky Historical Society, “Adventures in Good Eating: A Taste of Duncan Hines” at 3pm.

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The Duncan Hines Festival continues on Friday, August 10, at downtown Fountain Square Park with live music and "Uncle Duncan's Duck Derby" in which sponsored rubber ducks 'race' for the win.

Visit www.duncanhinesfestival.com or www.duncanhinesmuseum.com for more information, or contact the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-326-7465.

The exhibit is possible due to financial gifts from the Hines Family, Pinnacle Foods, The Park Foundation, Western Kentucky University's Enhancement Fund and the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. Cora Jane Spiller, Hines oldest living relative, donated personal items to the exhibit and the BGACVB submitted a large collection of artifacts.

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LOST RIVER CAVE A HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL GOLD MINE

Bowling Green, Ky.—Nearly 60 feet below U.S. Highway 31W in Bowling Green lies one of the Commonwealth’s best kept secrets—a cultural, historical and geological treasure. Lost River, a 68-acre nature preserve, offers the outdoor enthusiast walking trails, wildlife habitats and Kentucky’s only underground boat tour.

Lost River Cave’s history dates back to 8,500 B.C. when Native Americans used the cave for shelter and buried their dead in the cave’s entrance. Some of Warren County’s earliest industries were located at the cave’s entrance in the late 1700s. These included a grist mill, a saw mill, wool carding and a distillery.

Lost River Cave also had an important role during the Civil War. Confederate forces used the cave as a temporary shelter in 1861. Just over a year later, the Union troops moved in and camped there before marching on to Nashville. Col. John Hunt Morgan and his crew are said to have hidden in the cave after burning the depot at South Union. Even Jenny Lind, the famous 19th century singer nicknamed the “Swedish Nightingale,” visited the cave for a brief time during the Civil War era and said it was one of “the most beautiful places” she had ever seen.

Local folklore even claims that Jesse James and his band of outlaws used the cave as a hide out after robbing a bank in nearby Russellville. The underground boat tour features a “Jesse James” stone believed to be in the area of his hiding.

The Underground Nite Club was a gathering place for local socialites for nearly 30 years. Opened in 1933 and located at the cave’s entrance, this ballroom-type hang out came equipped with a built in bar that didn’t even require ice to keep the drinks cold. At a constantly cool 57 degrees, the club provided a welcomed retreat from the heat of summer. Big bands and other musical talents, including Dinah Shore, frequented the Underground Nite Club during the height of its operation. Laws banning the sale of alcohol below street level finally brought the club to a close in the early 1960s. Today, the Lost River Cave ballroom is still used for special occasions and events.

Lost River Cave also provides an array of wildlife. Various bat species, camelback crickets and blind crayfish have made themselves a home inside the cave. Although the bats move out to be closer to their food sources during the summer months, they return in full force for the winter.

A scenic path leads away from the cave to the butterfly habitat. This enclosed garden is home to several of Kentucky’s native butterflies and is a seasonal attraction open from late-May through mid-September.

Further down the path is a wild bird sanctuary. This quiet, wooded area is the perfect place to watch more than 130 different species of birds.

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One of the most popular trails is the two-mile Blue Hole Trail, including four blue holes along the easy hiking trail. The name is derived from the unique bluish color of the water from its natural calcite concentration. Each hole has folklore associated with it, including one story about young women would look into the water with hopes of seeing the face of the man they should marry in the reflection.

Lost River Cave is open year-round with the exception of Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year's. However, large amounts of rain can flood the cave and make it impossible to give boat tours. It is suggested to check the weather in Bowling Green or call ahead if traveling a long distance to visit Lost River Cave. For more information about Lost River Cave & Valley, including upcoming events, call 866-274-2283 or 270-393-0077, or visit lostrivercave.com.

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