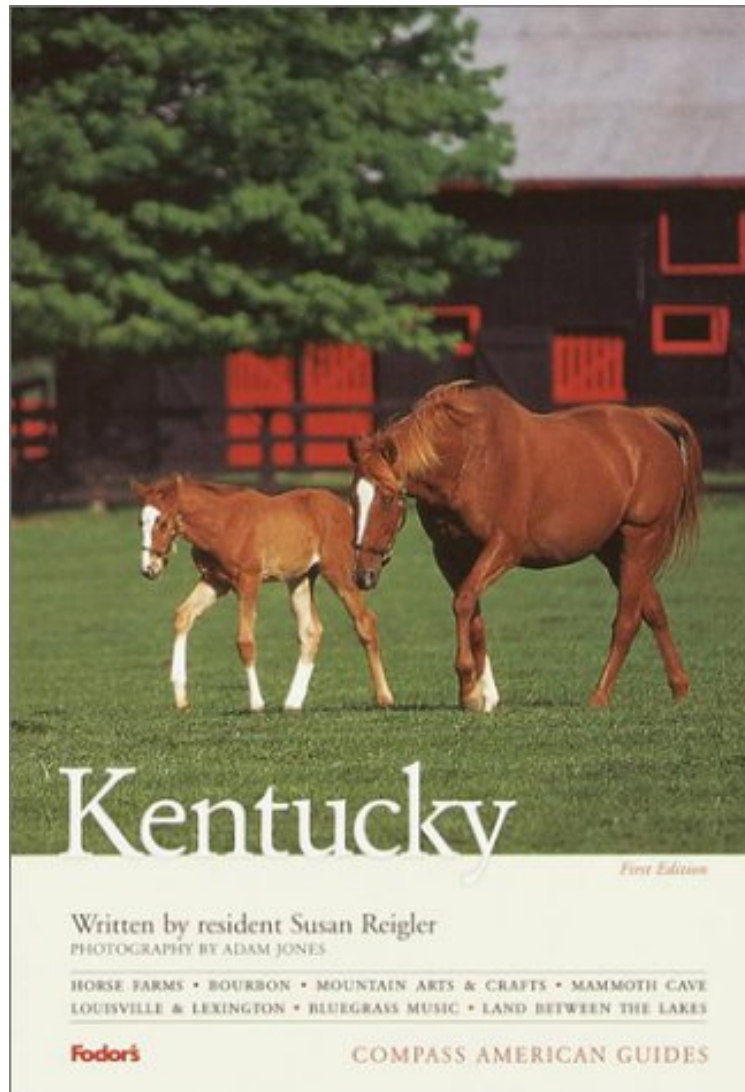


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Compass American Guides: Kentucky, 1st Edition (Full-color Travel Guide)

Susan H. Reigler

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Susan H. Reigler : Compass American Guides: Kentucky, 1st Edition (Full-color Travel Guide) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Compass American Guides: Kentucky, 1st Edition (Full-color Travel Guide):

Created by local writers and photographers, Compass American Guides are the ultimate insider's guides, providing in-

depth coverage of the history, culture and character of America's most spectacular destinations. Compass Kentucky covers everything there is to see and do in the Bluegrass State -- plus gorgeous full-color photographs; a wealth of archival images; topical essays and literary extracts; detailed color maps; and capsule reviews of hotels and restaurants. These insider guides are perfect for new and longtime residents as well as vacationers who want a deep understanding of Kentucky.

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OVERVIEW

Eastern Highlands The mountainous region of eastern Kentucky is defined by the spine of the Appalachian Mountains, stretching from the northeast tip of the state to the Cumberland Gap in the southeast corner. This is a region of old-time mountain culture, coal mines, a boom-and-bust economy, and beautiful vistas of tree-covered, mist-shrouded slopes.

Inner Bluegrass and Lexington This rolling green countryside, dotted with manicured horse farms and antebellum mansions, is the image most outsiders conjure when they think of Kentucky. About half of the state's renowned bourbon distilleries are here, too. The city of Lexington, home of the University of Kentucky, is the commercial center. The state capitol, Frankfort, is located nearby.

Northern Triangle The Ohio River forms the northern boundary of Kentucky, and was long an important route for settlement and industry. River towns large and small remain, among them Maysville, Covington, and Newport. In the hilly country south of the river, farms, especially tobacco, dot the valleys.

Louisville The state's largest city is famous for Churchill Downs racetrack and the Kentucky Derby. It's also the hometown of boxing legend Muhammad Ali. It was founded in 1778 when George Rogers Clark, leading settlers and soldiers in the area, decided to stop at the Falls of the Ohio, a rock outcropping into a river containing the world's largest exposed Devonian fossil beds.

Central Kentucky This is the part of Kentucky where Abraham Lincoln was born. Largely agricultural, there are vast fields of corn, used in the making of bourbon. (The rest of the distilleries are here.) The world's largest cave, Mammoth Cave, is here, preserved as a national park.

Western Kentucky Among the destinations for nature lovers here are the Land Between the Lakes in the southwestern portion of the region and John James Audubon State Park, which also houses a museum with exhibits of the artist/naturalist's paintings. Cities overlooking the Ohio River in the northern part of the region are Owensboro and Henderson. Located at the westernmost tip of the state, the Jackson Purchase has a strikingly different landscape from the rest of the state. There are wetlands and swamps rich in wildlife in a region bounded by three rivers: the Ohio, the Tennessee, and the Mississippi. The largest city is Paducah, located where the Tennessee flows into the Ohio.