



Points of Interest



Bourbon Warehouse MP: 38

The first of many buildings in Bardstown designed for bourbon distillation. The black coating on the buildings is a natural mold that results from prolonged distillation. Bardstown Barrel Limited is a coopeage that still builds the barrels used in the process.

Bourbon Spring MP: 36

Kentucky water sources are a prime candidate for bourbon distillation because of the natural limestone shelves that purify the water.



James Safe House MP: 32

This green-roofed home houses some legendary stories about the outlaws Frank and Jesse James. This location was reportedly a safe haven for the infamous bandits where they often visited the family of neighbors from their childhood who relocated to Kentucky.



Samuels Bourbon

Rickhouse MP: 31

Bill Samuels, founder of the T.W. Samuels brand of bourbon, created these unique structures. By simply altering the design of the roof to facilitate better air flow, Samuels discovered a way to produce bourbon as effectively as his competitors while saving millions of dollars in the long-term. These rickhouses were one of the first commercial distilleries in the region and the only ones in the state of Kentucky to utilize this design. Heaven Hill currently uses these warehouses for their own productions.



Deatsville Depot MP: 31

On July 26, 1865, Frank James and 15 other members of the Quantrill gang surrendered to Union forces at Samuels (Deatsville) Depot; however Frank and another raider managed to escape. Outside of William Quantrill himself, William "Bloody Bill" Anderson is perhaps the best-known member of the Quantrill Gang. Proclaimed as one of the deadliest guerilla leaders in the Civil War.

My Old Kentucky

DINNER TRAIN

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Four Roses MP: 29

This is the Four Roses Bourbon facility. The glistening pond adjacent to the facility is an important component, as water both begins the creation process and helps the bourbon achieve the necessary proof (between 80 and 125). Four Roses claims to be the “only distillery using single-story rack warehouses to minimize temperature variations.”

Bernheim Forest MP: 29

The Bernheim Forest, named for the German immigrant Isaac W. Bernheim who donated the land in 1929. Bernheim began his career as a peddler, but moved to Kentucky and eventually became successful in the bourbon distillation business with the I.W. Harper brand. At the time, Bernheim’s 14,000-acre gift to the people of Kentucky was one of the largest donations of land in the country’s history. Throughout the forest you find oak trees used to make bourbon barrels.



Jackson Hollow Trestle

MP: 27

The Jackson Hollow Trestle, built in 1860 by the Bardstown and Louisville Railroad, is the only all-wooden trestle to survive the Civil War, primarily because of its central importance in distributing bourbon to the Union and Confederacy alike. The bridge extends 310 feet across and towers 60 feet over the hollow.



Jim Beam MP: 25

As you exit the Bernheim forest, you will see the Jim Beam facilities. The Jim Beam American Warehouse on their famous bottle front is located just over the hill. The company was founded by the German-immigrated Beam family and named after James B. Beam for his role in rebuilding the business following Prohibition. The Beam family not only continues to manage the company, but has also served as Master Distillers for Heaven Hill since that company’s founding, thus creating a close-knit community among the area’s distillers.



Limestone Springs

Junction MP: 24

The final attraction along the route is the Limestone Springs Junction. This old-English style depot is presently owned by the Jim Beam company, but in the past it reportedly housed numerous famous and wealthy passengers on the second floor of its overnight facilities. The depot also served as a filming location for the 1981 movie “Stripes” featuring Bill Murray and John Candy.