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ceremonies of the events. Other events include Taste of Derby Festival on April 20, featuring 45 of Louisville's finest restaurants and bourbon tasting, another famous product of Kentucky; U.S. Bank Balloon Glow on April 23-24, where the public can walk the fields to speak with balloon pilots prior to their evening launch.

## LEXINGTON

While the race is in Louisville, the city of Lexington, located 68 miles to the east, is where the top racehorses are bred, born, trained, officially registered, bought and sold, retired and buried.

If you don't want to worry yourself with a crowd, but still want to have a good Derby experience, Keeneland Race Course ([www.keeneland.com](http://www.keeneland.com); 800-456-3412) is home to the world's largest Derby party. The betting windows are open, souvenir mint julep glasses are ready to



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drink from, and there are activities for children. You can take in the race on the television indoors or the large-screen televisions outside.

Lexington and the surrounding counties are home to the largest concentration of Thoroughbred horse farms world-wide. All year long, you can tour a handful of horse farms and even get to see past Derby winners. There are guided tours, such as Blue Grass Tours (800-755-6956), \$25/person; and custom tours, such as Kentucky Horse Tours (859-846-9400), which are a little more expensive, but more personal. If you decide to go on your own, call first to make sure that they are open to tours. Some of the farms that are home to champions are: Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville (859-885-3345), home to Real Quiet (1998); and Three Chimneys Farm, west of Lexington, is home to 1997 Preakness winner Silver Charm and 2001 Horse of the Year, Point Given.

The Kentucky Horse Park ([www.imh.org](http://www.imh.org); 800-678-8813) is a must for anyone interested in horses or horse racing. Here you will find a memorial and burial site of Man o' War, who did not run in the Derby. This working horse farm sits on 1,200 acres and has two museums and over 50 different breeds of horses.



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## DERBY SOUVENIRS

Like many great events, the Derby is known for its souvenirs, and if it is horse related, you can find it in any shop in Lexington and Louisville. For the edible souvenirs, Old Kentucky Chocolates (859-278-4444) in Lexington features Derby-spirited candy, such as old-fashioned bourbon balls, chocolate Thoroughbreds, and Derby mints. No visit to this area is complete without a slice of Derby Pie, available in local restaurants and specialty food stores. Here is a bit of trivia for you: only the restaurants serving the real deal are allowed to use the trademark name, Derby Pie; in other restaurants, you may find it as "Famous Horserace Pie" or "Bluegrass Pie." □

*Top: The Kentucky Derby Balloon Race (one of the many activities held during the Derby) at Churchill Downs.*

*Center: The world's largest Derby party, at Keeneland Race Course, is legendary.*

*Above: Thoroughbreds grazing in Lexington.*

For more information about the area:

[www.louisville-visitors.com](http://www.louisville-visitors.com)

[www.visitlex.com](http://www.visitlex.com)

[www.kytravel.com](http://www.kytravel.com)

