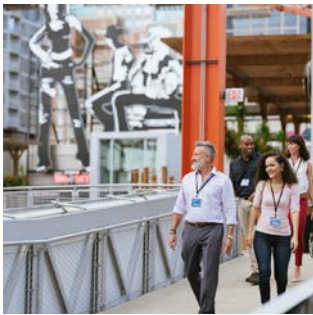
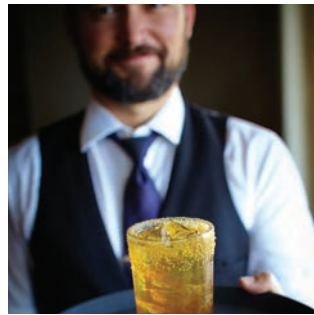


Kansas City



Traditions & Trivia • Story Ideas • What's Trending

NEWS.VISITKC.COM

KANSAS CITY TRADITIONS

Authentic, All-American and Uniquely KC

SWINGING JAZZ

From the Roaring '20s to the early '40s, jazz reigned in Kansas City. The city's 12th Street became world-renowned for its jazz clubs, gambling parlors and brothels—earning Kansas City the moniker the “Paris of the Plains.”

Today, live jazz can still be heard regularly at 40 clubs throughout the city.

WORLD-FAMOUS BARBECUE

When most people think of Kansas City, barbecue comes to mind. And there's good reason: the city's signature food is served up at more than 100 barbecue establishments, each boasting a house specialty.

Every fall, Kansas City hosts 600 teams at the world's largest barbecue competition, the American Royal World Series of Barbecue.

CITY OF FOUNTAINS

Kansas City is home to more than 200 fountains—more than any other city in the world except Rome. From large and majestic to small and whimsical, discover waterworks dedicated to fallen firefighters, the city's children, women's leadership and more.

KC's most photographed fountain is the ornate Mill Creek Fountain, located near the Spanish-inspired Country Club Plaza.



FAMOUS KC

Actors

Don Cheadle
◀ Paul Rudd
Jason Sudeikis
Ellie Kemper
Eric Stonestreet
Ginger Rogers
Ed Asner
Dianne Wiest
Rob Riggle
Chris Cooper

Icons

◀ Amelia Earhart
Walt Disney
Walter Cronkite

Historical Figures

Harry S. Truman
Tom Pendergast
◀ Jesse James

Athletes

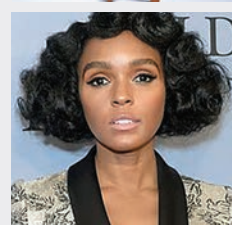
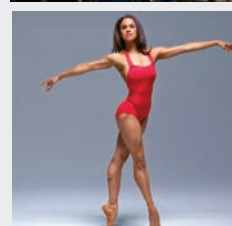
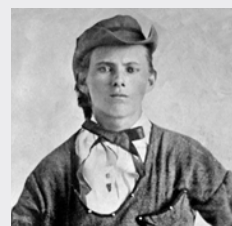
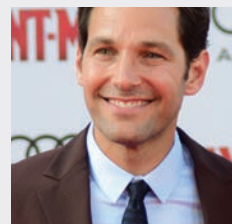
◀ Buck O'Neil
Tom Watson
Maurice Greene
Satchel Paige
George Brett

Artists

Thomas Hart Benton
◀ Misty Copeland
George Caleb Bingham

Musicians

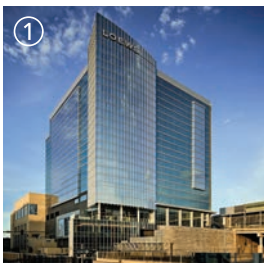
Charlie Parker
Count Basie
David Cook
Melissa Etheridge
◀ Janelle Monáe



DID YOU KNOW?

25.2 million visitors travel to the Kansas City region each year, supporting an industry that employs 48,000 people and generates \$5.6 billion in visitor spending.

WHAT'S TRENDING IN KC



LOEWS KANSAS CITY ①

Kansas City's skyline and convention package was forever changed with the debut of the 800-room Loews Kansas City Hotel. Opened in June 2020, this luxury property comes complete with a connector bridge adjoining the KC Convention Center and 60,000 square feet of meeting space of its own, plus destination restaurants, a spa and plenty more that crown the hotel as the first major hotel built in Downtown Kansas City since 1985.



NEW SINGLE-TERMINAL AIRPORT ②

In 2017, voters overwhelmingly approved the addition of a new single-terminal at Kansas City International Airport. For visitors, this means a state-of-the-art transit hub designed to meet the needs of modern flight travel. For meeting planners, it means added convenience and enhanced accommodations for any group. The new, 39-gate single-terminal will land at KCI in March 2023.



KC STREETCAR EXPANSION ③

Since its launch in 2016, more than 5 million riders have traveled the 2.2-mile starter route—a free, modern mode of transportation that connects Downtown with other popular entertainment districts. Thanks to voters and federal funding, a 7-mile, \$351-million expansion is now underway to lengthen the route to KC's Country Club Plaza area. Construction will begin in 2022 and wrap up in 2025.



"THE BUCK STOPS HERE" ④

Reopening in 2021, the **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum** has completed a massive, \$25 million renovation—the largest in the museum's history, set in motion to preserve and enhance the impactful leader's legacy. Visitors can expect an entirely new experience developed for 21st-century audiences, with fresh exhibits, expanded education programs and other essential updates. While in charming Independence, check out the Truman Home and the revitalized Independence Square.



MO-MENTOUS OCCASIONS ⑤

Accentuated by the bicentennial of Missouri, the Show-Me State has a lot to celebrate in 2021. Time travel to Independence and commemorate 200 years of the Santa Fe Trail at the **National Frontier Trails Museum**. Follow in the footsteps of Jackie Robinson, Buck O'Neill and other Black baseball legends at the **Negro Leagues Baseball Museum**, which plans to celebrate the league's 2020 centennial with special programs and exhibits well through 2021. Or stand in awe of the **Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts**, a cultural and architectural icon turning the page on its first decade of inspiring audiences.



KIDDING AROUND ⑥

It pays to be a kid in Kansas City. Running, jumping, splashing and sharing are all encouraged at the new **Regnier Family Wonderscope Children's Museum**—a joyful, self-guided environment that holds to a child-centered, no-failure philosophy. Set to debut later this year is **The Rabbit Hole**, touted as the world's first "Explor-a-Storium"—an immersive storybook wonderland where beloved children's books like *Good Night Moon* and *Where the Wild Things Are* spring to life. Let curiosity be your guide at the newly enhanced **Science City**, home to more than 200 interactive exhibits and countless STEM-based events.

ANNIVERSARIES TO NOTE

— 2021 —

Santa Fe Trail (200)

State of Missouri (200)

Kansas City Stockyards (150)

Truman Sports Complex (50)

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts (10) ▼



— 2022 —

Kansas City International Airport (50)

— 2023 —

Country Club Plaza (100)

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (90) ▼



KANSAS CITY TRIVIA

ALL THE BASICS

Population:
2.1 million (MSA)

Time Zone:
Central



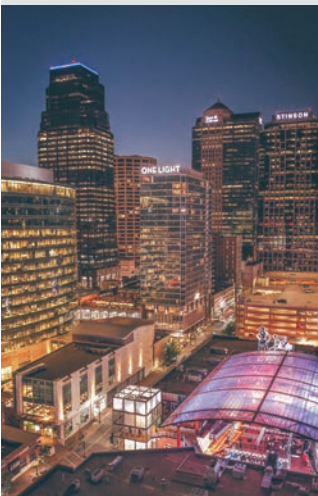
Average Age:
36.2

Average Yearly Rainfall:
39"



Airport: Kansas City
International Airport (**MCI**)

Nicknames:
KC
HEART OF AMERICA
CITY OF FOUNTAINS



**"KANSAS CITY'S
MOMENT
IS NOW."**

– Budget Travel

NECESSARY NUMBERS

2 states: the KC MSA includes both Missouri and Kansas

Downtown KC has experienced more than **\$7 billion** in commercial, residential and hotel development in the last 10 years.



The Kansas City area boasts more than **100** barbecue restaurants.

Located in the heart of the country, Kansas City is only a **3-hour** flight from either coast.

The City of Kansas City, Missouri, touts **220** parks, **134** miles of trails and bikeways, **29** lakes, **103** playgrounds and **119** monuments.

142.2 decibels at Arrowhead Stadium set the Guinness World Record for the loudest stadium on the planet.

HOMETOWN HISTORY

Walt Disney opened his first animation company, Laugh-O-Gram Studio, in Kansas City, where he fed a small rodent that became the inspiration for Mickey Mouse.



Hallmark, the largest greeting card maker in the world, began in KC in 1910 when Joyce C. Hall started selling postcards out of two shoeboxes at the local YMCA.

KC "ignored" **Prohibition** during the 1920s, leading to an abundance of jazz clubs, brothels and gambling halls, earning KC the moniker "The Paris of the Plains."

Publisher Andrews McMeel Universal, known for **popular comics** such as "The Far Side" and "Calvin and Hobbes," has been headquartered in KC since its founding in 1975.

OFFBEAT TRIVIA

Each March, KC hosts more **college basketball** games than anywhere in the country.

Modeled after Seville, Spain, the **Country Club Plaza** opened in 1922 as the nation's first outdoor shopping district.

Local advertising agency Bernstein-Rein conceived the McDonald's **Happy Meal** after the owner noticed his son staring at the cereal box during breakfast.



M&M's candy coating was invented at KC's Stowers Institute. Other KC **inventions** include the fire pole, the Bomb Pop, the bumper sticker, Rival crockpot and Wishbone salad dressing.

The Kansas City Royals are named after another area institution: **The American Royal**, a weeks-long horse and livestock show dating back to 1899 and featuring barbecue contests, rodeos and a full-fledged festival.

At least four different **U.S. presidents** have dined at the original Arthur Bryant's Barbeque. Harry S. Truman was considered a regular because he frequented so often.



In the late 1940s, 86 factories were producing **garments** in KC. It was said that one in seven American women wore clothing made here.



DEREK KLAUS

Director of Communications
dklaus@visitkc.com • 816-691-3849



TRACI MOON

Senior VP of Marketing & Communications
tmoon@visitkc.com • 816-691-3829

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