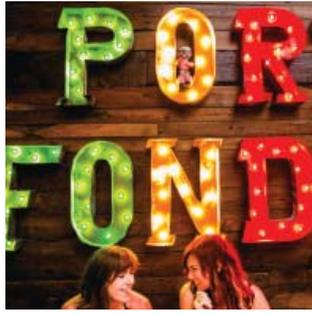


# Kansas City



Traditions & Trivia • Story ideas • What's Trending  
[NEWS.VISITKC.COM](http://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 the world's largest barbecue competition of 600 teams, the American Royal 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 J.C. Nichols Memorial, 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 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?

24 million visitors travel to the Kansas City region each year, supporting an industry that employs 47,000 people and generates \$5.1 billion in visitor spending.

# WHAT'S TRENDING IN KC



## NEW CONVENTION CENTER HOTEL ①

The new 800-room Loews Kansas City Convention Center Hotel will totally change the convention experience in Kansas City. Think big. State-of-the-art amenities, a signature restaurant, 60,000 square feet of meeting and event space and a new connector bridge to the Kansas City Convention Center combine to make the perfect lodging option for any group of any size. Expect this new addition to the city skyline in early 2020, with construction beginning fall 2017.



## KC STREETCAR ②

Now in its second year, the KC Streetcar far surpassed expectations in its inaugural 365 days, thanks in part to the more than 2 million riders and \$2 billion in investment along the 2.2-mile line. Climb aboard and explore the city's Downtown renaissance.



## RAISE A PINT ③

There's never been a better time to toast to KC craft beer. The independent brewery scene features more than a dozen innovative brewers while Boulevard Brewing Company's new Visitors Center merges taproom and exhibit hall all in one. Sample some of the best in town with the Kansas City Tap Tour: [VisitKC.com/TapTour](http://VisitKC.com/TapTour).



## UPDATES AT THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART ④

Marvel at masterpieces in the extraordinary Bloch Building, celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2017. But that's just the beginning for KC's most renowned art institution. New galleries feature Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterworks while beginning Oct. 20, visitors can see how Picasso lived, what inspired him and take in some of his most impactful artwork in a unique exhibit.



## ALSO NEW

- **New at Worlds of Fun** – Adrenaline junkies need look no further than KC's 235-acre theme park, where two exhilarating new rides are sure to satisfy. At the end of the year, celebrate the holidays with the new WinterFest experience, featuring ice skating, seasonal décor, live entertainment and more. ⑤
- **New in Food & Drink** – From fresh, handmade ramen noodles and trendy tasting rooms to barcades and a one-of-a-kind pickleball complex, KC drinking and dining keeps getting better.
- **Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center** – Overland Park's newest destination features the Johnson County Museum, which celebrates the region's history and culture with innovative and engaging exhibits, programs and more.

## ANNIVERSARIES TO NOTE

### — 2017 —

Mutual Musicians Foundation (100)

U.S. entry into World War I (100) ▼



Heart of America Shakespeare Festival (25)

American Jazz Museum (20)

Kansas City T-Bones (15)

Bloch Building, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (10)

Sprint Center (10)

SEA LIFE/Legoland Discovery Center (5)

### — 2018 —

Kansas City Parks and Boulevard system (125) ▼

Mickey Mouse's Birthday (90)

Mission Farms (10)



# 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**



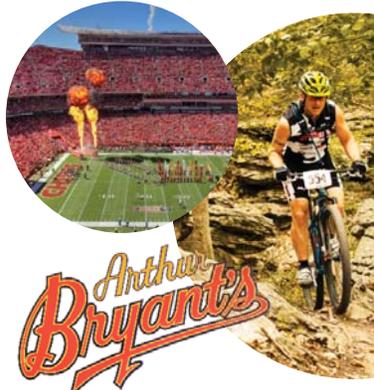
**"ONE OF AMERICA'S COOLEST CITIES. KANSAS CITY I LOVE YOU."**

– Andrew Zimmern,  
Travel Channel

## NECESSARY NUMBERS

**2 states:** the KC MSA includes both Missouri and Kansas

Downtown KC has experienced more than **\$6.5 billion** in commercial, residential and hotel development in the last 10 years.



*Arthur Bryant's*

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

- The Santa Fe, California and Oregon **trails** originated in the KC metro, a tradition celebrated annually at the Santa-Cali-Gon Days festival.
- **Walt Disney** opened his first animation studio in Kansas City, Laugh-O-Gram Studio, 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."



## 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 **Happy Meal** for McDonald's 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.
- Kansas City's **Wyandotte County** is the second most diverse community in the nation, with more than 70 different languages spoken in the area's public schools.
- 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.



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**THAT'S HOW WE DO**

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