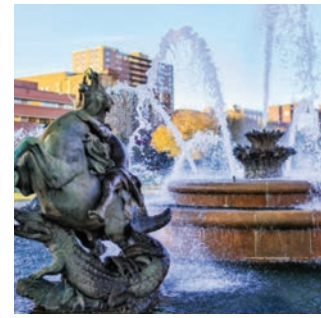


KANSAS CITY



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
Heidi Gardner
Ellie Kemper
Eric Stonestreet
Ginger Rogers
Ed Asner
Dianne Wiest
Rob Riggle
Chris Cooper



Icons

◀ Amelia Earhart
Walt Disney
Walter Cronkite



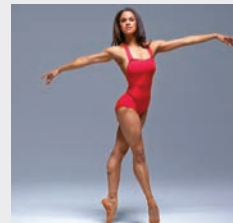
Historical Figures

Harry S. Truman
Tom Pendergast
◀ Jesse James



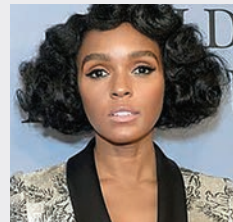
Athletes

◀ 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 41,000 people and generates \$5.3 billion in visitor spending.

WHAT'S TRENDING IN KC



KC BABY ①

The Kansas City Current, the city's National Women's Soccer League team, are making history. The Current unveiled their new stadium on the banks of the Missouri River. The 11,500-seat venue is the world's first stadium purposely built for a women's professional sports team. CPKC Stadium will also host the 2024 and 2025 Big 12 Soccer Championship and The Women's Cup matches.



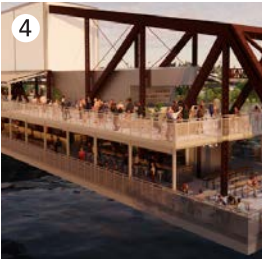
DISNEY100 ②

Walt Disney began his animation career right in the heart of Kansas City. He established his first professional business, the Laugh-O-gram Studio, on East 31st Street. There, he found the inspiration for Mickey Mouse. This year, Disney's history and impact will come to Kansas City again as Disney100: The Exhibition takes over Union Station.



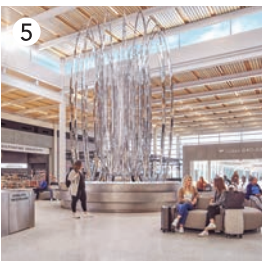
TOP PICK FOR PICKLEBALL ③

Pickleball has taken the nation by storm—and the center of all the action can be found here in Kansas City. Now a nationwide phenomenon, Chicken N Pickle's original location opened in North Kansas City in 2016 with a second operation now in Overland Park. And the friendly competition doesn't end there: The first-ever PickleCon will fill the Kansas City Convention Center with 100 courts, plus clinics, adaptive play and other opportunities for fans at all levels.



ELEVATED ENTERTAINMENT ④

The Rock Island Bridge is bringing new life to a historic railroad line, making it the country's first entertainment district over a river. The project will feature restaurants, bars, event space and paths for pedestrians and bicyclists. And for more fun from above, the colorful KC Wheel is perfect for family memories, date nights and even gender reveals.



TAKING FLIGHT ⑤

Following its debut in 2023, the new terminal at Kansas City International Airport has earned high praise from travelers and industry experts. Condé Nast Traveler recognized it as one of its Bright Ideas in Travel for 2023, applauding the terminal's commitment to inclusivity and collaboration with KC-area partners throughout the design. From regionally inspired artwork to favorite Kansas City restaurants, countless local touches deliver a warm welcome for each visitor's arrival in the Heart of America.



ROLLING THROUGH KC ⑥

Since its launch in 2016, more than 13 million riders have traveled the 2.2-mile starter route—a free mode of public transit connecting Downtown KC with other entertainment districts. Now a 7-mile extension to the Country Club Plaza is underway, set to wrap up in 2025, and another extension to Berkley Riverfront has just started, as well.

RESTAURANTS, ATTRACTIONS OPENING IN 2024

Rabbit hOle

Newly opened, the Rabbit hOle is a brand new literary experience in North Kansas City. The interactive museum brings your favorite children's books to life, allowing guests to fully immerse themselves in a world of wonder.

Larks

At this upcoming West Bottoms bar, "shuffleboard is king," owners say. Larks will also feature nostalgic arcade games, plus a restaurant and cocktail bar.

City Barrel Pizza & Patio

Crossroads brewery City Barrel is taking over the former Bier Station site in Waldo, opening a taproom and family-friendly pizza restaurant. City Barrel Pizza + Patio is opening with chef Benjamin Wood leading the way.

Betty Rae's

Popular Kansas City-area ice cream shop Betty Rae's is expanding again, this time in Merriam. The new shop will also serve as a test kitchen, letting customers try rotating flavors that Betty Rae's is considering for sale.

Neon Alley

First Kansas City residents saw a new Ferris wheel rise; next Neon Alley will light up Pennway Point in the Crossroads. The team behind Lumi Neon Museum has been rescuing and restoring historic neon signs, many of which will be featured at Neon Alley.

Q39

This popular Kansas City barbecue restaurant is planning to open its third location. Q39 is expanding to nearby Lawrence as an anchor tenant in the Press Yards redevelopment. The KC-area restaurant is a favorite for many local celebrities like actor Paul Rudd and Chiefs coach Andy Reid.

KANSAS CITY TRIVIA

ALL THE BASICS

Population:
2.2 million (MSA)

Time Zone:
Central



34,000 hotel rooms
citywide

More than **150** free
events annually



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

Nicknames:
PARIS OF THE PLAINS
HEART OF AMERICA
CITY OF FOUNTAINS



**"A global leader
in sports and
entertainment."**

– Travel + Leisure

NECESSARY NUMBERS

2 states: the KC MSA includes both Missouri and Kansas

Downtown KC has experienced more than **\$10 billion** in commercial, residential, hotel and transit development in the last 15 years—with another **\$3 billion** in development slated for the next few years.



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

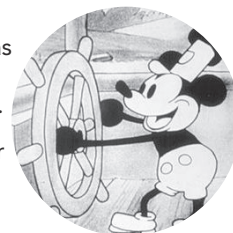
Located in the heart of the country, Kansas City is only a **3-hour** flight from either coast.

The City of Kansas City, Missouri, touts **222** parks, **158** miles of trails and bikeways, **29** lakes, **115** 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.

At 1,805 acres, **Swope Park** is one of the nation's largest city parks—over twice the size of NYC's Central Park. It features the Kansas City Zoo and Starlight Theatre.

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 BYRNE, Director of Content Strategy
dbyrne@visitkc.com • 816-691-3828

MAKENZIE WOLTERS, Communications Manager
mwolters@visitkc.com • 816-691-3811

NEWS.VISITKC.COM • @VisitKC / f @ in d X

FROM THE HEART

