



The Downtowner

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Downtown Frankfort Fall Bucket List

- Sip a bourbon cocktail on a riverside patio
- Snap a photo of the fall color along the Kentucky River
- Grab a pumpkin-spice something from a local coffee shop
- Dress up for Witches Night Out
- Shop small for an early holiday gift
- Cheer on the runners at the Black Cat Chase
- Catch the christmas glow at Candlelight and take a photo in front of the tree
- Take the long way around the block, just because

Fall Event Season is finally here!

Get the details:

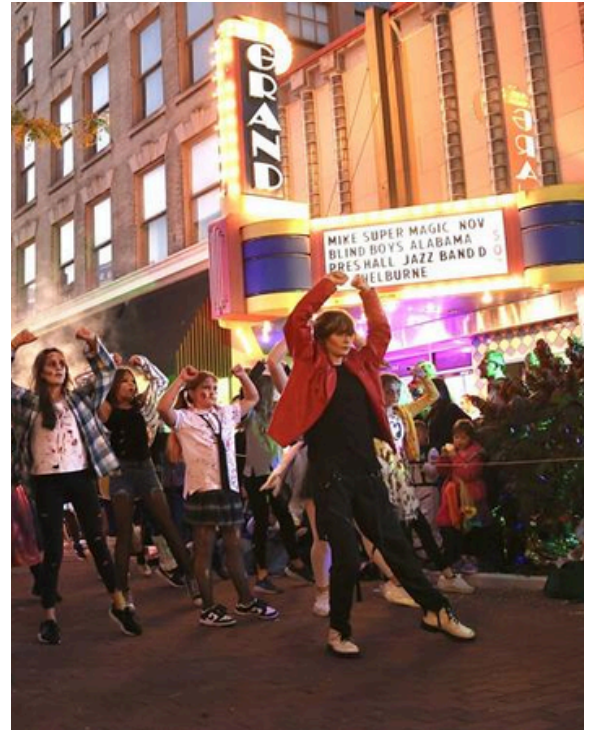
There's a moment every year, usually right around the time the first cool breeze rolls up off the Kentucky River, when downtown Frankfort feels like it exhales. The summer heat lets go, the trees along the riverbank start turning gold and rust, and suddenly there's no better place to be than right here.

This is patio season, the real one. The kind where you linger over a bourbon cocktail or a cup of coffee on a downtown patio without checking the forecast, where the evening air is cool enough for a light jacket and warm enough to stay for one more round. Grab a table with a river view, watch the light change over the water, and remind yourself why you love this town.

Fall is also when Frankfort shows off. The historic storefronts along Broadway, Main St. and St. Clair glow a little warmer, window displays get cozier, and the sidewalks fill back up with neighbors out for a stroll. It's the perfect time to wander into a shop you've been meaning to visit, pick up something local for a friend, or just take the long way around the block because the weather is too nice not to.

And then there's the calendar. Our fall lineup is packed, kicking off with Bourbon on the Banks on October 2-3 and rolling straight into spooky season with Witches Night Out, Haunting on the Hill, the Black Cat Chase, Thriller & Downtown Trick or Treat, and Halloween trick-or-treating on the 31st. We'll cap it off November 12-14 with the Candlelight Festival, when downtown twinkles and the holidays officially begin.

So whether you're here for a festival, a dinner reservation, or just an afternoon with nowhere in particular to be, come see us. Downtown Frankfort in the fall is worth the trip, and the patio is waiting.



Snapshots of Summer:



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Frankfort visitor spending hits \$174.7 million, rising 6% over previous year

Visitor spending in Frankfort and Franklin County reached \$174.7 million, a 6% increase over 2024, according to economic impact data released by Kentucky Tourism.

The growth reflects a broader revitalization of downtown Frankfort that community leaders said has been building since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You really saw some revitalization of our downtown," Suzy Hosley of Downtown Frankfort Inc. said.

Hosley pointed to a wave of new businesses and hospitality options as evidence of that momentum.

"Probably 30 plus businesses have moved in, we've had new boutique hotels come in," Hosley said. "We've been riding that wave," Hosley said.

Randy Newcomb, executive director of Visit Frankfort, said the growth represents more than an economic milestone.

"It's a sense of ownership it's a sense of pride it's something I think we've been missing over the years," Newcomb said.

"We're very proud of that," Newcomb said.

Tourism in the area supported nearly 1,300 jobs last year. Franklin County ranks 14th out of Kentucky's 120 counties in visitor spending.

Sam Dunn, executive director of Liberty Hall, said the region's appeal is broad.

"You visit Frankfort and there's something for everything," Dunn said.

Dunn emphasized that preserving Frankfort's historic character is central to sustaining that growth.

"I think we're starting to see people in Kentucky who are interested in the history and culture in their own backyard," Dunn said.

"All of that effort has led people to Frankfort where they can find the history and the culture," Dunn said.

Among the attractions drawing visitors is Liberty Hall's garden, which Dunn noted is available at no cost. "This is free to the public, free and open to the public," Dunn said.

Eva Napier, Culture & Arts Coordinator at the Capital City Museum, said the city's momentum has been remarkable to witness firsthand.

"Frankfort's really having a renaissance," Napier said. "It's been a really intense thing to see, to witness and be part of."

Looking ahead, Visit Frankfort is preparing what Newcomb described as a record investment in marketing, advertising and promotion.

"To get people to see the beauty of what we have and experience what we get to experience on a daily basis," Newcomb said.

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SAVE THE DATES!



Friday & Saturday,
October 2-3
Bourbon on the Banks



Friday, October 9
Witches Night Out



Saturday, October 10
KSU Homecoming



Saturday, October 10
Capital PRIDE



Saturday, October 17
Haunting on the Hill



Friday, October 23
Black Cat Chase



Saturday, October 24
Thriller &
Downtown Trick or Treat



Saturday, October 31
Trick or Treat, 6-8PM



November 12-14
Candlelight Festival



Saturday, December 5
Christmas Parade



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