



**Where *Corvettes* are Born,  
*Caves* are Toured by Boat  
and *Coasters* are Twisted!**

# BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

## Fact Sheet

Bowling Green is located on the Barren River in south central Kentucky. It is conveniently located 110 miles south of Louisville and only 60 miles north of Nashville, Tennessee.

Area code: 270

County: Warren

Population: County 104,023; City 54,244; Total 158,267

### TRANSPORTATION

Interstate access: I-65

Parkways: William. H. Natcher, Louie B. Nunn

U.S. Highways: 31W, 68, 231

Kentucky Highways: 185, 80, 234, 1435

Airport: Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport. This airport has two paved runways that are lit for night-time flying.

### TIME ZONE

Bowling Green is located in the Central Standard Time Zone. This can be confusing for some travelers because half of Kentucky is in the Eastern Standard Time Zone while the other half is in the Central Standard Time Zone. Bowling Green is within miles of the dividing line. Louisville, Lexington, and Frankfort are in the Eastern Standard Time while Nashville is Central. Please keep this in mind when traveling through airports and arriving at attractions and events.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Bowling Green has 31 hotels, including most major chains, and more than 2,500 rooms. It also has three bed and breakfasts and two campgrounds for your enjoyment.

### VISITOR INFORMATION

The Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is here to serve you! You can locate us at 352 Three Springs Road; Bowling Green, KY; 42104. For more information, please contact us at (270) 782-0800 or (800) 326-7465, fax (270) 842-2104 or log on to [www.visitbgky.com](http://www.visitbgky.com).



## Get Rolling to Bowling Green, Kentucky

Where else can you go spelunking, witness an American icon in the works, go for a twisted ride in the air and come face-to-face with a guy named Big Red all in one weekend? Nowhere, other than Bowling Green, KY. Legendary cars, wooden roller coasters, vintage railcars, and underground boat tours drive Bowling Green's ability to entertain and educate visitors, students and residents alike. Less than one hour north of Nashville, TN, off I-65, Bowling Green rolls out a red carpet experience for anyone in search of an opportunity to sample the Southern hospitality of a unique town on the move.

### Where Corvettes are Born

As new Corvettes roll off the lines at the GM Corvette Assembly Plant, Bowling Green welcomes visitors to witness a behind-the-scenes view of an American dream in the making by participating in a plant tour. Visitors can also explore the world's fascination with the famous sports car at the National Corvette Museum, one of Edmunds' Top Ten Automotive Museums in the World, which features more than 70 Corvettes on display and an interactive Pit-Crew Challenge. If all that speed makes you long for days of slower travel, then listen to stories of life on the tracks with the push of a button and climb aboard the restored railcars at the new Historic Railpark and Train Museum, located in the renovated 1925 L&N Depot.

### Explore Bowling Green High and Low

The core of Bowling Green's uniqueness lies deep within (literally). Lost River Cave offers a fascinating exploration of Bowling Green's cave system and is home to Kentucky's only underground boat tour on the river that *Ripley's Believe it or Not* claims is the shortest, deepest in the world. If you prefer higher ground, Bowling Green has that as well. Beech Bend Amusement Park's Kentucky Rumbler is hailed as the most twisted wooden roller coaster in seven states and will take you on a fun-filled journey that offers a bird's eye view of the park's 40+ rides and Splash Lagoon Water Park. Another breathtaking vista surrounds Bowling Green's historic house museum, Riverview at Hobson Grove, where Victorian décor and Civil War stories abound.

### Climb "The Hill"

High points are plentiful in Bowling Green, both in the rural areas and in the heart of the city, where Western Kentucky University's growing student population climbs "the hill" each semester. With renovated campus buildings and improved sports facilities, WKU successfully offers students and visitors state-of-the-art facilities, while still preserving its historic ambiance and natural beauty. Don't miss the 'Recommended by Duncan Hines' exhibit at the Kentucky Library and Museum, also the University's Welcome Center, for a sweet look at the Bowling Green native's career as a travel writer and packaged foods icon.

## Take Home our Bowling Green Flavor

As the campus of WKU has grown and expanded, so has the community of Bowling Green, offering an eclectic combination of shopping, dining and entertainment options to accommodate this college town's unique sense of style and contagious youthful enthusiasm. Opportunities for finding one-of-a-kind products as well as nationally recognized brand name items abound in Bowling Green. Search for treasured antiques in quaint downtowns and outlying communities. Admire Amish heirloom furniture and artistic creations in galleries and museums or find just the right accessory for your travel adventures at the Harley-Davidson Store or Camping World's headquarters. From dinnerware fresh from the kiln at Rickman Pottery to designer fashions at Greenwood Mall, Bowling Green will surprise and impress you with its unique variety of items ready for you to take home.

## An Out-in-the-Country Experience

Bowling Green offers an entertaining lesson in southern living, history, geography, engineering... and agriculture. Amidst the rolling hills of Bowling Green's countryside, you'll find beautiful landscapes and opportunities to experience the area's rural heritage, including Chaney's Dairy Farm, where homemade ice cream and arts and crafts satisfy your appetite for Kentucky-made products. Local harvests are shared at seasonal farmers' markets and high atop one of Warren County's highest elevations at Jackson's Orchard. Bowling Green is also home to many one-of-a-kind restaurants that offer a tasteful palate of Bowling Green's rural heritage and its blend of new cultures.

## Special Events

Bowling Green celebrates its uniqueness with numerous community and cultural festivals, theatrical and musical performances, concerts in the park and a wide variety of events designed to enlighten and entertain. Families can find something for everyone to enjoy throughout the year, including hot air balloon and music festivals, in addition to the Festival of Trains in December, the Duncan Hines Festival in August and the BB&T All-American Soap Box Derby (the third-largest of its kind) in May. Sports fans have plenty of options to choose from, ranging from athletic competitions at WKU to stock car racing at Beech Bend Raceway, the famous Medical Center 10K Classic, golf, fishing and canoeing opportunities, championship rodeo competitions, and a variety of automotive events including the National Corvette Homecoming. Playing host to the state's largest literary event, the Southern Kentucky Bookfest, Bowling Green is well versed on offering something for everyone. A wide variety of trade shows, seminars and special events are held at various locations throughout the year.

## A One-of-a-Kind Experience

The area's heritage is treasured and explored at museums and historic interpretive sites that celebrate the land, the river, the craftsmanship and culture of the region. And, with the new Aviation Heritage Park in the works, the city will add aviation to its long list of unique explorations. Bowling Green offers an entertaining experience that just keeps getting better. Its uniqueness is valued both locally and nationally, with coverage in high-profile media outlets, including HGTV, the History Channel, the Travel Channel, *Southern Living*, *Motor Trend*, *Travel America*, the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *AAA Home & Away*, just to name a few. Come experience what everyone is talking about and plan your trip to Bowling Green, where natural beauty, tradition and innovation offer a unique blend of entertainment you can't find anywhere else.

To help plan your trip, we've highlighted a few of our visitor offerings that appeal to nature lovers, car enthusiasts, history buffs, sports fans and adventurers. For more information, contact the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-326-7465 or [www.visitbgky.com](http://www.visitbgky.com). Visit the website for more detailed listings and a calendar of events.

## Travel Release

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For Immediate Release

### BOWLING GREEN IS A *CENTER OF ATTENTION*

Brothers George and Robert Moore may not have realized how forward looking they were when they selected a site on the Barren River in south central Kentucky for a new settlement in 1796. In laying out the town, which would be called Bowling Green, the Moores designed two acres for the construction of public buildings.

Those same two acres today make up Fountain Square Park, a green and peaceful focal point for the revitalization of downtown Bowling Green. The park's beautiful fountain, statues, flowers, trees and shrubs are surrounded by restored facades of 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings, a renovated Art Deco movie theater, thriving businesses and bustling professionals who work downtown. It is also the scene of summer concerts, holiday parades, arts and crafts shows and many other festival events.

This is symbolic of the city of Bowling Green whose central location allowed it quickly to become a major agricultural community and river port, and later, an important commercial and educational center. Today Bowling Green is a regional entertainment hub for more than 250,000 people in 11 surrounding counties.

This central location is also what makes Bowling Green an attractive stopover for tourists. Located on Interstate 65 between Louisville, KY and Nashville, TN, Bowling Green is conveniently situated for the north-south traveler and offers attractions and recreation to meet many tastes and interests.

Those who like entertainment of high-speed sports cars can watch one of America's classic sports cars on the assembly line or see racers in action at Beech Bend Raceway. Located just off I-65 is General Motors Corvette Assembly Plant, where every Corvette now sold is made. The plant offers weekday tours at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. where you can see step-by-step production of the Corvette coupe, Z06 and convertible.

-More-

-Bowling Green 1<sup>st</sup> add-

The 68,000 square foot National Corvette Museum, which includes the one-millionth "Vette" to roll off the assembly line since the first Corvette was produced in 1953, along with more than 75 other Corvettes set in their own era, is across the road from the plant. The Museum is currently undergoing a 47,000 square foot expansion to be debuted at its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration over Labor Day weekend of 2009.

Beech Bend, one of the country's oldest motor racetracks, offers a variety of weekly drag and stock car races from March to mid-October, and is the site of several major car shows including Buick GS Nationals, NHRA Sports Nationals and National Hot Rod Reunion, and Edelbrock Pro Drag Racing Series. Beech Bend also features 'two-wheel racing' in June at the Harley Summer Shootout and in September at the All Harley Drag Finals.

Those who like history will be interested in the Kentucky Library and Museum on the campus of Western Kentucky University, the Historic Railpark and Train Museum, Shaker Museum at South Union and Riverview at Hobson Grove.

While the Kentucky Museum and Library has a comprehensive collection of artifacts on Kentucky history and heritage, the galleries provide fascinating glimpses into bygone eras for visitors from everywhere. The primary exhibit, "A Star in Each Flag: Conflict in Kentucky" which opened in the winter of 2008, explores the strong conflict and opposing views regarding slavery between families, friends, neighbors and community members. Visitors can walk through a simulated campsite, view a slave cabin, try on period clothing and pose in the photo studio, examine period artifacts including John Hunt Morgan's saddle, various medical instruments, Civil War flags, weapons and more. Step around the corner and enter the 1950's inspired "Recommended by Duncan Hines" exhibit complete with the Bowling Green native and cake-mix icon's own kitchen stove. In addition to these displays, the Library houses rich collections of published works, manuscripts, and folk life materials for genealogists and historians.

It's all aboard at the L&N Depot, the 1925 Limestone passenger station that has been fully restored, for a two-story tour of the Train Museum. Learn about the workers' lives on the tracks with the push of a button. The interactive displays bring the sights and sounds of train travel to life, with lessons in segregation, food service, economics, and sleeping arrangements. The tour then travels outside to the Historic Railpark where five restored railcars are open for exploration, including an engine, dining car, sleeper and caboose!

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## -Bowling Green 2<sup>nd</sup> add-

Another interesting look at a former way of life is only a short drive west of Bowling Green at Shaker Museum at South Union, where restored buildings and a museum are dedicated to the Shakers, a celibate, hard working and industrious religious order of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Shaker Museum, located in a large, 40-room former dwelling house, contains original Shaker furniture noted for its functionalism and simplicity of line, and textiles.

Shaker Tavern, built in 1869 by the Shakers to serve Victorian railroad travelers, is now open as a bed and breakfast and for group meals by reservation. The tavern's architecture, including a columned façade and intricate brickwork, was designed to attract what the Shaker's called "the people of the world" and contrasts sharply with the simplicity of the other Shaker buildings.

Riverview, located on a hill overlooking the Barren River, has been restored to its original Victorian splendor when it was the home of a fine Bowling Green family following the Civil War. Daily tours, special teas, historical programs, and holiday candlelight events fill this historic house museum's annual schedule.

Students of architecture and fans of beautiful buildings can take a walking tour of the Upper Main Street Historic District, one of seven such districts in the city, where there is a large concentration of residences built between 1870 and 1930. Those with architectural interest also should visit St. Joseph Catholic Church, a German Romanesque- styled church with an interior inspired by the Cologne Cathedral. Built over a 14-year period between 1870 and 1884, St. Joseph's magnificent sanctuary was restored in 2007.

Bowling Green played a unique role in the Civil War as the Confederate Capital of Kentucky. Eleven sites are featured on a Civil War driving tour of Bowling Green including forts, a cave, homes, a monument, historic markers, and a museum. An entertaining and informing audio tour to accompany the Civil War Discovery Trail is available at the Visitors Bureau for purchase or on iTunes for free download.

The scenic beauty that surrounds Bowling Green can be seen on the Duncan Hines Scenic Byway. This 82-mile route, which runs through Warren and Edmonson counties, passes many historic homes, beginning at the former home and office of Duncan Hines. Along the route are stately mansions, quaint homes, one-room schoolhouses, an old train depot, historic cemeteries, Civil War battlefields, scenic vistas, an old grainery, and a stagecoach Stop, which was once the home of Patrick Henry's sister.

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-Bowling Green 3<sup>rd</sup> add-

Just north of Bowling Green is Warren County's second largest city, Smiths Grove. It is on the Nashville line of the L & N Railroad, which heavily contributed to the town's growth between 1859 and the 1920s. This quiet, peaceful community has an historic district with a walking tour, and the community includes ten antique shops, two landmark bed and breakfasts, a show cave and historic farm tour.

Bowling Green's Lost River Cave & Valley is one of the most impressive natural features in Kentucky. This unique cave has the shortest, deepest river in the world flowing through it, as claimed by *Ripley's Believe It or Not.* The cave and valley date from 8500B.C. and have been inhabited by many people through the years including Native Americans and Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. Legend says the notorious outlaw Jesse James and his gang used the cave as a hideout after robbing the Southern Deposit Bank in nearby Russellville. Cave, boat ride, enchanting Butterfly Habitat, and valley tours, featuring over 50 species of trees and plants are offered.

Bowling Green's central location makes it easily accessible to other caves and several large and beautiful lakes and recreational areas. Just 30 miles up the interstate is Mammoth Cave National Park, the world's longest network of caves. The park offers a variety of underground tours, along with above ground nature trails, camping and scenic boat trips. There are a number of other interesting caves in the area to explore including Kentucky Caverns, Onyx Cave, Crystal Onyx Cave and Diamond Caverns.

Nearby Barren River State Resort Park includes a 10,000-acre lake, campground, lodge, cabins, and houseboats. Other lakes in the area include Nolin Reservoir, Lake Malone, Shanty Hollow, Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, Lake Cumberland and Dale Hollow. Canoe and kayaking opportunities abound in the scenic blueways system throughout the county, or down the Gasper, Barren, and Green Rivers. The outdoor enthusiast has plenty to choose from in South Central Kentucky, where temperatures are mild from April to November. Experience the charm of a quaint Southern town on the move in Bowling Green.

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## Travel Release

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## NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM ENSHRINES THE HISTORY OF THE *WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS* AMERICAN SPORTS CAR

**Bowling Green, Ky.**— The National Corvette Museum is like no other Museum on earth. The exterior is recognized by its space-age design, with sweeping lines that match the sport car it honors. Completely departing from the traditional rectangular museum concept, the Corvette showcase winds over an attractively landscaped 52-acre site. The most prominent exterior feature is a large, circular car salon encased by a bright yellow cone-shaped roof. Above it soars a red, 12-story spire, visible for many miles and a landmark of the Bowling Green area.

The interior of the 68,000-square-foot building uses curved walls, exciting geometric shapes and full-scale diorama sights and sounds to tell the past, present, and future story of the Corvette. The Museum is currently undergoing a 47,000 square foot expansion to be debuted at its 15th Anniversary Celebration over Labor Day weekend of 2009. More than 75 Corvettes of every era - some production and some one-of-a-kind concept vehicles - are displayed. The Museum also features informative films, educational exhibits, historical displays, unique shopping, a Conference Center, Corvette Café, and an extensive Library and Archives.

It is impossible to list everything the Museum has to offer. There is something to appeal to visitors of every age, from the Corvette enthusiast to the sport car neophyte to every man, woman and child who likes exciting cars.

In the entrance area, the visitor is greeted by one of our unique Corvettes displayed on a turntable inside a glass-walled room. There is even a Corvette that the visitor can "try on for size," sitting in the driver's seat for a memorable snapshot. The front lobby gives way to the Corvette Store, a 3,000-square-foot retail outlet offering a wide variety of Corvette automotive items. Shoppers can choose from unique apparel, collectibles and souvenir items that can only be found here.

Next, it's on to the 200-seat Chevrolet Theater to comfortably enjoy a brief introductory film on the big screen, which sets the stage for your Museum visit. This enjoyable film blends the 50-year history of the legendary sports car with the mystique that sets it apart from all other automobiles.

Visitors will enjoy the first exhibits in the nostalgia area, a series of realistic scenes mirroring the Corvette's early history. Stroll down Main Street and visit our mid-20<sup>th</sup> century barbershop and the old service station, complete with authentic gas pumps, air tower and garage. Vintage Corvettes line the street, along with original advertisements and other memorable pieces of the car's earliest years.

Continuing, the Route 66 tribute features a classic Corvette convertible and other stunning Corvettes that not only catch the eye, but also underscore the era's romance with the open highway. Life-like figures of George Maharis and Martin Milner remind visitors of the "Route 66" television show, which ran from 1960 to 1964 and featured a similar 'Vette.

Next is a realistic Chevrolet dealer showroom from the 1960s, featuring Corvettes from that generation, which began in 1963 with the famed "split-window" coupe. Another diorama recreates portions of the old Corvette assembly line in St. Louis, where the Corvette was produced from late 1953 until 1981, when production moved to Bowling Green, KY. In photo images, actual UAW members tell anecdotes about life on the assembly line.

The visitors then enter an 80-foot diameter performance area, surrounded by a giant panoramic mural of famous Corvette racing scenes. This section is exclusively devoted to Corvette performance, one of the car's best-known accomplishments. Colorful racers dating from the late 1950s to the ultra-high performance cars of today are arranged on a slanted "racetrack." A recreated pit stop features an actual Corvette racecar surrounded by a pit crew of record setting drivers.

The visitor then advances to the design and development area, demonstrating how Corvettes are created at the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, MI. The scenes show lifelike figures of actual designers sketching outrageous prototypes, as well as clay models and a new Corvette at the GM Proving Grounds in Milford, MI, as well as the result. Aerodynamic and technology themes are incorporated into this unique area of the museum and cutaways of the 6<sup>th</sup> Generation Corvette are a main focus.

The largest display area is the famous Corvette sky dome, 140 feet in diameter and home to nearly 20 Corvettes. Cars in this area, as in every part of the Museum, are constantly changing. In addition to production cars on-loan from private owners, visitors may see several cars made famous by auto shows the world-over.

The 240-foot-long atrium leads visitors back to the front lobby. This area houses specially themed exhibits that change every few months. There are also extensive collections of promotional models and other collectibles, ending in the Corvette gallery.

Throughout the Museum, figures from the Corvette's past and present help bring the exhibits to life. Learn about the men and women who are responsible for designing and engineering the car, to those who raced the cars and made them famous. More than 20 cast-in-life sculpted figures have been created for the National Corvette Museum by an artist in New York.

*This quick trip through the National Corvette Museum only begins to skim the highlights of this amazing tribute to America's sports car. The excitement, color and adventure that is the Corvette must be seen first-hand to be appreciated. After one visit you'll know why Bowling Green, KY is known by thousands as Corvette City, USA.*

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## Travel Release

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## BEECH BEND PARK AND SPLASH LAGOON OFFERS *WORLD-CLASS* FUN AND EXCITEMENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

***Bowling Green, Ky.***— How many times have you wanted to spend a fun, family oriented day out but thought, "I don't want to travel several hours to have a great time?" Well, guess what? Beech Bend Park and Splash Lagoon has your solution and is practically in your own backyard!

Beech Bend offers something for everyone in your family. They will marvel at the amusement park, water park, miniature golf course, racetrack, and campground. You won't know which attraction to begin your day, or perhaps, your weekend of fun. Once you go, you will wonder what took you so long to discover what Beech Bend has to offer.

If it has been a while since you have visited Beech Bend, or if you have never experienced the facility, you are in for quite a treat. After millions of dollars in renovations and new attractions such as their state-of-the-art roller coaster *Kentucky Rumbler*, Beech Bend Park and Splash Lagoon is Kentucky's ultimate family playground!

In the amusement park, parents will have trouble containing their toddlers who will attempt to drag them to spectacular rides such as the *Bumble Bee Bop*, *Happy Pond*, and *Mighty Mac*. Middle school-aged children will run circles around parents eagerly awaiting their turn to ride attractions such as *The Flying Bob*, *Shock Drop*, and *Spider Ride*. The entire family will marvel at the four roller coasters: *Kentucky Rumbler*, *Wild Mouse*, *Looping Star* and *Dragon Coaster*, all of which make Beech Bend the paramount amusement park in this region and beyond.

Beech Bend's newest and most impressive roller coaster, *Kentucky Rumbler*, offered itself to roller coaster enthusiasts for the first time in 2006. It has received worldwide attention and was featured on a Discovery Channel documentary in April of 2006 entitled *Building the Biggest*. "The program features several wooden roller coasters, but the main focus is the *Kentucky Rumbler*," Liz Collier, assistant producer of the documentary said. She went on to say that it is the most beautiful wooden roller coaster right now. "From an engineering point of view, it's an atypical story in terms of using modern technology to create a classic look," she added.

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Beech Bend's latest addition has an interesting past as well as 65 feet of fun- the Sea Dragon. This pirate-ship themed ride was purchased from Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch in California. The ride debuts on opening day of the 2009 season, May 1.

Splash Lagoon, Beech Bend's premier water park features *Raging Rapids*, *Lotta Wata Island*, and a giant leisure pool with plenty of room to soak up the warmth of the sun, cool off, and have good, old-fashioned family fun. The *Raging Rapids* water slides consist of one open family tube ride; one partially open and partially enclosed tube ride; and one completely enclosed body slide. All three slides boast a length of greater than 400 feet, start from a 45-foot tower, and have too many thrilling turns to count. *Lotta Wata Island* features a four-level interactive play structure and two water slides. Toddlers especially will enjoy this low water-level play area.

For racing enthusiasts, Beech Bend offers an historic, world-class racetrack that hosts several national events including the NHRA National Hot Rod Reunion, National Mustang Racers Association World Finals, Lucas Oil Series, Buick GS Nationals, Tenn-Tuck Bracket Bash, and several Corvette events. The raceway is open from March through November and offers stock car racing on the Oval Track on most Friday nights, "fun" drag racing on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and NHRA drag racing on Sundays. Fans have a great view to cheer on their favorite racer from the large bleacher area.

Perhaps your goal is to plan an extended or over-night trip to Bowling Green. If so, Beech Bend campground offers over 500 sites in a beautiful wooded setting where both RV and tent camping are permitted. To relax after all the other exciting attractions of Beech Bend, visitors have the opportunity to sit and roast marshmallows by the campfire. Peaceful Barren River is within walking distance where anglers can catch a few fish, take in the scenery, and enjoy the sounds of nature.

Beech Bend has something for everyone. Whether you want the thrill of a coaster, need a cool down from the hot weather, love auto racing, or just want to enjoy nature your every need will be met. Beech Bend Park opens in April, and Splash Lagoon opens in May. For more information, please visit [www.beechbend.com](http://www.beechbend.com) or call (270)781-7634.

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## Travel Release

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### *Lost River Cave a historical and geological gold mine*

**Bowling Green, Ky** - Nearly 60 feet below U.S. Highway 31W in Bowling Green lies one of the Commonwealth's best kept secrets--a cultural, historical and geological treasure. Lost River Cave and Valley, a 68-acre nature preserve, offers the outdoor enthusiast walking trails, wildlife habitats and Kentucky's only underground boat tour.

Lost River Cave's history dates back to 8,500 B.C. when Native Americans used the cave for shelter and buried their dead in the cave's entrance. Some of Warren County's earliest industries were located at the cave's entrance in the late 1700s. These included a grist mill, a saw mill, wool carding and a distillery.

Lost River Cave and Valley also had an important role during the Civil War. Confederate forces used the cave as a temporary shelter in 1861. Just over a year later, the Union troops moved in and camped there before marching on to Nashville. Col. John Hunt Morgan and his crew are said to have hidden in the cave after burning the depot at South Union. Civil War Days, the living history event at Lost River Cave and Valley held each July, draws people with an interest in the war from all parts of the country. The event includes reenactments, encampment demonstrations and artillery drills.

Local folklore even claims that Jesse James and his band of outlaws used the cave as a hide out.

The Underground Nite Club was a gathering place for local socialites for nearly 30 years.

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## *Lost River Cave a historical and geological gold mine – 2*

Opened in 1933 and located at the cave's entrance, this ballroom-type hang out came equipped with a built in bar that didn't even require ice to keep the drinks cold. At a cool 57 degrees, the club provided a welcomed retreat from the heat of summer. Big bands and other musical talents, including Dinah Shore, frequented the Underground Nite Club during the height of its operation. Laws banning the sale of alcohol below street level finally brought the club to a close in the early 1960s. Today, the Lost River Cave Ballroom can still be reserved for special occasions and events.

Lost River Cave and Valley also provides an array of wildlife. Various bat species, camelback crickets and crayfish have made themselves a home inside the cave. Although the bats move out to be closer to their food sources during the summer months, they return in full force for the winter.

A scenic path leads away from the cave to the butterfly habitat. This enclosed garden is home to several of Kentucky's native butterflies and is a seasonal attraction open from late-May through mid-September.

Further down the path is a wild bird sanctuary. This quiet, wooded area is the perfect place to watch more than 130 different species of birds.

One of the most popular trails is the three-mile Blue Hole Trail. There are four blue holes at Lost River Cave and Valley. The name is derived from the unique bluish color of the water due to its natural calcite concentration. Each hole has folklore associated with it. One such story says young women would look into the water with hopes of seeing the face of the man they should marry in the reflection.

Lost River Cave and Valley is open year-round with the exception of Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year's. However, large amounts of rain can flood the cave making it impossible to give boat tours. It is suggested to check the weather in Bowling Green or call ahead if you are traveling a long distance to visit Lost River Cave. For more information about Lost River Cave and Valley including upcoming events, call 866-274-2283 or 270-393-0077, or visit [lostrivercave.com](http://lostrivercave.com).