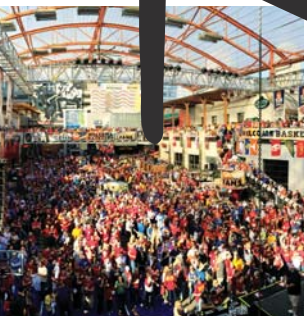


# Kansas City



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 October, Kansas City hosts the world's largest barbecue competition of 550 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

### Icons

◀ Amelia Earhart  
Walt Disney  
Walter Cronkite

### Historical Figures

◀ Harry Truman  
Tom Pendergast  
Jesse James

### Athletes

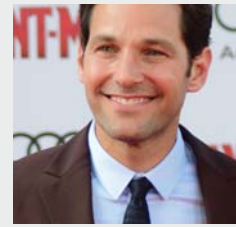
◀ Buck O'Neil  
Tom Watson  
Maurice Greene  
Satchel Paige  
George Brett

### Artists

Thomas Hart Benton  
◀ Misty Copeland  
George Caleb Bingham

### Musicians

◀ Charlie Parker  
Count Basie  
David Cook  
Melissa Etheridge



## DID YOU KNOW?

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

# WHAT'S TRENDING IN KC



①

## KC STREETCAR ①

Sleek, convenient and free to ride, the new KC Streetcar adds a new layer of accessibility to Downtown travel. The 2.2-mile route marks the return of streetcars to Kansas City after a 59-year hiatus.



②

## BLOCH GALLERY RENOVATION AT THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART ②

March 2017 marks the beginning of a new era for the museum with the opening of the renovated Bloch Galleries. The Bloch Collection will almost double the museum's Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art and features nearly 30 masterpieces, all to be incorporated into the museum's permanent collection.



③

## WHISKEY REVIVAL ③

Once a haven for bootleggers, speakeasies and the like, Kansas City's Prohibition-era roots have been rejuvenated thanks to several area establishments that are redefining KC craft distilling, such as Tom's Town Distilling Company, Union Horse Distilling Co., Holladay Distillery and J. Rieger & Co.



④

## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES

Fresh off of an \$8 million overhaul, the museum houses 72,000 objects from around the world, including the largest collection of fine-scale miniatures on the planet. The collection of rare toys and fine-scale miniatures spans more than three centuries.

## ALSO NEW

- **Planet Snoopy Expansion at Worlds of Fun** – Five new family rides inside KC's amusement park, perfect for kids of all ages.
- **Hyatt Convention Center Hotel ④** – Coming in 2019, the new 800-room convention center hotel will feature 75,000 square feet of meeting space.
- **21C** – Development of KC's historic Savoy Hotel and Grill will transform the icon into a 120-room boutique hotel, projected to open December 2017.

## ANNIVERSARIES TO NOTE

### — 2016 —

Municipal Auditorium (80)

Visit KC (50)

Arabia Steamboat Museum (25)

Sporting Kansas City (20)

Kansas Speedway (15)

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts (5) ▼



### — 2017 —

Mutual Musicians Foundation (100)

U.S. entry into World War I (100)

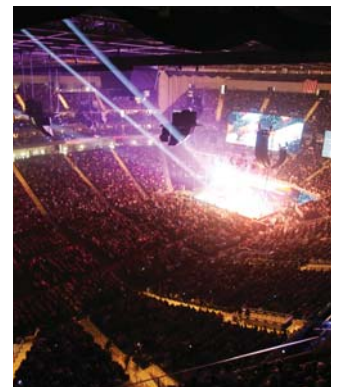
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival (25)

American Jazz Museum (20)

Kansas City T-Bones (15)

Sprint Center (10) ▼

SEA LIFE/Legoland Discovery Center (5)



# 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.



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 began 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.

• KC is known as the Haunted House Capital of the World, thanks to its pioneering of the "open format," where brave visitors roam without following a predestined path.

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

• 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.



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**THAT'S HOW WE DO**

*Kansas City*