

PACKFORPADUCAH



Aviator Jake Jacobs was raving about this and that after he and his wife, Kathy visited the Kentucky town called “the SoHo of the South” for its thriving arts district. But it was Buddy, the couple’s Scottish Terrier, that sold *Flying Adventures* on Paducah as a fly-in favorite destination just great for fly-in fun.

“Buddy gave Doe’s Eat Place top marks based on the T-bone we brought back,” said Jacobs of the “thick and perfectly cooked” entrée served at one popular Paducah restaurant. So we understood right off. A Scottish Terrier that routinely flies around in a Mooney (not left-seat of course)? He can be trusted. He will *know* a good thing when he licks upon it, and Paducah, his people the Jacobs agree, is a good...no, *great* thing.

Sitting pretty at the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio rivers, this city with 26 entire blocks listed on the National Register of

Historic Places is as lively as they come. Studios and art galleries housed in historic Italianate mansions, rehabbed 1930s grocery stores, and gloriously restored Queen Anne buildings make for a dazzling arts scene. One look at the giant, outdoor murals depicting Paducah history spectacularly rendered on the river floodwall, and it’s clear the many potters, painters, printmakers and other talents working here have found a haven for their creative spirit. The floodwall murals also reveal Paducah’s rich history: Scenes of earliest days when Chickasaw Indian Chief Paduke and his people welcomed white river travelers (and eventual settlers) as they arrived by flatboat. Scenes of times after Captain William Clark – of Lewis and Clark – claimed and named Paducah on behalf of the U.S. Scenes of the city’s years as an important river and railroad hub for a growing country.

Kentucky’s Hot Arts Town Rocks

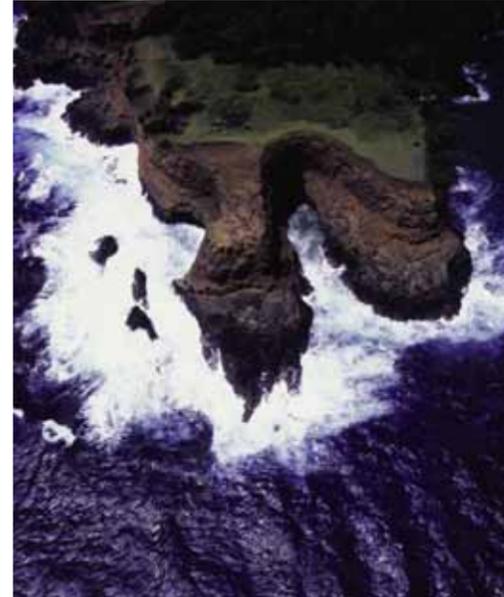
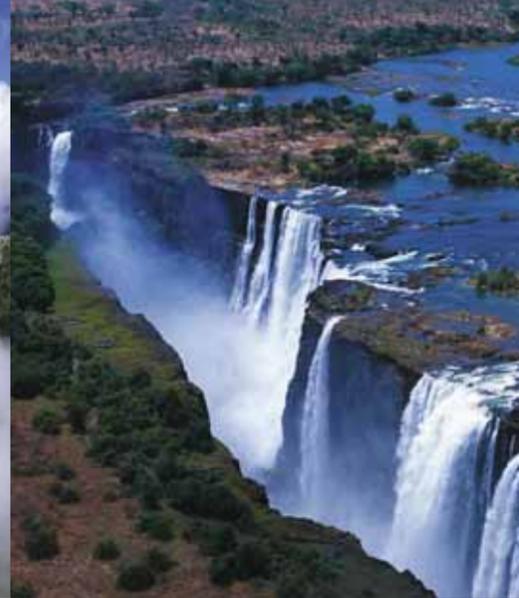
As the paintings so clearly show, life here never has been sleepy or slow.

It is even less so today. “Highly recommend Paducah!” raved Jacobs, who after steaks at **Doe’s Eat Place** (136 Broadway, 270.443.9006) took in an evening of stories and music at **Jeremiah’s Restaurant & Lounge** (225 Broadway, 270.443-3991). “Josh, a deckhand on riverboats, entertained us with some brilliant piano.” Typical. From Duke Ellington to Louis Armstrong to Ike & Tina Turner, superstars-to-be working their art along the Chitlin’ Circuit consistently played Paducah, at **Hotel Metropolitan** (reopening this year as an African-American heritage museum). Moved by the local vibe that honors creative expression, the **American Quilter’s Society** established its important museum here (quiltmuseum.org). The homespun art now going global in a revival of appreciation is celebrated in the museum’s 200-strong collection of masterworks of true beauty and whimsy and heart.

Not only is Lower Town “charming,” said Jacobs, who says Barkley Regional (PAH) is the go-to field, but Paducah is also known for an endless-party of festivals. The town’s Summer Festival July 26-29 promises plenty of Paducah-style fun, from live music to rides in hot air balloons. A fly-in funster might need a visit to the Paducah International Raceway and its fast, NASCAR action to just to regroup afterwards.

After all, you want to prove Buddy is as good as his...woof.

Explore more of Paducah’s delights at paducah-tourism.org (800) PADUCAH. ✕



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