

Looavul ... Looneyville ... **Louisville**

By Jana Keller, GNTT Operations Manager

I recently participated in a tour presented by the Visitors Bureau of Louisville, Kentucky. This was my first time to Louisville but it won't be my last ~ what a delightful city and an excellent destination for the student market! Louisville is located along the Ohio River and is a very manageable city with easy access to attractions. And of course motor coach friendly!!

Louisville offers plenty of restaurant options for student groups. Some include the Hard Rock Café, Joe's Crab Shack, Old Spaghetti Factory, Tumbleweed Grill on the Waterfront, or even breakfast at Churchill Downs.

The New Kentucky Kingdom and Hurricane Bay had its official reopening in May of this year and offers a day of fun, thrills and excitement along with a perfect opportunity for bands and choirs to perform. They also offer a picnic in the park for large groups with many menu selections. Other musts for sightseeing include the Kentucky Derby Museum, Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory which has a very entertaining tour and each participant gets a mini Slugger Bat, the Louisville Zoo, and the Mega Cavern where you can take a 2 hr Historic Tram tour or try the world's only all underground Zip Lines or you could try the ropes challenge course.

Louisville offers over a dozen venues for performances such as: Belle of Louisville (oldest operating steamboat in the US), Kentucky Derby Museum, Slugger Museum, the Zoo, Muhammad Ali Center, and options along Waterfront Park. As part of the Kentucky Derby Festival held the beginning of May each year the Pegasus Parade would be a great opportunity for marching bands. The University of Louisville Music department offers clinics and the Performing Arts High School would be a great site for an exchange concert.

There are many educational tour opportunities as well like the Water Works Museum (a stunning building and listed as a National Historic Landmark), Muhammad Ali Center, the Stoneware Art Factory, and American Printing House for the Blind.

This trip gave me a two day sneak peek into what Louisville has to offer. I hope to return for one of the many festivals like the Kentucky Derby Festival, Sing "n" Joy International Choral Festival, Jack O' Lantern Spectacular, or Christmas at the Galt House. Louisville has definitely been added to my list of favorite places to visit!

Be sure to contact your GNTT Sales Consultant to request a free proposal or call 1-866-487-0661.

