

Thursday Evening Activity – Twilight Thursday at Churchill Downs 🐎

Join us for Twilight Thursday — a fun, relaxed evening of live Thoroughbred racing and entertainment at the legendary Churchill Downs. Gates open at 4:00 PM, with the first race post set for 5:00 PM. Last post time 8:23pm. General Admission (\$10) tickets can be purchased at the walk-up ticket window (or on Ticketmaster), and will allow you to roam throughout the open public areas of the track, soak up the historic ambiance, and enjoy the evening at your own pace.

What to Expect:

Live Horse Racing: Experience Thoroughbred racing under the evening sky, with multiple races throughout the night.

Paddock Walk: See the horses up close in the paddock before they head to the track — a great way to connect with the sport and feel the energy before the race.

Watch from the Rail: If you want a front-row feel, stroll to the rail and feel the thunder as horses thunder past.

\$2 Select Domestic Beers: Enjoy classic \$2 beer specials at The Paddock Bar — a highlight of Twilight Thursdays — available while they last.

Live Music: Relax with live music on the Paddock Plaza stage.

Food Trucks: Grab dinner or snacks from a rotating lineup of popular local food trucks on site.

Historic Grounds: Wander the iconic track grounds and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere — whether you're a first-time visitor or longtime fan.

Travel Note:

Churchill Downs is about a 10-minute Uber ride (~\$20 each way) from The Embassy Suites Hotel, so it's an easy and convenient way to spend your Thursday evening in Louisville.

This is a come-and-go experience, so feel free to arrive when it works best for you and enjoy an authentic Louisville racing night under the lights.

Questions – Find Eric Rogge, Union Pacific. Happy to help.

Things to Check Out Downtown Louisville

Louisville is extremely walkable downtown, and several great bourbon, food, and entertainment spots are within a short Uber—or even walking distance—from the conference area.

Distillery & Bourbon Experiences

Old Forester Distilling Co.

- One of the best “starter” bourbon experiences downtown.
- Excellent 1-hour tour – Highly Recommend (reserve ahead of time)
- Working cooperage and bottling line
- Great gift shop
- Easy to fit over lunch or after sessions

Evan Williams Bourbon Experience

- Very accessible and walkable downtown option.
- Interactive history-focused tour
- Speakeasy tasting room vibe
- Good quick stop if you only have an hour

Michter's Fort Nelson Distillery

- Known for its upscale cocktail lounge and atmosphere.
- Excellent bourbon cocktails
- Beautiful renovated historic building

Angel's Envy Distillery

- One of the more modern and visually impressive distilleries downtown.
- Unique finishing process discussions
- Excellent tasting room
- Very popular stop for bourbon enthusiasts

Quick Downtown Stops (If You Have an Hour)

21c Museum Hotel Louisville

- Free contemporary art museum inside the hotel.
- Easy walk-through during lunch or downtime.

Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory

- Factory tours usually fit within an hour.

Muhammad Ali Center

- Well-done museum and cultural center focused on Ali's life and legacy.