

Finding the Real America Along Kentucky's Great River Road

By David Shuffett

The **Great River Road** is America's longest National Scenic Byway, skirting the Mississippi River for more than 3,000 miles and through four Kentucky counties – Fulton, Hickman, Carlisle and Ballard. Throughout the route, you'll not only see great natural scenery along the mighty Mississippi but also the charm and individuality of picture-perfect towns.

In much of America, corporate chain stores and sprawling shopping malls have given populated areas a homogenous look and feel. We know the buildings, the food and the inventory all too well. But less-traveled communities of the **Kentucky Great River Road Region** have been largely unaffected by that. And that's a good thing if you want to shop for real treasures for items you won't find almost anywhere else.

Tempting Treasures

There's an abundance of boutiques and gift shops with eclectic merchandise, and you'll sometimes find local arts and crafts, flower arrangements, jewelry and distinctive clothing all in the same shop!

In Carlisle County, **Rusted Roots** boutique sells trendy clothing for the younger crowd as well as arts and crafts like locally made soaps.



Cindy's Flowers and Gifts | La Center, KY

There's no better example of this variation of inventory than at **The Peppermint Owl** in the tiny community of Bandana in Ballard County. Here you can shop for a beautiful selection of antiques and play glow-in-the-dark mini golf all in the same building.



Ivy Depot | Fulton, KY

In Fulton County, **Ivy Depot** has a little bit of everything, too – handmade crafts, Kentucky products, jewelry and clothing. Just down the street, **Seven Coffee and Christian Gifts** sells lattes, frappes, Bibles, T-shirts and wreaths.

In Ballard County, **Cindy's Flowers** offers fresh-cut bouquets as well as boutique items like handmade scarves and other creations made right in the shop.

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The Peppermint Owl |
Bandana, KY

Unique Boutiques

Thirteen boutique and gift shops in the four-county region work together by recommending each other if need be. In Hickman County, if **The WOODS** boutique doesn't have what you want, they might send you over to **Bella's Boutique** or **The Lemon Tree**.

And each year they all participate in the March Mania Boutique Trail, in which customers who have a card stamped at all thirteen locations are eligible to win more than \$1,000 in merchandise.

The Kentucky Great River Road Region is full of small towns and friendly people. But most importantly it is the real America, proudly hanging on to its rural values and its family owned farms and businesses – the very things that built this country.

For more information about Kentucky's Great River Road and its attractions, call 270-705-0506 or visit www.kygreatriverroad.org.



The Lemon Tree | Clinton, KY

IF YOU GO

- **Kentucky Great River Road Region**
270-705-0506,
www.kygreatriverroad.org
- **Rusted Roots**
270 U.S. Hwy. 62, Bardwell, KY 42023
– (270) 816-0770
- **Ivy Depot**
228 Commercial Ave., Fulton, KY
42041 – (270) 472-1059
- **Seven Coffee & Christian Gifts**
420 Lake St., Fulton, KY 42041 –
(731) 223-9660
- **Cindy's Flowers & Gifts**
380 W. Kentucky Dr., LaCenter, KY
42056 – (270) 665-8500
- **The Peppermint Owl**
6201 Woodville Rd., Bandana, KY
42022 – (270) 816-6318
- **Bella's Boutique**
111 East Clay St., Clinton, KY 42031 –
(270) 356-0775
- **The WOODS**
7473 State Rte. 288, Clinton, KY
42031 – (270) 207-8233
- **The Lemon Tree**
117 East Clay St., Clinton, KY 42031 –
(270) 653-8235