

# KC101

Kansas City is a metropolitan area of 2 million people that constantly surprises first-time visitors with its cosmopolitan flair, beauty and vitality. It's an energetic city forged by a rich history that offers eclectic cuisine, swinging jazz, one-of-a-kind museums, a thriving arts scene and fantastic shopping.

## KANSAS CITY TRADITIONS

Kansas City is known for:

**WORLD-FAMOUS BARBECUE** – The city's signature food is served up at more than 85 barbecue establishments, each boasting its personal house specialty. The secret to KC-style barbecue is that it's slow smoked for up to 18 hours, usually over hickory.

**DAZZLING FOUNTAINS** – Kansas City is home to more than 200 fountains—more than any other city in the world except Rome, Italy. Our nickname is the City of Fountains.

**SWINGING JAZZ** – From the roaring '20s to the early '40s, jazz reigned in Kansas City, producing the swinging signature sound that became known as Kansas City-style Jazz. Live jazz can be heard regularly at more than 40 area nightclubs.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### NICKNAMES

- KC
- City of Fountains
- Heart of America

### POPULATION

- Metropolitan population of 2.1 million (15-county metropolitan statistical area)
- Kansas City is the 26th largest metropolitan area in the U.S.
- Four of the area's largest cities are Kansas City, Mo. (459,787); Overland Park, Kan. (173,372); Kansas City, Kan. (145,786) and Olathe, Kan. (125,872)

### LOCATION

- Kansas City is a bi-state metro area that straddles the Missouri-Kansas line
- It is the most centrally located major metropolitan area in the U.S.
- If you're flying, Kansas City is just a three-hour flight from either coast

### CLIMATE IN KC

Kansas City enjoys each of the four seasons. Early spring brings rapid fluctuations in weather, with the last frost generally occurring in early April. The summer season is characterized by warm days and mild nights. Fall is normally mild with a period known as Indian Summer, characterized by mild, sunny days and cool nights. Winters are not severely cold. Snowfalls of 10 inches or more at one time are rare.

### KANSAS CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MCI)

- Serviced by 11 major airlines with 186 peak day departures (48 non-stop)
- KCI's three terminals were the first designed under the "drive-to-your-gate" concept to minimize the distance from curb to aircraft, making airport access convenient and easy.
- KCI Airport is often distinguished as one of the most passenger-friendly airports in the world.

"Kansas City is known for its barbecue, bebop and easy-does-it Midwestern charm. But a decade-long effort to revitalize the city's downtown has transformed this former jazz mecca ... back into a culturally rich metropolis." –*The New York Times*

## FUN FACTS

### FAMOUS KANSAS CITIANS

Celebrities who were born or lived in the KC metro area

- Robert Altman  
(director/writer/producer)
- Ed Asner  
(actor)
- William "Count" Basie  
(jazz musician)
- Thomas Hart Benton  
(artist)
- George Caleb Bingham  
(artist)
- George Brett  
(baseball player)
- David Cook  
(singer)
- Chris Cooper  
(actor)
- Walter Cronkite  
(journalist)
- Walt Disney  
(writer/producer/director)
- Melissa Etheridge  
(vocalist)
- Maurice Greene  
(track & field star)
- Jean Harlow  
(actress)
- Jesse James  
(outlaw)
- Pat Metheny  
(musician)
- Satchel Paige  
(baseball player)
- Charlie Parker  
(jazz musician)
- Tom Pendergast  
(politician)
- Ginger Rogers  
(actress)
- Paul Rudd  
(actor)
- Kate Spade  
(designer)
- Eric Stonestreet  
(actor)
- Jason Sudeikis  
(actor)
- Harry S. Truman  
(U.S. President)
- Tom Watson  
(professional golfer)
- Dianne Wiest  
(actress)

### KC-BASED COMPANIES

- AMC Entertainment
- American Century
- Applebee's International
- Black & Veatch
- Boulevard Brewing Co.
- Cerner Corporation
- DST Systems
- Garmin International
- H&R Block
- Hallmark Cards
- Kansas City Southern
- Sprint
- Russell Stover Candies
- YRC Worldwide

### KC INVENTIONS

- McDonald's Happy Meal
- Jazz jam session
- Rival Crock Pot
- Modern-day bumper sticker
- Wishbone salad dressing
- Cherry Mash
- Chicken Spiedini
- Multi-screen theater concept
- Valomilk Candy
- M&M candy coating

## DID YOU KNOW?

- **Walt Disney** attended the Kansas City Art Institute in the early 1920s. He opened his first animation studio in Kansas City, Laugh-O-Gram studios. Disney fed a small mouse in the building that eventually became the inspiration for Mickey Mouse.
- The **Country Club Plaza** opened in 1922 as the nation's first outdoor shopping district. With exquisite mosaics, statues and sparkling fountains, the Plaza covers 14 square blocks and contains more than 150 stores and restaurants. The Moorish architecture is modeled after Seville, Spain, one of Kansas City's sister cities.
- The Urban Institute recently ranked Kansas City third among the top 50 cities in the country for the **most festivals** and special events.
- Kansas City has a vibrant **performing arts** scene. With more than 65 performing arts organizations in Kansas City, it's rare that the city's stages are dark.
- Years before he became a Pulitzer Prize winning author, a young **Ernest Hemingway** worked as a cub reporter for the *Kansas City Star* from 1917 to 1918, covering fires, crimes, the General Hospital and developments at Union Station.
- Kansas City is a global leader in the **animal health** industry, with area companies accounting for one-third of all sales in the \$15 billion industry.
- **Union Station** is the second-largest working train station in the nation, behind Grand Central Station. The 1914 building was reopened in 1999 after a \$200 million renovation thanks to the nation's first bi-state tax. It features a science center, rail museum, theater district, restaurants and Amtrak service.
- The **National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial** is the only museum in the United States dedicated to WWI. It houses the second largest collection of WWI artifacts in the world.
- Kansas City is the **College Basketball Capital of America**. The city has hosted more Final Fours and more NCAA basketball games than any other city in the country. KC is now also the home of the College Basketball Experience and the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.
- By 1949, 86 factories were manufacturing **garments** in Kansas City. It was said that one in seven American women wore clothing made in Kansas City.
- The city's location along the Missouri River made it a **gateway for pioneers** heading West. Beginning with the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804–1806, four national trails passed through Kansas City, including the Santa Fe, California and Oregon trails.