

Walking Tour

Live Racing

Every April & October

Thoroughbred Auction Sales

January, April, September, October & November



Keeneland, which opened for racing in October 1936, was established on property purchased a year earlier from John Oliver "Jack" Keene, a colorful character and successful Thoroughbred trainer in Russia and Japan in the early 1900s. The property included a 11/16-mile track and a nearly completed stone building adaptable for a Clubhouse and other uses.

Start Here

The Keeneland walking tour begins in front of the Clubhouse adjacent to the Information Center.



1 Clubhouse *(No inside access)*

- The original Clubhouse building was designed in the mind of John Oliver "Jack" Keene. No blueprints were used in the construction.
- The foundation was created extra thick and most of the walls are stone-faced with 4 x 8 tile backing on the interiors. Virtually no wood was used, except on the third floor, which was intended to be used as a ballroom.
- The Clubhouse is a private membership organization created for the benefit of those who are involved in or support the Thoroughbred industry.
- The stone pattern used by Jack Keene on the original Clubhouse is known as a "two over two" style of stonework. This design was thought to be influenced by his travels abroad and consists of two smaller stones set over a large stone with another two small stones set below—almost in a north-south-east-west orientation. The result, from a distance, is an attractive and unique quilted effect.



From the Clubhouse, turn to the right to arrive at the South Entrance and Information Center.

2 South Entrance & Information Center

- The Information Center handles race meet ticket sales, guided tours and visitor information.
- One of the three public entrances into the Keeneland Paddock and Grandstand (the others are the East Entrance and North Entrance).

Proceed through the South Entrance. The Keeneland Shop will be to your left.

3 The Keeneland Shop

Located inside the South Entrance near the Clubhouse, this unique shop is packed with wonderful items for all occasions. Visit Keenelandshop.com for current hours of operation.

Follow the hallway just past The Keeneland Shop, labeled Clubhouse.

4 Early History

Gain a historical perspective of Keeneland displayed in the corridor of the Paddock-side rear entrance to the Clubhouse.

Exit the hallway near the shop, go straight and follow the fence line of the Stakes Winner's Circle to view the Paddock.

5 Paddock

- The Paddock at Keeneland is actually two distinct areas: Saddling Paddock and Stakes Winner's Circle.



- The Saddling Paddock (opposite side of the Paddock from The Keeneland Shop) is defined by multiple trees and a walking ring covered with rubberized brick (made from recycled tires) that offers secure footing for the horses.
- Jockeys emerge from the Jockeys Quarters and are called to their mounts in the Saddling Paddock.
- The Paddock Judge will call "riders up," and the horses will file on to the path in post position order. An Outrider will lead horses across to the Stakes Winner's Circle, making a left turn around the ring and proceeding out through the tunnel and to the race track.
- The stalls in the Saddling Paddock are where horses are tacked and jockeys mount when raining.
- The tall white-barked tree in the middle of the Paddock is a sycamore planted about the time Keeneland opened in 1936.
- In between the Saddling Paddock and Stakes Winner's Circle you will see jockey statues (in front of Elevator B) painted in the silks of the winners of recent major races at Keeneland.





6 Paddock Renovations

A three-level Paddock Building and a reimagined saddling experience are the highlights of the major capital investment project opening in Spring 2026.

The capital project is the largest undertaken here since Keeneland opened in October 1936 and marks the first major construction at the track since Keeneland Library was built in 2002.

With fans in mind, the renovation includes centrally located saddling stalls for improved views, a reimagined Stakes Winner's Circle for post-race celebrations and the striking new East Entrance and Plaza to enhance arrival and gathering during the race day. Behind the scenes, jockeys benefit from a new Jockeys Quarters with modern amenities, with riders entering the Paddock through a new, more visible route for fans to enjoy.

From the Paddock, enter the ground floor level of the Grandstand. Go straight through the facility the to track. Walk along the rail to view the Winner's Circle, race track and infield.

7 Race Track

- Workouts are held on the main track mid-March to mid-December.
- Keeneland has an innovative dirt racing surface that uses a unique vertical drainage system.
- One mile and one-sixteenth oval, with 4 1/2-furlong and 7-furlong chutes. Stretch length 1,236 feet. Width 75-80 feet.
- The track was originally built at a cost of \$52,000, a huge sum in the 1930s. Jack Keene anticipated running his races in the morning with the sun to his patron's backs. Today, the afternoon sun brings out a bevy of Keeneland's signature white parasols.
- Keeneland became the first track in America to install an aluminum rail when the original wooden rail was replaced in 1949.
- In fall of 2006, Keeneland unveiled a state-of-the-art LED tote board in the infield.
- The two "Keeneland" hedges on each side of the LED tote board are Japanese yews.
- Originally, two lakes graced the infield but the glare from the afternoon sun blinded patrons in the Grandstand so they were drained and filled in.
- The turf course is 7 1/2 furlongs.
- Take time to view the Winner's Circle on the left side as you face the track. This is possibly the most coveted piece of real estate on the grounds.
- The "apron" is the large paved area leading from the Grandstand to the race track.

Head back into the first floor Grandstand and take the stairs up to the second level.



8 Grandstand

The original wooden Grandstand was designed by architect Robert McMeeKin and had a seating capacity of only 2,500. The box seat section was replaced by steel, concrete and aluminum construction in 1950 and in 1953 the Grandstand was expanded to a capacity of 3,849. A 384-person dining room was also added then.



- In 1963, a renovation project linked the Grandstand and Clubhouse and, in 1976, the old wooden Grandstand was entirely replaced by concrete and steel. Keeneland's biggest expansion came in 1991 when 22 Corporate Boxes were added along with two dining areas, the 500-person Phoenix Room and the 65-person Lafayette Room, all on the fourth floor.
- On the second level of the Grandstand, stop by Box 58, which is the box originally assigned to the Keene family.

The second level of the Grandstand (trackside) will give you a great vantage point to view the track. When you have read about the Grandstand and the race track, go back down to the far right, and walk around the building to the North Entrance.

9 Stable Area

- In 1935, six wooden barns were erected from remnants of barns from the old Kentucky Association track to prepare for Keeneland's inaugural race meet.
- Today, the number of barns in the stable area is 57 with a capacity of 1,951 horses.

Please view from outside of plank fences only.

To sample authentic track foods, take the road next to barn 20 until it stops in front of the Track Kitchen.



10 Track Kitchen

- At the east end of the stable area is Keeneland's famous Track Kitchen, where horsemen get their coffee and breakfast.
- Visitors are always welcome for breakfast and lunch. Visit Keeneland.com/visiting-Keeneland for hours of operation.



Follow the same road back and turn left in front of the East Entrance to continue to the Sales Pavilion.

11 Sales Pavilion

- Keeneland is the best-known Thoroughbred sales company in the world.
- Keeneland held its first sale in 1938.
- Keeneland hosts 5 sales a year: January Horses of All Ages, April Horses of Racing Age, September Yearling, Championship and November Breeding Stock.



12 Parking Lot

- Landscape architects of national renown, Innocent & Webel, designed the tree-lined parking lot and grounds to create a park-like setting.
- Note the large green cast iron "KA" post as you enter and leave the Keeneland grounds. These are replicas of the original posts found at the Kentucky Association track once located in downtown Lexington. While removing building materials purchased from the old Kentucky Association track, Keeneland's first President, Hal Price Headley, was delighted when he realized that the "KA" monogram in the laurel wreath also could represent the new Keeneland Association track.

To tour the Library, follow the double-laned road that leads to Man O' War Blvd.



13 Library

- One of the world's largest repositories of information related to the Thoroughbred, the Library contains nearly 300,000 books; approximately 1 million photographic negatives; memorabilia such as a stopwatch used to time Man o' War; and much more.
- The Library was established in 1939 through a donation from William Arnold Hanger. The current building opened in July 2002.
- Many special collections have been generously donated over the years.
- Open year-round Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except major holidays.



Scan to learn more about Keeneland's new Paddock Building



Scan to view the full Keeneland Grounds Map