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Fort Leavenworth

Moving Toolkit



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ABOUT FORT LEAVENWORTH

About

If you've ever been stationed at Fort Leavenworth, or have begun to tell people that it will be your next duty station, you've heard all of the jokes: "What'd you do?," "How long are you going to be in for?," "Oh, you're going to be 'stationed' there." People just can't help it. After all, Fort Leavenworth may be most famous worldwide for being the home of the U.S. military's maximum-security prison. Yet there is so much more to Fort Leavenworth. It is affectionately known as the "Intellectual Center of the Army" and, indeed, it houses some of the most prestigious Army schools, including the Command and General Staff College (CGSC). CGSC is the current iteration of the School of Application for Cavalry and Infantry established by General William T. Sherman in 1881,



the first of its kind. Fort Leavenworth also supports U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command by housing the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center. The Foreign Military Studies Office also calls the post home.

Fort Leavenworth was named for Colonel Henry Leavenworth, who established the fort in 1827. It is the oldest active post west of Washington, D.C. and the oldest permanent settlement in Kansas. It was the base for the U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment (commonly known as the Buffalo Soldiers), which was formed in 1866. The post enjoys an amiable relationship with the town that has grown up around it. Given the post's location close to Kansas City, big-city amenities are available within 45 minutes of the installation.

Fort Leavenworth boasts its own "school district," comprised of an elementary and middle school, both of which are consistently rated some of the best schools



in the city. There is only one high school in town, Leavenworth High School, which is home to the country's first JROTC unit.

If you like history, Fort Leavenworth will definitely make you happy. Simply when driving around post, you can still see buildings that have been standing almost since the inception of the fort. Of special note are the Fort Leavenworth Stables, which houses horses even today, and the Buffalo Soldier Memorial Park. Its location on the west bank of the Missouri River provides some truly beautiful views. For a unique souvenir of your time here, stop by the metal shop located near the stables. The shop sells metal home goods crafted by the military prisoners who also call Fort Leavenworth home.

While you will have to be smart on what to do in case of a prison escape, Fort Leavenworth and the surrounding community is relatively safe, with a lower cost of living than average. In general, deployments while stationed at Fort Leavenworth are less likely, and the Army likes to say it's one of their best "family-friendly" posts. Whether you're stationed here for one year or four, Fort Leavenworth may end up being one of your favorite assignments.



ABOUT FORT LEAVENWORTH

Leavenworth is a charming Kansas town that grew up along the west bank of the Missouri River, about 25 miles northwest of Kansas City. Incorporated in 1859 as the first city in the Kansas Territory, Leavenworth has played a key role in American history since its establishment in 1827. First, Leavenworth was a key supply base for western expansion and settlement, and then it was a destination for African American refugees in and around Kansas both just preceding and during the Civil War.

The city has been home to many notable historic figures, including Buffalo Bill Cody and Wild Bill Hickok, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Charles Henry Langston, an African American leader originally from Boston who worked tirelessly to secure suffrage and legal rights for all. Today, there are museums, trails, and historic buildings that pay tribute to these men and their place in American history. Leavenworth is also home to the C.W. Parker Carousel Museum, which houses four antique carousels, including a hand-carved wooden carousel dating from 1913. Families can still ride all of these carousels for a reasonable fee.



Leavenworth enjoys a humid continental climate consisting of hot, humid summers and cold, drier winters. Average temperatures are 19 degrees (°F) in winter and 90 degrees (°F) in summer. As with any climate like this, spring brings truly awe-inspiring thunderstorms and the threat of tornadoes, though Leavenworth has historically been lucky with tornado activity. Leavenworth is home to the University of Saint Mary—a four-year, private Catholic college—and a Kansas City Community College satellite campus. In addition to being a college town, Leavenworth's biggest employer is the U.S. military. It enjoys a lower-than-average cost of living.

Leavenworth is proud of its military history. Buffalo Soldier Memorial Park pays tribute to one of its most famous units. Two Medal of Honor recipients call the city home. It is also home to the country's first Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), which is based at Leavenworth High School. In addition, some of the Army's most prestigious schools are located at Fort Leavenworth.

Of course, what most people associate with Leavenworth is that it is home to four detention centers and prisons, including the military's maximum-security prison. A fifth prison is located in nearby Lansing, Kansas. For all of its prisons, Leavenworth inhabitants enjoy a lower-than-average crime rate, and most residents say that they hardly notice the prisons in the course of everyday life. Instead, they enjoy catching glimpses of the herd of bison that call the city home; visiting some of the historic, nearby towns, such as Olathe at Christmastime; or heading into Kansas City to take advantage of big-city amenities.

BASE HOUSING

Fort Leavenworth

Almost everyone will tell you that if you ever plan to live on post, then this is the place to do it. Whether you are here for school (one to two years) or for a regular assignment, the post offers many housing options. It's very safe and has a 1950s small-town feel, with children playing outside, community bonfires, and lots of great playgrounds. Add in a healthy dose of family-friendly activities, and many say living on Fort Leavenworth is the best experience of their military careers. The post has an elementary school, a middle school, and a very active homeschool co-op. Although navigating the on-post housing system can be tricky, once you've secured housing, everything else falls into place.

Big Plus

- Fort Leavenworth offers a safe, family-friendly environment.
- Tons of activities provide opportunities for every member of the family.
- The on-post schools are highly rated and desirable.
- Two words: No commute!



Things to Consider

- Homes on post may be smaller than those off post.
- The roads are icy in winter.
- There is no hospital or ER on post.
- Maintenance can be delayed.



OFF-BASE HOUSING

Leavenworth

The “First City in Kansas” is rich in charm and history. With a population of around 35,000, it boasts historic homes—priced well below expectation—and its high school offers many college-level courses. In 2008, an underground city was discovered running below the historic downtown area. With Leavenworth’s close proximity to post, it is easy to take advantage of all the family-friendly activities offered. Plus, it’s only 45 minutes to Kansas City.

Big Plus

- Living in Leavenworth means a short commute to the installation.
- This area includes reasonably priced historic homes.
- The public high school is solid.

Things to Consider

- The roads are icy in the winter.
- Traffic backs up during rush hour.
- This area offers only small-town amenities.

Lansing

Lansing has been consistently named “one of the safest and quietest cities in the U.S.” Located approximately 10 miles from Fort Leavenworth, Lansing offers small-town charm (population is around 12,000) and stellar schools. Its brand new high school boasts state-of-the-art technology and the highest graduation rate in the state. Lansing has a hot, hot rental market, and the housing market increased 33% in 2016 alone. So whether you rent or buy, or buy and rent out when you leave, housing is affordable and the market is healthy. Plus, being only 30 minutes from Kansas City means you can enjoy the amenities of a big city without all of the inconveniences. Military families who make Lansing home tend to recommend looking at the Rock Creek and Wyndham Hills subdivisions.

Big Plus

- Families with children appreciate the great schools and family-friendly atmosphere.
- Commuting from Lansing to the installation is easy.
- Its small-town charm appeals to many who are looking for a quieter place to live.

Things to Consider

- Commute time to the installation is roughly 20 minutes.
- Roads are icy in winter.
- Housing goes quickly, so working with an experienced real estate agent is of tremendous value in this market.

Platte City

Platte City is a small town (population 4,700) located about 10 minutes from downtown Kansas City. It enjoys a low crime rate, great schools, family-friendly subdivisions with great HOAs, and affordable housing. Commute time to post can be up to 30-40 minutes, depending on weather and traffic conditions. In addition, travel to post requires driving on private roads. Its close proximity to Kansas City makes it extremely desirable for those wanting to experience big-city living. Popular subdivisions include Seven Bridges, Running Horse, and Timber Park. The nearby Zona Rosa area is situated just inside the Kansas City border and offers luxury condo-style living near downtown and the airport.

Big Plus

- Proximity to Kansas City provides tons of entertainment, shops, and restaurant options.
- This area has a low crime rate.
- Platte City includes many affordable housing options, complete with HOA amenities.

Things to Consider

- It’s a longer commute time to post (30-40 minutes).
- Housing costs are slightly higher than in other areas.
- Some families report feeling disconnected to post activities.