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## A Weekend in Music City: Visiting Nashville, Tennessee

Travelled by [Jan Ross](#) on 22 August 2013 | [0 Comments](#)



### Travelled By

**Jan Ross**



Jan Ross has been traveling since she was an infant as her father was a career Marine Corps officer and her family traveled the globe. ...[Find out more!](#)

If you are a fan of country music, there is only one destination possible for the perfect getaway – Nashville, Tennessee. Country music is available in a huge variety of venues, both large and small, but Nashville also has a lot to offer visitors in addition to music.

Centrally located near the famous Grand Ole Opry and just a short drive away from downtown Nashville, the Gaylord Opryland Hotel is a sumptuous, gorgeous resort perched on the banks of the Cumberland River. The hotel has an incredible, sprawling nine acres of indoor gardens, cascading waterfalls and an unbelievable, complete indoor river with a Delta flatboat for cruising along. Remember, this is all INSIDE the resort. Step into the luxurious, huge lobby with several check-in desks, stroll into the climate-controlled glass atrium and you could

easily think you have stepped into another world. Request a Premium Garden View Room which overlooks the gardens and has a balcony because you will want to relax out there with a southern sweet iced tea and just marvel at the incredible beauty of this place.

Once you have settled in your room and spent some time enjoying the view, pay a visit to the 20,000 square foot Relache Spa. This world-renowned spa offers soothing massages and facials, or indulge in their famous pink pearl firming body wrap, and a tropical paradise manicure to prepare for your evening out. Men will enjoy the spa as well and can spend time in the steam room and sauna before their relaxing treatments. The spa also has a lovely indoor pool and a fitness center available and the resort also has two huge, outdoor pools as well which are beautifully landscaped. There is also a bar and grill by the pool where you can order a drink and sip it by the pool as you marvel at this wonderful place.



When you can finally tear yourself away from the hotel, there's still plenty to see and do right in the area. Grab a shuttle to the nearby Opry Mills Mall, an enormous outlet mall with hundreds of stores and plenty of restaurants for a quick lunch in the middle of your shopping frenzy. It's close enough to the hotel to walk but the free shuttle will come in handy since you will be carrying so many packages!

You have to spend an evening at the Grand Ole Opry, the longest running radio show in the world, and one that made country music popular all over the world. Tickets are available online or you can purchase them at the hotel. Different performers are featured each week and you may be lucky enough to catch one of the local celebrities performing.

For even more musical entertainment and a surprisingly delicious dinner, take a cruise on the General Jackson Showboat. An original paddlewheel riverboat and the largest showboat in the country, it has four roomy decks and a lovely Victorian theater located in the center of the boat where you will dine and see an excellent show about the history of country music in Tennessee.

But the best place to find some really great country music and some undiscovered talent is in downtown Nashville. There are plenty of places to park in several large parking lots, so just park and stroll around to the different honky-tonk clubs and bars. Many will have their doors propped open, especially on pleasant summer evenings so just listen to what sounds good, stroll in, order a drink and enjoy listening to someone who might be the next famous country music singer!



While you are downtown, plan to have dinner at Demo's, just a short stroll from the downtown area. Demo's is a family-owned and run restaurant which specializes in Italian food, although they offer a variety of choices. Everything is delicious, although the mushroom burger which comes on some delicious, fresh Ciabatta bread is especially delicious.

By far one of the most interesting and unique places to visit in Nashville is the Parthenon. That's right, the Parthenon – just like the one in Greece. You simply will not be able to believe this place exists as you drive up to in the center of Centennial Park, a lovely urban park in Nashville. Originally built for Tennessee's 1897 Centennial Exposition, it was so popular that they rebuilt it as a permanent building. The 42-foot statue of Athena inside is something to see and the building also serves as Nashville's art museum, so there are plenty of statues and paintings to peruse as well.



You should also spend an afternoon at another unique fixture in Nashville – the Fontanel Mansion. Not your typical mansion, this 27,000 square foot log home was once the residence of Barbara Mandrell and is now open for tours. Plan lunch at the Café Fontanella where you can order a hot and delicious calzone.

Spend some time in Nashville and you will quickly learn this beautiful Southern city has a lot more to offer than country music!



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