

A Getaway to Music City: Nashville, Tennessee

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It's the best place to listen to country music—and maybe even to discover the next big country star. Here's your ultimate guide to a trip to Nashville, Tennessee.

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Want to hear some great country music, and maybe even discover country music's next big star? Then you probably already know that, Nashville, Tennessee, is the place to visit. But do you really know all that the Music City has to offer for a great Southern getaway?

For accommodations, no hotel can even begin to compare to the Gaylord Opryland Resort in the category of outrageous luxury. This sumptuous, gorgeous resort is perched on the banks of the Cumberland River with a sprawling nine acres of indoor gardens, cascading waterfalls and an unbelievable indoor river with a Delta flatboat. It's a truly incomparable place to stay. Request a Premium Garden View Room, which overlooks the gardens. You will want to relax out the balcony with a southern sweet iced tea and marvel at the incredible beauty of this place. Make time for the Relache Spa at the resort—one of the best spa experience you will ever know—and then relax at either the lovely indoor or outdoor pool.

T+E TOP 5

5 New Zealand



5 Web Original Series



Credit: Jan Ross

There's 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. You can also take a shuttle to the world-famous Grand Ole Opry, the longest running radio show. The show made country music popular all over the world and features different performers each week. Tickets are available online, or you can purchase them at your hotel.

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 theatre located in the centre 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 is downtown Nashville. Take a walk along Lower Broadway to check out the different honky-tonk clubs. Many will have their doors propped open so listen for what sounds good, stroll in, order a drink and enjoy the show. You may just hear next big country music star!



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While you are downtown, plan to have dinner at the Nashville location of Demos' Restaurant, just a short stroll from Broadway. Demos' is a family-owned and -run restaurant specializing in Italian food, although they offer a variety of choices. Everything is delicious, although I personally recommend the mushroom



burger on fresh Ciabbata bread.

One of the most interesting and unique places to visit in Nashville is the Parthenon. This replica of the Parthenon in Greece was originally built for Tennessee's 1897 Centennial Exposition, because it was so popular, it wasn't demolished with the other Exposition buildings, and it was even rebuilt as a permanent structure in 1920. Inside you will find a 42-foot statue of Athena and Nashville's art museum.

Another unique activity in Nashville is a visit to Fontanel Mansion. The former home of country music star Barbara Mandrell, Fontanel is a 27,000-square-foot log home. Visitors can tour the home itself (which includes a large collection of country music memorabilia), explore the grounds or take in a show at the 4,500-seat ampitheatre.

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JAN ROSS



After a lifetime of travel, Jan Ross can pack a bag and hit the road with very little notice, although she will always have a little black dress and some snazzy shoes in there. She loves to travel with her husband of more than 35 years as he is a great photographer and she is often way too busy having fun to think about taking pictures. Active travel or relaxing, she is up for it all!

FOLLOW: @janross53