



Visit Nashville,

the music capital of the South

By Bobby L. Hickman

You don't have to love music to enjoy visiting Nashville but it certainly helps!

Nashville originally got the title "Music City USA" based on its well-known roots in country music. But dig a little deeper and you'll find gospel, blues, rock and roll, and even classical music.

Of course, the state capital of Tennessee is best known as also being the capital of the country music world. The Grand Ole Opry -- longest running radio program in the world -- broadcasts from the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, a 2,881-room resort. Two shows on Friday and Saturday nights feature talent ranging from such veterans as Bill Anderson to newer performers like Marty Stewart and Rodney Foster. With touring superstars and rising newcomers dropping in, you never know who will be on the stage on any given night. (Order your tickets early.)

From 1925 to 1974, the Opry was housed at the Ryman Auditorium downtown. A guided tour lets you wander into the dressing rooms and walk on the stage where such legends as Hank



Williams or performed. The "Carnegie Hall of the South" continues to host concerts, with recent artists ranging from Bob Dylan to Alan Jackson, plus winter Opry performances.

The Ryman is within walking distance of a host of musically oriented downtown attractions, including:

- The Country Music Hall of Fame.
- "Honky Tonk Highway" on Broadway features Tootsie's Orchid Lounge.
- The Schermerhorn Symphony Center.

Nashville is also home to a number of live music venues, such as the Wildhorse Saloon and the Bluebird Café. Whatever your musical tastes, you'll find something to satisfy your cravings in Nashville.

IF YOU GO:

You can get a free vacation planning package from the Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau at www.visitmusiccity.com or 800-657-8910. The Tennessee Department of Tourism also has information at www.TNvacation.com or 800-GO2-TENN.

For details

about specific venues, contact:

- Country Music Hall of Fame, www.countrymusicshalloffame.com 615-416-2001
- Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, www.gaylordopryland.com; 877-466-OPRY
- Grand Ole Opry, www.opry.com; 615-971-OPRY
- Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum, www.musicianshalloffame.com; 615-244-2263
- Ryman Auditorium, www.ryman.com; 615-469-8700
- Schermerhorn Symphony Center, www.nashvillesymphony.com; 615-827-6500
- The Bluebird Café, www.bluebirdcafe.com; 615-392-1481
- Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, www.tootsies.net; 615-726-0469
- Wildhorse Saloon, www.wildhorsesaloon.com; 615-902-8200


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