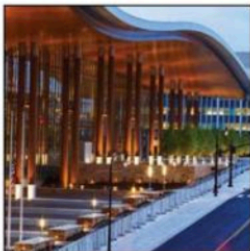




The Nashville Bucket List

A VIEW FROM DOWNTOWN

By Melonee Hurt

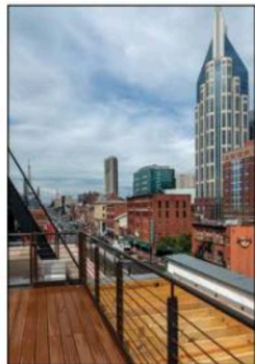


1. TOUR THE MUSIC CITY CENTER

This 1.2-million-square-foot space was designed with some rather interesting features that are explained on their totally-worth-your-time, behind-the-scenes tour. The curvy backbone of the new addition to the Nashville skyline is sustainability: The roof is a 4-acre rooftop garden that helps reduce the energy needed to heat and cool the building, while holding down air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. If the sustainability story doesn't do it for you, the architecture alone is worth the time. Reserve your free tour at their website.

201 Fifth Ave. S.
(615) 401-1400

nashvillemusiccitycenter.com



2. THE ROOFTOPS

One thing Nashville has seemingly ignored for many years is its views of the downtown skyline. But with recent growth and renewed in-town vibrancy, several restaurateurs have finally given us multiple places in the sun. Thank you, Acme Feed & Seed. Thank you, Virago. Thank you, Sambuca, Watermark and Up! All fabulous eateries with or without their view, their rooftop bars and dinner seating rival those in any urban setting. So if it's a nice night, find a spot atop one of these hot spots and set a spell. Or do what Whoopi says and "enjoy the view."



3. HONKY-TONKIN'

Yes. It's a verb. And a noun. You go honky-tonkin' at a honky-tonk, and these joints are the blood that pulses through the veins of Nashville. They always have been and always will be. The legendary stretch of Lower Broadway that fills the air with live music wafting out of every front door is a must-do. You can amble into Tootsies Orchid Lounge, Robert's Western World or The Stage at pretty much any hour of the day or night and hear some of the best live country and rockabilly music you'll ever hear. A bit like the Waffle House of live music, you won't be impressed with the housekeeping in any of them, but there's something magical about the dinge, knowing that probably every famous country star has knocked back a PBR here—maybe on the very barstool you're sitting on.



4. NASHVILLE GHOST TOURS

Any city that has a little history to it comes with some great stories of those who came before us—and *might still be here*. Nashville Ghost Tours offers a haunted walking tour, a haunted tavern tour (complete with frosty-cold adult beverages) and a hearse tour. Spots boasting extremely creepy ghost stories include the Ryman Auditorium, Union Station Hotel, the Tennessee State Capitol and Printers Alley. The proprietors of the business pride themselves on historical accuracy and multiple eyewitness sources for each story. Sightings have happened during tours, so prepare to be scared! Visit the website for more information on tours and times.

nashvilleghosttours.com



5. CAPITOL HILL

Tennessee's state capitol is a majestic spot, whether or not you're interested in the legislature. The piece of land, in itself, is scenic and beautiful, and it is crowned by the historic capitol building that dates back to 1859. The building was designed by architect William Strickland, who died suddenly during the construction and was then buried in the north façade of the building (see #4). The capitol is open to the public, and free tours are available. During legislative sessions, visitors can view the sessions of the Senate and House of Representatives from viewing galleries. For details on tours and hours of operation, visit the website.

600 Charlotte Ave.
(615) 741-2692

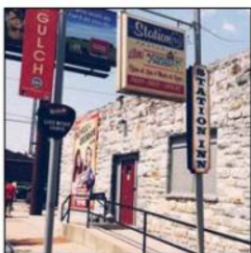
www.capitol.tn.gov



6. FARMERS' MARKET

The Nashville Farmers' Market is a bustling, outdoor shopping mecca of home-grown goodness in the warmer summer months, with indoor eateries and stalls open all year. Housing upward of 100 farmers alongside local ranchers, dairies and plant nurseries, the Farmers' Market is chock-full of homegrown and homemade palate pleasers, including farm-direct goods, local honey, cheese and jams. The market, which has been in existence in one form or another since the early 1800s, has survived urban development, relocation and a flood.

900 Rosa L. Parks Blvd.
(615) 880-2001
nashvillefarmersmarket.org



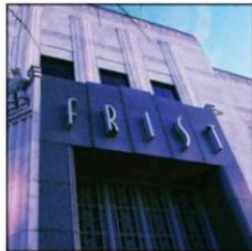
7. STATION INN

One of the coolest things about The Gulch (see #17) is that it has completely developed around, over, beyond *and in spite of* a small, nondescript cinder block building called the Station Inn. But it's not the building that makes this a must-see Nashville spot—it's what happens

onstage that has kept the Station Inn alive for more than 40 years. Almost as revered locally as the Grand Ole Opry, the Station Inn attracts top-level performers, and you never know who might sit in. So keep your eyes open and enjoy what the old sign boasts: "Live acoustic music and beer, pizza and snacks."

402 12th Ave. S.
(615) 255-3307

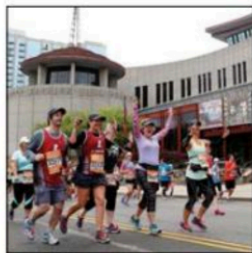
www.stationinn.com



8. THE FRIST CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

Situated on Broadway in a statuesque and stately early-1900s art deco building, The Frist Center is eye candy on multiple levels—and repurposing at its finest. The beautiful, century-old building was originally Nashville's downtown post office but now houses a thriving museum for visual arts, thanks to Dr. Thomas Frist Jr. and his family, who steered the building's revival. Open seven days a week and featuring some of the best rotating art exhibits in the world, the center has something for children and adults alike. The gift shop is a favorite shopping spot among locals as well, so be sure and stop in.

919 Broadway
(615) 244-3340
www.fristcenter.org



9. COUNTRY MUSIC MARATHON

If you're a runner, the St. Jude

Rock 'n' Roll Nashville Marathon & 1/2 Marathon are really great ways to see the city on foot. Not only do you go past historic spots, tourist attractions and Music Row, you also get to see the city's festive side. In addition to frequent bands and performers (it *is* Music City), neighbors along the course set up drink stands and dress in costumes to entertain participants. The race takes place every April, and whether you're a marathoner or a weekend warrior, this event is a must-do.

www.runrocknroll.com/nashville/



10. MUSIC CITY TRIATHLON

Not to be outdone by their running friends, the triathlon community also offers a unique way to see the city. Held each July, the Music City Triathlon begins and ends in the parking lot of Nissan Stadium (home of the NFL Tennessee Titans), but not before winding participants through the streets of downtown and up and down the Cumberland River. It's an event worth watching, even if you aren't up for jumping in and participating.

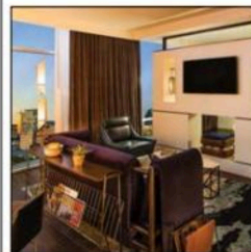
www.team-magic.com/events/64



11. ASCEND AMPHITHEATER

What has become Nashville's much-needed downtown green space by day is also the area's coolest new outdoor concert venue by night. Designed to be a park first and a venue second, the world-class amphitheater replaces a dormant, stinky old trash-burning facility that occupied a massive 11-acre tract along the riverfront. So check out the concert lineup, pack a picnic, stroll over to the grounds, enjoy a nap on the lawn and get ready for showtime! 310 First Ave. S.
(615) 999-9000

www.ascendamphitheater.com



12. THOMPSON HOTEL

Downtown's newest boutique hotel opening fall of 2016, is a hot spot worth seeing. Thompson Nashville is set to make The Gulch a little bit sexier, with floor-to-ceiling windows and a sleek, luxurious design celebrating a creative Southern spirit. Think sophisticated, but in The Gulch, which is the capital of young and hip, so you know the hotel—along with the people who stay there—will be pretty. There will be a rooftop patio, bars featuring regional brews, and The Marsh House restaurant for a seafood-focused menu with

accountments sourced from local farmers.

www.thompsonhotels.com/hotels/thompson-nashville

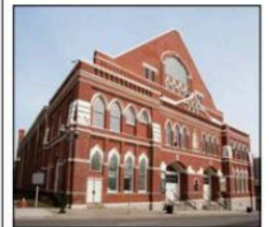


13. COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Inside what looks like the world's largest piano (and arguably one of the cooler building façades lining the streets of downtown Nashville) sits the Disney World of country music. The CMHOF is equal parts preservation and celebration of one of America's most beloved musical genres. Yes, you'll find rhinestones and old guitars, but you can also see live music and exhibits from current stars. The building itself is a spectacle and worth a visit, but the contents—for any country music fan—make a visit to Nashville complete.

222 Fifth Ave. S.
(615) 416-2001

countrymusichalloffame.org



14. RYMAN AUDITORIUM

It's widely known as the Mother Church of Country Music. And while it was a church originally, it has become much more than that. It's among the best venues in the world to see live music. It's small enough to promise you'll never get a bad seat, but large and renowned enough to draw amazing talent to its famous stage. Among artists from all genres,

the Ryman is considered holy ground. But even if a live show isn't in your plans, a tour of the facility should be. Established in 1892 as the Union Gospel Tabernacle, the gorgeous building still cradles its guests in creaky old church pews inside sunlit stained-glass windows.

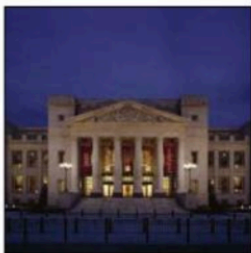
116 Fifth Ave. N.
(615) 889-3060
www.ryman.com



15. MUSICIANS HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

If the Country Music Hall of Fame is a showcase for Reba's beaded gowns, then the Musicians Hall of Fame is the showcase for the legendary players who made all of her albums sound so good. Musicians represented in this amazing space range from Chet Atkins to Garth Brooks, alongside many other names you might not know as well—but their skills on guitar, keyboard, drums and bass will be extremely familiar to you. The newest addition to the space is the Grammy Museum Gallery that aims to educate students and visitors about the process of making music.

401 Gay St. (entrance on Musicians Way)
(615) 244-3263
www.musicianshalloffame.com



16. SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER

The amazing building with the funny

name is home to the award-winning Nashville Symphony. Named after the symphony's music director and principal conductor of more than 20 years, Kenneth Schermerhorn, the \$123.5 million building opened in 2006—even though it looks as if it's been a part of the rich musical culture of Nashville forever. The facility is widely lauded for its acoustical beauty, its neoclassical architectural style, its acclaimed symphonic performances, and amazing pops performances that pair the symphony with diverse artists including LeAnn Rimes, Styx, Boyz II Men, Alabama and Tony Bennett.

One Symphony Place
(615) 687-6500
(615) 687-6400 (box office)
www.nashvillesymphony.org

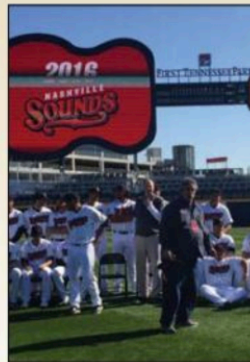


17. THE GULCH

Just a few years ago, the area referred to as The Gulch consisted of train tracks and homeless people. But now, it offers the one thing downtown Nashville has lacked for decades: hipster stuff. It's a nice respite from the honky-tonks and touristy areas a few blocks down Broadway, offering walkable enjoyment between uber-fab restaurants (like Saint Añejo Cantina—a must-do), trendy bars (Bar Louie, The Pub Nashville), and shops for the young and beautiful (Urban Outfitters, Blush Boutique). Nestled among towering condo buildings with super-hip names like Velocity and Icon (and the cranes that continue to build more of them) is a bustling little town of its own. You can valet park your car and spend the evening bouncing from joint to joint.

Just know that if you are over 25 or buy your clothes in a shopping mall, you will feel old and very un-hip.

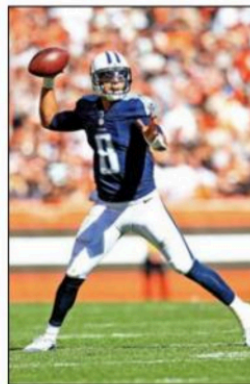
www.explorethegulch.com



18. NASHVILLE SOUNDS BASEBALL

There's something about spending a summer evening at the ballpark. Thanks to a brand-new stadium and revamped energy for our Triple-A minor league team, locals and visitors alike are enjoying a renewed fervor for the Nashville Sounds and hometown baseball. First Tennessee Park sits just over Capitol Hill from downtown and offers great views and some great opportunities to share America's favorite pastime with your friends and family. The season runs from April to September, so check the website for tickets.

19 Junior Gilliam Way
(615) 690-HITS (4487)
www.nashvillesounds.com



19. TENNESSEE TITANS FOOTBALL

Going to an NFL game is something everyone should experience in

their lifetime. It's totally a different experience from watching a game on TV. Being in the stadium, feeling the excitement and experiencing everything that isn't picked up on TV (singing the national anthem with 69,000 friends, for example) makes this a serious Nashville must-do. The season runs from September through January, so come see if the new coaching staff can bring back a little of that original Titans mojo.

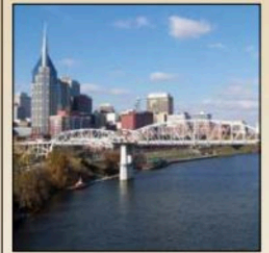
1 Titans Way
www.titansonline.com



20. CITY WINERY

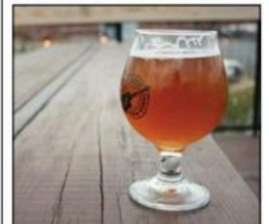
Is it a winery or a restaurant... or an intimate live music venue? It's actually all three and worth a visit for all three reasons. Boasting an impressive lineup of name acts and those with more of a boutique following, City Winery has established itself among an already impressive list of live music venues in Nashville. It's sort of the Ryman minus the history. Honestly, the venue's seats are all good, and so is the food. And live music aside, the space is a playground for wine lovers. You can select a barrel, have it named after you, and even print a unique label for your very own batch. Visit the website for more on the winery, brunch, Wine Wednesday, weddings, dinner or the patio, or to get on the waiting list to see Emmylou.

609 Lafayette St.
(615) 324-1010
www.citywinery.com/nashville



21. JOHN SEIGENTHALER PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Take a walk across the John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge, named after famed journalist and longtime editor and publisher of *The Tennessean*, Nashville's daily newspaper. The walk across this bridge isn't necessarily to get to the other side (unless you're going to a Titans game). It's really to get to the top and look back at the city. The views of the Nashville skyline are great, as are the views of the river from atop the pedestrian-only bridge.



22. BREWERY TOURS

Downtown Nashville is home to three breweries becoming well known for their craft beers and ample amounts of hospitality (and others are springing up all the time). Yazoo, Jackalope and Tennessee Brew Works offer tastings, tours, and a fun way to spend an afternoon among fellow lovers of a good porter, IPA or other specialty brew. Tours include plenty of tastings if you're 21 or over. Check websites for operating hours, tour schedules and seasonal brews.

910 Division St.
(615) 891-4649
www.yazobrew.com

701 Eighth Ave. S.
(615) 873-4313
www.jackalopebrew.com

809 Ewing Ave.
(615) 436-0050
www.tnbrew.com