

# Entertainment & Travel JOURNAL



Photo by Stephanie Edwards

By STEPHANIE EDWARDS  
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You don't have to be a rock (or country) star to enjoy the Gaylord Opryland's newest in-room amenity — a Gibson guitar.

Now hotel guests can participate in Gibson's Check-In, Rock Out™, for \$50 per day, a small price to pay to live out your dreams for a day.

There are 12 alluring options for guests to choose from like the much coveted Gibson Les Paul Standard

Goldtop and the Epiphone DJ-160E-VC John Lennon.

After selecting a guitar, guests can take the guitars to their rooms and play to their hearts' content. In order to keep wannabe musicians from raising the roof (or disturbing other guests), they are given a Pocket Pod, a mini amplifier, and a set of headphones.

This new program is part of the resort's new summertime Country Music Vacations

package, which allows guests to "go country" for a while.

Living up to its name, the package offers a lot of country music experiences including the following:

- "Country Music USA" — a dinner show aboard The General Jackson Showboat that features songs by some of country music's legends

- "Tim Watson's Fiddlin' Around" — a midday cruise aboard The General Jackson

that showcases the musical talent and comedic abilities of Tim Watson

- Opry Country Classics — Thursday nights at the Grand Ole Opry, which are hosted by great musicians like Larry Gatlin, Marty Stuart and John Conlee. Live performances by these artists, as well as other legends will keep the evening exciting.

The hosts will take the time to recognize and pay tribute to several of their peers, both

past and present.

- "Always ... Patsy Cline" — a bio-musical about the life of one of country music's leading ladies

- Wildhorse Saloon's Revved-up Country Experience — downtown Nashville's most popular honky tonk, where patrons can take line dance lessons, listen to live music and eat a delicious meal

- The Country Music Hall of Fame and Ryman Auditorium Museum — two distinct

museums that offer visitors a peek into the history of country music.

The package includes tickets to all of these attractions, as well as reservations for four nights, a preferred seating ticket to the Grand Ole Opry, one breakfast pass to Water's Edge Marketplace Buffet and a ticket to ride the Delta Riverboat that winds through the resort's indoor river.

For more information, visit the Web site — [www.gaylordopryland.com](http://www.gaylordopryland.com). ■



Photo by Becky Higdon

Tim Watson and his band present an excerpt from their hit lunchtime show, "Fiddlin' Around." This show can be seen on The General Jackson Showboat.



Photo by Stephanie Edwards

Ride one of the Delta Flatboats and see the striking views that the Delta Atrium has to offer.



Enjoy an evening line dancing at the Wildhorse Saloon.

## Fuse puts a spark in Nashville nightlife

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Photos by Stephanie Edwards

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The last thing Nashville visitors may expect to find in Music City is a Las Vegas style nightclub.

However, keeping with the Gaylord Opryland's goal of becoming less Minnie Pearl and more Halle Berry, the resort's newest and hottest night spot — Fuse — fits the bill.

If it's the VIP treatment you're seeking, Fuse can dish it up with the best of them.

High profile and corporate guests can reserve as much or as little space as they need to ensure that their party goes off without a hitch.

Cabanas can be rented

to provide semi-private party areas with plenty of plush seating available.

But some parties call for a venue with even more space and privacy, which is available in the VIP Lounge. Especially appealing is the fact that those who want to remain on the "down low" can maintain a sense of security, while still being able to maintain a visual of their surroundings. This is made possible by specially designed mirrors, glass and specially designed lighting and effects. Plus, doormen can be assigned to guard any private party.

But some Fuse goers do want to be seen, and

there's no better place to be seen in Nashville. The expansive dance floor and its surrounding posh seating areas offer a remarkable area to play, be noticed and do a little people watching yourself.

The club's award-winning DJ plays everything from country to Beatles tribute bands, making it the perfect place to push aside your inhibitions and dance the night away.

It's understandable that you will most likely work up an appetite while dancing, and Fuse's gourmet collection of tapas (or small plates/appetizers) is an

incredible way to feed your cravings. Succulent menu items include short ribs, braised in red wine; potato puffs, crispy potatoes with gorgonzola cheese fondue; spring rolls; BBQ flat bread, featuring grilled chicken, Monterrey jack cheese, caramelized onions, roasted red and green peppers; and salmon lollipops, which are savory not sweet.

Fuse's libation menu is impressively delicious, as well. Expect everything from chocolate and fruit to cotton candy and rock candy suckers to decorate and flavor these unique concoctions.

Gaylord Opryland

hotel guests are admitted for free. However, anyone is welcome to join the party for a \$20 cover charge, which also covers the cost of valet parking.

Friday is considered ladies' night at Fuse, and all ladies are admitted for free.

Club hours are from 8 p.m. to late Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Wednesdays and Sundays are reserved for special events.

Many other questions about Fuse can be answered by visiting [www.nashvillefuse.com](http://www.nashvillefuse.com).

Remember ... what happens in Nashville stays in Nashville. ■

# 'Country Music USA' returns to Opryland



Photos by Becky Higdon

The incredible cast presents a show that captures the history and pageantry that truly defines country music.

One cast member, Paul Vann, actually performed in the original theme park show.

He has returned to the stage to help his fellow cast members sing songs from those by some of the early country musicians like Hank Williams, Sr., and Patsy Cline to those by the stars of today like Carrie Underwood and Rascal Flatts.

It's not surprising that the cast also performs several gospel songs to show the strong

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Whether or not you were a devoted fan of "Country Music USA" during the days of the Opryland theme park, you're bound to enjoy the Gaylord Opryland's new production.



influence traditional gospel music has had on country music.

The cast also manages to bring in some humor and down home fun to the musical revue, making it an evening of well-rounded entertainment that will appeal to most Nashville visitors.

"Country Music USA" is being presented on The General Jackson Showboat, and prior to each outstanding performance, an elegant meal is served.

Guests will be treated to prime rib served with natural pan juices, mixed green salad with roasted sweet peppers, spiced pecans, grape tomatoes and crumbled bleu cheese.

A vegetarian meal is available, and if you decide to go this route, you won't be disappointed. This is not a cookie cutter vegetarian meal that is an afterthought. Instead, like everything the Opryland serves, it is a masterpiece.

An example of the vegetarian meal is a flavorful red pepper stuffed with seasoned rice and miniature squash and red pepper sauce.

No matter which entrée you choose, dessert is an incredibly decadent chocolate truffle cake.

Cruises board at 6:15 p.m. Monday through Saturday and at 5:15 p.m. on Sunday.

Ticket prices start at \$52.95 per person.

For more information, visit the Web site — [www.generaljackson.com](http://www.generaljackson.com). ■



## Hear Gatlinburg's Tunes and Tales



By **STEPHANIE EDWARDS**  
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interests many Smoky Mountain visitors.

2006, the City of Gatlinburg developed a way for them to

Appalachian culture

During the summer of

way for them to

experience the area's culture in a way they never could before.

At various locations on the Parkway, visitors will be able to experience Gatlinburg's Smoky Mountain Tunes and Tales.

Costumed musicians, artists and craftsmen will demonstrate their talents, representing East Tennessee culture from various eras including the 1800s through today, during 14 nightly acts that will perform at the same time in 10-minute increments.

Standing on a horse-drawn wagon, the rotating cast of 20 acts including storytellers, musicians and crafters will

share their stories and skills during the eight-week event.

The sounds of dulcimers and other traditional instruments will carry throughout downtown Gatlinburg. Guests are welcome to join in the fun, clapping and singing along.

Cloggers will grab passersby and invite them to try out dance moves, making for some fun vacation memories.

Plus, Zeno the Gatlinburg Bear™ will greet guests as they enjoy the show.

Performances will be offered from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, beginning on June 12. Then,

on June 26, the program will go into full swing, with performances every day of the week.

"Our intent is to take what we feel is one of Gatlinburg's greatest assets — the walkability of the community — and provide something that would be fun and somewhat different than what most places are doing," Tourism Director David Perrella added.

There is no admission charge to attend Gatlinburg's Smoky Mountain Tunes and Tales.

For more information, call (800) 56-VISIT or visit the Web site — [www.gatlinburg.com](http://www.gatlinburg.com). ■

## Fireflies glow at Elkmont

By **STEPHANIE EDWARDS**  
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Imagine being in total darkness, then, suddenly, thousands of little lights begin dancing before your eyes.

This is the experience you can have at Elkmont when the synchronous fireflies come out of the woodwork for mating rituals.

The fireflies, aka lightning bugs, are beetles, and the synchronous fireflies are just one of the 14 species that live in the Great Smoky Mountains.

This particular species transition from larvae to adult fireflies sometime during the first or second years of their lives.

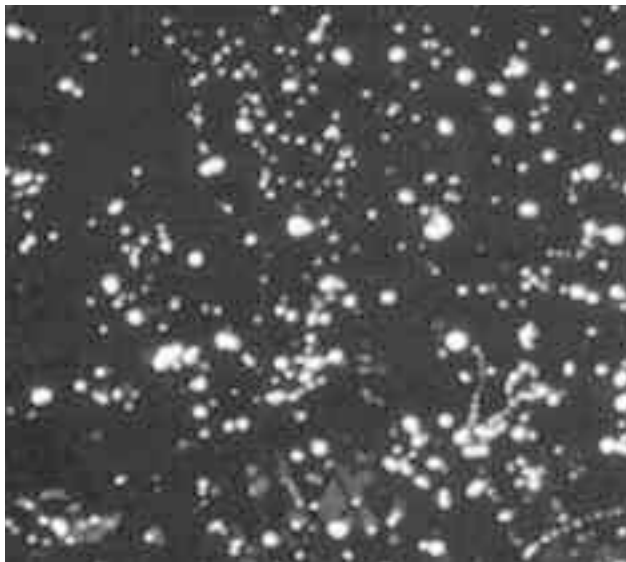
As adults, they only live about 21 days. During this short time period, they seek mates. Males flash while flying, and their female counterparts flash while remaining in one place.

Anyone wanting to experience this enchanting display can after dusk on June 6-14 at Elkmont in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Guests are asked to respect the fireflies in the following ways:

- covering their flashlights with red or blue cellophane
  - use flashlights only when walking to your viewing spot, then shut it off immediately
  - point your flashlights at the ground
- Lawnchairs and small backpacks with food and water are allowed.

However, coolers, alcoholic beverages and pets are not allowed.



The Elkmont entrance road will closed to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic from 5 p.m. to midnight, except to registered campers who are staying at the Elkmont Campground.

Instead of driving to Elkmont, park officials are encouraging event goers to take a trolley from the Sugarlands Visitors Center, which will begin running at 6 p.m.

Trolley service will be offered until 9 p.m. or until the Sugarlands Visitor Center park area is full, whichever comes first.

Trolleys will pick up visitors at 11 p.m. and return to the Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Tickets to ride the trolley is \$1 roundtrip.

For more information, visit the Web site — [www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm). ■

## Happy Birthday Beth!

The Knoxville Journal staff would like to wish our friend and co-worker Beth Emge a Happy Birthday!

