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Gaylord Opryland Resort: So Much More Than Just a Hotel

By **Isabelle Esteves**

Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville is more than just a place to stay, it is a destination. While you may not come to Nashville just to stay here if you are lucky enough to be attending a conference or to have booked a room here you are in for a treat.

Rooms come in several categories and of course there are some very lovely suites. If you are a fan of HGTV you saw them decorate two of the suites on their New Design Star in 2008. They have their share of celebrity clients including the first President Bush and his wife who celebrated their anniversary at Opryland Resort.

The most desirable rooms are those with an atrium view. This can be a patio or a balcony. The rooms come with either a king size bed or two double beds. Your balcony will overlook one of three amazing atriums. We were in the Cascades Section but there is Magnolia and Delta as well. The sweet little balcony is reached from the room by French doors and the views are unbelievable. The sound of the water falls is so soothing and what could be more romantic than drinking your morning coffee sitting in your complimentary bathrobe on your charming balcony. The amazing part is that once you close the doors there is not a sound from the atrium.

The bathrooms are all tiled and have a marble vanity and sink. There is a very nice makeup mirror that is lit and hangs on the wall. In the closet outside the bathroom there are two bathrobes and an iron and ironing board. There is also a vanity with an additional sink which has a small drip coffee pot stored underneath.

Service is outstanding. While we were at dinner the bed was turned down, the radio was playing soft music and the drapes to the Atrium had been closed. The bed was very plush with three pillows, shams and a bed roll. Uber soft sheets make for a very cozy way to spend the night.

There is a desk in the room and it has a comfortable chair, there is an additional chair in the opposite corner. There is a large armoire that holds the TV and there is free WIFI if you have your laptop along.

In the Cascades Lobby there is a coffee bar where you can get simple breakfast fare. Toasted bagels and cream cheese, muffins, fruit, yogurt, cereal and Krispy Crème Donuts. There is also a Hertz rental desk in the lobby along with a huge concierge desk. Parking is either self park or valet the choice is yours.

There are a variety of restaurants to satisfy and food craving. Old Hickory Steak House is a very upscale choice with superb food and service. Ristorante Volare is the fine dining Italian restaurant. For seafood there is the Cascades Seafood Restaurant and the more casual Water's Edge Marketplace Buffet Restaurant is a great casual dining choice. No matter what you are in the mood for you will find it in one of the Opryland Restaurants.

If you are looking for a clubbing experience Fuse Nightclub brings the vibe of Las Vegas to Nashville. Food and drink are offered in a young and vibrant atmosphere. This is not your mama's nightclub, it is hot, hot, hot!

Relax is their day spa which is full service and offers everything that the hedonistic vacationer could desire. This is the perfect place to spend the day while a spouse is attending a business meeting or to relax after having spent the day at a conference. The indoor swimming pool is also located in the same area but remains open longer than the spa.

The hotel is filled with shops and restaurants and there is certainly enough to keep you from ever leaving for several days. If you have the chance, take the Flatboat ride through the longest indoor river in the world. It gives you a unique perspective of the restaurants as well as the water and light show. There is tropical vegetation growing everywhere and you really will feel as if you have travel several hundred miles south.

Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville is the largest structural hotel in the world. There are hotels with more rooms in Las Vegas but not more acreage. This is a fabulous place to stay and I highly recommend it for anyone who wants something very special and unique. Staying here is a bit of a splurge but we all know, you are worth it.

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