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## If you go

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- Getting around: Lower Broadway, the financial district and sights such as the Country Music Hall of Fame and Ryman Auditorium and destinations such as the Gaylord Entertainment Center and Nashville Convention Center are grouped closely enough to make walking an attractive option. But if you want to see West Nashville (including Vanderbilt University) or the Grand Ole Opry, a rental car is a good idea. Cabs are plentiful, though you have to call for one, and prices are reasonable.
- Staying there: Most of the big hotel chains have outposts. I stayed at the Union Station Hotel (1001 Broadway, 615-255-6850; <http://www.unionstationhotelnashville.com>), a grand property that used to be the city's main train station. It's about five blocks west of Lower Broadway. Rooms can run \$350 or more, but I was able to find one for \$206 (state, county and city taxes added another \$34).

Another luxury property is the Hermitage Hotel (231 Sixth Ave. N., 615-244-3121; <http://www.thehermitagehotel.com>), in the middle of the financial district, and home to two high-end restaurants (the Oak Room and Capitol Grille) and the Best Restroom in America (see story). On the hotel's Web site, I found deluxe rooms running from \$240-\$329; packages available.

The Hilton Nashville Downtown (121 4th Ave. S., 615-620-1000; <http://www.nashvillehilton.com>) is across the street from the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Gaylord Entertainment Center. I found rates from \$229 to \$294; the hotel also offers packages such as Feel the Rhythm and Experience the Arts, which include room plus two admissions to the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Frist Center of the Visual Arts, respectively.

### What to do

- Cooter's (2613 McGavock Pike, 615-872-8358; <http://www.cootersplace.com>). This is a museum and theme store dedicated to the *Dukes of Hazzard* TV show. Nobody thinks there is anything strange about this.
- Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum (222 5th Ave. S, 615-416-2001; <http://www.countrymusicHalloffame.com>). Memorabilia, pictures and recordings help tell the story of country music.
- Frist Center for the Visual Arts (919 Broadway, 615-244-3340; <http://www.fristcenter.org>). Please see If you go, E7

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A one-time post office, with a stripped-down classicist exterior and a glorious Art Deco interior, is now home to an ever-changing lineup of international exhibitions and rare collections.

- The Grand Ole Opry (2802 Opryland Drive, 615-871-6779; <http://www.opry.com>). Nashville's No. 1 attraction, offering live performances, tours, a museum and, of course, shopping.
- Gaylord Opryland Hotel (2800 Opryland Drive, 888-777-6779; <http://www.opryland.com>). Even if you don't stay here, you should take the time for a look-see. Soaring atria provide light for nine acres of indoor gardens, an indoor river (with its own flatboat) and a 20,000-square-foot spa and fitness center. There are at least a half-dozen restaurants, along with a nightclub and a golf course.
- Hatch Show Print (316 Broadway, 615-256-2805; <http://www.hatchshowprint.com>). Letterpress poster shop's walls are filled with original art for concerts, sporting events and more.
- The Hermitage (4580 Rachel's Lane, 615-889-2941; <http://www.thehermitage.com>). The home of President Andrew Jackson, where guides dressed in period costumes conduct tours.
- Ryman Auditorium (116 5th Ave. N., 615-889-3060; <http://www.ryman.com>). Built as a church in 1892, home to the Grand Ole Opry for more than 30 years, the Ryman is open daily for tours, and still hosts an eclectic performance schedule.

### Where to eat

- Arnold's Country Kitchen, 605 8th Ave. South, 615-256-4455. World's best meat-and-three, a Nashville tradition. (Grand Ole Opry stars still eat there.)
- City House (1222 4th Ave. N., 615-736-5888; <http://www.cityhousenashville.com>) is a very good Italian restaurant (you must try the frico).
- Las Paletas (2907 12th Ave. S., 615-386-2101; <http://www.wheresthesign.com>) is a fun Mexican-popsicle shop with an

amazing variety of flavors.

- One place I didn't try, but will next time, is Capitol Grille (231 Sixth Ave. N., 888-888-9414), a high-end restaurant in the Hermitage Hotel serving creative Southern cuisine.

**For more information**

Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau, 800-657-6910, <http://www.visitmusiccity.com>.

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