

Summer Getaways

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE As the "Country Music Capital of the World," Nashville offers a unique blend of non-stop entertainment and diverse cultural interests. And, no trip to Nashville would be complete without experiencing the excitement of the Grand Ole Opry, the country's longest running live radio show. Divided into 30-minute segments, visitors are entertained by renowned country music stars. Plan a family getaway this summer and take home good memories.

Gaylord Opryland Resort

Adjacent to the Grand Ole Opry, the **Gaylord Opryland Resort** features nine acres of lush indoor gardens, winding rivers and sparkling waterfalls. Tucked inside the climate-controlled glass atriums, guests can always enjoy the "outdoors" year-round. Each of the 2,881 guest rooms and suites offers well-appointed accommodations, outstanding resort amenities and exceptional summer package values.

Luxury reigned in our guest room, where French doors opened to bright atrium views.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT



Our room was situated in the Cascade atrium and created a most inviting, comfortable Southern atmosphere. Thoughtful details featured a pillow-top mattress, fine linens and a lounge chair for reading.

Most impressive was the lush Cascades Garden Conservatory, which links the two atriums. Like a city within a city, the Cascade and Delta atriums are dotted with secluded park benches, fine shops and a variety of restaurants and lounges.

With all of the dining options at Gaylord, we chose the two "surf and turf" restaurants. Setting the standards for service and quality, **Cascades Seafood Restaurant** offers an informal, airy patio atmosphere. The chef draws his inspiration from the sea. The signature crab soup and fresh pecan-crusted halibut were flawless. The menu changes with the seasons to provide the freshest ingredients all year.

For the ultimate fine-dining experience, **Old Hickory Steakhouse** offers a compre-

hensive wine list, gourmet cheeses and a mouth-watering menu of prime beef selections. But this restaurant's real jewel is having dinner in a magical courtyard, where lights twinkle delicately over the indoor river as the Delta flatboats pass by a 44-foot waterfall. From the Cowboy Bone-in Rib Steak to the perfectly aged Filet Mignon paired with several reduction sauces—every choice is the right one! Inside the mansion is a library to enjoy a distinguished collection of the finest single malt whiskies and rare cognacs.

Steps from the Gaylord Convention Center and the Delta River, the **Water's Edge Marketplace** features an International Sunday brunch. Guests can walk from station to station to sample the lavishly presented spread of fruits,

salads and carved meats as well as chef prepared omelets.

Of course, a day at the Opryland Resort visit would not have been complete without visiting the **Relâche Spa**—a 27,000 square-foot facility featuring indoor and outdoor pools, 12 lavish treatment rooms and a state-of-the-art fitness center. Considered Tennessee's largest and most luxurious spa, my husband indulged in a Swedish massage and I opted for a rejuvenating facial. It's easy to see why the Relâche Spa is considered Music City's place to soothe the body and soul.

As a destination resort, Gaylord Opryland goes out of its way to entertain guests of all ages. Gaylord can also arrange bus tours of the city's main attractions; tickets for a Grand Ole Opry show and even set up tee time at nearby Gaylord Springs, Nashville's premier golf course. With so much to offer, it's hard to believe that there is more to come. The Gaylord Opryland Resort is expanding in 2009. Sounds like a good excuse to visit again.

For more information on Gaylord Opryland Resort, call 615.889.1000 or visit www.gaylordhotels.com

Above, from the left: Gaylord Opryland Resort's guest room. The entrance to the complex.

Left: Dining on the Cascades patio. Guests enjoy the Delta flatboats on the indoor river.

Right: The outdoor pool at the Relâche Spa at night.

