

Where to Eat and What to Do in Nashville

From Honky-tonks to Food—Your *Ultimate Guide* to Visiting Nashville

By Drake Jarman, a Fifth-Generation Nashvillian

Being a fifth-generation Nashvillian and having SHSMD in my hometown, I wanted to share with you the best places to go while you are here. From honky-tonks to sights to food, this is the ultimate guide to the best in Nashville.



BROADWAY/DOWNTOWN

Honky-tonks

Tootsies Orchid Lounge: A Nashville must! Tootsies is our most famous honky-tonk and the best for live music. *Insider secret:* enter through the back entrance behind the building in the alley to avoid the line on Broadway. If you're up for it, try a shot of the "apple pie."

Legends Corner: The second most famous honky-tonk in Nashville and directly next door to Tootsies is also known for great live music. *Insider secret:* enter through the side door on 5th.

The Stage: A mainstay on the strip with more current country music. *Insider secret:* enter through the same alley as Tootsies to avoid the crowd.

Robert's Western World: This is a local favorite on the Broadway strip. I recommend grabbing a fried bologna sandwich and an ice-cold beer to get the full Robert's experience.

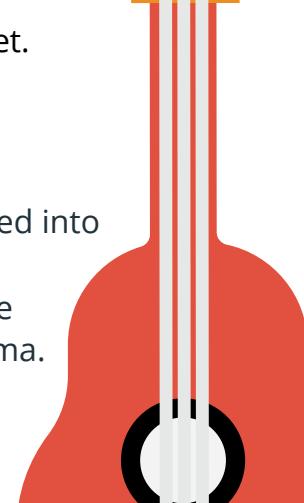
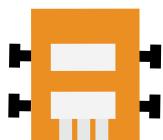
Printers Alley: Printers Alley is a collection of bars off the Broadway strip. The alley has a cool underworld-style vibe and is great for late-night stops. I recommend and will probably be in attendance for karaoke at Ms. Kelli's at least one night during SHSMD.

Sights

Country Music Hall of Fame: The hall of fame is a great daytime activity filled with exhibits from past and present country music favorites. Attached to the Country Music Hall of Fame is a Nashvillian's favorite letterpress poster designer,

Hatch Show Print: They are world famous for their Grand Ole Opry prints and much more. It is also free to visit without a Country Music Hall of Fame ticket. I recommend picking up a souvenir at Hatch Show Print for a keepsake even a Nashvillian would love. *Insider tip:* Stop by the **Stratasan booth** (#300) in the exhibit hall to pick up a custom Hatch Show Print style SHSMD poster!

The Ryman Auditorium: What first began as the Union Gospel Tabernacle turned into the "Mother Church of Country Music" and is now recognized as a prestigious, award-winning music venue. When you first walk into the Ryman, you will realize this is not a run-of-the-mill music venue. It is filled with history, soul, and charisma. If your schedule allows, recommend taking a self-guided tour.





BROADWAY/DOWNTOWN *continued*

Johnny Cash Museum: While I haven't personally been, I've heard good things about this museum. It is comprised of the largest Johnny Cash artifacts and memorabilia in the world. If you are a fan of Walk the Line, check it out.

GooGoo Cluster Shop: This Nashville staple since the early 1900s is a delicious, chocolate-covered marshmallow nougat with caramel and peanuts. Once you've had one, you will definitely want to take some home with you. *Insider secret:* rumor has it that booth #300 will have some of these delicious bites for you!

Restaurants

Bakersfield: Just off the Broadway strip and walking distance from the convention center, this new spot has solid tacos and lots of tequila and whiskey.

Etch: It's pricey but delicious and my brother's favorite. Reservations are recommended.

Puckett's Grocery: If you are looking for good country food with live music, this is the spot for you. Located just a couple of blocks off the Broadway strip. Its original location is in Leiper's Fork, a charming town just outside Nashville.

Acme Feed & Seed: This location has a view of the entire Broadway strip from the top floor. It's known for a delicious brunch and a great night scene for drinks.

The Southern: Traditional, upscale southern fare. The oysters are their mainstay. Also located just a couple of blocks off the Broadway strip.

The Farm House: Farm-to-table concept just off the Broadway strip. Reservations are recommended.

Trattoria Il Mulino: Really famous Italian-New York restaurant that opened up their first satellite location in Nashville. Reservations are recommended.

Pinewood Social: Super cool spot (probably the coolest). Great food and cocktails. Off the Broadway strip about five blocks. Has a bowling alley. Reservations for dinner and bowling are recommended.

Husk: This is a super famous, upscale southern restaurant from Charleston. Absolutely delicious, though slightly pricey. It's located about five blocks off the Broadway strip. Reservations are recommended.

Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint: Best barbecue in Nashville, says me! It's a three-story building with music, foosball, and a guaranteed good time.





GERMANTOWN

Restaurants

[Silo](#): A farm-to-table southern concept and a Nashville favorite. Reservations are recommended.

[Rolf & Daughters](#): I have had nothing but an awesome dining experience here. The menu is seasonal, but I've never been disappointed. Reservations are recommended.

[5th & Taylor](#): This is a new hotspot in town. It is expensive but really good. Reservations are recommended.

[City House](#): My personal favorite restaurant in Nashville. Get the pizza with the egg on top. You will not regret it. Reservations are recommended.

[Jack Brown's](#): Tiny dive spot serving the best hamburger in Nashville.

[Big Al's Deli](#): An authentic breakfast spot and a staple for Stratonauts. Tell them Jason Moore at Stratasan sent you.

[The Red Bicycle](#): Great breakfast spot for crepes and coffee.

[The Cupcake Collection](#): Best cupcakes anywhere. Also check out Christie Cookies—they're close by and equally delicious!

[Monell's](#): This old-school, family-style, southern restaurant has been a Nashville staple for many years.

Sights

[Nashville Sounds Baseball \(AAA\)](#): It's not the Rangers or the Braves, but the stadium is brand new and awesome. The stadium includes a bar called the "Band Box" in right field. No need to be a baseball enthusiast to enjoy this stadium. It has fun sitting areas and games to enjoy like ping-pong, cornhole, and more.

[Nelson's Green Brier Distillery](#): Full of rich history with a great story, this distillery is one you should definitely try. They offer tours and tastings.

[Stratasan's headquarters!](#) The coolest place in the world.





EAST NASHVILLE

Restaurants

Eastland Café: A local favorite with a wide variety of options. This café started the whole “foodie” thing in Nashville. Reservations are recommended.

Marche: An artisanal, European-style café that is a local favorite and trendsetter. Reservations are recommended.

Lockeland Table: This restaurant is a local favorite that offers farm-to-table foods. Their wood-fired pizzas are delicious.

Jeni's Ice Cream: Yes, it's a chain, but it is mighty tasty.

The Pharmacy: Burger joint with a cool outdoor biergarten setting. Veggie burger options are available.

Lyra: This restaurant has modern middle-eastern cuisine with a beautiful ambiance and a great patio.

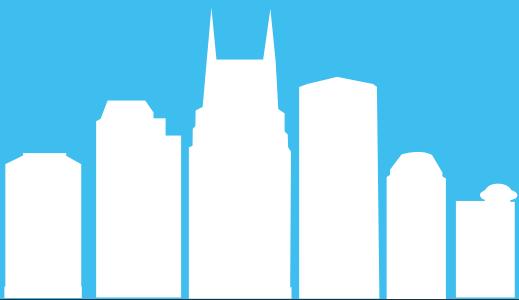
Margot Café & Bar: This trendsetter café is French inspired with a southern twist. Reservations are recommended.

Mas Tacos: Best tacos in the world. I recommend getting the chicken tortilla soup. This is a cash-only establishment.

Mitchell Deli: Best sandwiches in town! Get the award-winning Asian flank steak.

Barista Parlor: Best coffee in Nashville; it's worth the price. I recommend getting the sausage, egg, and cheese biscuit—trust me.





THE GULCH

Restaurants

[Virago](#): Really cool Asian fusion restaurant. Their sushi is killer. Reservations are recommended.

[Saint Anejo](#): A really hip Tex-Mex restaurant. Reservations are recommended.

[Moto](#): The most delicious Italian restaurant in Nashville. I recommend the black squid spaghetti or the blueberry lasagna. Reservations are recommended.

[Whiskey Kitchen](#): Cool spot for a pre- or post-dinner drink.

[Kayne Prime](#): Best steakhouse in Nashville. It is expensive, but worth it. Reservations are recommended.

[Biscuit Love](#): You must get breakfast here one day. The line will be long...if it's too long, see Barista Parlor.

[Adele's](#): This restaurant offers American farm-to-fork food via a famous chef and a great ambiance. Reservations are recommended.

[The 404 Kitchen](#): This kitchen offers a modern take on classic European cuisine and is an awesome experience. Reservations are recommended.

[Arnold's Country Kitchen](#): This is the best meat and three in town.

Sights

[Jackalope Brewery](#): Our first female-owned craft brewery. They used to be my neighbors.

[L.A. Jackson](#): A rooftop bar on top of the Thompson Nashville hotel.

[Station Inn](#): If authentic bluegrass and country music is what you are looking for, check out writers' night at this live music venue.





MIDTOWN

Restaurants

[Hattie B's Hot Chicken](#): Staple Nashville hot chicken joint. You should go here and get the tenders, even though authentic hot chicken is half the bird.

[Tavern](#): A gastropub brunch place. Reservations are recommended.

[The Catbird Seat](#): While this u-shaped, open kitchen is super expensive (\$350/couple); it's an unbelievable experience. Reservations need to be made thirty days in advance, unless you call Amex.

[San Antonio Taco Company](#): Local Tex-Mex favorite with great tacos, buckets of beer, and a patio.

[Pancake Pantry](#): A local favorite breakfast place with from-scratch pancakes. I recommend the sweet potato pancakes. The line is loooong. I recommend arriving early; it opens at 6 a.m.

[Double Dogs](#): Looking to watch your favorite team? Have no fear—this is a great place to catch it. It's a new chain, but a great place.

Sites

[Vanderbilt University](#): Go Dores!

[Belcourt Theatre](#): Enjoy local food and drinks while you watch a non-mainstream movie in Nashville's unique and beautiful nonprofit film center.

[The Patterson House](#): An upscale bar with amazing craft cocktails. There can be a wait.

12TH SOUTH/BELMONT

Restaurants

[12 South Taproom](#): A local spot with great bar food, rotating taps, and a patio.

[Epice](#): Really unique, yummy spot that serves Lebanese food. Reservations are recommended.

[Burger Up](#): A trendy burger spot.

[Edley's Bar-B-Que](#): Second-best barbecue in Nashville with a meat-and-three serving style.

[PM](#): An Asian fusion restaurant that is a personal favorite of mine.

[Bongo Java](#): Great coffee. We serve it every day in the Stratasan headquarters!



GREEN HILLS

Restaurants

[Bluebird Café](#): A small, intimate songwriter venue that has been featured on the TV show "Nashville." People say it's worth the wait; I've never been.

[Donut Den](#): Best donuts in the world. I recommend the cronut, chocolate éclair, and apple fritter.

[RH Café](#): Restoration Hardware's eatery is located in the Green Hills Mall that has three stories with a garden and conservatory on the fourth floor. They do not take reservations.

SHORT DRIVES FROM NASHVILLE

All three of these locations are very close together and would make for a fun day trip just outside our wonderful city.

[The Loveless Café](#): A bit of a hike, but so worth it. Get there early for the country ham and biscuits. It's about thirty to forty minutes from downtown Nashville.

[Franklin](#): Let me know if you plan on making a trip here. Great place with a cool, old downtown. It's about forty minutes from downtown Nashville.

[Leiper's Fork](#): Mentioned above and worth noting again, a charming country town with great antique shopping and the original Puckett's Grocery. It's just short of an hour drive from downtown Nashville.

I hope this list is helpful to you as you sketch out your plans for how to spend your time in this dynamic city I call home. If you have any questions at all or would like a personal recommendation, please don't hesitate to call or email me: drake@stratasan.com, **615-879-9128**.





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