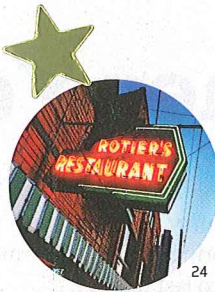


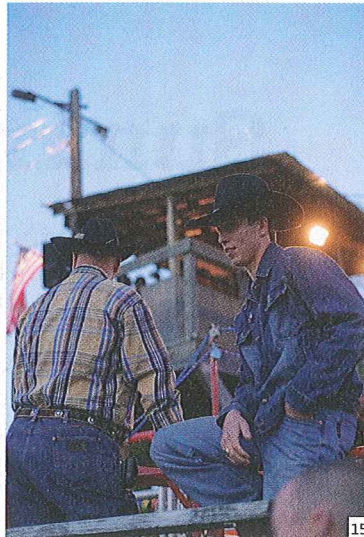
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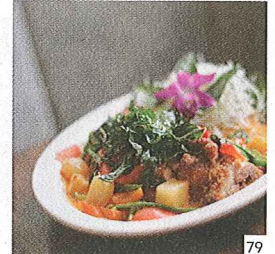
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# Nashville

**ALT-COUNTRY SINGER** Robbie Fulks, who semi-famously excoriated Nashville in one of his songs, the title of which is unprintable, has described the Music City as having a “prevailing ideology of fatuous feelgoodism.” But don’t let that stop you from visiting. With a vibrant downtown, a funky college district, old-money neighborhoods, and music, music, music, Nashville makes for a great long-weekend getaway. And really, when you’re a tourist, “feelgoodism” isn’t such a bad thing. —Richard Thurmond

## STAY

The **Loews Vanderbilt** (*below*) ([loewshotels.com](http://loewshotels.com)) has a music theme and is a short cab ride away from downtown and walking distance from a great park and the Vanderbilt campus. Rooms are nice with lots of amenities, but keep extras like parking in mind when considering the rates (from \$199). **Hutton Hotel** ([huttonhotel.com](http://huttonhotel.com)) is a brand-new boutique spot located downtown and loaded with style and perks, such as rooms with either a treadmill or elliptical (from \$194).



## EAT/DRINK

For one of the best cheeseburgers you’ve ever put in your mouth, head to local dive **Rotier’s** (*above*) ([rotiers.com](http://rotiers.com)). The bun is French bread, which is a minor stroke of genius. It’s popular with Vandy students, hipsters, blue-collar types, and tourists. For excellent live jazz, fine contemporary American cuisine, and a slice of old Nashville money, make a reservation at **F. Scott’s** ([fscotts.com](http://fscotts.com)).

## EXPLORE

Must-stops on Broadway Street are **Robert’s Western World** (this former boot-and-hat shop still displays some wares on the walls) and **Tootsie’s Orchid Lounge**. Sometimes the lesser-known spots, like **Second Fiddle**, are less crowded. During the day head to the **Country Music Hall of Fame** (*above*) ([countrymusicHalloffame.com](http://countrymusicHalloffame.com)). Don’t miss the compelling *Family Tradition: The Williams Family Legacy*, which tells the story of Hank Williams and all his kin (through the end of this year).



## SEE

Music permeates Nashville. Soak it up. Try to see a concert at the gorgeously restored **Ryman Auditorium** (*above*) ([ryman.com](http://ryman.com)), which was home to the Grand Ole Opry from 1943 to 1974. The pristine sound makes up for the church-pew seating. Fans of contemporary visual art should check out the **Frist Center** ([fristcenter.org](http://fristcenter.org)), which is housed in a giant former post office.



////// > **getting there** //////////////////////////////////////

It’s an easy, pretty, but longish drive. Take I-85 S to I-26 N to I-40 W. It takes a little less than seven hours and you’ll cross the Great Smoky Mountains. US Airways also flies nonstop.