

Nashville 3-Day Cheat Sheet

Welcome to Music City. Read this on the plane.

The 5 things to know before you land

- 1. Broadway is the strip with the honky tonks.** It is touristy and loud. Walk it once, then leave for better neighborhoods.
- 2. Neighborhoods cheat sheet.** The Gulch is upscale. East Nashville is indie. 12 South is shopping. Germantown is food. Midtown is between downtown and Vanderbilt.
- 3. Tennessee is BYOB on pedal taverns and party buses.** Bring your own drinks.
- 4. Hot chicken is a local thing, not a chain thing.** Skip Nashville hot chicken in your home city. Eat it here.
- 5. Rideshare runs everywhere.** Uber, Lyft, and Waymo all run downtown. Waymo is often cheapest at peak hours.

Pro move: Open [howdynash.com](https://www.howdynash.com) on your phone for live data, ride deep links, hotel prices, and 24/7 AI chat. No signup. Free.

Quick orientation

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| Downtown / Broadway | Touristy nightlife, honky tonks, big country bars |
| The Gulch | Upscale modern, rooftops, photo murals |
| East Nashville | Indie food, vintage shops, hip locals |
| 12 South | Boutiques, Reese Witherspoon's store, photo spots |
| Germantown | Historic, food-focused, walkable |
| Midtown / Music Row | Recording studios, between downtown and Vanderbilt |

Day 1: Arrival and Broadway

Get your bearings. Eat hot chicken. End on Broadway with live music.

Morning: Biscuits

Biscuit Love in The Gulch for the famous bonuts. Get there before 10am or expect a 30 to 60 minute wait. Walk-in only.

Loveless Cafe in Bellevue if you have a car. Iconic biscuits and country ham. Reservations recommended.

Lunch: Hot Chicken

Hattie B's Hot Chicken on Charlotte Pike. Mild is hotter than you think. Try medium. Walk-in only.

Prince's Hot Chicken in East Nashville. The original. Walk-in.

Bolton's Spicy Chicken & Fish in East Nashville. No-frills, fiery, local favorite.

Afternoon: Museum or Music Row

Country Music Hall of Fame. The legend stuff, instruments, costumes, history. Allow 2 to 3 hours.

RCA Studio B tour. Where Elvis and Dolly recorded. Tickets through the Hall of Fame.

Johnny Cash Museum. Compact, dense with memorabilia. 1 hour.

Dinner: Upscale or Social

Husk Nashville for upscale Southern in a historic mansion. Reservations a must.

Pinewood Social for food plus bowling, pool, and cocktails. Day-to-night social hub.

Night: Honky Tonk Crawl

Tootsie's Orchid Lounge. The original. Hank Williams used to drink here. Free music starting at 10am.

Robert's Western World. Boots and burgers. Recession Special: fried bologna, chips, MoonPie, PBR for \$6.

Legends Corner. Walls covered in country music history. Free music, busy bar.

Acme Feed & Seed rooftop. End the night with skyline views. Music on every floor.

Day 2: Local Nashville

Off Broadway. Walk a neighborhood. Eat in East Nashville. End at a real listening room.

Morning: Brunch in 12 South

Burger Up for grass-fed burgers and craft cocktails.

Frothy Monkey for coffee and a calm breakfast.

Edley's BBQ for breakfast tacos and bloody marys.

Walk 12 South after: Draper James, Imogene + Willie, the I Believe in Nashville mural.

Afternoon: Distillery Tour

Nelson's Green Brier downtown. Whiskey tour and tasting, walking distance from Broadway.

Corsair Distillery in Marathon Village. Smaller, weirder spirits, a cool old auto factory district.

Jack Daniel's Lynchburg. Half-day round trip from Nashville. Book through Viator or GetYourGuide for transport.

Evening: Dinner in East Nashville

Folk for wood-fired pizza and natural wine. Reservations help.

Margot Cafe & Bar for refined French / Italian. Menu changes daily.

Two Ten Jack for ramen and izakaya small plates.

Night: Live Music Outside Broadway

Bluebird Cafe in Green Hills. Songwriter rounds in an intimate room. Reservations open weeks ahead.

The Ryman Auditorium. The Mother Church. Whoever is touring. Worth it for the room alone.

Station Inn in The Gulch. Bluegrass legend. Tiny, magical, cash only.

3rd and Lindsley. Wedgewood-Houston live venue with food. Big-name artists, diverse genres.

Day 3: Deep Cuts and Departure

Photo spots, meat-and-three, one last rooftop, and how to leave BNA without stress.

Morning: Photo Spots

I Believe in Nashville mural in 12 South. The classic Nashville photo. Free, daylight only.

What Lifts You wings mural in The Gulch. The angel-wings shot.

John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge over the Cumberland for skyline shots. Best at golden hour.

Lunch: Meat-and-Three

Arnold's Country Kitchen on 8th Ave South. Cafeteria-style Southern. Lunch only Mon to Fri.

Monell's in Germantown. Shared-table family-style, all-you-can-eat Southern.

Afternoon: Depending on Time

Belle Meade Plantation for history and a wine tasting.

Andrew Jackson's Hermitage for the 7th president's estate. Allow half a day with drive time.

Short on time: rooftop drink at **L.A. Jackson** in The Gulch or **White Limozeen** in Midtown (pink Dolly bar).

BNA airport tips

Allow 90 minutes for security on weekends. BNA is busy.

Live music inside the airport. Multiple stages near the gates.

Uber and Lyft pickup is on the second floor, not curbside.

Open **howdynash.com** and tap BNA flight tracker for live arrival and departure status.

One last thing.

Like this guide? Tap **howdynash.com** for the full app: AI chat, live concert lineups, hotel prices, ride deep links, and 38 honky tonks ranked by neighborhood. All free, no signup needed.