

Get your honky-tonk on in Music City

Nightlife, BBQ and pair of wings put Nashville in special class

The flavor of Nashville is destined to satisfy any visitors' tastes.

Honky-tonks rise. The scent of barbecue wafts. And a pair of wings nearly have you believing you can fly. Music City harmonizes modern appeal in an old school environment.

Bands and solo artists jam up and down the heart of an entertainment district blessed with aging buildings wrapped in blankets of worn bricks. They house establishments draped with famous names like Johnny Cash, Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan and Kid Rock. Local watering holes compete and thrive among the bigshots on Broadway.

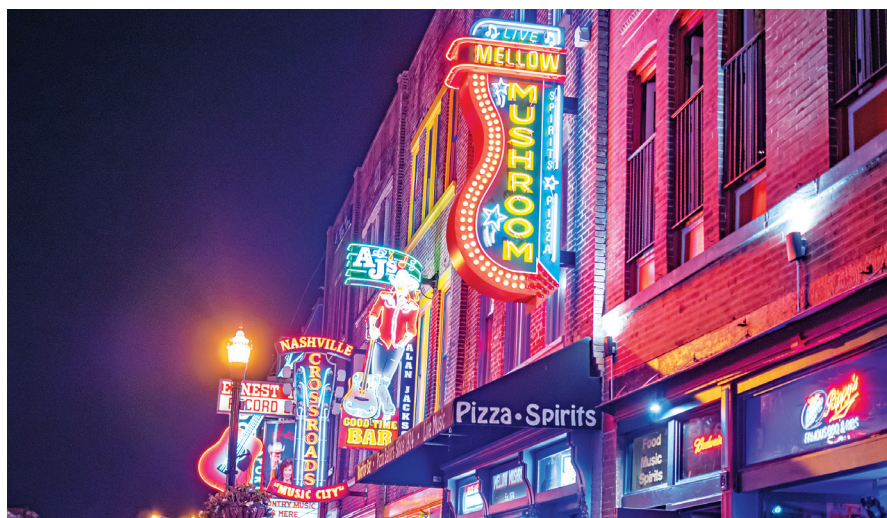
The fastest-growing city in the U.S. attracts more than 14 million travelers annually from all parts of the country. They visit for the music, party scene and the legendary barbecue. Bachelorette parties are nightly rituals. And expect to climb steep stairways.

Very steep!

A majority of Nashville's downtown bars are multiple floors – many as high as four stories. Musicians strum and cocktails flow on all levels, and the rooftop often is the most-happening spot.

It's a demanding walk to the top and a careful one back down. Some might have you believing you're on a ladder. Just take caution. It's well worth the effort.

Belly up to the bar or find a table on the open deck. Enjoy sweet tunes while



SOUTHERN CHARM – Signs light up the night sky on Broadway in Nashville.

Image: 4kclips. Adobe Stock.

sipping cocktails and people-watching. Absorb every moment offered by a unique town that honky-tonks its way to immortality.

Scattered between these partying cathedrals are barbecue joints. They're nooks blessed with greasy-spoon personalities and a talent for tickling your tastebuds. Servers are a rarity. You wait in line, place an order and take your food to an open table.

In the mood for smoked ribs? Brisket? Chicken? How about pork shoulder? You can't choose poorly. Just don't forget to order the coleslaw.

Nashville blends its past with a hip present and an unlimited future. Newly constructed buildings highlight a contemporary skyline. High-rise apartment complexes can be found on nearly every block and a former railroad yard is the site of arguably its

most chic neighborhood.

The Gulch's origin dates to before the Civil War. The land suffered following World War II, but redevelopment transformed it into a prime territory. It received its name from the natural geographic depression that arches throughout the 110-acre neighborhood.

The Gulch could be considered the antitheses of Broadway. Its progressive architecture and urban setting boasts high-end boutiques, galleries, bars and restaurants. People gather in intimate alleyways tucked away between fashionable structures and free of motor vehicles. Lattes are the preferred beverage, and a book might be one's best companion.

Streets close for art festivals. Choose from more than 40 eateries, treat yourself to a spa and don't forget about the wings.

The Nashville Gulch Wings is a mural painted on the side of a building in 2016. The work is 16 feet wide and 23 feet tall. Artist Kelsey Montague used a cowboy hat, guitars and BBQ – items that best represent Nashville – to create her masterpiece.

People line up to have their photo taken with the famed wings. It's a scene similar to the Southernmost Point in Key West.

Montague's creation engulfs irony. Her wings personify a hopping town that can have you feeling like an angel while pulling a little bit of the devil out of you.

Brake noise is warning drivers should heed

Replacing pads can be costly, but there's no avoiding the issue

Few things are less discouraging regarding car maintenance than needing to replace brakes. It's a situation that drivers dread, and their wallets suffer.

The screeching sounds that bellow from a vehicle's wheels each time it stops rival fingernails sliding down a chalkboard. They must be replaced.

Brakes are among the most common repair problems and the most dangerous to ignore. They should be inspected if the vehicle is pulling, grabbing or making unusual noises when applying the brakes.

Squeals, scrapes and grinds can be an indicator that the pads are getting thin and need to be replaced. Pads worn to a certain point are designed to scrape against the rotor and make noise. Allowing them to touch "metal-to-metal" stage is dangerous and could lead to a more costly repair bill.

August is Brake Safety Awareness Month and an ideal time to have your brakes inspected before colder temperatures arrive. Here are warning signs that it's time to have your vehicle's brakes inspected by a professional:

Brake light is on – Unless the parking brake is on, this is an indicator that the brake fluid is low and there is a problem with the ABS system.

Brakes feel spongy – Needing to press the brake pedal with more pressure to stop is a sign there could be problems.

You see or smell brake fluid – This



EXTRA PADDING – A mechanic shows the difference between a new brake pad and one that has been worn thin. Image: malkovkosta. Adobe Stock.

likely is a leak. Brake fluid is a light amber color. It's pungent odor is hard to ignore and a telling sign to have your brakes inspected.

Brake pedal or wheel vibrates – Vibrations can indicate issues developing on the surface of the rotor.

Brakes squeal when you come to a stop – Squealing usually indicates a need for servicing, but brakes can continue to squeal after they have been replaced.

Semi-metallic brake pads often are to blame, but squeaky brakes can be an indication of mismatched or lower-quality parts.

Brakes grabbing – This can signify problems with braking systems or components.

Brakes grind or growl – The sound of metal on metal is clear evidence that the brake pads are completely worn down.

Brakes also could squeal when a vehicle

hasn't been driven for an extended period. Rust forms on the braking surface and both rotors and drums. Lightly apply the brakes during the first few feet of driving to remove rust buildup.

Brake dust – sooty, black residue that collects on the exterior of the wheel – is a normal by-product of brake pads being worn away by friction.

Brake fluid displaces into the calipers when the brake pads wear down and low fluid likely indicates the brake pads soon will need to be replaced. Have your brakes inspected by a qualified professional if the brake-fluid reservoir is below the add line. Fluid only should be added if the brakes are in good-working condition and the fluid is below the line.

Brake issues shouldn't be taken lightly. Ignoring them is delaying the inevitable.

APPROVED AUTO REPAIR

AAA members receive priority service with Roadside Assistance tow to a AAA Approved Auto Repair facility with prompt vehicle evaluation within an hour of AAA tow arrival and assistance in obtaining alternate transportation. Repairs, parts, labor and components are guaranteed for 24 months or 24,000 miles under normal operating conditions. Visit AAA.com/AAARepair to learn more about AAA's Approved Auto Repair (AAR) program or locate a facility near you.