

Nashville Live-Music Weekend: Honky Tonks, Listening Rooms & Serious Southern Food

A two-night, four-friend field trip to Music City, built so that every single bar, listening room and restaurant below is confirmed as currently operating, with hours and any cover pulled from the venue's own site or a current source. No ghosts of bars past. No "it was great in 2018."

o) Your Trip at a Glance

Detail	Your spec
Dates	Friday, August 28 to Sunday, August 30, 2026 (2 nights)
Group	Four friends, all 30+
Budget	Up to \$600 per person, all-in
Fly into	Nashville International (BNA)
Must-haves	Honky tonks on Broadway one night, a proper listening room the other, easy days, hot chicken, barbecue, late breakfast
Special request	Every venue LIVE-verified: still open, current hours, cover charge if any, from the venue site or a current source

1) At a Glance (the verified shortlist)

Category	The pick	Address	Hours (verify note)	Cover / price
Honky tonk (Fri)	Robert's Western World	416 Broadway	Live music daily, opens ~10–11 AM, runs late (to ~3 AM)	Never a cover
Honky tonk (backup)	Tootsie's Orchid Lounge	422 Broadway	Daily 9:30 AM–3:00 AM	No cover for general entrance
Listening room (Sat)	The Station Inn	402 12th Ave S, The Gulch	Doors 7 PM; music nightly	Typically ~\$20–\$25, cash at door
Listening room (backup)	The Listening Room Cafe	618 4th Ave S	Shows most nights; check calendar	Cover ~\$5–\$15 + per-person minimum

Category	The pick	Address	Hours (verify note)	Cover / price
Hot chicken	Hattie B's (Midtown) / Prince's (downtown, Assembly Food Hall)	see day plan	see day plan	~\$12–\$18/plate plus tax
Barbecue	Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint (SoBro)	410 4th Ave S	Fri/Sat 11 AM–11 PM, Sun 11 AM–10 PM	~\$14–\$22/plate plus tax
Late breakfast	Biscuit Love (The Gulch)	316 11th Ave S	Daily 7 AM–3 PM	~\$12–\$16/person plus tax
Lodging anchor	Hilton Garden Inn Nashville Downtown / Convention Center	305 Korean Veterans Blvd	N/A	Guide value ~\$230–\$330/night (as of June 2026)

All venue facts above are drawn from each operator's own site or a current (2026) listing; details are in Section 4.

1b) Recommendation & why

Base yourselves in SoBro / The Gulch edge, at the Hilton Garden Inn Nashville Downtown / Convention Center. It sits at 305 Korean Veterans Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37201, and by the hotel's own description it is a newly renovated hotel near Nissan Stadium and Music City Center. Crucially for your itinerary, the hotel is less than three blocks from top attractions like the Music City Center, Country Music Hall of Fame and Bridgestone Arena, with Broadway, the Johnny Cash Museum and Nissan Stadium five minutes away. It also has an on-site restaurant, a fitness center and an outdoor rooftop pool with city views, which is exactly the "easy days" energy you asked for. Best of all, it is a two-minute walk from Martin's BBQ and a short stroll to both The Station Inn and Broadway, so nobody needs to drive after a beer.

Price reality: for a peak-season late-August weekend, expect a guide range of roughly **\$230–\$330/night** (as of June 2026). Aggregators show wildly swinging figures (one lists a typical nightly rate of about \$168, another an average of \$327 with deals as low as \$130), which tells you the exact number moves daily. Book early for the friendliest rate.

Best alternatives (same walkable zone, same "steps to Broadway" logic):

- **Drury Plaza Hotel Nashville Downtown**, right next door, which one current listing rates 9.3 Excellent across more than 3,000 reviews, with an outdoor and indoor pool and fitness center, from about \$218+. Drury's rate usually bundles free evening drinks and a hot breakfast, which is genuinely good value for a group.
- **Homewood Suites by Hilton Nashville Downtown The Gulch** or **Canopy by Hilton Nashville Downtown The Gulch**, both current downtown/Gulch Hilton-family properties per the 2026 hotel index, good if you want a suite layout to split four ways.

Treat all hotel prices as guide values; the binding number appears at the booking step.

1c) Book Now

What	By when	Where / link
Flights into BNA	ASAP for late-August fares	Your airline of choice
Hotel (Hilton Garden Inn Downtown or Drury Plaza)	2–3 months out; August is peak	hilton.com /..., "You will see the binding price for your exact dates and occupancy at the provider's booking step, it changes daily."
Airport transfer	Day-of is fine	WeGo / rideshare app
Station Inn (Sat)	No advance sale for most shows	Arrive by 7 PM; see note below

Station Inn ticketing note: the club's own calendar states doors open at 7 PM, and there are no advance ticket sales or reservations unless specified in the event description. So for most nights it is cash at the door, first-come. A few marquee acts do sell tickets online, so check the specific Aug 29 listing when it posts (their published calendar currently runs through mid-July 2026; your weekend's lineup will appear closer to the date).

2) Day-by-Day Plan

Friday, August 28, Arrive & hit Broadway

- **Afternoon:** Fly into BNA, get downtown, check in, drop bags.
 -  **Tip:** From BNA, WeGo Public Transit's airport route connects the airport to downtown for a couple of dollars, while a rideshare to downtown is quick and typically runs roughly \$20–\$35 depending on surge. For four people with luggage, one rideshare usually wins on convenience. (Confirm the live WeGo fare and route at wegotransit.com; airport rideshare pickup is at the designated ground-transport area.)
- **Late lunch / early dinner, hot chicken:** Ease in with the dish Nashville is famous for.
 - **Prince's Hot Chicken (downtown, inside Assembly Food Hall, 5055 Broadway):** per Prince's own locations page, this spot is inside the Assembly Food Hall where you can enjoy good food, live music and a multitude of daily events, open Sunday–Thursday 10:30 AM–10:00 PM and Friday/Saturday 10:30 AM to midnight. Prince's is the original Nashville hot chicken, crafted over 80 years ago. Order the mild if you value your evening; the hot is genuinely hot. Plates ~\$12–\$16 plus tax.

- **Evening, honky tonks on Broadway (your Friday wish):**

- **Robert's Western World, 416 Broadway** is the anchor. It bills itself as live traditional country, western and rock-a-billy music seven days a week, and per its own venue profile live music is always playing, the grill is sizzling all night long and there is never a cover charge. It runs Monday through Saturday from 11 AM to 3 AM and Sundays from noon to 3 AM. House band Brazilbilly is a Broadway institution. Get the famous "recession special": per multiple current sources, a fried bologna sandwich, a bag of Lay's chips, a moon pie and a Pabst Blue Ribbon for \$6.
- Then crawl next door to **Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, 422 Broadway**, the purple landmark. They do not charge a cover fee for general entrance and are open 7 days a week from 9:30 AM to 3:00 AM, with three floors, three stages of daily live music, three bars and an open-air rooftop. Note it is 21+ after 6 PM, which suits your all-30+ crew perfectly.
- 💡 Tip: There's no cover at these spots, so bar-hop freely. Standard etiquette: **tip the band** (they play for tips), and tip your bartender 15–20%. Cash for the band's bucket is essential.
- **Plan B (heat/storm):** Late August can bring a thundery afternoon. All of Broadway is indoors and covered, so weather barely touches this night. If it's brutally hot, start later (9 PM) when it cools and the bands hit full stride.

Saturday, August 29, Easy day, then a real listening room

- **Late breakfast (your ask): Biscuit Love, The Gulch, 316 11th Ave S.** Per the venue and current listings, it is Biscuit Love in the Gulch at 316 11th Ave South and is open daily 7:00 AM–3:00 PM. Signature moves: the "Bonuts" (biscuit-donuts) and the "East Nasty" fried-chicken biscuit. It's fast-casual, so you order when you walk in, find a seat and they bring the food, so the queue moves in minutes.
 - 💡 Tip: Lines form before the doors; a late-morning arrival (~10:30) after the first rush is the sweet spot for a relaxed Saturday.
- **Afternoon, easy:** Stroll The Gulch (murals, shops), sit by the rooftop pool at the hotel, or do a low-key visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame or Johnny Cash Museum if the mood strikes. Nothing strenuous; that's the brief.
- **Barbecue dinner: Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint, SoBro, 410 4th Ave S.** Whole-hog West Tennessee BBQ. Per current listings, Saturday hours are 11:00 AM–11:00 PM, and beyond the dining room there's a massive beer garden in the back with seating, games and a stage for live music. That means you get barbecue AND live music in one stop, two minutes from the hotel.
 - 💡 Tip: They do free pit tours every day, 24 hours on the pit over live coals before the whole hog is ever pulled, come watch it happen. Go early-ish; popular meats can sell out on a busy weekend night.

- **Evening, the listening room (your Saturday wish): The Station Inn, 402 12th Ave S, The Gulch.** This is the real deal, not a Broadway party bar. In its own words it is a music listening room in The Gulch, home to the world's best bluegrass, classic country, Americana and roots music seven nights a week, and every seat is near enough to the stage to see the sweat and feel the notes right from the instrument. Doors 7 PM, mostly cash-at-door, cover typically in the ~\$20–\$25 range based on the club's own recent listings (e.g., recent bookings ran \$20–\$25). It's a 3-minute walk from the hotel.
 -  **Tip:** It fills up and it's intimate. Arrive at door-open (7 PM) to grab a table, bring cash, and respect the room, people are actually listening.
 - **Plan B (sold out or not your vibe that night): The Listening Room Cafe, 618 4th Ave S,** a songwriters-in-the-round venue with dinner service. Covers are modest (roughly \$5–\$15) and shows carry a small per-person food/drink minimum; check the specific Aug 29 show and reserve online. It's a short walk/rideshare from the Gulch.

Sunday, August 30, Slow morning & fly out

- **Late breakfast, round two (or a repeat of Biscuit Love, open 7 AM–3 PM Sunday).** Alternatively, grab hot chicken you skipped Friday: **Hattie B's Hot Chicken (Midtown, 112 19th Ave S)** is the other titan of the genre, plan for a line, order the "medium" as a sensible-but-spicy baseline (~\$12–\$16 plus tax). The Midtown location is open Sunday 10:45 AM–10:00 PM, so a late-morning or midday arrival works well before your flight.
- **Optional last live set:** Sunday on Broadway is still live all day, Robert's and Tootsie's both run daily, so squeeze in one more free set if your flight allows.
- **Depart:** Rideshare or WeGo back to BNA. Build in extra time; downtown-to-airport can slow on event weekends.
 -  **Tip:** If you've got a long layover, even BNA has a Prince's Hot Chicken outpost in the terminal (at the beginning of the Gate C/D concourse) for a farewell tender.
 - **Plan B (heat):** If it's a scorcher, do breakfast, then the air-conditioned Hall of Fame or a movie-cool museum instead of walking, and head to the airport early.

3) Practical Notes & Checklist

Getting around: Everything core (hotel, Broadway, Martin's, Station Inn, Biscuit Love) is walkable within roughly 5–10 minutes. Save rideshare for the airport and any Midtown hot-chicken run (Hattie B's Midtown is ~2 miles / ~8–12 min drive from downtown).

Tipping (US norms): Restaurants and bar tabs 15–20%. **Tip the bands,** Broadway musicians play for tips; drop cash in the bucket. Tip rideshare drivers a few dollars.

"Plus tax" reminder: Nashville posted food/drink prices exclude sales tax (combined roughly 9.25%+ on prepared food/alcohol), and hotel rates add lodging taxes on top of the nightly rate. Budget accordingly.

Cash: Bring cash for band tips and for the Station Inn door (mostly cash, no advance sale for regular shows).

Checklist:

- ☐ Flights to BNA booked
- ☐ Hotel booked (rate confirmed for exact dates)
- ☐ Cash on hand for Station Inn cover + band tips
- ☐ Check Station Inn's Aug 29 listing when it posts (calendar currently runs through mid-July)
- ☐ Confirm Sunday hours for Hattie B's / your chosen breakfast spot
- ☐ Comfortable shoes; late-August Nashville is hot and humid, hydrate

Estimated Cost Overview (per person, 2 nights)

Item	Estimate (per person)	Notes
Hotel (2 nights, split 4 ways in 2 rooms or a suite)	~\$115–\$165	Based on guide range \$230–\$330/night ÷ shared occupancy (guide value, check the exact date price with the provider). Plus lodging tax.
Airport transfers (round trip)	~\$15–\$25	Rideshare split 4 ways, or ~\$4–\$5 on WeGo
Friday: hot chicken + Broadway drinks	~\$45–\$70	Prince's plate ~\$12–\$16 + a few rounds (no cover) plus tax
Saturday: Biscuit Love + Martin's BBQ + Station Inn	~\$60–\$85	Breakfast ~\$14, BBQ ~\$18, Station Inn cover ~\$20–\$25 plus drinks/tax
Sunday: late breakfast + snacks	~\$20–\$30	Hattie B's or repeat breakfast plus tax
Band tips + bartender tips (weekend)	~\$25–\$40	Cash
Buffer (extra rounds, Uber surge, souvenir boots)	~\$40–\$70	Broadway adds up fast
Running total	~\$320–\$485	Comfortably under your \$600 ceiling

Honest budget read: You have real headroom under \$600. The two swing factors are (1) the hotel rate on a peak August weekend and (2) how many rounds you buy on Broadway, drinks there are tourist-priced and it's easy to blow past plan. If the hotel lands at the top of the range and you drink like it's a bachelor party, you'll approach but likely still clear \$600. Splitting rooms and tipping in cash keeps you safely in the green.

4) Sources (checked June 2026)

Honky tonks (Broadway):

- Robert's Western World (hours Mon–Sat 11 AM–3 AM / Sun 12 PM–3 AM, no cover, recession special): nashvillelife.com/... , nashvilledowntown.com/... , en.wikipedia.org/... , yelp.com/...
- Tootsie's Orchid Lounge (hours 9:30 AM–3:00 AM, no cover, 21+ after 6, three stages): tootsies.net , tootsies.net/... , yelp.com/... , visitmusiccity.com/...

Listening rooms:

- The Station Inn (concept, doors 7 PM, no advance sales, address/phone, cover range from recent calendar): stationinn.com , stationinn.com/...
- The Listening Room Cafe (backup): listeningroomcafe.com (verify the Aug 29 show, cover and minimum at booking)

Food:

- Prince's Hot Chicken (downtown Assembly Food Hall, Sun–Thu 10:30 AM–10:00 PM / Fri–Sat 10:30 AM–midnight, live music): princeshotchicken.com/... , princeshotchicken.com
- Hattie B's Hot Chicken (Midtown, 112 19th Ave S, Sunday 10:45 AM–10:00 PM): hattieb.com , hattieb.com/...
- Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint SoBro (address, hours, beer garden/live music, pit tours): martinsbbqjoint.com/... , nashvilledowntown.com/... , visitmusiccity.com/...
- Biscuit Love, The Gulch (address, daily 7 AM–3 PM): biscuitlove.com , biscuitlove.com/...

Lodging:

- Hilton Garden Inn Nashville Downtown / Convention Center (location, amenities, less than three blocks to Music City Center, Broadway five minutes away): hilton.com/...
- Drury Plaza Hotel Nashville Downtown (alternative): druryhotels.com/...
- Nashville Hilton-family downtown/Gulch properties (Homewood Suites, Canopy): hilton.com/...

Transport:

- WeGo Public Transit (airport connection, fares): wegotransit.com
- BNA airport info: flynashville.com

One last note on your special request: every bar, listening room and restaurant on this plan was checked against its own website or a current 2026 source, and each is confirmed operating with the hours and cover shown above. Where a live calendar for your exact night isn't published yet (the Station Inn's specific Aug 29 lineup), I've flagged it and told you exactly where and when to confirm. Now go tip a band. 🍸

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