

CHATTA NOOGA

An aerial photograph of Chattanooga, Tennessee, showing the Tennessee River flowing through the city. The prominent Chattanooga Choo-Choo bridge, a blue steel truss bridge, spans the river. In the background, the city skyline is visible, including several high-rise buildings and a large stadium. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and a golf course in the foreground.

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MEN'S JOURNAL

50 Great American Places

travelocity

Top 10 Best Small City
Road Trip Destinations

Budget Travel

13 Best
Budget
Destinations
in America



21 Super Cool
U.S. Cities

U.S. News
& WORLD REPORT

6 cities worldwide
that work at
creating great
urban experiences



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CHATTANOOGA Chattanooga Convention & Visitors Bureau

736 Market Street, 18th Floor
Chattanooga, TN 37402
chattanooga.fun.com
800-322-3344

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Photos from Chattanooga Convention & Visitors Bureau unless otherwise noted

A person with long hair, wearing a red t-shirt, black shorts, and a blue and white baseball cap, is climbing a large, textured rock face. The person is seen from the side, reaching up with their right hand to grip a rock ledge. The background shows some green foliage and a bright sky.

Features

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76 INFUSING LOCAL FLAVOR

Meet three chefs whose focus on local flavors and farmers shapes their culinary creations.

44

A CRASH COURSE

Hiking, caving, climbing... Hostel owners Dan Rose and Max Poppel use their love of the local outdoors to curate adventure experiences for their guests.

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EXPLORE CHATTANOOGA

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- › Pick up brochures to adventure-filled attractions
- › Discover great places to eat
- › Decide where to stay
- › Explore our Civil War history
- › Find cool shops on the North Shore
- › Make plans that everyone will enjoy
- › Hear about events in our Scenic City
- › Get the scoop on live music and cultural events
- › Catch the free CARTA Electric Shuttle



Chattanooga Visitors Center
received the 2018 TripAdvisor
Certificate of Excellence.

“Gig City” / (gîg sît' ē)/ noun

1. A southern town characterized by having the fastest internet in the world.
2. A culture of significant innovation.
3. A town especially well-adapted to handle inhabitants and visitors with high-bandwidth needs.
4. Also known as Chattanooga, TN

When you're the first,
you have to write your own definition.

Welcome to Gig City



HISTORY OF CHATTANOOGA

Our city's rich history is marked by unbelievable flooding, war, railroads and rebuilding.



1895

The Lookout Mountain Incline Railway is completed and competes with two other area railroads for traffic to the top of Lookout Mountain. It remains the steepest passenger railway in the world, at a 72.7% grade.



1816

John Ross, future chief of the Cherokee Nation, establishes a trading post along the Tennessee River.

1836

US Senate votes to take over Cherokee land and forced over 7,000 to Oklahoma. The final departure in 1838 claimed the lives of over 4,000 Cherokees including Chief John Ross's wife, Quatie.



1854

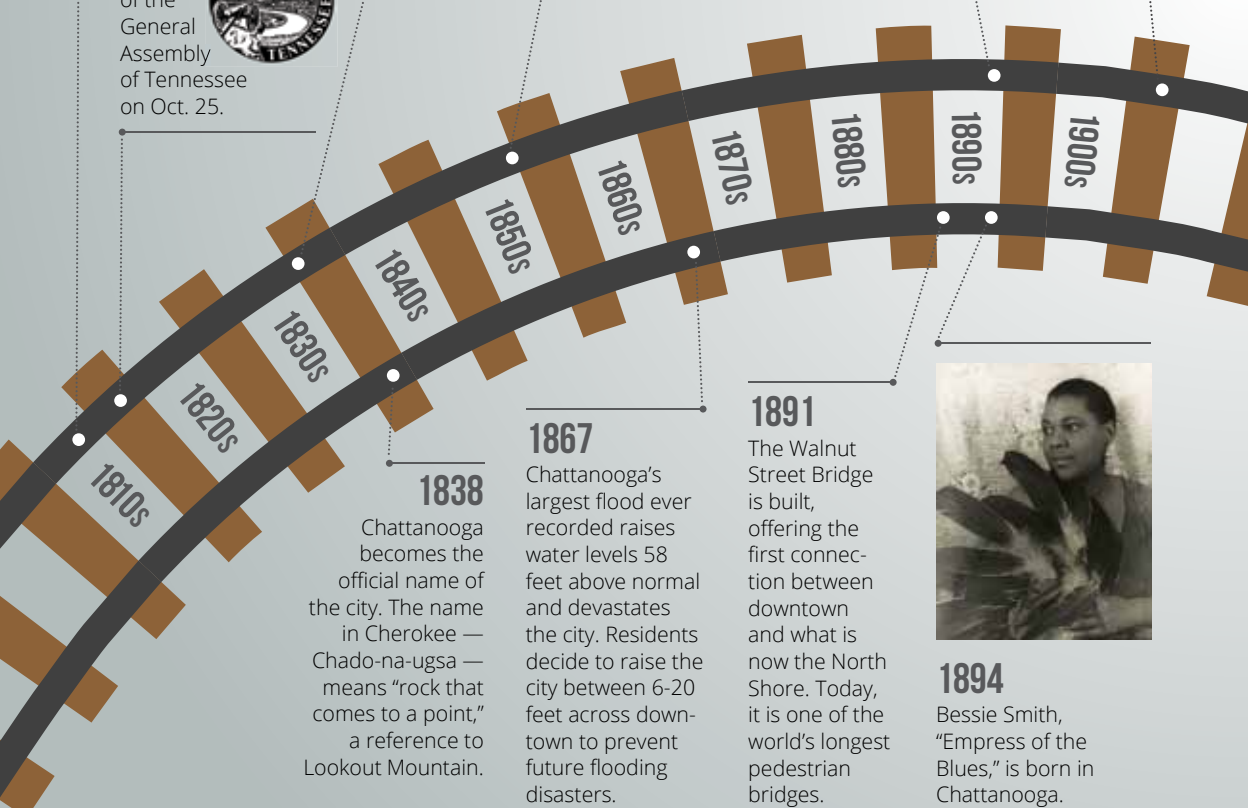
The Nashville and Chattanooga Railway begins operating with Chattanooga as its terminus, bringing the industrial age to Middle Tennessee.

1909

The Chattanooga Choo Choo Terminal Station opens its doors to the public in December.

1819

Hamilton County is created by an Act of the General Assembly of Tennessee on Oct. 25.



1867

Chattanooga's largest flood ever recorded raises water levels 58 feet above normal and devastates the city. Residents decide to raise the city between 6-20 feet across downtown to prevent future flooding disasters.

1891

The Walnut Street Bridge is built, offering the first connection between downtown and what is now the North Shore. Today, it is one of the world's longest pedestrian bridges.



1894

Bessie Smith, "Empress of the Blues," is born in Chattanooga.

1916

After Ernest Holmes Sr. and 10 helpers spent all night using only ropes and blocks tied to trees to recover a friend's overturned Model T from a Chattanooga creek, Holmes goes back to his garage and invents the tow truck.



1941

The song "Chattanooga Choo Choo" by Glenn Miller becomes the first gold record. The song was introduced in the 1941 movie "Sun Valley Serenade."

2010

Chattanooga's Electric Power Board launches 1-gigabit-per-second internet — the first in the North America and second in the world to achieve this speed and capacity — securing the city's nickname, Gig City. In 2015, EPB expands its service to 10-gigabits-per-second — making Chattanooga the only city in the world with that capacity.

1928

Ruby Falls is discovered by Leo Lambert and named after his wife, Ruby.



1992

The Tennessee Aquarium opens and becomes the anchor of downtown revitalization.

1932

Rock City Gardens opened its doors in May and won a national garden award in 1935.

2010

Amazon announces it will build a plant in Chattanooga, bringing thousands of new jobs. Today, it is one of the city's largest employers.

1910s

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

2010s

2005

The 21st Century Waterfront Project, a \$120 million transformation of downtown, is completed. It included the \$30 million expansion of the Tennessee Aquarium; \$19.5 million expansion and renovation of the Hunter Museum of American Art; \$3 million renovation and addition to the Creative Discovery Museum; and \$61 million worth of enhanced public spaces including a pedestrian pier, boat slips, vast green spaces, a wetlands park, dining, retail, and The Passage, a dramatic space and memorial to the Trail of Tears and a celebration of Native American culture.



2010

Volkswagen Chattanooga begins plant operations as the only USA factory and produces the Passat. Later announcements revealed it will also produce the 5- and 7-seat Atlas models. In 2021, their first electric car will be made here, too.

2017

Chattanooga is the only city in the world to host three IRONMAN competitions in one year including the World Championship 70.3.



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JOHN BAMBER • INSET PHOTO BY TODD STALEY

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What TO DO



New! Ruby Falls Village Plaza

WHAT'S NEW IN CHATTANOOGA

There's never been a better time to visit the city *The New York Times* calls one of the "52 Places to Visit in the World" and *TripAdvisor* says is one of the "7 Rising U.S. Cities That Should be on your 2019 Travel Bucket List." The Chattanooga area is continuously growing and boasts many new experiences and places to stay, eat, drink and explore. Here are five new ways to have fun in Chattanooga.

RUBY FALLS

A top Chattanooga attraction for 90 years, **Ruby Falls** opened its \$20 million upgrade and expansion in 2018. Highlights include a new, grander entrance, Blue Heron Overlook with a bird's-eye view of the valley, seasonal food carts and shaded open-air dining. The new Ruby Falls Village Plaza serves as a gathering place for discovery and adventure at Ruby Falls.

ESCAPE EXPERIENCES IN CHATTANOOGA

Stop a runaway train, escape from prison, become a secret agent — there are many thrilling new ways to try an escape room experience, with four local companies offering a wide variety of exciting, unifying and memorable opportunities: **Escape Experience-Chattanooga**, **Time to Escape**, **Escape Mission Chattanooga**, and **All in Adventures**.

THE SIGNAL

The Signal is Chattanooga's newest live music venue located in the Southside District. With a standing-room capacity of 1,300, the industrial-chic warehouse is perfect for live music of all genres.

ADVENTURE SPORTS INNOVATION

Adventure Sports Innovation brings everything — with a capital "E" — to the outdoors: e-paddleboards, e-bikes, e-scooters, e-waterbikes, e-bodyboards and more.

HILLBILLY JEEP TOURS

Hillbilly Jeep Tours offers guided, open-air Jeep tours of downtown Chattanooga, as well as two tour options to take in the scenic beauty and historic sites of Lookout Mountain. ♦



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Passageways 2.0

Exploring the Scenic City doesn't have to break the bank. From live music to public art, Chattanooga's outdoor scene is bursting with life.

ENGAGE WITH PUBLIC ART

Bluff View Art District*: Blending American art with the atmosphere of European shops and gorgeous riverside bluffs overlooking the Tennessee River and beyond, this downtown corner offers shopping, dining and attractions. While you're there, be sure to stroll through the River Gallery Sculpture Garden, a 2-acre outdoor art exhibit.

Main Terrain Art Park*: Found in the midst of the city's Southside, this unique green space features art pieces that double as workout equipment.

Passageways 2.0*: In the heart of downtown, you can find one of Chattanooga's newest art attractions as a functional piece that lights up a formerly underused alleyway. Found just off of Cherry Street, the space now serves as seating for local coffee shops, restaurants and bars new to the area.

Sculpture Fields at Montague Park*: This 33-acre sculpture park in the Southside features dozens of large-scale sculptures and plenty of perfect picnic spots.

HEAR THE SOUNDS OF THE CITY

Nightfall*: Every Friday night from May to August, downtown's Miller Park & Plaza becomes home to a wide range of musical talent in free concerts featuring



Levitt AMP Chattanooga Music Series

both local and national groups. Check out the schedule at nightfallchattanooga.com.

Riverfront Nights*: Head to Ross's Landing on Saturday nights in July and August for this free concert series, which usually features a refreshing breeze from the river in addition to varied musical acts. See the schedule at riverfrontnights.com.

Sidewalk Stages*: Each weekend from April to October, you can discover your favorites amid 20-30 street performers showcasing Chattanooga's vibrant and diverse music culture. To find your favorites, check the schedule at sidewalkstages.com.

Levitt AMP Chattanooga Music Series*: For the third year in a row, Chattanooga has won the opportunity to feature nationally known acts in an intimate



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community setting. The free concerts, held on the lawn in front of the Bessie Smith Cultural Center, typically begin in late August and run through late October. Visit concerts.levittamp.org/chattanooga for this year's lineup.

EXPLORE DOWNTOWN

Coolidge Park: Searching for the perfect picnic spot or a place for the kids to run around in an interactive water fountain? Take in the sights and sounds of the Tennessee River and Chattanooga's downtown views from this scenic spot on the North Shore.

Tennessee Riverpark*: Follow 13 miles of paved trails along the Tennessee River from the Chickamauga Dam, through downtown and all the way to the foot of Lookout Mountain. In addition to gorgeous views, walkers, runners and bikers will find playgrounds for the kids, places to grill and a diverse array of wildlife.

The Passage at Ross's Landing*: Looking for a shady spot to dip your feet in the water? Tucked away next to the Tennessee Aquarium is the perfect shaded passage for a quick rest stop that feels a world away from the bustle of downtown.

Walnut Street Bridge*: Built in 1891, the Walnut Street Bridge is no longer used for automobiles. It now stands as one of the longest pedestrian bridges in the world, connecting Chattanooga's downtown to the North Shore. ♦

**Denotes pet-friendly location.*

The Passage at Ross's Landing



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'EXTRA' SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

Ruby Falls

Chattanooga is bursting with unique family-friendly options — even more so for those who are in the know. Getting backstage or going behind the scenes creates those special memories that last a lifetime. Chattanooga has some really special experiences that give you those 'extra' special vacation moments.

Ruby Falls boasts one of the country's largest and most impressive underground commercial waterfalls. The iconic Chattanooga attraction's **Extended Cave Experience** grants even more time and interesting information about the namesake falls.

The **Chattanooga Zoo** also offers a unique, under-the-radar experience. Home to a host of North American critters as well as exotics including a two-toed sloth and a snow leopard, the zoo's **WILD Encounters** program gives you the chance to get up close and personal with some of the world's most fascinating creatures.

Similarly, the **Tennessee Aquarium's Backstage Pass** lets you step into the role of animal caretaker. Within a small group setting, you'll get to touch and feel not only the more than 12,000 animals on display, but those behind the scenes as well.

If your stay is longer, and in the spring, **Chattanooga's Spring Break Safari** offers kids a chance to dive deeper into their passions, whether that sends them to **Songbirds Guitar Museum** to deepen their love of music, or to the **Chattanooga Riverboat Company's Southern Belle** for a trip back in time.



Chattanooga Zoo WILD Encounters

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Songbirds Guitar Museum



Flying Camp



The Southern Belle

Songbirds Guitar Museum is the perfect place to relive your glory days. It's home to the world's largest private collection of rare and vintage guitars. The self-guided regular museum tour gives you access to the 500 or so instruments on display, along with their unique stories. But with the All Access Tour, you'll also get to travel to the Green Room and the Vault, giving you a chance to take in all 2,000 instruments (and counting).

Chattanooga offers authentic experiences for kids of every age — including plenty that are pretty cool for adults, as well. Take to the skies with **Chattanooga Flying Camp** and learn to paraglide with the pros, or, if you're really an adrenaline junkie, **Chattanooga Skydiving** just might be for you.

So splurge a little and go for those 'extra' special moments on your next trip to Chattanooga! ♦



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Tennessee Aquarium

Family Fun ITINERARY

Chattanooga has repeatedly been rated one of the best Southeastern destinations for a family vacation. Here's how to spend 72 hours of adventure across our Scenic City.

DAY 1 MORNING

Start your morning off right with a delicious take on “the most important meal of the day.” Located along the riverfront, **Puckett's*** offers a wide variety of breakfast and brunch options. Whether you choose a breakfast skillet, platter or build your own omelet, you'll want to follow your meal with a stroll along the **Tennessee Riverwalk*** just outside. Afterwards, head across the street from the restaurant, to the **Tennessee Aquarium** and **IMAX**, where you can explore both the freshwater and ocean worlds.

AFTERNOON

Following a morning of petting stingrays and sturgeons, grab a quick lunch at nearby **Moe's Original Bar B Que***, then head to **Lake Winnepesaukah**



The Incline Railway

for an afternoon of fun. Named one of America's top ten family amusement parks for all ages, Lake Winnepesaukah is home to thrill rides, kid-friendly games, and the five-acre **SOAKya Water Park**. After the thrills, head back downtown to **Lupi's Pizza**, which offers a recently expanded dining area perfect for the family. For dessert, head to the **Cupcake Kitchen**, then walk it off with a visit to **Locals Only** near the Choo Choo, where you're sure to find the perfect — locally made — souvenir.

DAY 2 MORNING

Head up Lookout Mountain to see the spectacular views at **Rock City***. The **Starbucks** across the street is a popular spot to fill up on breakfast items and caffeine. Just down the road, you'll find **Ruby Falls**, where you can take a peek at the largest and deepest underground commercial waterfall in the country. To make your way up and down the mountain, hitch a ride on the **Incline**



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Lake Winnepesaukah

Railway, a historic holdover from the days of streetcars and now the steepest passenger railway in the world. Hungry? **1885*** offers a kids menu sure to satisfy any palate and a nice patio complete with people-watching.

AFTERNOON

Not quite ready to head back downtown? There's still more to explore in **St. Elmo**, a quaint historic district that boasts grand homes and community parks connected by sidewalks to the commercial center. To really tire the tykes out, grab some rental bikes from **Bike Chattanooga** and hit the **Riverwalk***. Or, if you're in need of some A/C, visit the **International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum**, billed as "the only place in the world that offers a close encounter with a tow truck that is actually fun, positive, and nostalgic." Reward the kids (and yourself) with some pizza from a hometown staple, **Mr. T's**, which is renowned for its ice cream as well.

DAY 3 MORNING

The **Frothy Monkey***, located at the **Chattanooga Choo Choo**, offers morning options from savory to sweet. While you can no longer board a train at what was once known as Terminal Station, you can still catch a glimpse of the past by strolling through the impressive Beaux Arts style building and accompanying grounds, where you'll also find human-size chess boards and plenty of shops, including **Sweetly Southern**, reportedly the largest and oldest gift shop downtown.

AFTERNOON

Cross the river and grab a hot dog for lunch from **Good Dog** before a visit to nearby **Coolidge Park**. If you really want to work up an appetite, park downtown and take the pedestrian-only **Walnut Street Bridge*** to the other side of the river. After your afternoon of relaxed fun, walk or drive to **Taco Mamacita**, a home-

grown restaurant that serves Mexican fare with flair. If the weather is nice, end the evening with a scoop (or two!) of handmade gelato from **Milk & Honey***, located in the same plaza, or **The Ice Cream Show***, which awaits at the other end of the bridge.



Creative Discovery Museum

DAY 4 MORNING

Before hitting the road, try one of the unexpected breakfast combinations at **Hi-Fi Clyde's**, then make your way to the **Creative Discovery Museum**, where the kids can expend all their energy exploring interactive exhibits at one of the top children's museums in the country. If it is just too nice of a day to stay inside, **High Point Climbing and Fitness** offers 30,000 square feet of climbing walls for monkeys of all ages — including an outside wall more than five stories tall that overlooks the city. Remember your visit for years to come with a stop by **Ignis Glass Studio**, where you can blow your own ornament or paperweight. ♦

*Denotes pet-friendly location.

Georgia Dalton! my mind

Happy Trails

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Rainbow Lake on Signal Mountain

Romantic Weekend ITINERARY

The couple that plays together stays together, so grab your honey and head to the heart of Chattanooga for some adventure.

DAY 1 MORNING

To fuel your adventures, start your trip off with a visit to the Southside's **Mean Mug Coffehouse***, a local coffee roaster and shop focusing on drinks that bring out the best tasting notes in each cup, along with a delicious breakfast and lunch menu. The biscuits and apple butter cinnamon rolls, both made from scratch, have been featured in *USA Today* and on Food Network.

Then, head around the corner to **The Hot Chocolatier**, stocked with tasty artisan treats from local chocolate-makers and pastry chefs. Treats are even sweeter when shared, and the **Sculpture Fields at Montague Park*** offers a romantic place to do so. The South-east's largest sculpture garden, it comprises 33 acres and dozens of pieces from international artists. It's perfect for a relaxing snack in the grass followed by a handheld stroll.

AFTERNOON

Jumpstart your evening with an afternoon trip to **Chattanooga Whiskey Co.***, where you can take a distillery tour complete with drink samples. Then head back down Main Street for drinks and an appetizer from either **Main Street Meats** (we recommend the pork rinds and the tartare), or **The FEED Co. Table and**

Tavern*, offering a Southern-centric selection of upstyled classics.

EVENING

For dinner, **Flying Squirrel***, located nearby, offers delicious options which change according to the season, plus cozy seating options upstairs.

If you're not ready to go home yet, check to see if **Songbirds** music venues have any live shows. Chances are good you'll find yourself dancing into the night. If you're still not ready to go home, the nearby **Moxy Chattanooga*** hotel offers an entertaining bar with tons of game options, including giant Jenga.

DAY 2 MORNING

Wake up like many locals do, with a trip to **Milk & Honey*** on the North Shore. Featuring a long list of specialty lattes, homemade pastries and interesting breakfast sandwiches, it offers plenty of fuel options for the day ahead — which will come in handy at another must-visit local hotspot: **Sunset Rock***.

Located atop Lookout Mountain, it offers a stunning view of the valley for those willing to work up a little sweat. Lookout Mountain

is also home to grand, historic houses and two notable attractions: **Rock City*** and **Ruby Falls**. Both offer a touch of romance. Rock City boasts the famous Lover's Leap, from which one can see seven states. Ruby Falls is the namesake of discoverer Leo Lambert's wife, Ruby.

AFTERNOON

Head back down the mountain to **2 North Shore**, which offers the chance to browse a wide range of local and national shops. Refuel with ice cream from **Ben & Jerry's** downtown and take a stroll on the **Riverwalk*** nearby, or climb aboard the **Southern Belle Riverboat** for an even more relaxing (and romantic) way to traverse the riverfront.

EVENING

Ruth's Chris Steak House is renowned for its cuts of beef. Head to the **Hamilton Place** mall area for a visit to this sophisticated staple. If you've got time before dinner, stop by **Polly Claire's** tea room on the way. Housed in a home built by a railroad contractor circa 1854, it is reportedly the only Antebellum house still standing in the Chattanooga area. Heading back downtown? Wind down with a visit to **Matilda Midnight** for a nightcap. Both the drinks and ambiance are unlike anything else in the city.

DAY 3 MORNING

Make your way to the **Bluff View Art District** for coffee from **Rembrandt's***. Their locally baked goods

Milk & Honey



Matilda Midnight

make for a delicious breakfast. Once caffeinated, head across the street to the **Hunter Museum of American Art**. There, you'll find works of art made in the U.S. dating from as far back as the Colonial period all the way up to the present day.

AFTERNOON

Stroll across the **Walnut Street Bridge***, located just outside the museum, to Frazier Avenue, where you'll find shops bursting with souvenir options. Before you spend the day perusing for purchases, grab lunch at **Fiamma Pizza Co.*** Afterwards, head back across the bridge for a short, romantic walk through the **River Gallery Sculpture Garden** overlooking the Tennessee River.

EVENING

To get an even better view of the Tennessee River framed by city lights, check out the vantage point from **Whiskey Thief, The Edwin Hotel's** new rooftop bar. With its wraparound patio and intimate lounge inside, it's quickly become a popular date night spot.

For dinner, the new **Bridgeman's Chophouse**, located in the recently renovated **Read House** historic hotel, offers American cuisine at its best.

Wrap up your romantic getaway with some side-splitting laughs at **The Comedy Catch** in the **Chattanooga Choo Choo** complex. ♦

**Denotes pet-friendly location.*

SEASONS & EVENTS



Spring

- › Rock City's Shamrock City
- › 4 Bridges Arts Festival
- › Spring Break Safari
- › Chattanooga Market (April-Dec.)*
- › Chattanooga Film Festival
- › Jazzanooga (month-long)
- › Chattanooga Lookouts Games (April-Sept.)
- › Hunter Museum's Hunter Underground
- › Valentine Cruises & Train Excursions
- › Romance at Ruby
- › TN Valley Railroad's Day Out with Thomas
- › Chattanooga Marathon Race Weekend
- › Spring in the Park & Sculpture Burn*
- › Great Southern Old Time Fiddler's Convention

DID YOU KNOW?

WE WERE NAMED:

- › *Trivago Magazine*: Places to Go For Spring Break in the South – and What to Do
- › *Southern Living*: This is the Southern City You Should Visit This Spring



Summer

DID YOU KNOW?

WE WERE NAMED:

› *Thrillist*: Best Places Around The World To Visit This August

- › Riverbend Music Festival
- › Nightfall Concert Series (May-Sept.)*
- › Beast Feast/Chattanooga Market*
- › Riverfront Nights Music Series (July-Aug.)*
- › Tennessee Whiskey Festival

- › Chattanooga Zoo's Spirits in the Wild
- › Uncorked
- › Five Star Food Fight/Chattanooga Market*
- › Pops on the River* & other Independence Day Fireworks

- › Make Music Day*
- › Rock City's Summer Music Weekends (May-Aug.)
- › Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga Triathlon



DID YOU KNOW?

WE WERE NAMED:

- *Matador Network*: The best scenic train trips to see fall foliage in the US
- *Lonely Planet*: Fall-ing for TN — Unforgettable outdoor autumn adventures
- *Matador Network*: The most underrated cities for a fall weekend escape
- *The Manual*: Why Fall is the Best Time to Visit Chattanooga, Tennessee

- › Fall Color Cruises & Train Trips
- › Blowing Springs Farm & Enchanted MAiZE
- › Noontunes (Sept.-Nov.)*
- › Cast Iron Cook-Off/Chattanooga Market*
- › Ruby Falls' Haunted Cavern/Fear Connection
- › ChattaBOOga!
- › Head of the Hooch Regatta*

- › Tennessee Aquarium's Serve & Protect
- › Levitt AMP Chattanooga Music Series*
- › 3 Sisters Bluegrass Festival*
- › TN Valley Railroad's Halloween Eerie Express
- › Rock City's Rocktoberfest
- › Little Debbie IRONMAN Chattanooga Triathlon

- › Skyhoundz World Canine Disc Championship*
- › CultureFest/Chattanooga Market*
- › Chattanooga Zoo's Boo in the Zoo
- › Wine Over Water Food & Wine Festival
- › Chattanooga Oktoberfest
- › Lake WinnepeSPOOKah!

Winter



- › Chattanooga's Holiday Trail of Lights
- › Rock City's Enchanted Garden of Lights
- › Ice on the Landing Outdoor Skating Rink at the Chattanooga Choo Choo
- › Thanksgiving & Christmas Special Meals
- › Southern Belle River-

- boat's Christmas Carol Dinner Cruises
- › TN Aquarium's Holidays Under the Peaks
- › Chattanooga Zoo's Holiday Lights
- › TN Valley Railroad's North Pole Limited Adventures
- › MainX24, 24-Hour Festival*

- › Ruby Falls' Christmas Underground
- › Creative Discovery Museum's Gingerbread Workshops
- › Chattanooga Market's Holiday Market*
- › "The Nutcracker" by Moscow Ballet
- › New Year's Eve Events Downtown

DID YOU KNOW?

The Enchanted Garden of Lights at Rock City Gardens has been ranked a Top 20 Event multiple years by the Southeast Tourism Society, a Top 100 Event by the American Bus Association, and one of the Top 10 Holiday Tree & Light Shows in the U.S. by HotelsCombined.com. ♡

* Free event. Competitive events are free for spectators and many of them include live music & entertainment.

For a full calendar of events, visit ChattanoogaFun.com/events.

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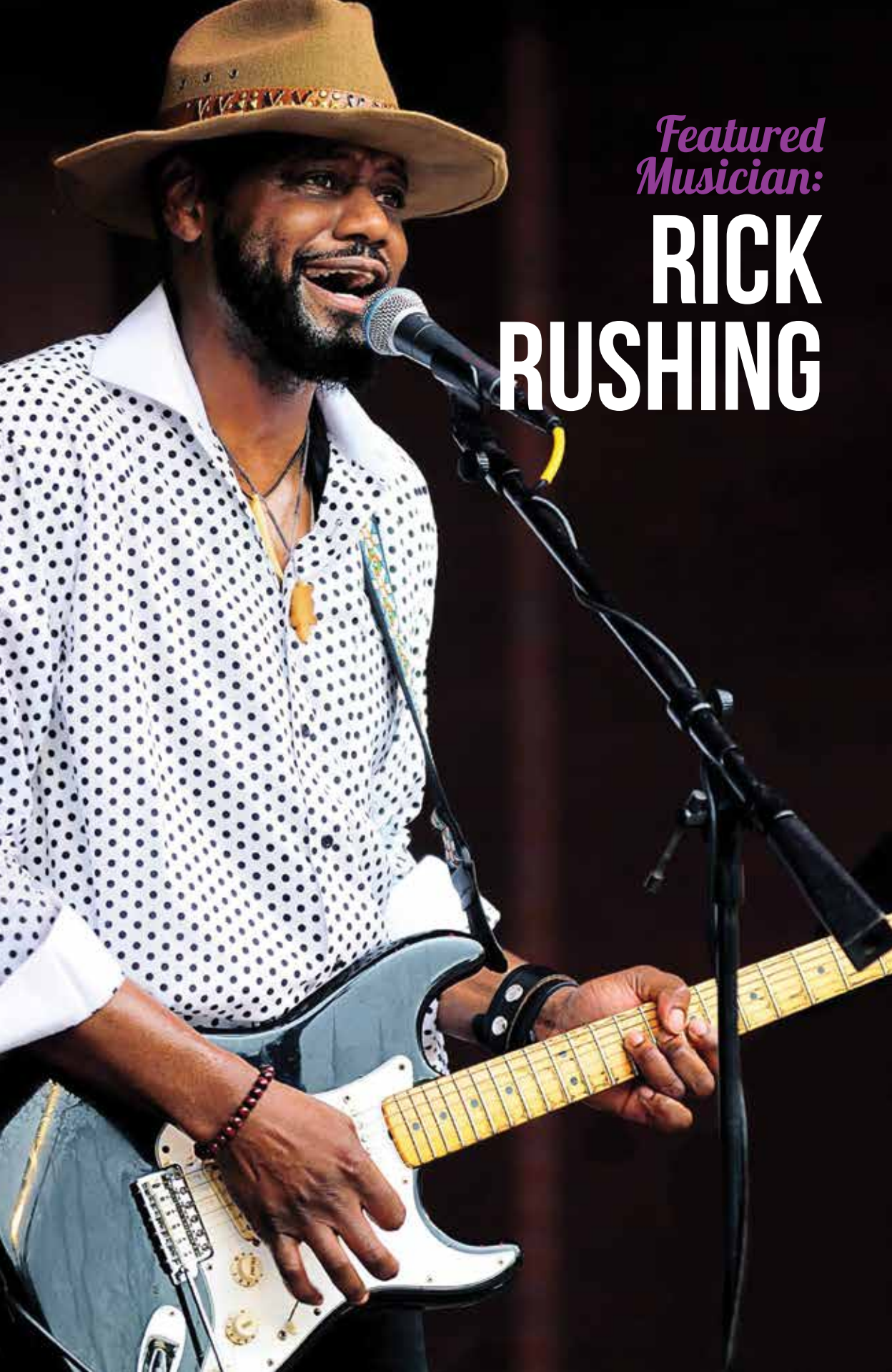
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Nightlife



*Featured
Musician:*

**RICK
RUSHING**

Rick Rushing is no stranger to the blues. A Cincinnati native, Rushing moved to Chattanooga from Los Angeles after a trip to visit his sister and brother-in-law in 2001. “All it takes is one trip,” he says. Before moving to the Scenic City, Rushing had never picked up an instrument, besides a brief stint with the cello, but quickly became interested in playing the guitar and began taking lessons.

It didn't take long for Rushing to become good — really good — at playing a tune. It's clear that talent runs in the family, as he's kin to the legendary Jimmy Rushing, American blues shouter and vocalist for the Big Count Basie Big Band. Today, Rick Rushing is the lead vocalist, guitarist and songwriter for Rick Rushing & the Blues Strangers trio, harnessing elements of blues, jazz, rock and rhythm. On any given night, you can find these “strangers” playing at various clubs and events all over town. They've become so popular that Rushing quit his day job as a social worker to pursue music full-time. Not bad for someone who couldn't play at age 22.

“Chattanooga has supported my career, and it all started with a good music education. I had great teachers showing me how to play,” he says. “Once I started writing music and put myself out there, venue managers responded and started hiring me. Chattanooga has allowed me to be who I am as a musician and has laid the foundation for me. I'm grateful for the support — it's real, and it's how I make a living.”

Rushing believes Chattanooga's music scene is “rich with some of the best soil in the country right now,” and some of the best talent in the country can be found here. As a blues musician, he's a big fan of Bessie Smith and appreciates Chattanooga's strong blues and rhythm-and-blues heritage. “Bessie Smith and Usher are from here. They're huge!” says Rushing. “What Bessie did for the blues and female vocalists is incredible. Count Basie, B.B. King, Ray Charles, I could go on... Chattanooga used to be the spot where, despite the social disparities of the time, music brought people together.”

And he's right. Chattanooga is the home of several famous blues, jazz, and rhythm-and-blues artists, including Fred Cash and Sam Gooden (of The Impressions), Clyde Stubblefield, Valaida Snow, Jimmy Blanton, Lovie Austin, Yusef Lateef, Wilfred Middlebrooks, and more. Downtown's M.L. King Boulevard, formerly known as the “Big Nine,” was once a cultural hub in the Southeast. From the early 20th century into the early 1970s, the Big Nine was a mecca for African-American music and entertainment. Chattanooga served as a haven for famous entertainers like Nat King Cole, Lena Horne, Willie Mays, and more. After Chattanooga's desegregation in the late 1960s, the Big Nine began to disappear. Today, there's been a resurgence of music and activity surrounding this historic landmark.

The Bessie Smith Cultural Center sits at the heart of the M.L. King neighborhood, surrounded by a pedestrian-friendly assortment of both historical and modern offerings: churches, coffee shops, restaurants, retail stores, music venues and breweries.

Rushing agrees, “The Bessie Smith Performance Hall is a symbol for music, culture, and art. Many of the breweries and restaurants along MLK welcome music, and the revitalization is helping bring the neighborhood vibe back to what it should be, not something it wasn't.”

But the music doesn't start and stop with the M.L. King area. It's part of a broader resurgence of music events happening all over the city. Perhaps, it's a

CHATTANOOGA HAS BECOME ONE OF THE STATE'S RISING STARS ON THE MUSIC FRONT WITH WORLD-CLASS VENUES AND FESTIVALS.

part of the overall landscape of Tennessee, where music flows through its four corners. According to Rushing, “Everyone in Tennessee is a good musician. Every time you're holding a guitar in Tennessee, you don't think you're the best because everyone's good.”

Chattanooga has become one of the state's rising stars on the music front. World-class venues such as the Tivoli Theatre, The Signal and The Walker Theatre offer year-round, top-tier shows. The large offering of music series

and festivals includes the new Moon River Music Festival taking place in Coolidge Park. The ongoing display at the Songbirds Guitar Museum features one-of-a-kind vintage guitars. Barking Legs Theater and Jazzanooga offer unique, off-the-beaten path performances. A growing number of restaurants and hotels showcase local talent, and then there are the unexpected live performances on city sidewalks and in parks — even at the airport. Music of all genres is embraced everywhere.

Rushing adds, “It's a beautiful city. I can live downtown, and I feel like I'm in the scene of a movie. There's a reason it's called the Scenic City. The sunsets, the mountains, the water, the music, the good food — it's everywhere; that's just the way it is. There are other places that are beautiful, but you don't want to live there.”

When asked about the future of the city's music scene, Rushing finishes his mocha and responds, “There's only one way to go, and that's forward.” ♦

The Signal





A Chattanooga Whiskey Experimental Distillery tasting

HOW CHATT GOT ITS *Whiskey Back*

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Chattanooga was home to more than 30 whiskey distilleries. But when the Prohibition movement gained popularity in Tennessee in 1909 and 1910, the town's pride in its whiskey was replaced by mistrust for the liquor. As all but illegal liquor sales vanished, the industry faded away. Legal whiskey distilling wouldn't return to Chattanooga for over 100 years.

A century later, Chattanooga natives Tim Piersant and co-founder Joe Ledbetter dreamed of revitalizing the local whiskey industry, but first, they had to get legislation changed to make the distillation of whiskey in the Scenic City legal once again. In 2012, they took their dream to the people.

While giving locals a taste of their new Chattanooga Whiskey — distilled in Indiana and bottled in Nashville to keep things legal — they launched a "Vote Whiskey" campaign to engage the public and build a support base so vast, Hamilton County's own distillation laws would have to change.

It worked. On March 24, 2015, Chattanooga Whiskey



A tasting at Chattanooga Whiskey Experimental Distillery

opened the first post-Prohibition whiskey distillery in downtown's Southside.

The brand's inaugural whiskey was dubbed "1816," inspired by the year the trading post that led to the creation of the city of Chattanooga was founded. The 1816 line encompasses both the flagship



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“Chattanooga Whiskey fought laws to bring whiskey back to the people after 100 years, in a better way,” Piersant says. “Thanks to amazing community support behind our Vote Whiskey campaign, we have been able to build two world-class distillery operations in downtown Chattanooga, producing award-winning, one-of-a-kind high-malt bourbon whiskies. Our Experimental Distillery is one of the only true experimental bourbon distilleries in the country, and is rated a top experience in our historical downtown community.”

The Market Street Experimental Distillery offers tours and tastings 7 days a week, as well as produces award-winning experimental bourbon recipes. Though, the brand’s large-scale whiskey production takes place along the riverfront just a mile away. The secondary Riverfront Parkway location increased the brand’s whiskey production capacity from



Chattanooga Whiskey Experimental Distillery

50 barrels per year at the Experimental Distillery to 2,700 barrels a year at the Riverfront Distillery, making it one of the largest craft whiskey producers in the state.

The Riverfront Distillery is a special event facility available for rental but isn’t open to the public for tours. However, the original

Market Street location, the Chattanooga Whiskey Experimental Distillery, offers guided tours as well as a full-service whiskey bar for both tour customers and those who just happen to be in the neighborhood. Be sure to stop in and say “hi” for a little taste of local history. ♦

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BREWING CHATTANOOGA

Whiskey isn't the only thing on the local tasting menu for those old enough to imbibe. The city is home to a growing number of craft breweries, and even some select wineries.

BREWERS

Big Frog Brewery: Small tasting room focused on handcrafted ales. Located in neighborhood suburb of Red Bank, not far from downtown. (Open Wednesday-Saturday from 3-9 p.m.)
2122 Dayton Blvd.; 423-803-9046

Big River Grille & Brewing Works: Innovative cuisine, award-winning ales and lagers and a spacious outdoor patio. Located in the heart of downtown by the aquarium. Enjoy championship billiards at a working brewery.
222 Broad St.; 423-267-2739

Chattanooga Brewing Co.*: Rooted in German-style ales and lagers. Headquarters of the Chattanooga Football Club's fan club and site of special events, including weekly "Brewga" yoga classes. Full food menu. (Limited daytime weekday hours plus weekends.)
1804 Chestnut St.; 423-702-9958

Heaven & Ale Brewing Co.: Industrial-style taproom with stellar standard selections, plus small off-site tasting room* featuring a changing roundup of dozens of beers from various labels. (Closed Mondays.)
300 Cherokee Blvd., Suite 101; 423-521-4222

Hutton & Smith Brewing Co.: Offers label's well-rounded lineup of popular brews and a neighborhood bar-type vibe. (Open afternoons/evenings Tuesday-Saturday.)
431 E. M.L. King Blvd. #120; 423-760-3600



Big River Grille & Brewing Works



Georgia Winery

Mad Knight Brewing*: Experimental brewery with a handful of rotating recipes served in a "medieval atmosphere tasting room." (Open Tuesday-Sunday from 5-8 p.m.)
4015 Tennessee Ave.; 423-825-6504

Naked River Brewing Co.*: Well-rounded yet hop-centric list of brews, plus site-smoked barbecue from a local farm. Regularly hosts live music in large outdoor beer garden and spacious taproom, a historic former rail car manufacturer.
1791 Reggie White Blvd.; 423-541-1131

Oddstory Brewing Co.*: Four flagship recipes plus a rotating

selection of a dozen tasty, unique brews. Limited light bites. Rustic meets refined in a casual setting. Regularly hosts live music. (Open afternoons/evenings Monday-Saturday.)
336 E. M.L. King Blvd.; 423-682-7690

WanderLinger Brewing Co.*: Art gallery and special-event venue with rotating lineup from growing catalog of the label's beers.
1208 King St.; 423-269-7979

WINERIES

Georgia Winery: Vintner of award-winning sweet Southern wines made with locally grown grapes. Large showroom offers complimentary tastings and gift shop, plus newly opened Gathering Lounge featuring wines by the glass and appetizers. Routine special events, like Ladies Night Out.
6469 Battlefield Pkwy., Ringgold, Ga.; 706-937-9463

Look Out Winery*: Large menu of Italian-style wines made from California grapes, and woodfired artisanal pizzas in rustic setting. See three states from the heated balcony overlooking Nickajack Lake.
11848 US-41, Guild, Tenn.; 727-499-8974 ♦

*Denotes pet-friendly location.



In the mood for a laugh? Take in a show at The Comedy Catch, located in the Chattanooga Choo Choo complex. The club features national standup comedians that have appeared on Comedy Central, Netflix, HBO, SHO, "The Tonight Show" and more, with open mic nights the third Wednesday of every month.

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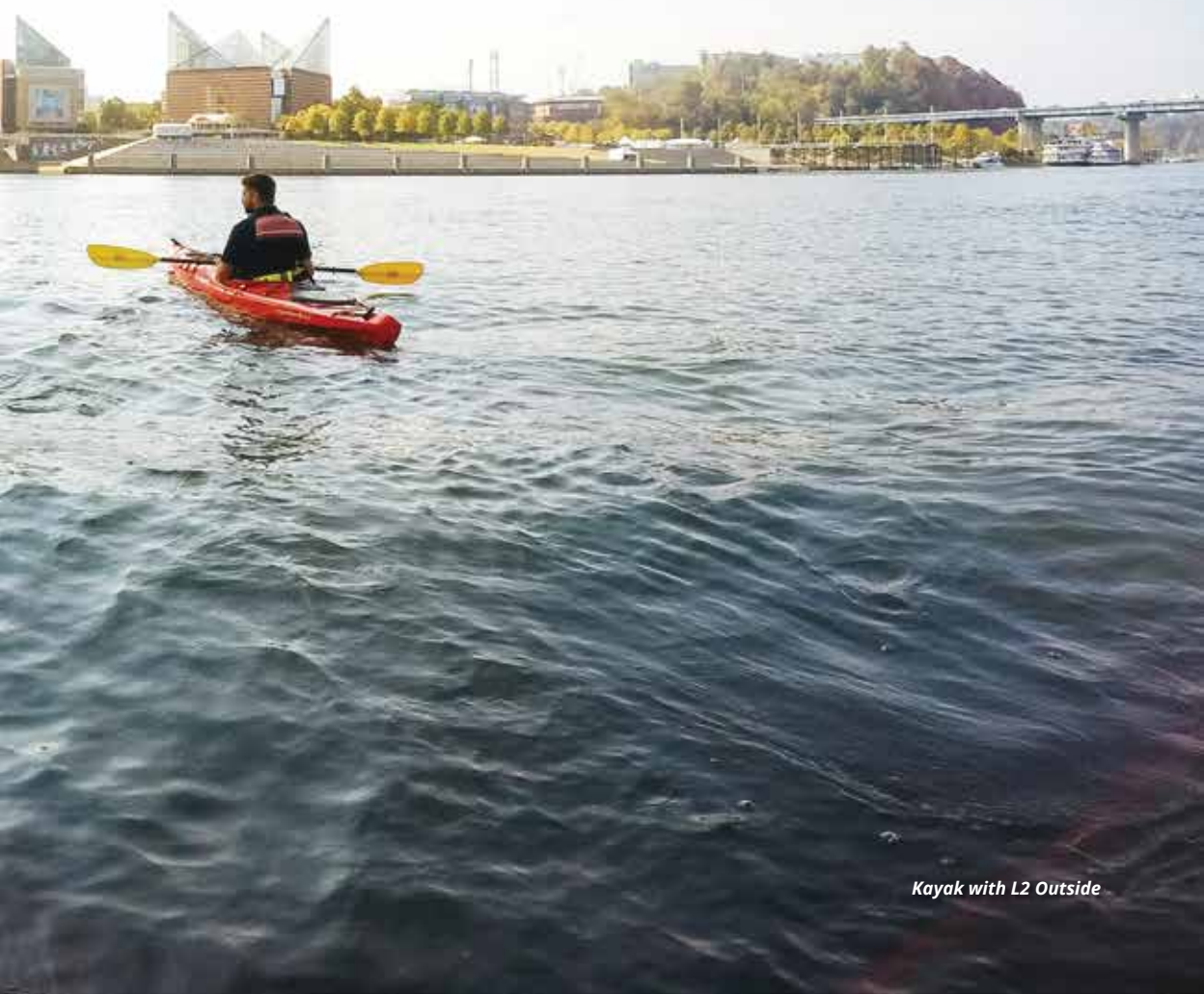
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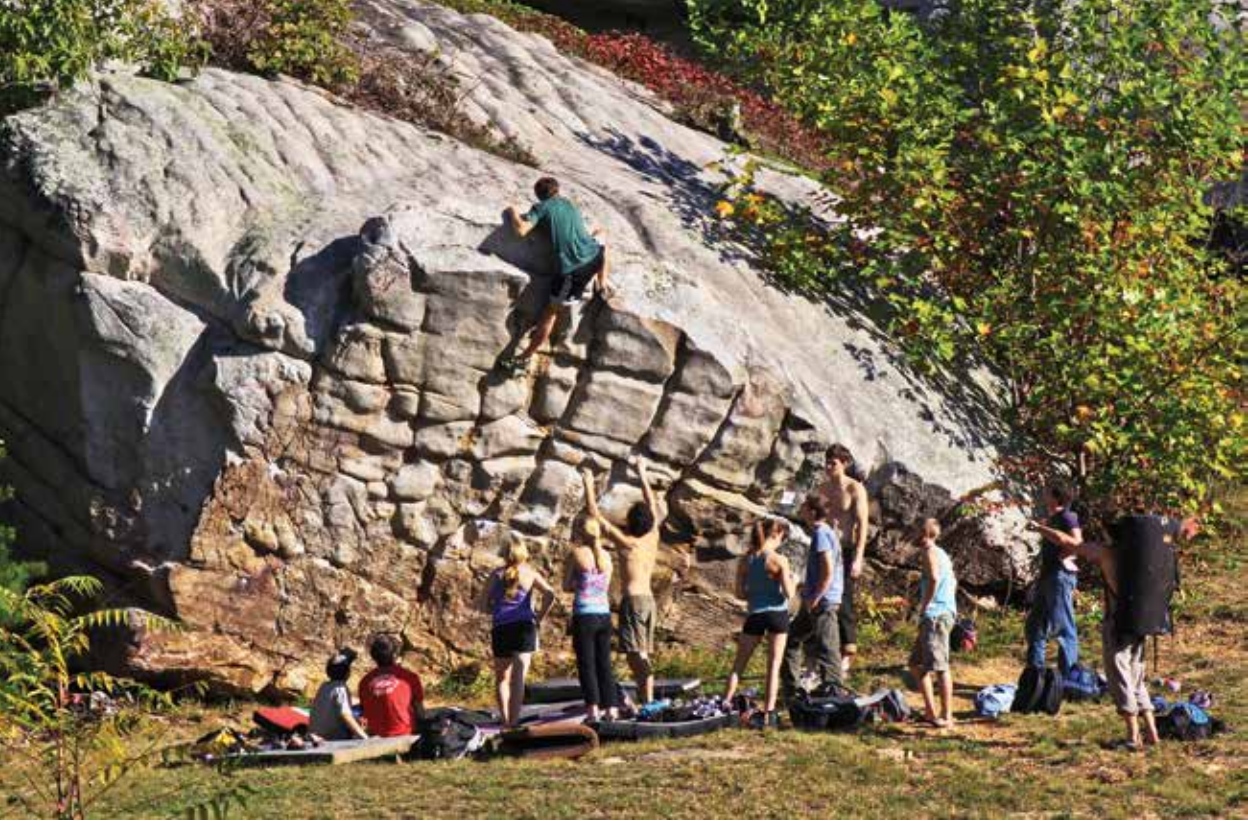
Your idea of a win might be conquering a mountain. Or, it could be simply conquering the stairs. In either case, the elite team at one of America's most advanced orthopaedic hospitals can help you win by defeating bone and joint pain. It's the same team known for taking on the worst cases and creating better outcomes. So why live with pain? Instead, tell us: what's your win? Call **423-778-ORTH (6784)** or visit **Erlanger.org/win**.





Adventures OUTDOORS





Bouldering at Little Rock City

A crash course in the **LOCAL OUTDOORS**

Dan Rose and Max Poppel don't just cater to outdoorsy types with their hostel, **The Crash Pad**, they live that lifestyle themselves. Both seasoned climbers, they opened their minimalist modern lodge in 2011 in order to offer others a jumping-off point for exploring the area's renowned sandstone cliffs and caves.

"Our mission is to further establish Chattanooga as an outdoor destination by providing a base camp community hub for adventurous travelers," Poppel says.

We sat down with the business owners, who also operate the neighboring **Flying Squirrel** bar, to find out what they had to say about climbing, Chattanooga's growth, and what it's like to move to the South.

ON LOCAL CLIMBING OPTIONS

Rose: No one lives as close to real rock climbing as we do in downtown Chattanooga; except, maybe, in Boulder, Colorado. What we have here is truly unique.

Generally, the great part about the climbing scene in Chattanooga is that you can literally drive 8 minutes

and hike for 1 minute and be on world-class real rock. Depending on if you have a car, how much time you have, and what the weather is doing ... there's 100 places from Lookout Mountain to Mowbray Mountain. If you really want to take a hike, you can drive over Signal Mountain and to Sequatchie Valley where there's even more places.

ON GUIDING GUESTS TO THE CITY'S BEST SPOTS FOR ADVENTURE

Rose: We feel like we are a little bit more on the actual ground level of what the locals do here. In terms of our business and who stays, about a quarter of our guests are climbers. We do have an identity as a climber hangout, but we also see large numbers of people who just love the outdoors and want to be a part of this atmosphere. They think it's cool and it feels authentic. *It is authentic because that's who we are.*

Intimate knowledge of the downtown and all of its options help us curate experiences for our guests — whether they want climbing, caving or recommendations for the best bars and restaurants. We have



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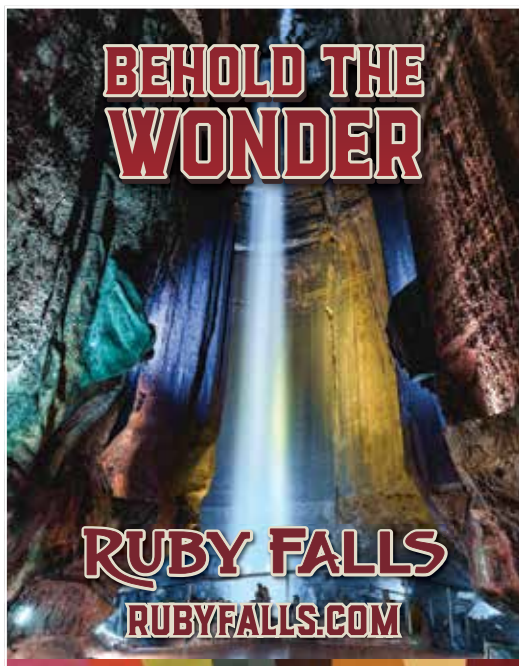


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climbers and a caver on staff, and these are services we feel proud to offer and something you're not really going to find in a hotel because of size and higher volumes of people.

ON BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF MOTHER NATURE

Rose: It's all private property around here, and a lot of people aren't used to that. That's why work from groups like the Southeastern Climbers Coalition is so important — they are helping broker deals with private landowners. Fortunately, we have a lot of institutions that see the value in cultivating that and preserving it. And for us, it's about partnering with them to further that mission.

ON CHATTANOOGA'S GROWTH SINCE OPENING

Rose: The state the downtown area was in when we wanted to build was kind of perfect for us because there was so much land available. And now, it's all been scooped up and prices have gone through the roof. The neighborhood has definitely blown up more than we ever imagined. We kind of had the perfect timing and luck — I mean, we've got a whole acre with trees on it. It would be unimaginable to find that down here now. Even then, this spot was unique in the Southside because it was mostly commercial construction.

ON MOVING FROM BOSTON TO OPEN A BUSINESS

Rose: We moved here at the end of 2005 and immediately started scheming about what we could offer the community. We were excited to be moving to a really awesome midsize city with a mountain-town feel and lots of climbing.

We didn't just decide that we wanted to open a hostel at first. We knew there was a demand here for some kind of social community hub for the climbers and just generally for all the other outdoor enthusiasts. Once that part became clear to us, we wanted to create that and a hostel was the best vehicle for the idea. And the Flying Squirrel bar came next.

It really is exceptional that we have so many restaurants, bars and attractions condensed into a 1-mile radius of downtown. Everybody really knows each other. It's an awesome feeling of connectedness.

Poppel: When I decided to move to Chattanooga, friends and family said, "Oh, it must be so hard moving to the South." For me, the weather is nicer, the people are nicer, the cost of living is better than any sort of city around. So, yeah, for me the transition was easy. Southern hospitality really is a thing. Strangers make eye contact and say "hello." If you do that in New York, people would think you are nuts.

Rose: Even though we've been open for 7 years, our mission is still relevant because this town is still growing and on the radar for adventurous travelers. We still get people all the time who have never visited before and say this is like their home away from home — that's always important to us.

Poppel: Dan nailed it. ♡

To learn more about outdoor opportunities in Chattanooga and the surrounding area, stop by the Chattanooga Visitors Center, located at 215 Broad St., or visit chattanoogafun.com.

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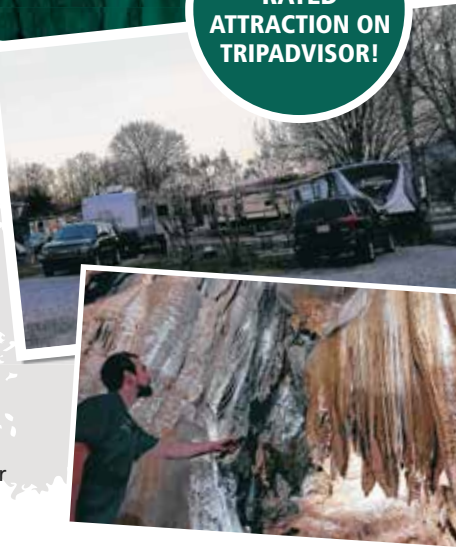
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CHASING WATERFALLS

Waterfalls are seldom seen before they're heard, yet from the sound of the smallest distant ripples to the roar of cascading waters, their majesty beckons us.

The Scenic City is home to some of the most awe-inspiring waterfalls in the Southeast. While Chattanooga is filled with many such gems, we recommend you seek out these four.

FALLING WATER FALLS

Unquestionably the most accessible waterfall in Chattanooga, all it takes is a really short walk to take in the majesty of this namesake waterfall.

The hike out to the overlook may be minimal, but along the way you'll find second-growth hardwood forest surrounding the falls, including a mix of oak, hickory and pine trees, and mountain laurel, rhododendron and eastern hemlock trees are also common.

Location: Falling Water Falls State Natural Area, Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Drive time from downtown: 25 minutes

Coordinates: 35.1898, -85.2822

Height of falls: 110'

Level of difficulty: Easy to moderate

Hike distance: 1/4 mile

GREETER FALLS

If you're looking for a quick hike that ends in a beautiful view, Greeter Falls is the place for you. The Greeter Falls Loop Trail leads to three incredible waterfalls: Boardtree Falls, Upper Greeter Falls, and Lower Greeter Falls — the highlight of your hike. Surrounded by a swimming hole and a multitude of trail options for the more adventuresome traveler, this location is perfect for an afternoon picnic and swim.

Location: South Cumberland State Park, Altamont, Tenn.

Drive time from downtown: 1 hour 20 minutes

Coordinates: 35.4343, -85.69624

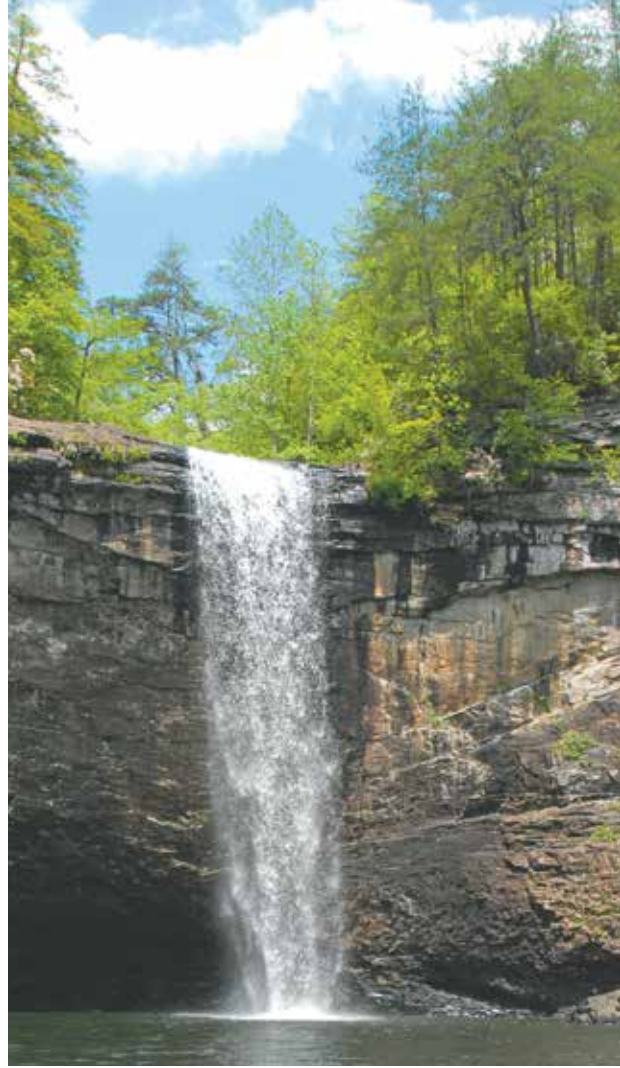
Height of falls: 50'

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Hike distance: Under 1 mile

LAUREL FALLS

Laurel Falls demands the most effort from the hiker, but the rugged trail's 900 feet of elevation gain is more than worth it. After following the most picturesque sections of the Cumberland Trail, you'll be treated to a breathtaking view from the bottom of the cascading waters. And, hikers during spring wildflower season will truly get to experience the best of what this pocket wilderness area has to offer. Just be



Foster Falls

certain to pay attention while on the trail, because a wrong turn could take you toward Snow Falls instead!

Location: Laurel-Snow State Natural Area, Dayton, Tenn.

Drive time from downtown: 30 minutes

Coordinates: 35.54719, -85.02396

Height of falls: 80'

Level of difficulty: Moderate to difficult

Hike distance: Under 2 miles

FOSTER FALLS

Accessed by the Fiery Gizzard Trail — rated one of the top 25 hikes in the country — an easy, shaded hike will lead you to the bottom of Foster Falls. (There is also a handicap accessible view of the top of the falls just beyond the parking lot.) The surrounding natural area includes seasonal camping and multiple overlooks, and there's a large pool perfect for a swim at the bottom of the falls.

Location: South Cumberland State Park, Tracy City, Tenn.

Drive time from downtown: 45 minutes

Coordinates: 35.18177, -85.676

Height of falls: 60'

Level of difficulty: Easy to moderate

Hike distance: Under 2 miles ♦



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IRONMAN

SCENIC CITY SPORTS

Chattanooga definitely takes the outdoors seriously. The city is host to a full calendar of related events, and locals aren't the only ones that are taking notice.

IRONMAN

IRONMAN has been part of the Chattanooga community since 2014. In 2017, Chattanooga became the first city in the world to host four IRONMAN events, including the IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship! Chattanooga currently hosts two IRONMAN events on an annual basis: the Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga in the spring and the Little Debbie IRONMAN Chattanooga in the fall.

Chattanooga's natural beauty and community support, combined with our vibrant downtown, make the Scenic City the perfect outdoor adventure destination. IRONMAN athletes would agree — Chattanooga proudly won 10 athletes' choice awards from the 2017 IRONMAN season. Those accolades include "Will Recommend to a Friend," "Best Restaurants," "Best Overall Swim," "Best Overall Bike (twice)," "Best Race Venue Experience (twice)," "Best Host City Experience (twice)" and "Best Post Race Celebration." We are an IRONMAN destination!

2019 EVENT DATES:

Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga: May 19, 2019
Little Debbie IRONMAN Chattanooga: Sept. 29, 2019

ERLANGER CHATTANOOGA MARATHON

The Erlanger Chattanooga Marathon is a not-for-profit, locally owned and operated race weekend that consists

of a marathon, half marathon, team relay, 5k and kid's fun run. The race was established in 2016 when the founding partners came together with the mindset of creating a professional event that would have a positive impact and benefit the local community. The Erlanger Chattanooga Marathon Race Weekend has 7 key initiatives integrated into the planning process, initiatives that represent the qualities and characteristics of why we host this event for the Chattanooga region:

- Manage a professionally operated event
- Engage the participation of local residents
- Provide a community health and wellness opportunity
- Impact sports tourism
- Showcase our outdoor destination
- Animate our music scene
- Engage the corporate community

Through the combined efforts of community partners, volunteers, spectators and racers, the events planners have been able to create

a vibrant “Race Weekend” full of energy and excitement. The Marathon Planning Committee is committed to adding value to the Erlanger Marathon Race Weekend annually in order to maximize the weekend experience within the Chattanooga region.

2019/2020 EVENT DATES:

Erlanger Chattanooga Marathon Weekend: March 1-3, 2019

Erlanger Chattanooga Marathon Weekend: March 6-8, 2020

SCENIC CITY CUP

The 2019 Scenic City Cup is a collaborative effort among 5 sports organizations within Chattanooga. The cooperation strengthens the local soccer community, providing all teams with an experience unlike any other tournament. This is the city’s highest-quality tournament of the year featuring u8-u19 boys’ and girls’ teams. Through the efforts of the Chattanooga Sports Committee, Chattanooga Football Club Academy, East Ridge Recreational Soccer, Cleveland Grimes Recreational Soccer and Redoubt Recreational Soccer, the Scenic



Scenic City Cup

City Cup has given back over \$250,000 to develop soccer in this region over the past 6 years!

2019 EVENT DATES:

The Scenic City Cup: May 3-5, 2019

HEAD OF THE HOCH

The Head of the Hooch is the second-largest rowing regatta in the country, next to Head of the Charles in Boston. The regatta is organized and hosted by the Atlanta Rowing Club out of Roswell, Ga., and the Lookout Rowing Club out of Chattanooga. More than 9,000 seats are rowed and 2,000 boats race over the 2-day weekend, while 1,200 boats compete on Sunday alone. Participants

come from over 200 different organizations, 33 different states and 7+ countries. The race has the largest number of entries per event of any major regatta.

Head of the Hooch has been recognized by national magazines as *the* regatta to attend. Chattanooga offers beautiful weather, phenomenal spectator views, plus hotels, restaurants and attractions in walking distance to the “Epicenter of Activity,” aka Ross’s Landing. Head of the Hooch is one of Chattanooga’s premier annual sporting events that showcases the capabilities of this wonderful community.

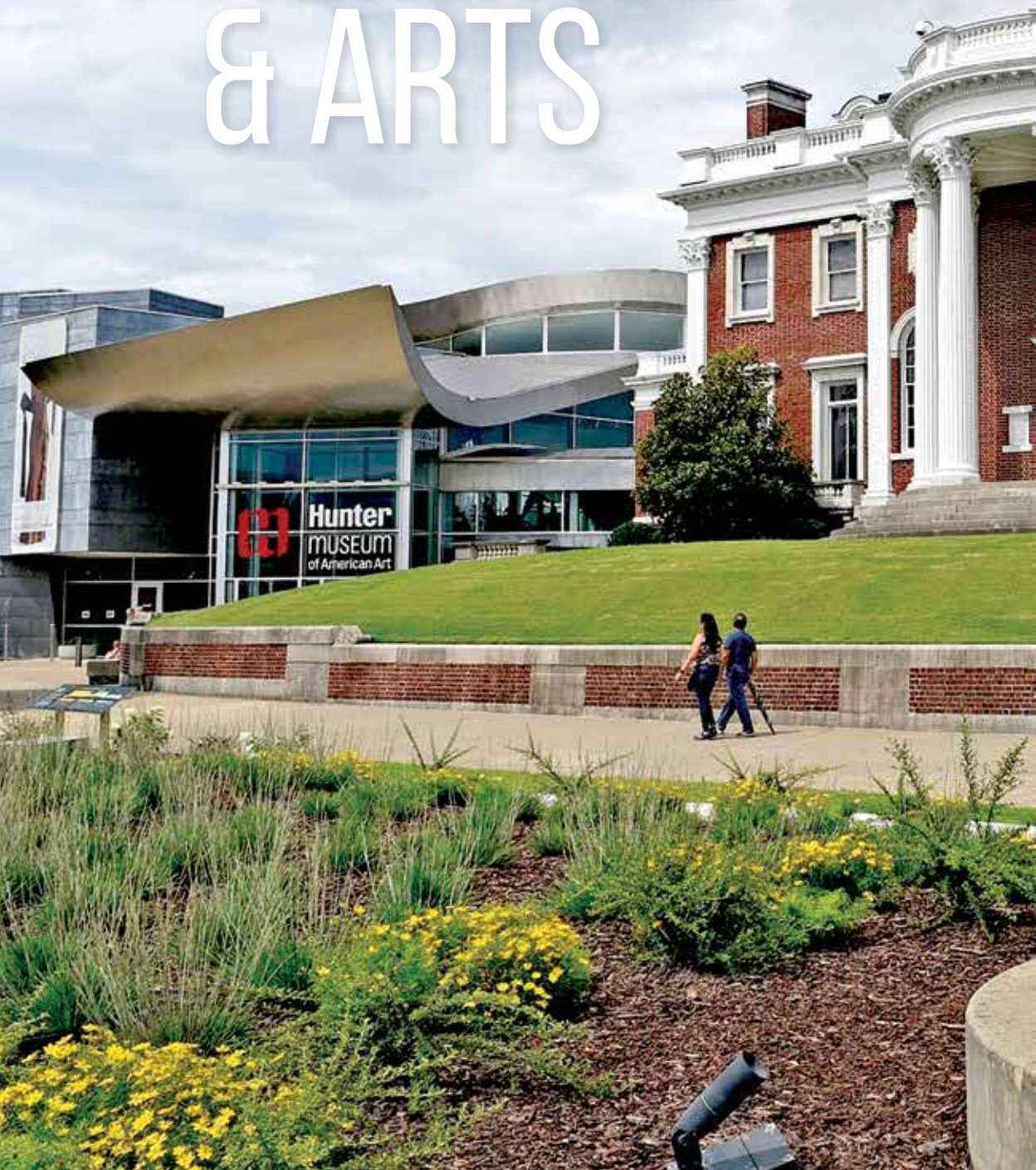
2019 EVENT DATES:

Head of the Hooch: Nov. 1-3, 2019 ♦



Head of the Hooch

Culture, HERITAGE & ARTS





Hunter Museum of American Art



Sculpture Fields at Montague Park

Sculpting THE ARTS

It's no secret; Chattanooga's Southside is a major attraction for both visitors and 'Noogans alike. As you meander down West Main Street, you'll find a variety of restaurants, retail stores and shops, spas, art galleries and bars — most of which offer live music throughout the week. However, if you head east on Main Street, you'll find a 33-acre public park filled with one-of-a-kind soaring sculptures made by some of the world's most acclaimed artists. Sculpture Fields at Montague Park, which is now the largest sculpture park in the Southeast, brings art and influence from all over the world to the Scenic City.

The talent and brains behind the park belong to internationally renowned sculptor John Henry. Henry, who has lived in Chattanooga with his wife, Pamela, for 19 years, had no real direction of being a professional artist early in life. "I painted a lot, and it was hard to find a job, so I began selling my paintings along a chain-link fence at the World Fair. That worked, and I could start to pay the rent," he says.

As a student at Art Institute of Chicago, Henry's work was showcased in the Richard Gray gallery, which was



Above: Sculptor John Henry

Tennessee Riverpark
Blue Goose Hollow





Sculpture Fields at Montague Park

unheard of for someone so young. From there, his career took off. He recalls, "I wasn't quite as good at painting as I was with building things with my hands," so he began pursuing sculpture full-time. Chattanooga's proximity to heavy industrial suppliers brought ease to this line of work, which he couldn't get in cities like Chicago or Miami.

As Henry's sculpting career continued to grow, the couple purchased a live-work space that overlooked Montague Park — a city-owned piece of property that was an environmental mess. It was an overgrown eyesore, and the city didn't know what to do with it. That is, until Henry proposed a plan for a sculpture park to former Mayor Bob Corker and was granted his wish to make the vision a reality.

Today, the park features over 35 sculptures from internationally acclaimed artists including Mark diSuvero, Linda Howard, Albert Paley, Doug Schatz,

and many more. The park has been completely restored and includes sprawling walking paths for outdoor recreation, 120 planted trees, regular educational tours, and family-friendly events. The attraction has quickly become known in the art world.

Sculpture Fields serves not only as a cultural tourism destination for visitors, but as a refuge for locals. From his studio, Henry can see visitors sitting near the sculptures admiring their beauty. "A lot of people come out here and sit down near a sculpture. Maybe they don't understand what they're looking at, but it's interesting, and it has a way of calling them back. When people encounter public art, they start to get a glimpse of how the world is put together. They start to connect to the built environment that they are a part of."

According to Henry, Chattanooga is still an affordable place for artists to live. Perhaps, this is why visual art seems to be popping up everywhere downtown. As you explore Chattanooga, it's hard not to encounter a few galleries or museums and even a glass-blowing studio or a large-scale mural spanning building facades.

There are sidewalk sculptures placed along the recently developed Riverwalk, as well as throughout long-standing outdoor landmarks like the Bluff View Art District and The Passage at the Tennessee Aquarium. The Hunter Museum of American Art continues to bring world-class art inside its doors, including an upcoming Glackens and Renoir exhibition in summer 2019. Visit Chattanooga in April, and you can browse some of the region's best metalwork, jewelry, paintings, woodworking, and more at the 4 Bridges Arts Festival. Even Rock City, renowned for its sweeping views, incorporates art at every turn of the attraction.

Henry believes there is ample opportunity to continue to embrace the arts in Chattanooga, but one thing is certain: Sculpture Fields at Montague Park isn't going anywhere, and Chattanooga is definitely on the map as a growing arts destination. ♦



4 Bridges Arts Festival



The Bessie Smith Cultural Center provides education of the African and African American heritage and culture, and preserves African-American history in Chattanooga, through art, education, research and entertainment. Located on M.L. King Blvd, the Center is the home of the Chattanooga African American Museum and Bessie Smith Performance Hall. Perfect for all occasions, it is easily accessible from I-24 and provides free and accessible parking.

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James Seawright, b. 1936, *Mirror V*, 1985, fiberglass, reinforced cement and mirrors, 66-1/2 x 66-1/2 inches, Collection of the Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Museum purchase with funds provided by the Benwood Foundation and the 1985 Collectors' Group, 1985.9

3 Great At



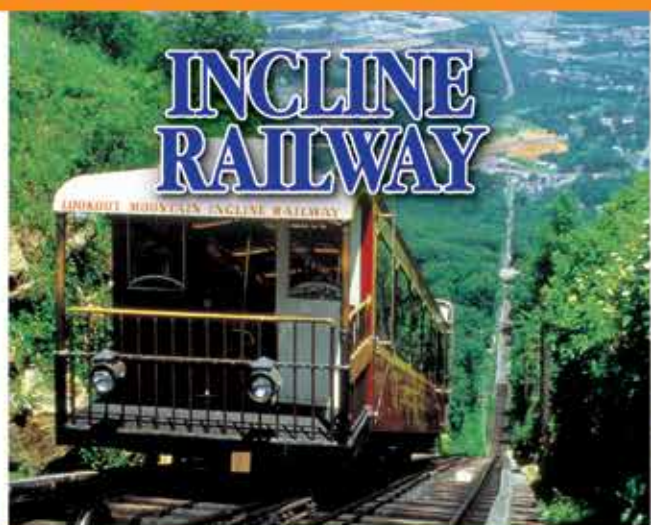
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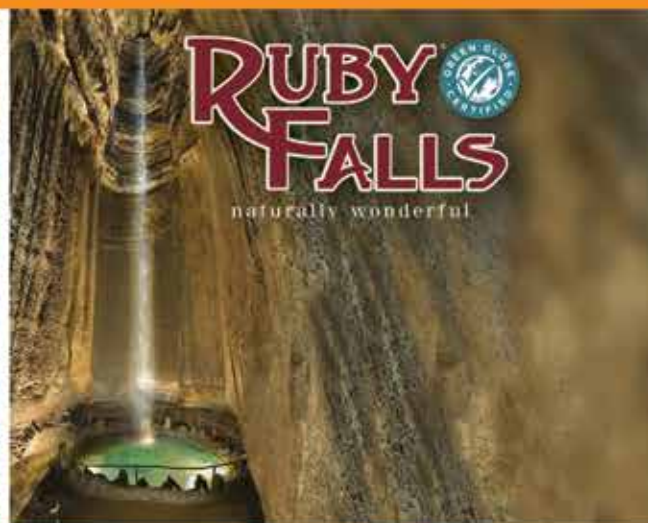
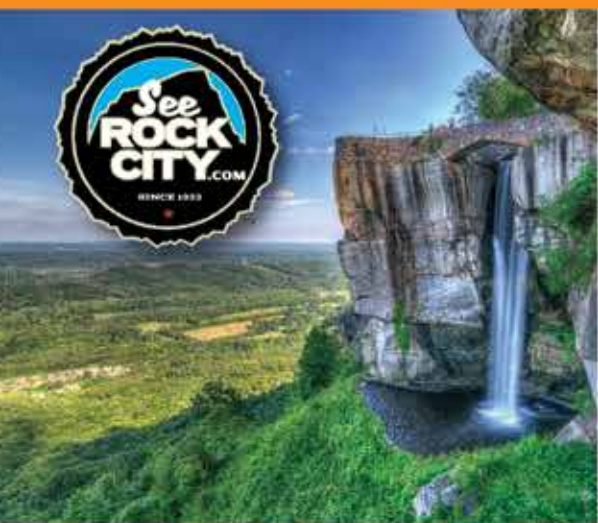


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Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum

MAKING TRACKS

When one thinks of trains, the words that come to mind could be “powerful,” “massive,” “romantic” or “revolutionary.” For Chattanooga, railroads are all the above and so much more.

By Justin Strickland, author of *Chattanooga's Terminal Station*

Trains have been interwoven into the fabric of the Tennessee Valley since prior to the Civil War. In partnership with local businessmen, investors and citizens, the state of Georgia's Western & Atlantic Railroad commenced regular service from the banks of the Tennessee River to a Georgia settlement then called Terminus — later renamed Atlanta — in 1845. The “iron horse” almost immediately transformed Chattanooga into a new gateway of the South. Additional railroads from as far as Richmond, Virginia, and Memphis, Tennessee, quickly “made tracks” to



Chattanooga Choo Choo

Chattanooga. Business and manufacturing thrived, with some goods destined for ports on the Mississippi River, Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

Chattanooga's importance as a transportation center wouldn't go unnoticed following the beginning of the American Civil War. The Chattanooga-Atlanta route was the bloodline of Chattanooga, keeping the Confederate army supplied with fresh troops and armaments. Wisely, Union army commanders, including President Abraham Lincoln himself, knew the Western & Atlantic Railroad must be severed before any attack on the stronghold of Chattanooga could be launched.

On April 12, 1862, exactly one year to the day after Fort Sumter's shelling — which marked the beginning of the Civil War — Chattanooga played a part in the greatest true spy story in American history. On that morning, a group of two dozen Union army volunteers and civilians, along with their leader, James

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J. Andrews, commandeered a passenger express train led by the locomotive named "General" during a station stop in Big Shanty, Georgia (Kennesaw today). The goal of these men, later named "Andrews' Raiders," was to tear up track, cut telegraph lines and burn bridges in their wake while dashing for the safety of Union lines just outside of Chattanooga. As the "General" sped away with the raiders on board, the train's conductor and two others chased the train by foot, later by handcar, then two different locomotives as they narrowed the gap between them and the raiders. Due to the proximity of the chasers to the chased, the raiders never completed their task of destroying the railroad, and only inflicted minor damage. Though, by the end of the Civil War in 1865, Chattanooga's railroad infrastructure was left in ruins after months of bombardment and occupation.

That wasn't the end of the line for railroads in Chattanooga, however. Through the next 40 years, manufacturing would return to the city on such a level that a new term was coined: "the Dynamo of Dixie." Railroads, in turn, invested hundreds of millions of dollars in today's money, producing a spider web of tracks covering nearly every corner. In fact, Chattanooga enjoyed one of the largest streetcar systems of any city in 1900, with nearly 300 miles stretching from the top of Signal and Lookout mountains, through downtown, over Missionary Ridge, and even deep into Georgia for those visiting Chickamauga Battlefield. Lookout Mountain alone was served by four separate railway companies, including two different incline railroads – one of which still exists today – during the peak of rail service to the city.

These days, you can still "ride the rails" to destinations around the city. **The Incline Railway** — that remaining holdover from the days of streetcars — takes passengers up the steepest passenger incline in the world to reach the top of Lookout Mountain. Well-known as the home of popular tourist attractions **Rock City** and **Ruby Falls**, the mountaintop also guards reminders of the Civil War. A five-minute walk from the top of the Incline, **Point Park** and the **Battles for Chattanooga Museum** welcome visitors to experience the fighting that occurred there as the Union army sought to lift a Confederate siege on the city below, where they had retreated following the Battle of Chickamauga. With heavy fog obscuring the Union army's advances, the Battle Above the Clouds, as it would later become called, gave them a foothold. The nation's first military park, **Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park**, also helps to tell the story of what is now regarded as the turning point of the war, each marker purposefully placed by those who fought there. Encompassing more than 9,000 acres, the park comprises six sites across the Greater Chattanooga area, stretching from the top of the mountain to the valley below. Many portions of the park are connected by trails through some of the same woods where countless men died in the Battle of Chickamauga, the second-bloodiest battle of the Civil War.

Chickamauga Battlefield welcomes nearly 1 million visitors each year. Most come in cars to drive its many paths through history; however, those looking for a



Andrews Raiders monument at the Chattanooga National Cemetery

more authentic experience can take the **Tennessee Valley Railroad's** passenger service to the small town of Chickamauga, Georgia. Offered March-September, the Chickamauga Turn takes guests on a relaxing ride through the countryside as a guide helps bring the history outside to life. Upon disembarking at the historic Chickamauga Depot, guests can grab lunch and shop in the quaint downtown area or visit one of the other nearby attractions, including the Chickamauga Depot's regional history museum and the antebellum Gordon-Lee Mansion. The trip also includes a stop in the park, its open fields and wooded paths now offering a peaceful place for picnics and horseback riding.

More evidence of the city's "track" to prosperity can be found downtown. On Dec. 1, 1909, the first train departed Southern Railway's Terminal Station. Now known as the **Chattanooga Choo Choo**, it still stands today 110 years later. This majestic Beaux Arts-style architectural wonder saw the likes of President Franklin D. Roosevelt grace its interior, not to mention Tennessee's own Elvis Presley. During World War II, the two major stations downtown (Union and Terminal stations), served over 130 trains within a 24-hour period, more than most major cities in the region. Today's Chattanooga Choo Choo serves as an entertainment center, hotel and crown jewel of Chattanooga's Southside revitalization.

Passenger trains started to decline in the 1950s as more Americans purchased personal automobiles. Chattanooga's last passenger train departed Union Station in early 1972, ending a 133-year legacy of passenger service. All was not lost, though. Today, Chattanooga is ranked as one of the busiest freight terminals in the Southeast. ♠

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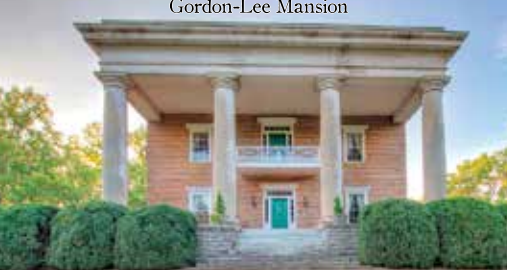
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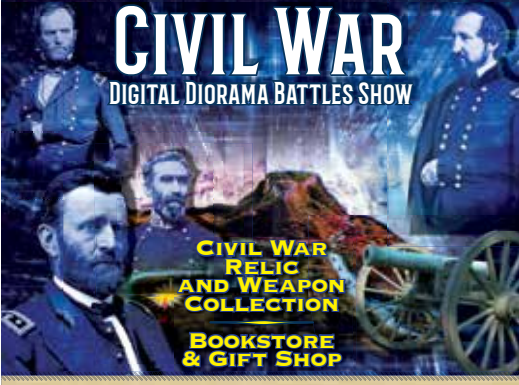


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Chattanooga Market

MALLS, MARKETS AND MORE

Looking for local boutiques filled with artisan goods and Chattanooga style? Open-air markets with local vendors displaying their wares? Or would you prefer to hit up national retailers while you're here? No matter what part of town you're staying in, Chattanooga's shops are never far away.

Located downtown, **Warehouse Row** is home to national retailers like Lululemon Athletica and Anthropologie, and local spots like Lines Orchids and Shadowbox Paperie which showcase a curated range of unique wares. If you're looking for local, Locals Only, located nearby, is filled to the brim with items from area artisans that would make anyone happy. And down the road in the **West Village**, you'll discover another stand of shops and snack spots, including local cosmetic company **elea Blake**, where you can custom blend makeup for any skin tone and match any cherished product color you can't find anymore.

Just over the river in the **North Shore**, local favorites like McClain Made and **Blue Skies** feature an incredible array of jewelry, candles and other local artisan goods, and the multi-use development **2 North Shore** offers tons of shops under one roof, so to speak. The open-air mall offers everything from outdoor apparel at **Rock/Creek**, to sole searching at Chattanooga Shoe

Company or **Fleet Feet Sports**, to finds for your smallest family members, whether they have four legs (Nogga Paws) or two (The Sandbox Children's Boutique).

Down the road, in Red Bank, you'll find a store unlike any other: **Jalic Blades**. Stocked with an eclectic array of collectibles, it holds the rights to produce replica weaponry from hits including "Game of Thrones" and "The Lord of the Rings."

For those looking for national retailers like H&M, Gap, Eddie Bauer, Sephora and more, the two-story **Hamilton Place** mall is a one-stop shop for everything your heart desires. The Hamilton Place area boasts more than 200 retailers, restaurants and entertainment options.

Just a few minutes farther up I-75, homegrown shops like Barn Door Boutique exist within Ooltewah's mixed-use community space, **Cambridge Square**, which frequently features live music.

Offering a vibe similar to downtown and focused on "local," the shops and restaurants here were all carefully selected to feature a diverse array of Chattanooga style.

If you happen to be in Chattanooga on a Sunday (April-December), don't miss out on the **Chattanooga Market**, a local favorite held at First Tennessee Pavilion. The region's largest producer-only arts and crafts and farmers market, it features live music and hundreds of local artists, farmers and other vendors offering wares you won't be able to find anywhere else. The offshoot **Chattanooga River Market** brings a smaller, though still phenomenal selection, to Aquarium Plaza on Saturdays during the market season.

If you're willing to go a little farther afield, the **Gateway Mall** in Ringgold, Ga., offers the chance to browse several antiques stores in search of the perfect memento — and more.

Happy shopping! ♡



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“Getting along with all these other cultures, I’m loving that. It could’ve happened at other universities, but the acceptance of foreign students is higher at UTC.”

— KHUSHI DHRUV

Khushi Dhruv knew nothing of Chattanooga before this year. Yet at the beginning of January, she decided to make it her home. Ready to transition to university, she knew she wanted to study psychology, but there was just one problem.

“Psychology is not considered a major stream [of science] in India. It’s a minor science. There are only one or two universities in India that offer it,” Dhruv says. “I figured I was going to have to move out of the house anyway...”

Her hometown of Mumbai is one of the most populous places in India, spread over several islands, but she’d lived there all her life. Walking down the street was like a family reunion. A new culture offered exciting opportunities to learn and grow. It also added to her fear of starting over.

“I was afraid of making new friends,” Dhruv admits. But after talking with other friends and family scattered around the United States, she decided to go for it. The U.S., as a whole, meant a chance to explore other interests while finishing her studies, she says.

Dhruv applied to a handful of universities up and down the East Coast. She was accepted to most of them. UTC, however, is one of the few colleges in the country to offer a Bachelor of Science in psychology, as opposed to a Bachelor of Arts, Dhruv says. A B.S. is recommended for those who plan to attend graduate school for psychology, which she does — at UTC.

With the help of her growing network, Dhruv is already learning how to navigate the trials of living



Khushi Dhruv

alone in a new culture. Welcoming students from 45 countries, UTC has a strong support system.

International Orientation Leaders, established UTC students from different backgrounds, help incoming internationals learn the ropes during orientation. Ongoing support is offered through the school’s International Buddy Program, which pairs incoming foreign students with one of 50-plus domestic ones. They might teach the new student how to use the bus system so they can pick up groceries and supplies at Walmart, or attend one of the group’s many campus events with their “buddy.” Dhruv has also met new friends in her dorm, called the Go Global Living Community, a haven for students from all over the world as well as domestic ones interested in foreign language and culture.

The people she’s met have been the best part of coming to America, she says. Her biggest fear has become her greatest joy.

That joy will likely be compounded next fall, when two of her friends from India may join her at UTC.

“I told them they will love it,” Dhruv says.

More on Chattanooga’s schools:
ChattanoogaFun.com/Schools

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Choosing Chattanooga for **BUSINESS**

“... People can come here and start a business off an idea and a dream.”

— ANTONIA POLAND

Where most people would have turned around, Antonia Poland kept going. The Chicago native moved to Chattanooga 7 years ago to open her own business, Dipped Fresh, and though the city itself was inviting, circumstances kept challenging her. Yet her fate seems entwined with Chattanooga.

Her introduction to the Scenic City came by chance when she was around 13. Fog had crept across the interstate, forcing her family to settle in for the night as they made their way to Disney World. “I didn’t remember anything about the fog and the hotel, but I remembered Chattanooga,” Poland says.

Years later, now an adult, chance brought her back. The occasion was meant to be a celebration of life for her cousin, who was getting ready to welcome a child, but while en route, she was killed in an automobile accident near Nickajack Dam. “Instead of having a baby shower, we were having a funeral,” Poland says.

She did not let the experience mar her. “Even though it was tragic the reason I was here, [the city] was still beautiful. That’s what really sold me, how beautiful it was, how peaceful it was,” she says. “It was a lot different than the concrete jungle I grew up in Chicago.”

With three children of her own, Chattanooga seemed like a good place to raise a family, so she started doing some research. An experienced realtor, it didn’t take Poland long to make her decision. “I noticed things were changing — trending up. There was more opportunity for business and growth,” she says. And a new business was on her brain. After receiving a box of chocolate-dipped strawberries from a client, Poland had the same thought that has kickstarted many entrepreneurs’ endeavors: I could do this better.

In Chattanooga, she found a culture where she felt she could succeed. “In Chicago, taxes will kill you. Half your check goes to taxes. Here, your dollar goes a lot further,” says Poland, citing one of the reasons businesses like Amazon and Volkswagen have chosen Chattanooga as well. But the city also had something specific to small businesses. “Here is the only place I know that you could come to and you could go to the [Chamber’s business] INCubator or the Business Development Center or Co.Lab and say ‘I need help’ and they actually will encourage you and walk you through the process,” she says, referencing several of



Antonia Poland

the many resources available — often for free — to budding business owners.

Eight months later, she had a brick-and-mortar location for her chocolate-dipped strawberry business in Coolidge Park. The resources here helped, she says, but the relationships are what carried her through. The small-town atmosphere gave her access to everyone from the mayor to Chamber officials, and meant she developed close relationships with her clients, as well. “I think people here are more friendly and willing to help. They’ll help you as long as you’re willing to help yourself,” she says.

Poland has since shuttered her Dipped Fresh storefront to focus on catering. She also recently opened a full-service restaurant, Davis Wayne’s, with her business partner in Ooltewah, offering upscale takes on classic meat-and-three dishes. “It’s been better than what I expected,” Poland says of her decision to take a chance in Chattanooga. “I wouldn’t change it for the world. I don’t care how many Davis Wayne’s I open up, I will always live here.

“Sometimes things don’t go the way you plan them, but what in life really does? You’ve just gotta keep going.”

More on Chattanooga’s business-friendly environment: ChattanoogaChamber.com



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“Chattanooga has a very open community to plug into to pursue interests that you have or take up totally new things. The character and purpose-focused organizations here allow someone retired to feel part of the community really easily.”

— JOHN BARNHARDT



Lisa and John Barnhardt

Choosing Chattanooga for **RETIREMENT**

When Raleigh, N.C., residents John and Lisa Barnhardt retired, there was no question where they would move: Chattanooga. Their daughter and then-1-year-old granddaughter had recently taken up residence in the Scenic City, and being close to them was important to the couple.

“When our daughter, Julia, was going to have her second child, I decided it was time to hang up my shingle and be a grandmother,” says Lisa, who closed her 30-plus-year psychology practice to make the move.

Having worked in finance for a pharmaceutical research company until it was moved to Canada, John used his new city as a springboard to explore new interests, volunteering to be a docent at the Hunter Museum of American Art. Lisa, meanwhile, discovered a love of kayaking, which was much different than the inflatable “wafting” she’d done on creeks around Raleigh. In fact, the river is one of her favorite things

about her new home. “I bought a kayak. He’s looking for his,” Lisa says, her eyes lighting up.

With the city’s natural resources and “stunningly beautiful landscape,” the couple has used their free time to become more active all-around. John’s cycled all his life, and the Riverwalk offers a place where he and Lisa can now ride together. “Hiking is not something we could walk out our backdoor and do in Raleigh, and we can here,” he adds. Just outside the couple’s Lookout Mountain home is a trailhead leading to Cravens House and the surrounding national parkland.

The Barnhardts have also used their newfound time to plug into the community. Shortly after the move, a neighbor connected with them over their North Carolina license plates (her mother had recently moved to Charlotte), and their social circle has quickly spider-webbed out from there, each new thread offering new relationships and chances to explore.

“What surprised us is the ease with which people became friends and then they extended their social circle to us,” John says. “The connections we’ve made here feel as strong as the ones we made in Raleigh.” ♦

More about retiring in Chattanooga: ChattanoogaFun.com/Retire

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Where TO EAT





Chef Rebecca Barron

Infusing LOCAL FLAVOR

There's nothing quite like that first strawberry in the summer or a garden-fresh tomato in the fall.

Chattanooga has an enormous array of restaurant options — including a few original staples that are best known for infusing each dish with the freshest local flavors from each season. Our city's climate and surrounding rural areas mean local farmers have cultivated relationships with some of our best chefs, creating a truly unique food experience.

For the following three chefs and the restaurants they run, the menu is truly driven by what the local land produces at any given time. For these chefs, it's about the

freshest products, whether it's trout caught the same day or vegetables picked just up the road. But it's also about the ability to communicate with the farmers who know each chef's preferences, then physically touch those products to determine the best way to use them based on each harvest, says Rebecca Barron, executive chef at St. John's Restaurant and St. John's Meeting Place.

"If you have this expectation of what you want it to be and you don't taste it and figure out what it should be, you're doing it a disservice," explains Easy Bistro and Main Street Meats owner Erik Niel, a James Beard nominated chef. "It's about the dance."

MEET THE CHEFS

REBECCA BARRON

St. John's and the Meeting Place

HOW DID YOU GET INTO COOKING?

I'm the oldest of 5 kids, and I remember cooking my first egg when I was about 5 years old. All I ever wanted to do was become a chef; I had no backup plan. I started working at Domino's Pizza when I was 16, then started in kitchens when I was 18.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR CULINARY INFLUENCES?

I always wanted to travel and cook, so I think it's important to



The Meeting Place

Chef Erik Niel



get out of Chattanooga to see what other people are doing. Seeing the world can make such a big difference in perspective. I think Indian food in particular is a favorite. It has such complexity and depth.

WHAT ROLE DO LOCAL FLAVORS AND FARMERS PLAY IN YOUR DISHES?

I always consider local. It's kind of cool at this point because [farmers] kind of contact me knowing what I like. I think we're Crabtree Farms' No. 1 wholesale account.

We have so many local purveyors. There's fresh honey from John Radford who is in Ooltewah, fresh mushrooms from a local brand called Possum Bottom, farm-fresh eggs from Jim Everett, and fresh chickens from Springer Mountain Farms.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT FOCUSING ON LOCAL FOOD?

I'm very tactile. I like to touch it and get my hands on it to figure out what to do with it.

MENU RECOMMENDATIONS?

I think the chicken at St. John's is honestly kind of a hidden gem. We always serve it with gnocchi that we make in-house and serve with seasonal vegetables, stock and butter. I think a lot of people don't think about chicken



Easy Bistro

at a fancier restaurant, but I think it's the best in town. At Meeting Place, our small plates and happy hour are some of the best in town.

ERIK NIEL

Main Street Meats and Easy Bistro

HOW DID YOU GET INTO COOKING?

I started cooking in the late '90s with the reawakening of quality and seasonality, and when I opened Easy Bistro, it was hard to get people here to buy into the idea. The trend has definitely grown now, but 15 years ago, letting the restaurant do the driving was hard to convince people to do, as was having people accept that more avant-garde menu.

WHAT ROLE DO LOCAL FLAVORS AND FARMERS PLAY IN YOUR DISHES?

The infrastructure of the farms in Chattanooga is phenomenal. As a chef, I feel like we have a bounty around us. I try to make sure that my inspiration comes from that, from those products and how

TASTE TEST

How can restaurant-goers interested in local flavors make sure the chefs are truly using the local products they claim?

"Just look at the menus and feel free to ask the servers questions about what's freshest," says chef Kenny Burnap.

"Your menus have to be fluid," adds chef Erik Niel. "That's the best way to tell if someone is moving with the seasons and the droughts."

they speak to you and what's best about it.

I like to let Mother Nature drive. In order to work well with her, we have to be able to move when she moves. There's beef from Lake Majestik Farms and numerous fresh items from Crabtree and Signal Mountain Farms and Sequatchie Cove Creamery.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT FOCUSING ON LOCAL FOOD?

I think the city still has more awakening to do as a whole about what really is local and what is offered as such, but I'm excited to see where that leads us. Chattanooga has a lot of restaurants right now — and a lot of new ones. I hope for one thing in particular: that people vote with their dollars so Chattanooga can continue to have a thriving local food scene. Ten years from now, who knows what we'll be doing?

MENU RECOMMENDATIONS?

For Main Street Meats, you can't go wrong with a burger or a steak, although our seasonal vegetable and salad options also serve as a great balance or as a vegetarian meal. At Easy Bistro, I try to take the staple seasonal items and serve them a little differently each year. Sometimes, for example, fall tomatoes and squash are best as a simple, fresh salad. Other times, a tart is the best way to showcase the flavors that year. I let the food and the season guide those decisions.

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KENNY BURNAP

Kenny's Southside Sandwiches

HOW DID YOU GET INTO COOKING?

I always wanted to be a chef, so I went to culinary school in Oregon. I'm from Chattanooga and I went out there for school specifically. That's where I learned a lot about appreciating fresh ingredients.

I helped to open Blue Plate when I came back to Chattanooga, and ended up at St. John's for about 11 years before partnering with the owner to open Kenny's.

WHAT ROLE DO LOCAL FLAVORS AND FARMERS PLAY IN YOUR DISHES?

My grandparents always had a garden, so fresh ingredients have always been a part of my relationship with food. And the growing season is huge in Oregon. When I came back to Chattanooga, I knew I wanted to continue that. Places like Wasawillow Farm have great greens, and I love putting them on things like our pimento cheese sandwich when tomatoes are out of season.



Kenny Burnap

WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT FOCUSING ON LOCAL FOOD?

When I got to work at St. John's, I was so excited because there were just so many local farms and I got to do all the ordering, which I loved. So I have a longstanding relationship with a lot of these farms. I even proposed to my wife at Crabtree Farms, and I just love those connections.

Especially now that I'm working with breakfast and lunch specifically at Kenny's, I love food options that are a lot more informal and playful. I think the simplicity with quality ingredients

makes "local" more approachable for people.

It's about letting what those ingredients already are just come together. If it's local and well-grown, it's already elevated in terms of flavor.

MENU RECOMMENDATIONS?

Pork belly I almost always have on the menu. We make the bacon in-house, too. So [I would recommend] simple breakfast items like a pork belly sandwich with seasonal vegetables or fruits. And I always try to offer weekly specials based on what is freshest and inspires me. ♣

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Flying Squirrel is an award-winning establishment in the newly revived Southside neighborhood. The restaurant's house-made, locally sourced dinners and drinks are as well designed as the custom building — named one of the best-designed bars in the nation by the American Institute of Architects. Enjoy duck fries and a cocktail or linger over Sunday brunch on the comfortable modern terrace.

BREWHAUS*

Chattanooga's only German-American gastropub, **Brewhaus** pairs classics like schnitzel, egg noodles and brats with German-inspired beer and wines. Brewhaus is best enjoyed on the covered porch overlooking Coolidge Park or the sunny outdoor patio.



The FEED Co. Table and Tavern

THE FEED CO. TABLE AND TAVERN*

Chattanooga's historic Seed-Feed Supply Co. now houses **The FEED Co. Table and Tavern**. You'll find creative, farm-fresh staples like the short rib "pot roast" and the Tremont burger. The elegant yet rustic deck hosts live music every Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

PICKLE BARREL

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MEAN MUG*

If you want to sip hand-roasted, seasonal coffee among exposed brick walls, look no further than **Mean Mug Coffeehouse**. Though on nice days, the

eclectic private courtyard beckons you to take a break with local Velo Coffee Roasters coffee and artisan pastries. You can also grab breakfast or lunch.

SUGAR'S RIBS*

Located on Missionary Ridge, you can't beat the views from this popular barbecue spot. The **Sugar's Ribs** menu features quintessential Southern sides, and barbecue with a twist. Spare ribs are used in place of baby back ribs, offering even more meat that's slowly smoked until it's ready to fall off the bone. The heated deck and picnic tables outside make for a relaxing meal overlooking the city.

1885 GRILL*

1885 specializes in fresh seafood, quality steaks and house-made sides with a Puerto Rican twist. Meticulously prepared dishes like North Carolina rainbow trout and shrimp-and-crawfish étouffée are made from fresh, local ingredients. Enjoy your dining experience on a patio set in the beautifully revitalized St. Elmo neighborhood.

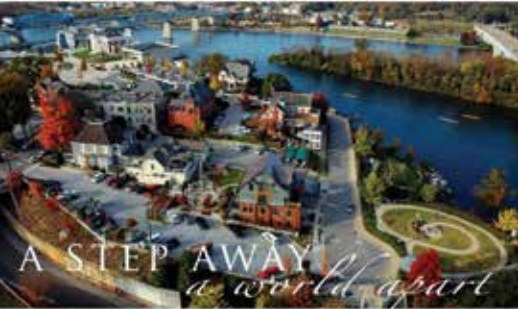
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TACO MAMACITA

Taco Mamacita is a casual taco fusion joint in the hip North Shore area. Try the house-made nachos, enchiladas or Peruvian chicken. All the dishes are made with local ingredients and pair well with a hand-mixed drink. Enjoy your meal on the low-key patio that always attracts a crowd.

STIR*

STIR brings a refined focus to Chattanooga's craft cocktail scene. Each carefully crafted drink is served with artisanal ice. The restaurant's modern aesthetic blends well with the historic bones of the iconic Terminal Station at the Chattanooga Choo Choo. Dinner and drinks are best enjoyed on the spacious patio in the heart of the Southside neighborhood.

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The Edwin

Downtown nightlife in Chattanooga has never been better, and the hospitality industry has kept pace right along with it. What does that mean for you?

It means choices — a wide variety of luxury boutique hotel options bursting with character. From the 1920s grandeur of The Read House, to the elegance of The Edwin Hotel and The Westin Chattanooga, to the unique charisma of The Dwell Hotel and Moxy Chattanooga, the Scenic City's out-of-the-box accommodations offer something for everyone.

Whether you're traveling as a family, a group, a couple or are making the trip solo, all you have to do is pick the place that best suits your personality. Each is home to unique bar and restaurant concepts, as well as all the amenities you would expect from a traditional hotel.

THE EDWIN HOTEL*

Complete with an in-house spa, The Edwin's signature style is all about eclectic elegance. Part of the Autograph Collection by Marriott, every detail was carefully selected to tell this story. In fact, there are more than 100 pieces of local art throughout this top-of-class hotel. From contemporary rooms filled with natural light and fantastic views, to the hotel's restaurant, Whitebird, and rooftop bar, Whiskey Thief, your eyes (and taste buds) certainly won't get bored.

theedwinhotel.com; 423-713-5900



The Edwin



WHITEBIRD

APPALACHIAN EVOLVED

Whitebird strives to honor the indigenous bounty of Chattanooga through artful culinary creations that breathe new life into the traditional cuisine of the Appalachian region. Partnering with local producers and artisans allows us to ensure that your dining experience includes ingredients at the peak of their freshness and flavor.

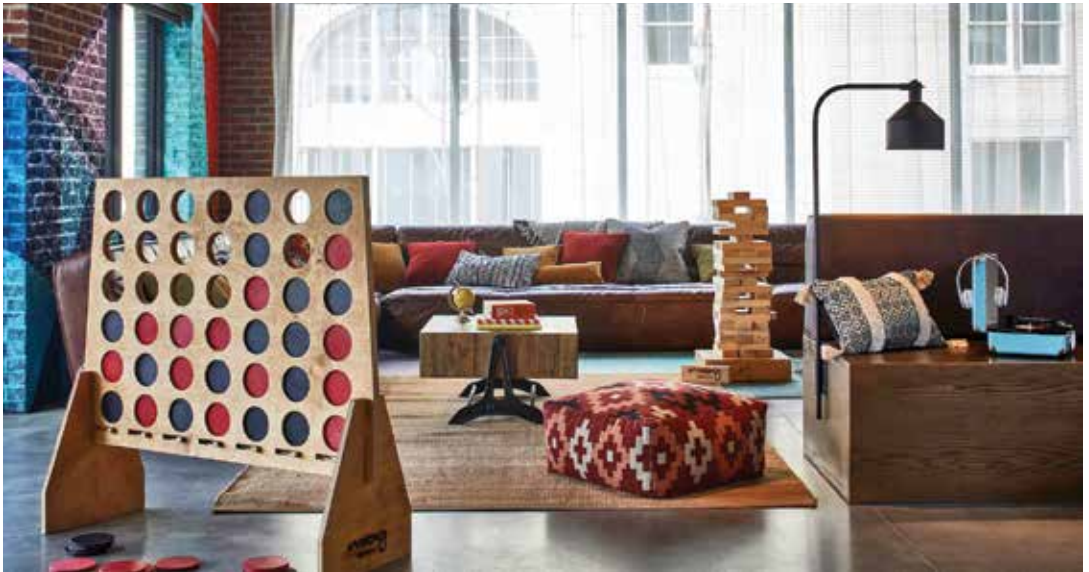
WhitebirdChattanooga.com

127989-1

THE READ HOUSE HOTEL

In late fall of 2018, Chattanooga's historic Read House hotel unveiled nearly \$30 million in renovations to restore it to the grand days of the roaring '20s, when the current building was originally constructed. Inspired by the Gatsby era, every inch of the luxuriously remodeled space makes you feel like you've been transported back in time, beginning with the valets and doormen in period-appropriate attire. Don't forget to make a reservation for Chattanooga's most elegant restaurant, Bridgeman's Chophouse, housed on the ground floor.

thereadhousehotel.com
407-536-2735



MOXY CHATTANOOGA DOWNTOWN*

If you're looking for sassy and stylish, Moxy Chattanooga has it all. Giant jenga and other games greet you in the lobby, along with a cocktail bar. Located within walking distance to Chattanooga's Southside neighborhood, which has seen major revitalization, you'll be surrounded with more public art, craft beer, cocktail bars and local restaurant concepts than you'll probably have time for.

moxy-hotels.marriott.com/en/hotels/chattanooga-downtown
423-664-1180



WESTIN CHATTANOOGA

Westin is a trusted name when it comes to high-end accommodations, and the Chattanooga location does not disappoint. Contemporary comfort, spacious open areas, a luxurious heated pool and so much more make The Westin a unique addition to the West Village area of downtown. Surrounded by shops and eateries within walking distance, your options here are virtually endless.

marriott.com/hotels/travel/chaw-the-westin-chattanooga; 423-531-4653

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(423) 602-5100

*Service of alcoholic beverages subject to state and local laws.
Must be of legal drinking age.

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THE DWELL HOTEL

For swanky, mid-century modern vibes, check out The Dwell, which was just named by House Method a “Best Boutique Hotel for Design Lovers.” Each room features a different theme, like The Europa or The Flamingo, for instance. Even the on-site bar, Matilda Midnight, shouldn’t be missed, offering a space that makes you feel like you stepped into a whimsically classy Wes Anderson film along with unique handcrafted cocktails. And Solarium, the adjoining restaurant, means you’ll never have to leave — or at least won’t want to.


thedwellhotel.com; 423-267-7866 ♦

**Denotes pet-friendly location.*



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423-485-1185

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RH
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Discover a unique, historic getaway at The Read House hotel,
where modern-day luxury meets timeless Chattanooga charm.

Conveniently located in the heart of downtown, our landmark property is walking distance from the top attractions in the city. Visit the Tennessee Riverwalk, Chattanooga Convention Center, AT&T Ballpark, Tennessee Aquarium and The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga – all just steps from our door.

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126750-1



Unique ACCOMMODATIONS

Treetop Hideaways

Chattanoogaans put a lot of emphasis on “local” — homegrown restaurants, local ingredients and mom-and-pop shops. And that concept applies to the hospitality industry as well.

Deep in the heart of Chattanooga’s mountains, you can find anything from treehouses to tiny houses to domes called yurts to make your trip to the most scenic parts of our city even more unique. Or, go the opposite direction and, amidst the bustle of downtown, experience the city through a stay in a remodeled train car at the Chattanooga Choo Choo. If you’re staying at The Crash Pad hostel, you can explore the town through the eyes of their experienced hospitality staff, who love to provide recommendations.

These unique locations come at a variety of price points, beginning with hostel prices, which can be found for under \$50 a night.

RELIVE YOUR YOUTH WITH A STAY IN A TREEHOUSE AT TREETOP HIDEAWAYS

Located not far from Chattanooga’s historic St. Elmo neighborhood, **Treetop Hideaways** blends rustic with refined. The property’s 2 treehouses, the Luna Loft and Elements, each sleep up to 4 guests. Each has its own

charms — like the wall of 16-foot reclaimed windows lining Luna, or the glassed-in tree growing through Elements’ shower — with touches like Tuft & Needle mattresses, high-speed internet access and a complimentary bottle of wine and kindling included.

treetophideaways.com
423-377-6476

WELCOME VALLEY VILLAGE

Located on 17 private acres and nestled in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, **Welcome Valley Village** makes an ideal vacation destination. The charmingly appointed cabins offer easy access to the Ocoee River and the Cherokee National Forest, and are just 45 minutes from Chattanooga.

welcomevalleyvillage.com
800-542-8567

Welcome Valley Village





Holiday Inn
& Suites
DOWNTOWN

Holiday Inn& Suites Downtown

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- Ⓞ Our modern, sleek, and custom property leaves guests pleasantly surprised!



- Ⓞ Newly converted Choice property
- Ⓞ New mattresses, new linens, & new carpets in all guest rooms
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Quality Inn

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423-855-0095





Chattanooga Vacation Rentals

CHATTANOOGA VACATION RENTALS*

Whether you're looking for a cabin in the woods or a cottage overlooking the water, the diverse offerings through this local company offer all the comforts of home — albeit one worthy of HGTV — with the ease of a vacation rental. And with all the staff members being local, you can count on personal service.

chattanoogavacationrentals.com

657-777-2899



A Pullman train car room at the Chattanooga Choo Choo

STEP BACK IN A CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOO TRAIN CAR

At today's **Chattanooga Choo Choo**, you can enjoy all the modern comforts, like wifi and a heated pool, while staying in a relic from the past. Iconic Pullman train cars from the 1930s, '40s and '50s house a queen-size bed (some with an additional pull-out trundle daybed), mini fridge, coffeemaker and desk. This lodging option gives you easy access to bars, restaurants, shops and attractions galore throughout the Choo Choo complex alone, plus all that downtown has to offer.

choochoo.com/pullman-train-cars

423-266-5000



Chattanooga Vacation Rentals

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ON THE OCOEE RIVER JUST 45 MINUTES FROM CHATTANOOGA

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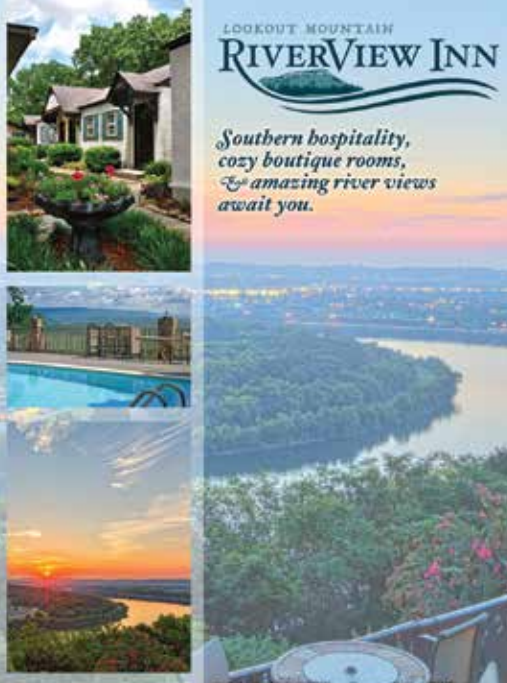
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WWW.WELCOMEVALLEYVILLAGE.COM

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GO GLAMPING IN A YURT VILLAGE AT CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK

If elevated camping is your style, you can wake up to the incredible views and tranquility that await at **Cloudland Canyon**. One of Georgia's most scenic and largest state parks, it's rife with outdoor adventure: miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails, a disc golf course, geocaching, picnicking and fishing spots, the chance to explore several caves — and to experience the spacious yet quaint little domes typical of Central Asia. Outfitted with futons and bunk beds, each comfortably sleeps 6, and the area has all the amenities of a campsite. tinyurl.com/CloudlandCanyonYurts 800-864-7275

RACCOON MOUNTAIN CAMPGROUND

After touring Tennessee's highest-rated cave experience, hunker down for the night with a stay in one of the cabins at **Raccoon Mountain**, or pitch a tent in the full-service campground. Both options include access to the playground and seasonal saltwater pool, and there are plenty of other recreational offerings to keep you busy, from shuffleboard to hiking trails. raccoonmountain.com/ 423-821-9403



SLEEP IN THE DEEP

A special offering by the **Tennessee Aquarium** allows families and large groups to head 20,000 leagues under the sea for their 40 winks. Before bedding down for the night in the largest exhibit hall, guests are treated to a guided tour — including special behind-the-scenes access and an up-close critter encounter — and an evening snack, followed by breakfast the next day.

CHECK INTO THE CRASH PAD AND HEAD TO THE OUTDOORS

With avid outdoor-lovers as the owners and operators of this uncommon hostel, The Crash Pad blends the boutique feel of an upscale hotel with the affordability and camaraderie you'd expect from a traditional hostel. Guests can choose from co-ed "super bunks" offering a

blackout privacy curtain, reading lamp, fan and personal cubby-hole, or private rooms that sleep up to 4 people. All include access to the manicured outdoor area complete with gas fire pit, gas grill and speakers, as well as to Flying Squirrel bar, located just steps from the hostel.

crashpadchattanooga.com
423-648-8393

Raccoon Mountain Campground



Homewood Suites by Hilton
Chattanooga Hamilton Place
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(423) 510-8020



ROOOMY

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HOTEL SERVICES & AMENITIES

- Spacious suites with big, comfy beds and fully equipped kitchens
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WWW.CHATTANOOGA.HOMEWOODSUITES.COM



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423.308.9000



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HAMILTON PLACE**

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Chattanooga, TN 37421

423.602.7840



**HILTON GARDEN INN
CHATTANOOGA/
HAMILTON PLACE**

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Dr. Chattanooga, TN
37421

423.308.4400



**HAMPTON INN
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LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN**

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Chattanooga, TN 37419

423.602.5350



**FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES
CHATTANOOGA I-24/
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN**

40 Starview Lane
Chattanooga, TN 37419

423.664.4222



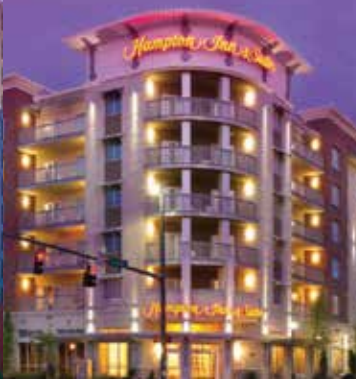
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**HAMPTON INN
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ONE VISION.



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423.664.2501



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423-834-9300
marriott.com/CHASH



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1453 North Mack Smith Road
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423-499-4080
marriott.com/CHASE



**FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES
CHATTANOOGA EAST**

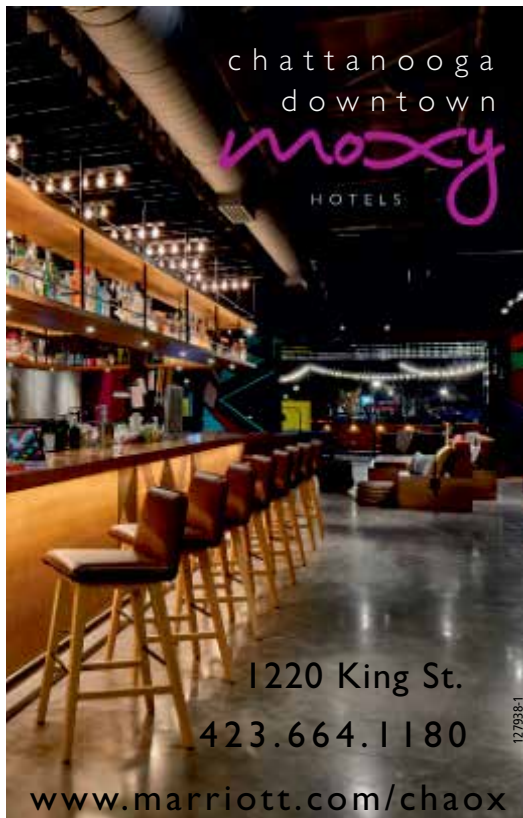
2345 Shallowford Village Drive
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The property is conveniently located within a two-hour drive from Atlanta, Nashville, Knoxville, Huntsville, and Birmingham. It is within a short distance of the city's museums, galleries, retail stores, restaurants and The Tennessee Aquarium.



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Chattanooga Downtown Riverfront District Hotels

Our hotels are located near the Tennessee River and Tennessee Aquarium.



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Residence Inn by Marriott® Chattanooga Downtown
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126083-1



Stay in the comfort of Marriott while visiting beautiful downtown Chattanooga. Located in the heart of downtown the hotel is on the electric shuttle route and within walking distance to great dining, eclectic shopping and near the area's top attractions. Let Marriott host you brilliantly during your next stay in downtown Chattanooga.

2 Carter Plaza
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chattanoogamarriottdowntown.com



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423-760-3120



River Gallery Sculpture Garden in Bluff View

8 REASONS TO MEET IN CHATTANOOGA

Looking for a location to host your next meeting, convention or trade show? You should meet in Chattanooga, and here's why: We consistently rank on top travel lists due to the progressive and vibrant urban environment, renaissance, technology, quality of life and authentic experiences the community provides. Recent accolades include being named one of the "52 Places to Go" in the world by *The New York Times*, "Top 10 Best in the U.S." by *Lonely Planet*, and one of the "7 Rising U.S. Cities That Should be on your 2019 Travel Bucket List" by *TripAdvisor*.

The Scenic City has received multiple awards, including the Reader's Choice Award by *ConventionSouth*, Planner's Choice Award by *Meeting News*, Pinnacle Award by *Successful Meetings*, Top Destination Award by *Facilities & Destinations*, and the Gold Service Award by *Meetings & Conventions*.

Chattanooga has big-city amenities with small-city charm. You will feel welcomed into the city from the moment you arrive — whether your group size is 10 or 15,000. Here are the top 8 reasons to meet in Chattanooga:

"PLANNERS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND A LITTLE EDGY WILL FIND PLENTY OF TRUE ADVENTURE IN THE CHATTANOOGA AREA."

— *Meetings Focus magazine*

1 VIP SERVICE

The CVB team has a deep commitment to quality, service, efficiency and ensuring that every detail goes the way you want. Your personal satisfaction is the highest priority. Our team will work closely with you to simplify the process while exceeding your expectations and ensuring the success of your event. After holding meetings or conventions in Chattanooga, planners give the city a 98% customer satisfaction rate!

"Chattanooga has become an awesome destination city. If that weren't enough, the service and attention from the folks at the Chattanooga CVB is a meeting planner's dream." — Trish Patterson, Tennessee Credit Union League

2 CONVENIENT LOCATION

The city is conveniently located less than two hours from Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham, Huntsville and Knoxville. The Chattanooga Airport recently added additional direct flights to NYC/LaGuardia, D.C./Dulles, Dallas/Fort Worth, Chicago/O'Hare and St. Pete/Clearwater.

"A crossroads in the South, halfway between Nashville and Atlanta, Chattanooga lies at the perfect junction for a corporate retreat or convention." — *Facilities & Destinations*

3 ARTS & CULTURE

Arts, culture and heritage are a deep part of Chattanooga's heart and soul. Explore more than

100 public art pieces; 3 sculpture fields; 100 music, art and food festivals; galleries featuring some of the best artists in the South; symphony and opera showcasing award-winning talent; museums that collect and preserve Chattanooga's treasures; studios where you can watch artists create their craft; and even a world-class aquarium that showcases wildlife from around the world.

"... The city was, and still is today, blossoming into a cultural hub for arts, adventure, creativity and innovation."
— American Art Collector

4 VIBRANT AND WALKABLE DOWNTOWN

Downtown Chattanooga is nestled along the banks of the Tennessee River and surrounded by breathtaking scenic beauty. The Downtown District, the heart of city's core, is compact, vibrant, safe and walkable, and features accommodations, a gorgeous riverfront, attractions, restaurants, shopping, year-round events and more. Attendees can ride the free electric shuttle, or bicycles from the public Bike Chattanooga system.

"Chattanooga, a historic railway town on the banks of the Tennessee River, is a destination chock-full of local history, food and family friendly activities — all with easy access to nature in the surrounding mountains." — amNewYork

5 LOTS OF NEW

Chattanooga is continuously evolving and growing, so you'll always find something new popping up all over the city. In the past year, the community has opened 18 new attractions; secured the return of 2 large events (concert and a music series); added 17 new restaurants/breweries/distilleries; built 6 new hotels and renovated 2 properties; and created 1 new neighborhood (and amplified 2!).

"For a city of under 200,000, it feels bigger, boasting everything you'd find in more populous locales at a fraction of the price and with smaller crowds." — Matador Network

6 INCREDIBLE FOOD

The city's food scene has seen immense growth over the past few years. The majority of downtown is filled with locally owned restaurants which include Easy Bistro, St. John's, State of Confusion, The Bitter Alibi, Whiskey Thief, Alimentari, Naked River Brewing, Flying Squirrel, Taco Mamacita, Good Dog and so many more.

"A small, Southern-charm-packed city, Chatty is filled to the brim with so much delicious food (and drink), you won't know what to do with yourself." — POPSUGAR

7 LOTS TO DO

There's never a lack of things for attendees to do. Experiences include shopping, exploring the great outdoors, attending music and food festivals, visiting key attractions such as the Tennessee Aquarium, Rock City, Songbirds, Ruby Falls, the Hunter Museum of American Art, Bluff View Art District, Chattanooga Choo Choo and Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum.



Station Street at the Chattanooga Choo Choo

"The charm of Chattanooga holds up year after year. Our attendees never exhaust all the restaurants and activities!" — Doug Couch, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

8 TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Chattanooga is known as "Gig City" for being the first in the nation to offer a community-wide fiber-optic network delivering 1-gigabit-per-second internet speeds to every home and business in a 600-square-mile area, powered by Chattanooga's municipal utility, Electric Power Board. EPB now offers the world's first 10-gigabit-per-second internet to the same service area as well as free wi-fi in public spaces throughout downtown. This pioneering new solution is the world's most advanced ultra-broadband technology.

"Chattanooga is ahead of the meetings curve in more ways than one." — Meetings Today magazine ♦

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GETTING AROUND

Rentals by Bike Chattanooga

H. G. Wells famously said, “Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race.”

Enter Chattanooga's bike share system. Offering the whimsy touched on by Wells, as well as an easy eco-friendly alternative to driving, **Bike Chattanooga** has outfitted the city core with more than 300 bicycles rentable by the hour. Simply sign up for a day pass or longer and check out a bike from any one of the numerous stations stocked with the trusty steeds. Bikes are available 24 hours a day, offering the opportunity to tour the city on your own terms.

The urban core is compact and allows for easy cycling (or walking) to any of the main attractions. Tree-lined streets, wide sidewalks, bike trails and relatively flat topography make touring downtown accessible to all ages.

Chattanooga is unique in that it also offers free public transportation by CARTA throughout the urban core. The Scenic City's focus on preserving the natural beauty from which its nickname derives is part of the driving force behind **CARTA's zero-emission electric shuttle system**, whose free mini buses run daily (except for major holidays) about every 5 minutes.

If you aren't near a shuttle stop but still want a free trip, hitch a ride with **ChattyWagon**. ChattyWagon is an eco-friendly, safe ride option that helps downtown Chattanooga mobilize. Each vehicle is 100% electric, and with help from local brands and partners, every ride is completely free. Just download the app, tip your driver, and you'll be on your way to your next destination in no time.

For a tour of the city with history thrown in, board the **Tennesseer** open-top conversion van, which offers a



Free downtown electric shuttle



Chattanooga Tennesseer

chance to take in the scenery and learn about Chattanooga's rich culture. The Tennesseer accommodates up to 10 people and covers more territory than any other tour in Chattanooga.

So while getting around the city is an easy adventure, picking your mode of transportation may be a bit harder. ♣

Downtown and North Shore Shuttle & Parking

From the Aquarium to the Choo Choo with stops every block in between, let the free Downtown and North Shore Shuttle take care of your transportation needs.

Downtown Shuttle Schedule: M-F 6:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

North Shore Shuttle Schedule: M-F 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. from Shuttle Park North

Convenient public parking is available at Shuttle Park South next to the Choo Choo, Shuttle Park North by the Tennessee Aquarium (enter on Third Street), and at Shuttle Park North Shore located on Frazier Avenue. For parking rates, call 423-648-4031.



4 2 3 . 6 2 9 . 1 4 7 3 • www.goCARTA.org

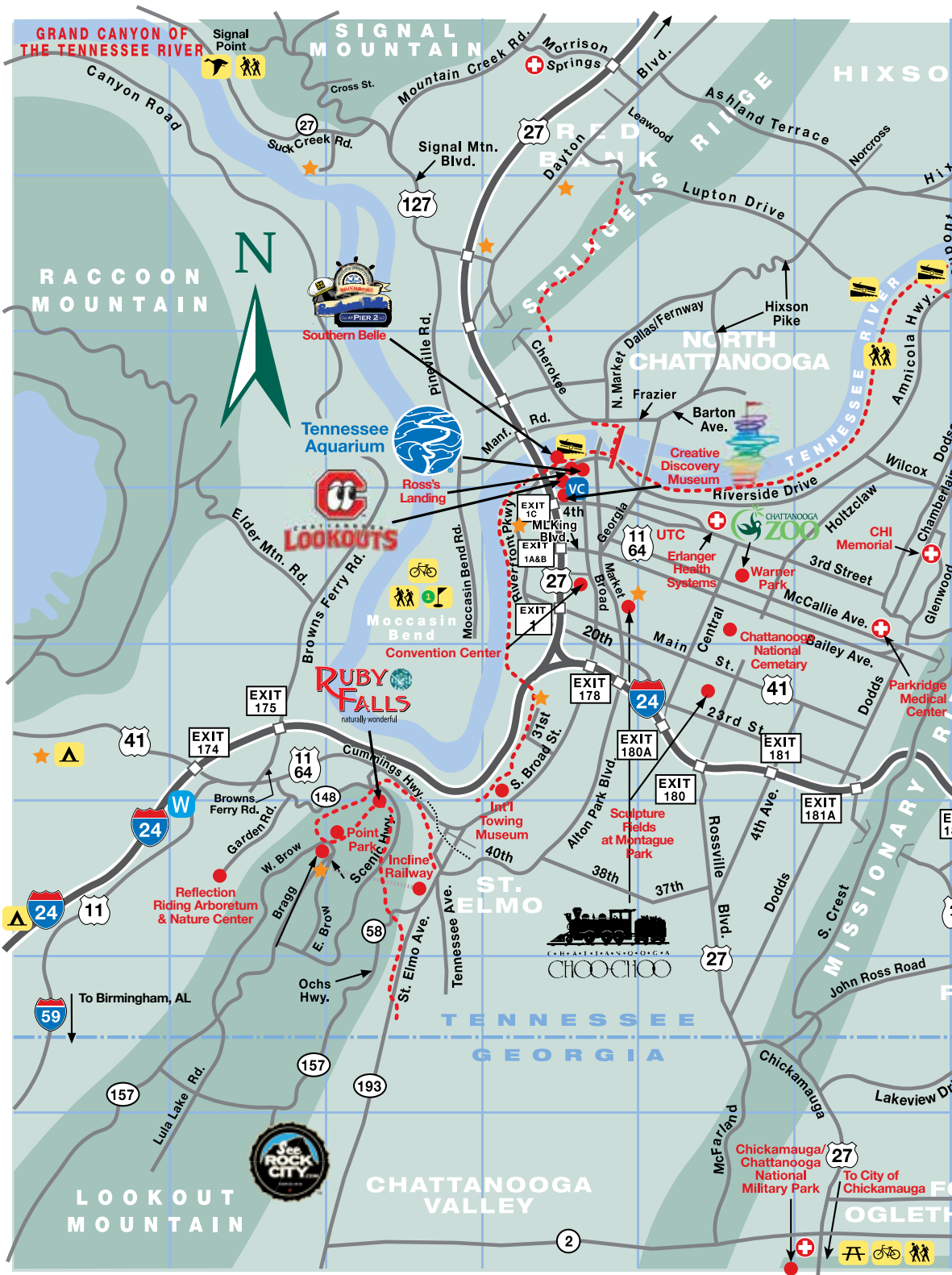


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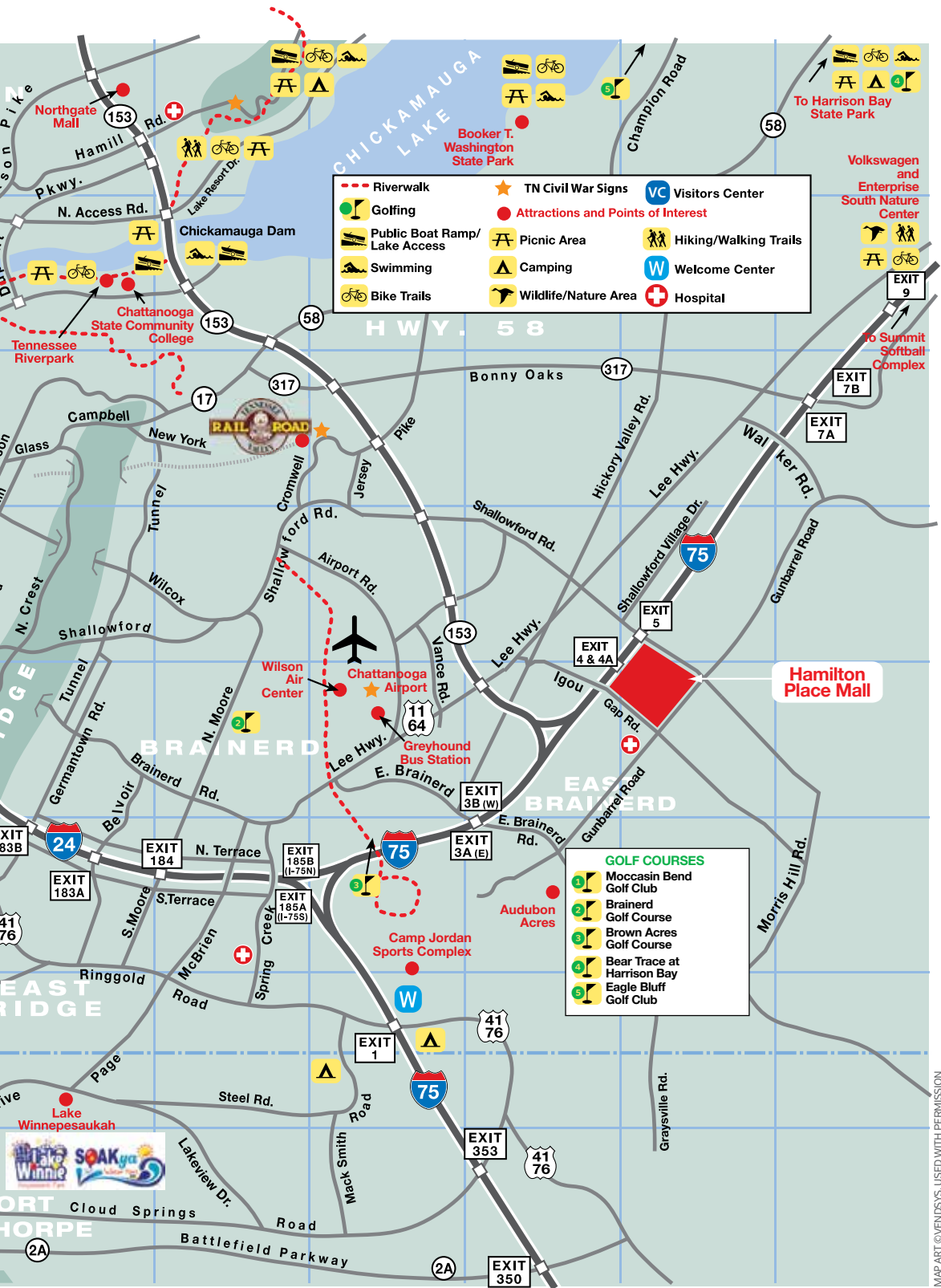


CHATTANOOGA MARKET


OPEN SUNDAYS
LATE APRIL - NOVEMBER
 First Tennessee Pavilion

CHATTANOOGA RIVER MARKET


OPEN SATURDAYS
LATE MARCH - SEPTEMBER
 Tennessee Aquarium Plaza



- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Riverwalk | TN Civil War Signs | Visitors Center |
| Golfing | Attractions and Points of Interest | Picnic Area |
| Public Boat Ramp/Lake Access | Camping | Welcome Center |
| Swimming | Wildlife/Nature Area | Hospital |
| Bike Trails | Hiking/Walking Trails | |

- GOLF COURSES**
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 - Brainerd Golf Course
 - Brown Acres Golf Course
 - Bear Trace at Harrison Bay
 - Eagle Bluff Golf Club

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NORTHSHORE

WHERE TO EAT

- 1 Clumpie's Ice Cream
- 2 Fiamma Pizza Company
- 3 Milk & Honey
- 4 Taco Mamacita
- 5 Totto Sushi & Grill

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A Coolidge Park
- B Escape Mission Chattanooga
- C Renaissance Park

BLUFF VIEW ART DISTRICT

WHERE TO EAT

- 1 Back Inn Cafe
- 2 Rembrandt's Coffee House
- 3 Tony's Pasta Shop & Trattoria

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A Houston Museum
- B Hunter Museum of American Art
- C River Gallery
- D Sculpture Garden

RIVERFRONT

WHERE TO EAT

- 1 Ben & Jerry's
- 2 Big River Grille & Brewing Works
- 3 Puckett's Grocery & Restaurant
- 4 Whitebird

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A AT&T Field / Chattanooga Lookouts
- B Chattanooga Segway
- C Creative Discovery Museum
- D High Point Climbing - Downtown
- E IMAX® 3D Theatre
- F Southern Belle Riverboat
- G Tennessee Aquarium and Chattanooga River Market

CITY CENTER

WHERE TO EAT

- 1 Bridgeman's Chophouse
- 2 Community Pie
- 3 Cupcake Kitchen
- 4 Lupi's Pizza
- 5 Rodizio Grill
- 6 Sing It or Wing It
- 7 Matilda Midnight

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A Chattanooga Convention Center
- B Chattanooga Ghost Tours
- C EPB
- D Time 2 Escape
- E Tivoli Theater
- F Chattanooga Public Library
- G West Village

MLK / UTC

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A Bessie Smith Cultural Center
- B McKenzie Arena
- C Memorial Auditorium
- D University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

SOUTHSIDE

WHERE TO EAT

- 1 Hi-Fi Clyde's
- 2 Frothy Monkey
- 3 Urban Stack

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A Chattanooga Choo Choo
- B Chattanooga Market
- C Clumpies on Southside
- D Comedy Catch at the Choo Choo
- E Escape Experience
- F Finley Stadium
- G Locals Only
- H Songbirds Guitar Museum
- I Chattanooga Whiskey Experimental Distillery
- J Sculpture Fields at Montague Park
- K Chew Chew Canine Park

- RIVERWALK
- Ⓟ PUBLIC PARKING
- Ⓥ VISITORS CENTER
- DOWNTOWN SHUTTLE
- - - - NORTHSHORE SHUTTLE



Lake Winnie
Amusement Park



SOAKya
Water Park
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Get Soaked!



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EXIT 1, RIGHT ONTO RINGGOLD RD. & TURN LEFT ONTO MCBRIEN

FROM I-75 NORTH

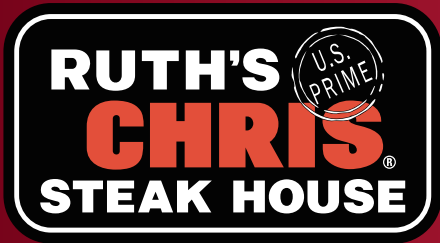
EXIT 353, TURN LEFT ONTO CLOUD SPRINGS RD. THEN RIGHT ONTO LAKEVIEW DR.

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