

# KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE More Than a Football Town

### Tennessee's third largest

city bleeds orange and white. Known for its allegiance to the Vols, Knoxville might be a football town; but it offers far more than the rowdy energy of Neyland Stadium might suggest. Knoxville boasts plenty of family-friendly activities and events year-round. Although the whole city isn't walkable, by car you can efficiently navigate your way to its farthest corners. Situated in the heart of East Tennessee.

Knoxville also offers stunning views of the surrounding hills.

## Stay

If you're in town for a ballgame, look for hotel rates to spike. However, staying close to campus will help with parking logistics on game day. The Graduate Knoxville provides a convenient stay complete with funky decor. access to restaurants along The Strip (where all the college kids hang out) and

a short walk to Neyland Stadium. Nearby, at the World's Fair Park, reserve a room with a view of the iconic Sunsphere at Knoxville's newest luxury hotel, The Tennessean. For a touch of elegance, stay at the 28-room boutique Oliver Hotel close to historic Market Square. West of downtown, Turkey Creek presents affordable accommodation options set in the middle of a walkable restaurant and retail complex.

## Family Travel By Lindsay Williams

## Eat

A hidden gem in West Knoxville, Apple Cake Tea Room resides in a log cabin where quilts hang on the walls, waitresses wear patterned aprons and chicken salad is a religion. Litton's is a Fountain City institution, serving up one of the city's best burgers and a bakery case full of homemade cakes, pies and cookies. Lakeside Tavern lives up to its name with impeccable food, floor to ceiling windows and a patio that boasts views of the water. Aubrey's is a local favorite with multiple locations and a large menu. (Don't leave without ordering the turtle cake!) While pricey, Copper Cellar owns the title of "Best Sunday Brunch in Town." Meanwhile, Copper Cellar-owned Calhoun's on the River serves up spectacular views and a winning menu of house-made BBQ, salads and more. For dinner, splurge at Ye Olde Steakhouse (set in a cozy log cabin off Chapman Highway).

## Play

### MARKET SQUARE / GAY STREET

In addition to the neon-lit marquees of the Tennessee Theatre and the Bijou, Gay Street offers the latest flicks at a downtown Regal Cinemas location (Regal is headquartered in Knoxville.), upscale bowling at Maple Hall, souvenir shopping at

Mast General and cool treats at Cruze Farm Ice Cream. It's just one street over from historic Market Square, where you'll find dozens of patio-laden restaurants, unique shops and year-round events, including ice skating throughout the holiday season. Plus, parking is free at night and on weekends at the Market Square garage.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

Home to the late Pat Summit, Knoxville honors her memory and the sport she coached at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. At 30-feet tall. the Hall of Fame houses the world's largest basketball in addition to exhibits recognizing the achievements of past and present players from top athletic programs around the country. Kids can also test their skills on three different courts.

### **FANTASY OF TREES**

An annual holiday tradition, Fantasy of Trees (Nov. 25-29, 2020) officially kicks off the Christmas season the week of Thanksgiving. Held at the Knoxville Convention Center, Fantasy of Trees—a ticketed event-offers a schedule of live entertainment, holiday shopping and an entire area dedicated to kids' crafts, rides and activities. In addition, themed trees available for purchase fill the large exhibit hall. Trees are decorated and donated by area schools, groups and businesses; and all proceeds from ticket and tree sales go directly to East Tennessee Children's Hospital.



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