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Spring Travel: Make your next vacation an urban adventure



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TRAVEL

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Museums, restaurants, breweries and festivals beckon visitors to these 6 cities.

Tired of having to decide between the mountains or the beach when planning your next getaway? Change things up and take a city vacation where the list of things to do is long and varied. Cultural attractions, culinary adventures, historic landmarks, events and almost endless entertainment options are the allure of these six cities. Pack comfy walking shoes and learn what makes these destinations well worth the trip.

Knoxville, Tennessee

Drop your bags at **The Tennessean Hotel** (\$229-\$759, 531 Henley St., thetennesseanhotel.com), an 82-room property close to The University of Tennessee and downtown. Get to know the city with a panoramic overview from the observation deck of the **Sunsphere** (\$5, 810 Clinch Ave., worldsfairpark.org), a golden globe-topped tower built for the 1982 World's Fair that has become an iconic landmark.

Work up an appetite by biking, paddling or climbing at the **Ijams Nature Center** (free, 2915 Island Home Ave., ijams.org), a 318-acre urban greenspace with more than 12 miles of trails, the Ijams Crag for climbers and Toll Creek for swimmers and paddlers.

Quench your thirst along the **Ale Trail** (free, visitknoxville.com) that boasts 20 breweries and cideries, all located on a map app from the tourist center. Book a table at one of the newest venues, **Dine at Harvest** (141 S. Gay St., harvestknox.com), that features a seasonal menu of steak and seafood dishes.

A gem of the city's cultural history, and a must-see for old-house lovers, is **Westwood** (\$10, 3425 Kingston Pike, knoxheritage.org/westwood), the estate and former home of artist Adelia Armstrong Lutz. Last year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed the home in the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program. Music lovers won't want to miss a performance at the **Knoxville Opera** (\$15-\$115, 612 E. Depot Ave., knoxvilleopera.org), where "The Marriage of Figaro" is set for April 28 and 30.

*Knoxville Visitor's Center Center, 301 S. Gay St., 865-523-7263,
www.visitknoxville.com*