

ULTIMATE AUTUMN BRUNCH RECIPES + A PERFECT WEEKEND IN KNOXVILLE

Southern Lady

The Best of Fall

SWEET TREATS TO SAVOR,
SEASONAL ESCAPES,
& TIMELESS DÉCOR



SET THE
TABLE FOR A
**BLUE &
WHITE
TEA**



DRAMATIC REVIVAL

PAINT THE TOWN WHILE VISITING KNOXVILLE, A KALEIDOSCOPE
OF HISTORIC GEMS AND NEW-AGE ENTERTAINMENT.

BY Ashley Shaw | PHOTOGRAPHY BY William Dickey AND COURTESY OF Visit Knoxville AND Tennessee Theatre

- AS SEEN IN -
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Find head-to-toe fashions at Bliss & Tori Mason Shoes (top left) on Gay Street. While shopping in the popular Bearden neighborhood, break for lunch at Bistro by the Tracks (top right). Crescent Bend (opposite), one of Knoxville's seven historic homes, displays original furnishings and boasts beautiful riverfront gardens.

Vivid orange may come to mind first when you consider the hometown of Tennessee's largest university. But after two decades of revitalization efforts, downtown Knoxville is awash in all colors of the rainbow, showcased by restored theatres, endless festivities, and artwork on every corner.

Street lanterns, neon signs, and nostalgic marquees shine as brilliantly as the famed Sunsphere amid local shops and eateries lining Gay Street, the main thoroughfare of Knoxville's thriving theatre district. "We have so many historic treasures here," says Kristen Combs, director of communications for Visit Knoxville, who has watched the city's center flourish anew since two significant venues reopened in the early 2000s: the Tennessee and Bijou Theatres.

When the commercial district suffered a downturn around the 1970s, both venerated locales fell prey to hardships. Families and small businesses spread to the suburbs while remnants of once-booming coal, lumber, and marble industries lingered.

The railroad system had paved the way for the Marble City's prominent role in the state's industrial marketplace during the previous century. Nestled amid the Great Smoky Mountains and situated at the source of the Tennessee River, Knoxville's position as the heart of the Tennessee Valley made it ideal for commerce.

However, industrial tycoons weren't the only ones who benefited from easier transportation between the urban

hubs of the North and South. In the late 1800s, renowned artists Catherine Wiley, Lloyd Branson, and Charles Krutch promoted the city as an epicenter of artistic talent. The trio, along with local painter Adelia Armstrong Lutz, was instrumental in founding the Knoxville Art Club in the 1890s (later renamed the Nicholson Art League) and fostering the town's avid support of the arts.

Their legacy is carried forth today by residents and businesses all over town, along with a variety of festivals throughout the year, including the Rhythm N' Blooms Music Festival in May and several international celebrations in the fall. Public spaces such as Krutch Park, a serene maze of gardens and sculptures adjacent to bustling Market Square, pay homage to the city's artistic verve.

Many galleries and museums also spotlight the works of significant East Tennessee creatives from the past and present. Admission is always free at the Knoxville Museum of Art, and you can shop pieces for your personal collection at Art Market Gallery. Amble from block to block to take in lively murals, in addition to traffic control boxes swathed in vinyl replicas of great masterpieces—an exhibition by the Knoxville History Project called Downtown Art Wraps.

Follow the captivating colors of the artwork—stopping in boutiques and old-fashioned ice cream shops along the way—to the Tennessee Theatre. Executive Director Becky Hancock believes it was vital in cultivating a renewed sense of place at Knoxville's core and bringing increased traffic to nearby businesses. Inside, ornate Sp

details and glittering crystal chandeliers, as well as an original gilded Wurlitzer organ, illustrate why the 1928 movie palace has earned prestige as the Official State Theatre.

Once a single-screen cinema, the landmark has grown to accommodate a wide variety of live performances, including Broadway, opera, and contemporary musical acts, since its revival in 2005. “The events at the theatre help create a lively arts and culture center for our city as it offers a vast variety of programming,” says Lila Honaker, the theatre’s director of marketing and outreach. “Knowing our city has such a stunningly restored historic theatre that is thriving and cherished is something our community is very proud of.”

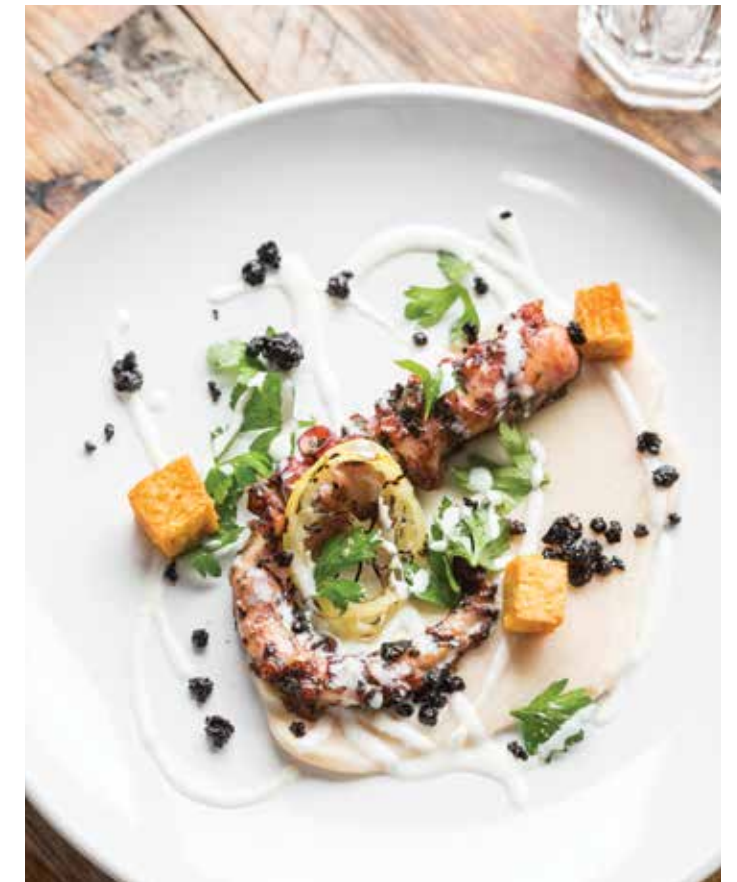
Across the street and housed in one of Knoxville’s oldest, most storied buildings, the Bijou Theatre reopened only a year later. First built as The Lamar House Hotel, the property changed hands, names, and roles many times. Before celebrating its 100th birthday in 2009, it served as a hospital during the Civil War and presenting vaudeville entertainers such as the Marx Brothers in the early 20th century. A lack of funding led to intermittent success and closures, until then mayor Bill Haslam spearheaded a

renovation plan that made the Bijou a world-class theatre, complete with an art gallery and bistro inside.

With a strong sense of pride in the city’s past woven into the fabric of modern-day Knoxville, the University of Tennessee also plays a leading role in keeping the arts alive. The Clarence Brown Theatre on campus was commissioned in 1970 by the Academy Award-nominated filmmaker of the same name who directed classics like *National Velvet* and *The Yearling*. Their mission, says Marketing and Communications Director Robin Conklin, is to train and support up-and-coming theatre artists while also providing the community with high-quality performances, whether drama, comedy, satire, or an outstanding blend of genres.

This September, plan your getaway around a show set to grace one of these three acclaimed stages, whether the Black Jacket Symphony at the Tennessee, popular music at the Bijou, or the Tony Award-winning production *Million Dollar Quartet* at the Clarence Brown.

Shop windows may be cloaked in Tennessee Orange this time of year, but locals share much more than school spirit. All the city’s a stage for the architecture, the people, and the stories that merit encore after encore each visit.



Artist Adelia Armstrong Lutz and her husband constructed Historic Westwood on land gifted to them by Adelia’s grandfather, the builder of Crescent Bend. Knox Heritage gives tours of her studio and rooms her family inhabited for four generations. (Opposite) Shop pottery, paintings, and more at Art Market Gallery, and then dine on house-made pasta and seafood, like Grilled Spanish Octopus, at Emilia.





Since reopening in 2005, the Tennessee Theatre (top) has brought renewed vitality to the historic district. "The iconic vertical sign is a visual anchor for downtown," says Marketing and Outreach Director Lila Honaker. Two blocks south, the Bijou Theatre (bottom right) has also contributed to the Marble City's enthusiasm for the arts. "With its uniquely intimate character and remarkable natural acoustics, the Bijou is truly a jewel," says Courtney Bergmeier, development director. The Tennessean Hotel (bottom left) affords luxury and proximity to all Knoxville has in store for you. From its upstairs restaurant, enjoy a front-row view of the Sunsphere, a relic of the 1982 World's Fair, which stands 26 stories tall. For a sweet memento, pick up a confection from Knoxville Chocolate Company (center). (Opposite) Market Square (top) is always abuzz, playing host to weekly farmers' markets and annual festivals. Since opening as a men's boutique in 1966, M.S. McClellan & Co. (bottom) has expanded its repertoire to include designer apparel and accessories for women.





All over town, it's easy to spy evidence of Knoxville's commitment to the arts through small businesses, public parks, museums, and colorful installations, such as a huge postcard-style mural painted on the exterior of local printing shop Nothing Too Fancy. Culinary delights abound, too, whether you're starting your day with a hearty seasonal variation on eggs Benedict at The Plaid Apron (top left) or rounding out your evening with an old-fashioned treat from The Phoenix Pharmacy and Fountain (bottom left). This family-run locale makes all of its ice cream and many toppings (like peanut butter sauce, homemade marshmallow fluff, and fresh-baked shortbread) from scratch for their array of hand-spun milkshakes and specialty sundaes, including a classic Banana Split. Experienced design experts at G&G Interiors (below) provide full decorating services, and their 12,000-square-foot showroom is fully stocked with luxury home furnishings, tabletop décor, and beautiful art, including works by Southern artists.



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