

Living up to Legends.

Other Bristol Attractions

Beyond historic downtown Bristol's immediate walking area are numerous attractions and other historical sites of interest. Just a few blocks away you can see the E.W. King House which sits on the original site of Fort Shelby, home of Revolutionary war hero General Evan Shelby. It was also the place where the pivotal Revolutionary War battle of King's Mountain was planned. Take a stroll through the Solar Hill and Fairmount National Historic Districts, two of the oldest residential communities in Bristol. For more glimpses into Bristol's past, visit the East Hill Cemetery, resting place of General Shelby and many civil war soldiers. Or visit the Nyumba Peacock Museum and see the influences of African Americans on Bristol's music, culture and traditions.

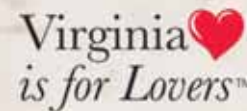
Just minutes away, the Bristol Motor Speedway offers tourists a variety of attractions such as an interactive kiosk, daily tours, games, exhibits and gift shop. Tour the childhood home of entertainment legend and Bristol native, Tennessee Ernie Ford. For the more adventurous visitors, a trip to the Bristol Caverns and Appalachian Caverns offers tourists an up close look at beautiful stalactites and stalagmites, dating back more than 200 million years.

A short distance from Bristol, you can take a step back in time at the Rocky Mount Living History Museum in nearby Piney Flats, Tennessee; the first Territorial Capital of the Southwest Territory. Or take in a play at the state theatre of Virginia, the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia.

For more information, please call the Bristol Convention and Visitors Bureau at (423) 989-4850 or online at www.bristolchamber.org.



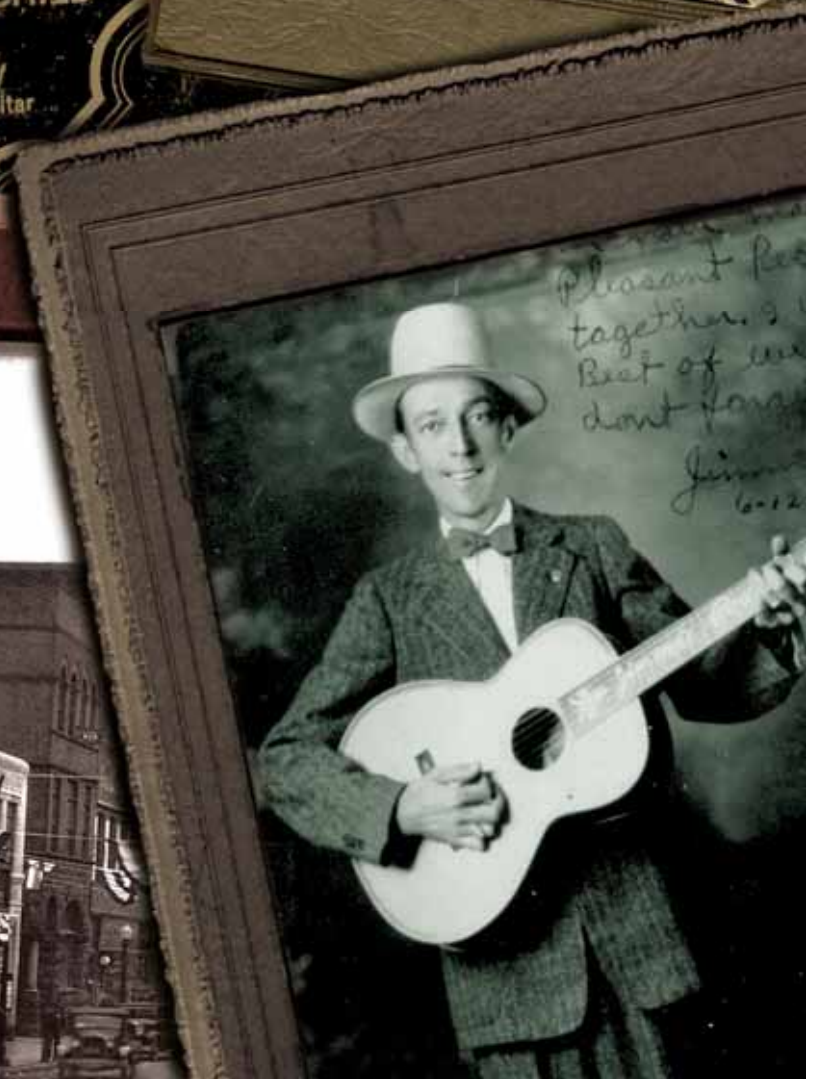
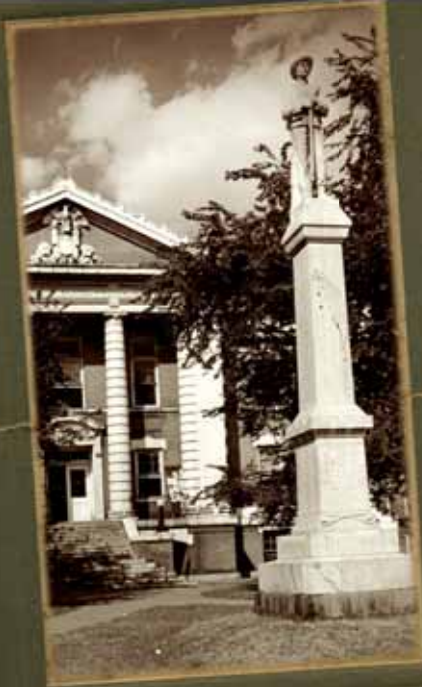
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Self-Guided Historic Walking Tour Bristol Tennessee/Virginia



Laying down tracks...

For more than 150 years people have been discovering that Bristol is a "Good Place to Live" and a fun place to visit.

While many cities have one distinguishing characteristic, Bristol has many. For starters, it's the official Birthplace of Country Music. For more than 80 years, artists have continued to be inspired by Bristol's musical heritage. The Bristol Motor Speedway has been consistently named the fan's favorite track and the friendliest place on the NASCAR circuit. Drivers and musicians alike have become legendary throughout the world in Bristol. Take the tour and see for yourself. It won't be long before you find yourself laying down tracks and living up to legends.



1

NASCAR Mural

"That's just Bristol," has become a common phrase by fans and drivers alike when crashes and conflicts arise at the Bristol Motor Speedway. Larry Carrier and Carl Moore built the world's fastest half-mile track in 1961. Starting as a dirt track with very humble beginnings, the track now seats more than 160,000 fans. The popular mural was painted in 2001 to honor legends of NASCAR including Dale Earnhardt and Richard Petty.



2

Downtown Center, Country Music Mural & Farmer's Market

The agricultural and musical tradition of downtown Bristol continues to flow throughout the city during the year. The popular mural was painted in 1987 by local artist and musician Tim White to honor the history and heritage of the Bristol Sessions, the 1927 musical recording session that spawned a musical genre. Today the location serves as a popular site for the weekly farmers market and regular outdoor concerts of all types including the highly anticipated "Rhythm and Roots" festival in September.



3

Historic Shopping District

Throughout the earliest days of the U.S., Bristol served as a hub for commerce and trade to pioneering spirits traveling west. As the rail lines ushered in people, materials and durable goods, Bristol became an economic catalyst for the entire region. By the late 1800's Bristol had become the largest center for commerce and industry for a 200 mile radius. In 1899, H.P. King built the region's first complete department store in downtown Bristol. The store offered home furnishings, decoration services, and free delivery throughout the area as well as elegant and moderately priced apparel including beaver hats made locally. Business began emerging while paving the way for retail growth and development downtown. In 1901, State Street was born. After a brief decline in the 1970's and 80's, the downtown has experienced rebirth. Bristol is again emerging as a destination for shopping, dining and entertainment and remains that way today.



4

Paramount Center for the Arts

The Golden Age of Hollywood began in the late 1920's and continued on into the 1930's. People throughout America were seeking entertainment to escape the difficult economy. In 1931, the Paramount Theatre was built. Pictured above is the opening night. Numerous musicians, artists and actors have graced the stage in its illustrious existence. After 60 years, the theatre was revitalized in 1991 to resemble the art-deco grandeur of the 1930's. Today the historic theatre is a performing arts center hosting numerous events in their 756-seat auditorium.



5

Birthplace of Country Music Monument

Bristol earned its place in national history in July of 1927 when Ralph Peer, a record producer and talent scout for the Victor Talking Machine Company came to Bristol. He set up to record musical talent from around the region at the urging of Ernest V. Stoneman. After advertising the recordings in area news outlets, people converged in Bristol attracting talented musicians and vocalists. The recordings helped launch the careers of country music legends like The Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers into national acclaim. In the first recordings, "The Bristol Sessions," 76 recordings were made by nineteen different groups.



6

Bristol Sign

The Bristol sign is one of the most unique landmarks in the south. In 1910, the famous sign that divided Tennessee and Virginia was built. Five years later, it was placed at its current location. In 1921, the phrase "A Good Place to Live," was added. The historic sign was officially recognized on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. It is one of only 33 signs in the nation to hold such a distinction and is also one of the oldest.



7

Confederate Soldiers Monument

Built in 1920, this historic monument serves to honor the men and women of Tennessee and Virginia that fought for the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Among the many soldiers that served from both sides was confederate Colonel John S. Mosby, who moved to Bristol with his wife in 1857. During the war, Mosby was deemed the Gray Ghost because of his quick raids on Union strongholds and ability to vanish before being captured.



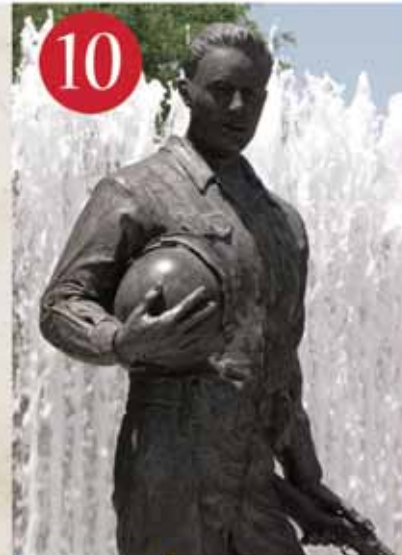
Train Station

When the railroad lines were laid in Tennessee and Virginia, they converged in Bristol in 1856. The new lines brought people and necessary goods for development from the East and West making Bristol an economic hub. Now being renovated to preserve its historical integrity, the station is a Bristol icon that connects the past with the present.



Farm and Funtime WCYB-Radio/TV

WCYB got its roots as a radio station in 1946 prior to becoming a television station. Farm and Funtime was a popular radio and TV show where many artists were able to share their unique musical styles and vocals. The popular radio and TV show was broadcast beneath the General Shelby Hotel once located here. It reached into Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. The Stanley Brothers, Earl Scruggs and Lester Flatt were among those that frequented the show.



Cumberland Square Park and Veterans Memorial

As Bristol continued to grow in the early 1900's, plans were made for a community park. In 1950, work began on Cumberland

Square Park which sits where the original founders of Bristol planned for it to be, as early as 1856. Today the park serves as a memorial to those that paid the ultimate price for freedom. The memorial honors those soldiers who lost their lives in times of war. The eternal flame reminds visitors of the ongoing sacrifices of our soldiers.



Birthplace of Country Music Museum/Cultural Heritage Center

In 1998, the United States Congress formally recognized Bristol as the Birthplace of Country Music. For more than eight decades music has been a core part of Bristol. From the 1927 recordings to the many festivals and concerts throughout the year, Bristol serves as a home to a variety of country music, bluegrass, southern rock, blues and more. Currently under development a new 24,000-square foot facility will serve as an interactive museum that honors and preserves the rich history of music and the influence that Bristol has within the recording industry.



Classic Recording Studio

For nearly three decades, Classic Recording Studio has helped budding artists record their music. In 1978, a descendant of the Carter Family started the recording studio. For 20 years, the family owned and operated the studio before it was sold and updated in 1998. Ralph The Clinch Mountain Boys, Doc Watson, and Kenny Chesney have recorded music here.



Burger Bar

Most restaurants are made famous by a signature entrée, a unique atmosphere and experience or a well-known founder. The Burger Bar in Bristol was made famous by what was not eaten and what may or may not have happened. On December 30, 1952, the Burger Bar was forever linked with Country Music legend Hank Williams. At the young age of 29, Hank was traveling with his driver when they stopped in Bristol. Williams reportedly declined an offer for food, spoke his last words and got back into the vehicle to rest. That was the last time he was known to be alive.



MP3 Audio Tours allow you to explore at your own pace.

To enhance your historical walking tour, the Convention and Visitors Bureau is pleased to offer a companion audio tour. You can stop by the Bristol Chamber of Commerce office to rent an MP3 player that has been pre-loaded with audio clips from each stop of interest. If you already own an MP3 player you can easily download the full tour on to your player FREE.

To learn more, visit our website at www.visitbristoltnva.com.

Monday-Friday (Closed Holidays)

Reservations Recommended

Please Call (423) 989-4850

We hope you enjoy your tour and your time in Bristol.

Bristol

Tennessee & Virginia

1. NASCAR Mural
2. Downtown Center/Music Mural/Farmer's Market
3. Historic Shopping District
4. Paramount Center for the Arts
5. Birthplace of Country Music Monument
6. Bristol Sign
7. Confederate Soldiers Monument
8. Train Station
9. Farm & Funtime WCYB-Radio/TV
10. Cumberland Square Park/Veterans Memorial
11. Birthplace of Country Music Museum & Cultural Heritage Center
12. Classic Recording Studio
13. Burger Bar

■ Bristol Chamber of Commerce Office & Visitor Center

● Walking Tour Stops

★ Points of Interest

●●●● Recommended Tour

Public Restrooms

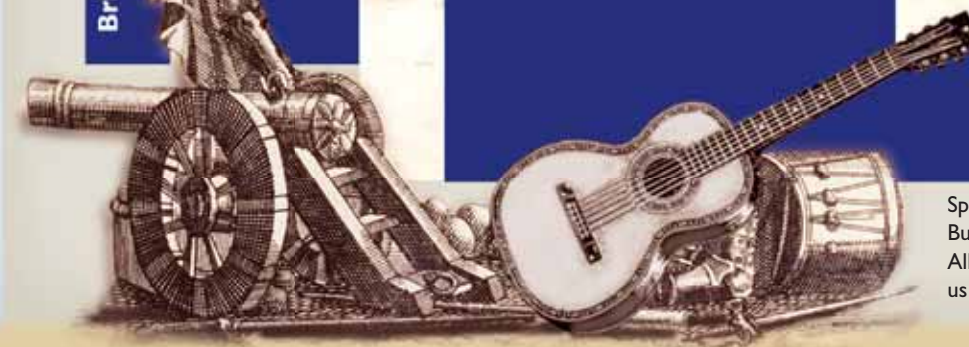
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Special thanks to the Bristol Historical Association, Bud Phillips-Historian, Birthplace of Country Music Alliance and the Bristol Herald Courier for allowing us to use photos and images.

Original Bristol tract of 1,946 acres of land granted to Colonel James Patton	Land was laid out, maps were made, and lots were sold	Founding of Bristol	East Hill Cemetery developed on land owned by Colonel Samuel E. Goodson	State Street is established	The Bristol Sign is erected as a symbol of unity	Confederate Soldier Monument erected	Paramount Center for the Arts opens	Plans are made to build Bristol Motor Speedway	Cumberland Square Park/Veterans Memorial is dedicated	Bristol Celebrates 150th Anniversary and "Believe in Bristol" receives Main Street designation										
1700's	1749	1771	1852	1856	1857	1881	1901	1902	1910	1919	1920	1927	1931	1952	1960	1978	1991	1994	1998	2006
Big Meet Camp—a gathering of Native American Hunters	Fort Shelby started by Gen. Evan Shelby	Tennessee and Virginia Railroads made it to Bristol	Center of town's main thoroughfare declared the state line	Bristol's fourth train station is built and named Union Station	Tennessee Ernie Ford is born in Bristol	Bristol Sessions Occurs and Country Music is Born	Hank Williams Sr. dies	Classic Recordings is established	Paramount Center re-opens after \$4 million restoration	Congress declares Bristol the Birthplace of Country Music										