

For country music lovers, there's only one place in the world to be June 8–11, 2023:

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BlueShoe Nashville

May 4, 2023: Dining Suggestions for your Nashville trip during the 2023 CMA Music Fest



[The Loveless Cafe](#) has been a favorite among hungry travelers on Highway 100 since 1951.

May 4, 2023

Hello, BlueShoe/CMA Music Fest 2023 travelers:

In a little over a month, you'll be here in Nashville! CMA Fest is almost upon us. It's time to begin compiling your packing list (cowboy hat, broken-in walking shoes, extra stamina, etc.). In anticipation of your arrival, we want to offer a few resources for finding good places to eat. From intriguing foodie discoveries to down-home classics, the food scene in Nashville is ever-evolving and offers something for everyone. All of BlueShoe's partner hotels (The Hermitage, Hampton Inn downtown, Courtyard Marriott downtown, Home2 Suites downtown, and Hampton Inn Capitol View) are situated within walking distance of many restaurants. So you don't have to drive or take a taxi or Uber to find your meals. However, our little guide here includes some places that do require a bit of travel and we include them because they're worth the trip and are considered by Nashvillians to be "the real thing."

First of all, a note about eating downtown. There are going to be a lot of people in the Festival area from Lower Broadway at 5th Avenue on to the Riverfront and south from Broadway toward the Music City Center. But there are also a lot of restaurants. So depending on when you try them, you may have better or worse luck avoiding crowds.

RESOURCES

There is a good general guide to dining that can be found on the [Nashville Convention and Visitor's Bureau](#) website. Restaurants are arranged by different categories such as Live Music & Food, Locally-Sourced, Vegetarian and Vegan, Gluten-Free, Cheap Eats. The website even has a guide to shhh ... Nashville's speakeasies.

Nashville has been rapidly growing, with new restaurants constantly emerging. Especially if you are a repeat Festival-goer and want to try something new, we want to direct you to this Eater Nashville article, [The Hottest New Restaurants in Nashville, November 2022](#).

Finally, for those of you who would like to venture outside of downtown and explore the flavors in other Nashville neighborhoods, this Eater Nashville article, [An Eater's Guide to Nashville](#), has excellent dining recommendations organized by neighborhood.

BLUESHOE FAVORITES

The Loveless Cafe

8400 TN-100, Nashville, TN 37221

(615) 646-9700

<https://www.lovelesscafe.com/>

Originally opened in 1951 to feed hungry travelers along historic Highway 100, the Loveless Cafe offers an iconic Nashville dining experience. All menu options are homemade from scratch with many ingredients sourced from local Tennessee farms. Your mouth will be watering for the all-you-can-eat made from scratch biscuits topped with delicious fruit preserves or gravy. Breakfast is served all day with the dinner menu available after 11 AM. Bonus: you can watch them make your biscuits. After a delicious breakfast, spend some time perusing the gift shop on the premises and don't forget a picture in front of the flashing neon sign. The Loveless Cafe can become quite crowded at breakfast, particularly on weekends — we recommend visiting on a weekday morning, if possible. Located approximately 18 miles from downtown, it is the farthest away from the hotels of all the dining options listed here, but is well worth the trip.

Monell's

1235 6th Ave. N, Nashville, TN 37208

615-248-4747

<https://monellstn.com/nashville/>

Set in historic [Germantown](#) a mile from downtown, Monell's serves a sit-down style all-you-can-eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner. (Please note: dinner is available Tuesday - Saturday from 5 PM - 8:30 PM; breakfast is served daily beginning at 8 AM; on Saturdays, a Midnight Country Breakfast is available from midnight - 3 AM.) The specialty skillet fried chicken is featured with every meal, including breakfast. They also serve some of the best southern vegetables in town, great iced tea, and delicious desserts. This long-time local favorite is one of the restaurants you'll want to visit at least once during your stay in Music City. While you're in the Germantown neighborhood you can learn more about Tennessee's history, art, and culture with a visit to the [Tennessee State Museum](#). Located adjacent to the [Nashville Farmers' Market](#), the museum is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 AM - 5 PM, Sunday from 1 PM - 5 PM, and is closed on Mondays. Admission is free! The museum is within walking distance of [Bicentennial Mall State Park](#). If you have a few minutes to stroll in the park, you can see stunning views of the Tennessee Capitol building sitting atop the highest point in downtown Nashville.

Prince's Hot Chicken

Assembly Food Hall
5055 Broadway Place
Stall #2268

<https://www.princeshotchicken.com>

While Nashville-style hot chicken has become a worldwide sensation served in restaurants from L.A. to Melbourne to Singapore, Prince's Hot Chicken is where it all began. Named by Eater as one of [America's 38 essential restaurants](#), if you're a fan of the heat, you won't want to miss your chance to dine at the OG. And now, CMA Fest-goers are in luck – Prince's has opened a downtown location in [Assembly Food Hall](#) (located just off Broadway and across from Bridgestone Arena). Prince's in Assembly Hall opens at 10:30 AM daily; you may want to arrive early in the day to avoid long lines.

Jack's BBQ

416 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203 (downtown location)
1601 Charlotte Ave, Nashville, TN 37203 (Charlotte Ave location)

<https://jacksbarbque.com>

Jack's BBQ is located downtown at [416 Broadway](#) and is walkable from all the downtown hotels. It is worth a stop (for the full southern experience, order your BBQ with cornbread, turnip greens, and baked beans). If you don't mind a car ride, Jack's also has a restaurant at [1601 Charlotte Avenue](#) (same name, Jack's BBQ) and it won't be as crowded as the one on Broadway. The Charlotte location is not within walking distance of downtown, but it's very near (it's about 1.5 miles from the Broadway location).

Wendell Smith's

407 53rd Ave N, Nashville, TN 37209
615-383-7114

<https://www.wendellsmithsrestaurant.net>

A throwback to the classic meat and three diner, Wendell Smith's is a place where the waitresses will call you “honey” and keep refilling your coffee or iced tea without your having to ask. Breakfast here is hearty—savory home fried potatoes, grits cooked right, fresh sliced tomatoes, eggs the way you like them, and, of course, biscuits and gravy. If you can't make it for breakfast, try Wendell's for lunch or supper. We recommend their fried chicken and fresh vegetables, including fried corn, turnip greens, cucumber and onion salads, and cornbread. When you're finished, you can walk across the street for dessert to the second place we think is worth the drive from downtown, Bobbie's Dairy Dip (read on). Note: Wendell Smith's is closed on Sundays.

Bobbie's Dairy Dip

5301 Charlotte Avenue
615-463-8088

https://www.facebook.com/bobbie's_dairy_dip_charlotte_ave/

Located directly across from Wendell Smith's, Bobbie's is a half century old bit of Americana with old fashioned walk-up windows. The menu features made-to-order hamburgers, fresh cut fries, and soft serve ice cream (with chocolate dip, if you like). Nothing says summer like drinking a milkshake from Bobbie's, sitting on their outdoor patio, and listening to doo-wop played on their speakers.

Finally, there is so much happening on the food scene in Nashville, we suggest you do a few searches on Google and see the array of articles and websites dedicated to restaurants here. You'll probably discover some places we don't even know about yet. Bon appétit!