



EXPLORE THE BIRTHPLACE OF COUNTRY MUSIC

What makes **Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia** worthy of the title “Birthplace of Country Music”? This tour will take an inside look at Bristol’s role in the evolution of country music and highlight the region’s rich music culture.

DAY ONE

Arrive in Bristol and kick off the tour with a visit to the **Birthplace of Country Music Museum**. An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the museum showcases Bristol’s rich music legacy through a number of interactive, multimedia displays and exhibits. Before leaving the museum check out **The Museum Store**, which offers great gifts and items from local artisans.



Cumberland Square Park

Ready for lunch? Within walking distance of the museum is burgers, pizza, deli sandwiches, country cooking, bagels, ribs, wings, soups, salads, and many other “delicacies.” If you go to the famous **Burger Bar** ask whether or not it really was the place Hank Williams stopped for his last meal.



Carter Fold

Spend the afternoon exploring the **Bristol Caverns** or enjoy **Historic Downtown Bristol**. A certified Main Street community, downtown Bristol offers specialty shops, galleries, and boutiques for unique treasures you won’t find anywhere else. End the day with a meal at one of our many downtown restaurants and stay out late for live music.

DAY TWO

Kickoff the second day with breakfast at **Bloom Cafe and Listening Room or Manna Bagel**. Arrange to visit **Bristol Motor Speedway & Dragway** next. Known as the “World’s Fastest Half Mile” and “Thunder Valley,” see why it’s voted NASCAR’s fan favorite track year after year.

If you are in the mood for barbeque, stop by **Ridgewood BBQ** in Bluff City for dinner and eat some of the best barbeque in Tennessee, also named the South’s Best Barbeque by *Southern Living*. Later, enjoy live music and locally crafted beer at one of our many downtown breweries or head to Johnson City, Tennessee, to **The Down Home**, a music mecca since the 1970s. At the end of the evening, stop by **Blackbird Bakery** in downtown Bristol for a delicious sweet treat. Blackbird is open 24 hours a day from Monday at 6:00 am until Saturday at midnight.



Bristol Motor Speedway

DAY THREE

Begin the third day with a visit to the childhood home of nationally-renowned entertainer and Bristol native, **Tennessee Ernie Ford**. The house features artifacts of his storied career. *NOTE: The Tennessee Ernie Ford House tour must be arranged in advance.*



Barter Theatre

Next, head to Abingdon, Virginia, to visit **Heartwood**, Southwest Virginia’s artisan gateway. Peruse authentic pottery and crafts made by regional artisans and sample local wines. Then, head to the **William King Museum of Art** for great exhibits and the **Arts Depot** to watch weavers, potters and painters at their craft.

For lunch, grab a bite to eat at **Luke’s Cafe**, a casual 1950s-style diner before heading to a show at **Barter Theatre**, the state theatre of Virginia. On Saturday nights, travel to Hiltons, Virginia to experience The **Carter Fold**, which features live bluegrass and old-time music.



DRIVE TO THE *BIRTHPLACE* OF *COUNTRY MUSIC*

*We are an easily accesible stop,
just three miles from Exit 3 on I-81!*



Asheville, NC	84 mi	1.5 hrs
Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, TN	109 mi	1.75 hrs
Knoxville, TN	117 mi	2 hrs
Charlotte, NC	208 mi	3.25 hrs
Chattanooga, TN	224 mi	3.5 hrs
Lexington, KY	227 mi	4.25 hrs
Nashville, TN	291 mi	4.5 hrs
Atlanta, GA	290 mi	5 hrs
Richmond, VA	324 mi	5 hrs
Cincinnati, OH	307 mi	5.25 hrs
Louisville, KY	303 mi	5.25 hrs
Birmingham, AL	368 mi	5.5 hrs
Washington, DC	376 mi	5.75 hrs
Pittsburgh, PA	382 mi	6 hrs
Harrisburg, PA	430 mi	6.5 hrs
Indianapolis, IN	414 mi	7 hrs
Memphis, TN	502 mi	7.5 hrs
St. Louis, MO	597 mi	8.75 hrs
Chicago, IL	601 mi	9.75 hrs

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum is located in downtown Bristol at
520 BIRTHPLACE OF COUNTRY MUSIC WAY | BRISTOL, VA 24201



*For more information or to schedule a tour, please call 423-573-1927
or email info@BirthplaceofCountryMusic.org*

