



## We've got a bad feeling about this

'Solo' review: Page 3

### CAN'T FIX SUBWAYS, BUT...

# MIND

MTA tells

## More than music

Nashville has tons to offer beyond honky-tonk tourism

By HANA R. ALBERTS

There's never been a better (or busier) time to visit Music City: Nashville set a record in 2017 with 17.5 million visitors. The Tennessee capital makes a perfect getaway — and not just for bachelorette parties.

#### WHAT TO DO

For tried-and-true activities, remember the two Ms: music and murals. For the former, consider old-school Robert's Western World on main drag Broadway, Whiskey Row (a new multifloor arrival from country star Dierks Bentley) and late-night karaoke in a shack called Santa's. As for street art, the colorful "I Believe in Nashville" work is one lure of the trendy 12 South district, while Kelsey Montague's 20-foot-tall wings in The Gulch area

Catch a Nashville Sounds minor league game.



draw lines for photo ops. For an experience also beloved by locals, head to a Nashville Sounds game. The Oakland Athletics Triple-A affiliate is a blast to watch in a brand-new stadium that has mini golf and shoots off fireworks after every Friday home game. Their season runs from April to September and tickets start at \$10.

#### WHERE TO EAT

Nashville's famed hot chicken spots can get crowded, so try secondary outposts of the popular chainlets: veteran Prince's and newcomer Hattie B's. Space isn't an issue at Martin's Bar-B-Que downtown, where two massive floors contain a stage for live music, ping-pong and shuffleboard amid plants and skylights. Perch on repurposed bus benches and

#### WHERE TO STAY

Newly renovated as of December, Hutton Hotel — which hosted me in March — has a Midtown location that's convenient to Nashville's most desirable neighborhoods

to Germantown, where Mignon Francois started a small cupcake food truck to support her five kids. Now the Cupcake Collection has its own storefront and is named among the city's best bakeries; specialty flavors include sweet potato and strawberry lemonade.

#### WHERE TO SHOP

In the 12 South neighborhood, Reese Witherspoon's cute, preppy brand Draper James has a flagship where smiling staffers hand out miniature sweet teas with striped straws. Across the street, an atmospheric old gas station now holds Imogene + Willie, a jeans store with shabby chic flair whose denim styles are all hand-made locally.

Tucked away within the farmers'



Local denim makers Imogene + Willie converted a former gas station into a shabby chic boutique (above). Then fuel up on meat and sides at Martin's Bar-B-Que (inset left).

(Broadway, The Gulch, 12 South, Music Row, etc.) and one block from a Hattie B's (from \$239; [HuttonHotel.com](http://HuttonHotel.com)). It has 250 rooms, music venue-slash-cocktail lounge Analog and two exquisitely decorated spaces for country music legends to brainstorm, write and record. Turn up the volume, y'all!

### Travel

Imogene + Willie: Martin's Bar-B-Que (inset); Nashville Sounds/Mike Strainger