

**A chance car-park meeting with a rock god, eating at the BBQ joint Prince William loves and visits to legendary music venues... Kay Burley had the time of her life in Nashville**



**KAY BURLEY** 13 July 2018

Nashville's never-sleeps Broadway strip is jam-packed full of honky tonk bars with myriad bands happy to play everything from your favourite Bruce to Billy Joel - for a \$20 incentive

Nashville, Tennessee - the Music City – is the home of country music and has venues of all shapes and sizes, from the Bluebird and innumerable downtown, honky tonk bars to the renowned Grand Ole Opry.

Everyone from Elvis to the Black Eyed Peas have performed on the stage of the 4,000-seater theatre. Back stage tours by overzealous guides offer an insight into the history of one of the most famous venues in the world.

If you want to know more about the Tennessee stars who've played there from Loretta Lynn, the grandmother of country, a coalminer's daughter who married at 15 and became a 60s music sensation, through to Shania Twain, Johnny Cash and Taylor Swift, discovered in Nashville, then the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is the place for you.



Kay stayed at the stylish **Hutton Hotel** (pictured). Its concierge is the only Les Clef D'Or member in the whole of Tennessee

When the intensity of Nashville becomes too much - for me 36 hours in - then seek solace from your hotel concierge. Laura Cunningham at the **Hutton Hotel** is a former TV producer and the only Les Clef D'Or member in the whole of Tennessee.

Laura advised grabbing a cab and heading 20 minutes along the I65 to Franklin. It's a sleepy, affluent town where you can wander along Main Street and easily bump into stars like Nicole Kidman. The local book store is a favourite of Robert Plant, leader singer of Led Zeppelin.

The town is a key site of the American Civil War. We paused at a non-descript patch of manicured lawn, the site where 10,000 souls were lost in just five hours during the 1864 Battle of Franklin.