

The City of Nashville: A note

The Regional Bengali Conference, *Ancholik Banga Sammelan*, will be held in Nashville, Tennessee from July 16-18, 2010. Below is a glimpse of this charming Southern city rightfully coined as the Music City of the United States.

About Nashville

Many movies have been made about Nashville, the capital of Tennessee. Enough books about the Music City have been written to fill a bookcase. And, of course, scores of songs are dedicated to this city of music. But while music is the lifeblood of Nashville, visitors will also find here a city of culture and history, haute cuisine, professional sports, outstanding academics, natural beauty, and pure Southern charm. Nashville is a place where the past and the future peacefully coexist and build, one on the other, to create a destination that appeals to the interests of every visitor. This city is alive.

Bengali music will join the ranks of country, jazz, blues, and other music genres that call Nashville home, at the *Ancholik Banga Sammelan* in 2010.

Things to do in Nashville

The downtown area of Nashville features a diverse assortment of entertainment, dining, cultural, and architectural attractions. The Broadway and Second Avenue areas feature live music venues, country music joints, night clubs, and a plethora of restaurants. North of Broadway lies Nashville's central business district, Legislative Plaza, Capitol Hill, and the Tennessee Bicentennial Mall. Cultural and architectural attractions are abundant and can be found throughout the city.

The very name of Nashville evokes vivid images - a single spotlight illuminating a microphone...skyscrapers towering protectively over the Mother Church of Country Music...stately Southern mansions...a Greek temple sitting serenely on a grassy knoll. The area's many attractions paint a picture of this unique Southern city and leave an indelible impression on all who visit.

An unparalleled experience is to be had by visiting the Grand Ole Opry (www.opry.com), long claimed to be the ultimate destination stage for musicians. A performance at this historical auditorium is a sign of accomplishment and a major milestone in any musician's career.

Beyond music, Nashville also hosts numerous professional sports teams. The Tennessee Titans professional football team (www.titansonline.com) and Nashville Predators professional hockey team are just an introductory sampling to liven your sports spirit.

For a scenic itinerary, treat yourself to a walk through the beautiful campus of the prestigious Vanderbilt University. Then head over to the nearby Parthenon – an awe-inspiring replica of the original monument in Athens, Greece. An impeccable example of the plantation life awaits at the historic Belle Meade plantation and garden. Stroll through breathtaking gardens and scenery at the nationally renowned Cheekwood Botanical Garden.

Nashville is also home to the Sri Ganesha Temple (www.ganeshatemple.org), regarded to be one of the most beautiful Hindu temples in the southeastern United States. Find serenity and calm as you experience this mystical temple adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures.

Things to do Outside Nashville

Although Nashville boasts a lengthy itinerary of activities for any desired undertaking, the surrounding areas are abundant with multiple opportunities.

Not sure what your experience palate fancies? Take an excursion and visit some incomparable leisure locations around Nashville. Relieve the summer heat and hike to the bottom of Fall Creek Falls (www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/FallCreekFalls) and Burgess Falls for a refreshing swim. Visit one of the largest freshwater aquariums in the world in Chattanooga, Tennessee (www.tnaqua.org). Travel back in time and down to the cooling depths of the Mammoth Caves (www.nps.gov/macca) near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Immerse yourself in space travel at NASA (www.msfc.nasa.gov) in Huntsville, Alabama.

When you visit us at the Regional Bengali Conference 2010 in Nashville, prepare to indulge in a unique and unrivaled Southern cultural experience.