

CMA FEST WITH THE BEST NASHVILLE DAILY PROGRAM 2023

If you are travelling to Dallas for Garth Brooks: Please refer to your itinerary for flight details.

Day 1 - Sun 4 June 2023: Australia to Nashville

If your first flight is from a domestic airport and connecting in Sydney with Qantas 07 at Sydney International on Sunday 4 June 2023

Check in at your domestic Qantas check-in counter and ask if your luggage will be checked all the way to Nashville. If not, then collect your luggage when you arrive into Sydney and take the shuttle to T1 (International Airport).

Transferring between T2/T3 Domestic and T1 International

The T-Bus Service is a complimentary shuttle bus and operates every 30 minutes between 5:30am and 9:30pm with a travel time of approx. 10-15 minutes. Bus stops are located on the arrivals level outside each terminal.

On arrival at T1 check in for your international flight if you were not already checked in at your domestic departure point. Then proceed through immigration and security to your departure gate. **Melissah is your flight group leader.** She will meet you at the departure gate after she and the rest of the travellers have checked in and cleared immigration. Make yourself known to Melissah so she can check you off the list. (Look at her FB profile in our Group FB page so you recognise her. She will also be carrying some form of ID with the Chris Watson Travel logo.

If your first flight is from Sydney International on QF7 on Sunday 4 June 2023. (Includes passengers staying overnight at Rydges Sydney Airport Hotel).

Please allow plenty of time to get to the airport. Roads around the airport are always heavily congested. You may consider arriving by train to avoid road delays. Please be at Sydney International airport no later than 12:40pm and check in on arrival. There could be delays due to check in and security regulations. Please meet up with Melissah so she can check you off the list and introduce you to others in the travelling group. Melissah will be located near the Qantas check-in area. Rydges Airport Hotel travellers please walk from the hotel to the terminal. (approx. 181 steps).

If your first flight is from a domestic airport and connecting in Sydney with Delta DL40 at Sydney International on Sunday 4 June 2023 (Includes passengers staying overnight at Rydges Sydney Airport Hotel).

Travellers coming in from domestic flights on the 3rd June, transfer to T1 International and check into Rydges Airport Hotel if we have pre-booked you and it is on your itinerary. There will be a sign at the International Airport showing the way to the hotel. (approx. 181 steps).

Transferring between T3 Domestic and T1 International

The T-Bus Service is a complimentary shuttle bus and operates every 30 minutes between 5:30am and 9:30pm with a travel time of approx. 10-15 minutes. Bus stops are located on the arrivals level outside each terminal.

On Sunday 4 June walk from the hotel to the terminal (approx. 181 steps) and proceed to the Delta check in desk. **Mary is your flight group leader.** She will meet you at the departure gate after she and the rest of the travellers have checked in and cleared immigration. Make yourself known to Mary so she can check you off the list. (Look at her FB profile in our Group FB page so you recognise her. She will also be carrying some form of ID with the Chris Watson Travel logo.

If your first flight is from Sydney on Delta DL40 on Sunday 4 June 2023

Please allow plenty of time to get to the airport. Roads around the airport are always heavily congested. You may consider arriving by train to avoid road delays. Please be at Sydney International airport **no later than 6:30am and check in on arrival. There could be delays due to check in and security regulations.** Please meet up with **Mary** (Delta Group Leader) so she can check you off the list and introduce you to others in the travelling group. Mary will be located near the Delta check-in area.

If you are not travelling with the Group on Sunday 4 June 2023

We will meet you in Nashville at the hotel. Please make your own way to Hyatt Place Downtown Hotel on arrival and check-in as reservations are in your individual names. Please note it is the **Hyatt Place Downtown Hotel 301 Third Ave, Downtown Nashville**, not one of the other Hyatt Place hotels in and around the Nashville Area.

Qantas Group arrival into Dallas Fort Worth Airport (DFW) on Sunday 4 June 2023

On Arrival into DFW, we will go through Immigration, pick up our bags and take them to the baggage transfer area so they can be put on the flight to Nashville. This is mandatory as part of the immigration and customs process.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: We have a 5 hour turnaround at Dallas Fort Worth Airport (DFW) and after Immigration and baggage handling, we ask that you make your way quickly to the next departure gate as it will be in another departure terminal. If it is your first time to DFW, you can wait for Melissah and she will take you to the next gate by sky train service. Even though we have 5 hour turnaround, we need to be mindful that timing is important. Upon arrival, there will be long lines for immigration and we also need to go through a few more security checks. This all takes time. Once this is done, you can relax.

Delta Group arrival into Los Angeles Airport (LAX) on Sunday 4 June 2023

On arrival into LAX - Tom Bradley Intl Terminal 1, we will go through Immigration, pick up our bags and take them to the baggage transfer area so they can be put on the flight to Nashville. This is mandatory as part of the immigration and customs process.

If it is your first time to LAX, you can wait for Mary and she will take you to the next gate which will be in Terminal 3 (subject to change). Even though we have 5 hour turnaround, we need to be mindful that timing is important. Upon arrival, there will be long lines for immigration and we also need to go through a few more security checks and walk to the terminal next door. This all takes time. Once this is done, you can relax.

Contact numbers on Departure Day Sunday 4 June 2023.

Melissah for Qantas Group: 0438 573 489 and Mary for Delta Group: 0408 607 352. Please note neither Melissah nor Mary will not be answering these numbers whilst in Nashville. Both, along with Chris will have a local USA number and it will be given to you in Nashville for any emergencies.

On arrival into



Proceed to baggage claim to collect your luggage where we will be met by a representative from Tennessee Express Tours who will walk us to our awaiting coach shuttle to take us to Hyatt Place Downtown Hotel, our home for the next 9 nights. Breakfast is included in your package at the Kitchen Bar. There is also a 24/7 Gallery offering fresh meals and a 24/7 Market for on-the-go food.

Keys to your room may be given out on the coach transfers from the airport otherwise check in on arrival. Please take your own luggage to your room as it is easier and quicker than waiting for a porter. If you use a porter, please make sure you tip!

Rest of the evening is free. Be mindful of the early morning start tomorrow!!

For travellers arriving into Nashville outside of the group flights, please note that **check in is at 3pm.**

Hyatt Place Downtown Hotel

301 Third Avenue South, Nashville Tennessee 37201

Tel from Australia: 0011 1-615-313 9968

Tel from USA 1-615-313 9968

hyattplacenashvilledowntown.com

The hotel is perfectly located in the downtown area, central to all the Honky Tonk Bars, restaurants, cafes, shops (lots of boot shops) and all the CMA Fest activities and venues. The Johnny Cash and the Patsy Cline Museums are a few short blocks away from the hotel. There is also the Goo Goo Cluster Chocolate Shop, pop in a buy a goo goo cluster which is a combination of nuts, caramel, nougat and milk chocolate in a round cluster. Only found in Tennessee! Around the corner in Broadway you will find Luke Bryan's 32 Bridge Honky Tonk, Jason Aldean's Kitchen and Rooftop Bar, Kid Rock's Big Ass Honky Tonk, Miranda Lambert's Casa Rosa, Margaritaville, Dierks Bentley's Whiskey Row, Blake Shelton's Ole Red, Tootsies Orchid Lounge and much, much more.

Mary's recommendations: Mike's Ice Cream Shop on 2nd Ave for the red velvet ice cream, Walgreens at 226 5th Ave for souvenirs, snacks, drugstore cosmetic brands such as Revlon, pharmaceutical items and other assorted items. Lots of eating places on and off Broadway.

HANDY HINT: At check-in please make sure that you leave a credit card imprint with the reception desk at the hotel. This is a guarantee in case you order room service or any incidentals. Do **NOT** use your debit card as your funds will be frozen.

HANDY HINT: Take your passport with you if you intend to shop and use your credit card. Many shops ask for ID when using your credit card.

You are on Coach # 1 for Monday 5 June only. Board any coach on Tues and Wed.

Day 2 - Mon 5 June

Breakfast in Breakfast Bar

Included in tour cost. Operates Mon through Fri 6:30am-9:00am and Sat, Sun 7:00am-10:00am

7:30am

Board the Coach for your day of touring Music City USA! **Please board your allocated coach for today.** Tues and Wed you may board any of the three coaches.

8:00am

Arrive for your tour of historic RCA Studio B. There will be a guided tour of Studio B which was one of the most famous and productive recording studios in the world where countless country and pop music legends recorded hit songs. The tour includes a visit to the studio's control room, the live room, and the echo chamber where visitors can see where the music was recorded and learn about the recording process. Visitors also have the opportunity to see the original equipment used to record some of the most famous songs in music history. The tour also includes a visit to the adjacent museum, which features a collection of artefacts and memorabilia from the history of the studio. The tour is a great way to gain an inside look at the historic venue and the music industry.

9:00am

Depart Studio B and at 9:30am we arrive at the Bluebird Café in Green Hills for a little story behind the music time at the place that makes song writing and the songwriters the focus. You will hear a short history of the Bluebird and then some great songwriters will tell you about and sing a few of their favourite songs. We will have some cookies and water there for you to enjoy.

10:30am

Time for a group photo out front of the café and we depart for sightseeing around Nashville including a drive around and past the Parthenon, State Capitol Building and lots more.

12:00pm

Arrive at Ole Smoky Moonshine's 6th & Peabody Distillery. On arrival collect your boxed lunch with 2 white meat duck tacos, chips, cookie and more. Water or soft drinks will be included for you or you can purchase Yee Haw branded draft beers or moonshine cocktails at the bar.

12:30pm

Start your tour and tasting of the Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery where you can see how Tennessee's first legal moonshine is made and get a sample of a few of their favourite flavours.

2:00pm

Return to the hotel for a little R & R.

3:00pm

Board the coach for our Walmart Super Store Shopping Experience. It's a store that sells just about everything you could ever need in your life! Make sure you check out as much of the store as you can as there are great bargains to be found. The store also stocks fresh fruit and lots of groceries if you want to try any USA goodies. You never know what you can see or buy at Walmart! There could also be a photo contest. More details on board the coach.

6:00pm

Our coach arrives back at our hotel. Rest of the evening is free to enjoy downtown Nashville and lots of activities along Broadway. Need ideas of what to do and see, ask the hotel concierge or just turn left when you leave the hotel and walk towards Broadway, you are sure to find something that will interest you. Make your own way back to the hotel after your night out.

HANDY HINT: Tips for coach drivers and guides are included in your tour package and we tip them on behalf of the group. If you wish to add on an additional amount, please give it to them directly.

Day 3 - Tues 6 June

Breakfast in Breakfast Bar

Operates Monday through Friday 6:30am-9:00am and Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-10:00am

Leisurely morning on your own before our big day out!

11:00am

Lunch is included today at the Wildhorse Saloon in historic Second Avenue. The Wildhorse Saloon is a popular destination for lunch, music and dancing. The saloon is known for its hearty Southern cuisine and its lively atmosphere. The "Smokehouse lunch" includes a garden salad, Baked Potato Salad, Macaroni and Cheese, Shredded Chicken, Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork, Buttermilk Biscuits and Rolls, Fruit Cobbler, and Tea, Water, Lemonade. After your meal, join the fun and participate in the line dancing and maybe learn the steps to some of the most popular line dances.

1:30pm to 2:00pm

Make your way back to the hotel to prep for your afternoon and evening out at Opry Mills and the Grand Ole Opry. ***DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR VIP EXPERIENCE AND GRAND OLE OPRY TICKETS!***

3:00pm

Shuttles depart Hyatt Place Hotel for Opry Mills Mall, first stop! The Mall features great shopping. You can view the mall directory at this link: <https://www.simon.com/mall/opry-mills/stores>

5:40pm

Board the coach for a quick ride over to the Opry House parking area.

6:00pm

Arrive at the Opry House for the Grand Ole Opry. Please go straight into the Opry House if you are doing the VIP experience. If you are not doing the VIP Experience, you can mingle with the crowds in the Plaza outside the Opry House and listen to the live music. At around 6:40pm make your way into the Opry House for the 7pm show. We have great seats for the Grand Ole Opry and you will not be disappointed. At time of writing this itinerary, we do know that the following will be appearing on the Opry stage: Oakridge Boys and Bill Anderson. More to be announced.

9:00pm

After the show head directly to your coach. We don't want to leave without you! Don't forget to take your shopping and belongings with you when you get off the coach. Have a good night!

Day 4 - Wed 7 June

Breakfast in Breakfast Bar

Operates Monday through Friday 6:30am-9:00am and Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-10:00am

Morning at leisure, good opportunity for you to visit the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum with your voucher included in your package. It opens at 9am. Best be there on the dot of 9am as you have to be back at the hotel by 11:15am.

11:20am

Depart hotel for the coach trip to John Stone's "Stonederosa Ranch". Private concert, Southern BBQ (lunch) and lots of fun.

3:00pm

Coach departs Stonederosa for journey back to the hotel, arriving approx. 4pm.

5:30pm

For those that are attending the **Shania Twain concert**, board the coach for the transfer to Geodis Park. **DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR CONCERT TICKETS WITH YOU!** Line up: Kelsea Ballerini, Breland and Shania Twain. Concert starts at 6:30pm and we understand that Shania will be on stage around 8pm. As soon as the concert ends, please make your way to the coach for transfer back to the hotel. Don't be late as we don't want to leave without you.

For those who purchased tickets to the fantastic **Marty Stuart Late Nite Jam** make your own way to the Ryman. **DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR CONCERT TICKETS WITH YOU!**

Day 5 - Thur 8 June

Breakfast in Breakfast Bar

Operates Monday through Friday 6:30am-9:00am and Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-10:00am

CMA Festival begins! Download the free CMA Fest App! View cma.fest.com.au BEFORE YOU LEAVE AUSTRALIA!

Be prepared for the next 4 days! There will be thousands of people in Nashville at this time. There are country music shows all day and into the night. Choose the concerts you want to see from your Festival schedule or www.cmafest.com or the CMA Fest app. Nissan Stadium night time concerts are where the big name country stars will be appearing. Your festival pass gives you entry to Nissan Stadium and reserved seating. Your digital ticket which we will send you to add to your phone wallet will show the section and your seat number.

Be selective as you will not physically be able to attend all shows/activities. The choice is yours! This is why we have designed the Nashville portion of the tour for you to enjoy at your own pace. You do not have to stay with the group. You can do your own thing.

Make sure you visit **Fan Fair X!** where there are more stages, meet and greet opportunities and exhibitors.

Your CMA Fest 4-DayPass gives you: Admission to 4 nights of Nissan Stadium shows, 4 days admission to Fan Fair X in Music City Centre, and the complete CMA Fest Experience. Access to FREE daytime and

night time CMA Shuttle (easier to walk across river to the stadium than get the Shuttle as bus stop is too far from our hotel).

Daytime Concerts at the Riverfront Stage are from 10am to 5:30pm. Free seating on the grass. Lots of other concerts all over the downtown area. Check the schedule on the app or website and choose where you want to be.

Night-time concerts at Nissan Stadium commence around 7:30pm till approx. 11pm. Our reserved seats are in Lower Level, Section 133. Upon entering the gates of Nissan Stadium, follow the signs to Section 133 and you're your seat. Enjoy an incredible view of CMA Fest's biggest stage! Food, beverages and restrooms can be found nearby in the concourse. Additionally, official CMA Fest merchandise can be purchased on the concourse.

Our hotel is located within walking distance of all the festival activities. It is closer to walk to the venues than walk to the shuttle coach stops. The Nissan Stadium is accessed by a leisurely walk across the Shelby Ave Pedestrian Bridge. Bridge entrance is on First Avenue between Broadway and Demonbruen.

CMA Fest venues and vendors are cashless, so don't forget to pack your credit/debit cards or set up Apple Pay/Google Pay on your phone.

6:45pm Optional Group Departure is from the lobby each night if anyone wants company on the walk or make your own way to Nissan Stadium.

HANDY HINT: It is advisable to have an early dinner each festival night. You can purchase fast food at Nissan Stadium. Food is limited choice - usually hot dogs, nachos plate and potato crisps.

HANDY HINT: Photo ID is required to purchase alcoholic drinks at Nissan Stadium. So bring your passports just in case they do not accept your Australian driver license as proof of ID. Also remember your clear plastic bags (read up on bag policy in our CMA Fest info).

CMA Fest venues and vendors are cashless, so don't forget to pack your credit/debit cards or set up Apple Pay/Google Pay on your phone.

Day 6 - Fri 9 June

Breakfast in Breakfast Bar

Operates Monday through Friday 6:30am-9:00am and Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-10:00am

Enjoy the Day 2 of CMA Festival! Are you exhausted yet! Are you suffering from FOMO! (Fear of Missing Out). You can't see or do every item on the vast schedule. Plan your day, check the app.

With outdoor concerts at Riverfront stage, Walk of Fame Park, Bridgestone Arena, booths and stages inside Fan Fair X at the Music City Center the party will start to rock. All day there are amazing artists to see from the past, present and future at the various stages. **Make sure to use sunscreen and stay hydrated for the full day of fun.**

6:45pm Optional night-time concert departure from the hotel lobby for walk to Nissan Stadium or make your own way.

Day 7 - Sat 10 June, Day 8 - Sun 11 June

Breakfast in Breakfast Bar

Operates Monday through Friday 6:30am-9:00am and Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-10:00am

Enjoy Day 3 and 4 of the CMA Music Festival! Tired, need more sleep? Hang in there! Long live Country Music!

6:45pm Optional night-time concert departure from the hotel lobby for walk to Nissan Stadium or make your own way.

Day 9 - Mon 12 June

Breakfast in Breakfast Bar

Operates Monday through Friday 6:30am-9:00am and Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-10:00am

12noon

The 50th CMA Fest may be over but we ain't done yet! Today enjoy lunch and live music at Margaritaville Restaurant on Broadway. Good food and beverage will flow for good times in the land of the Parrotheads! If they are offering Key Lime Pie for dessert, have one! It's delicious.

6:00pm

The closing dinner and music starts in the private room upstairs at Blake Shelton's Ole Red. Enjoy a Southern BBQ dinner and live music just for our group. This is our farewell dinner and we know you will finish your time in Nashville just right!

9:00pm

Remainder of the evening is free to enjoy on your own.

Day 10 - Tues 13 June

Breakfast in Breakfast Bar

Operates Monday through Friday 6:30am-9:00am and Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-10:00am

11:30am - shuttle departs hotel for Nashville airport for passengers travelling back to Australia.

8:00am - coach departs Hyatt Place for the Blues, Beignets & Beale Tour and Memphis passengers

Thank you for sharing CMA Fest with us in 2023.

We truly hope everyone has a great time on this tour and makes wonderful memories with new and old friends and Nashville experiences.

Post your photos and memories on our private FB group page.

CMA Fest with the Best!

Recommend us to your friends and hope to see you in Nashville in 2024 or future years.