



Sip and Savour Your Way Along the Tennessee Whiskey Trail

Explore more than 30 distilleries across the state for a true taste of everything that makes Tennessee whiskey so special

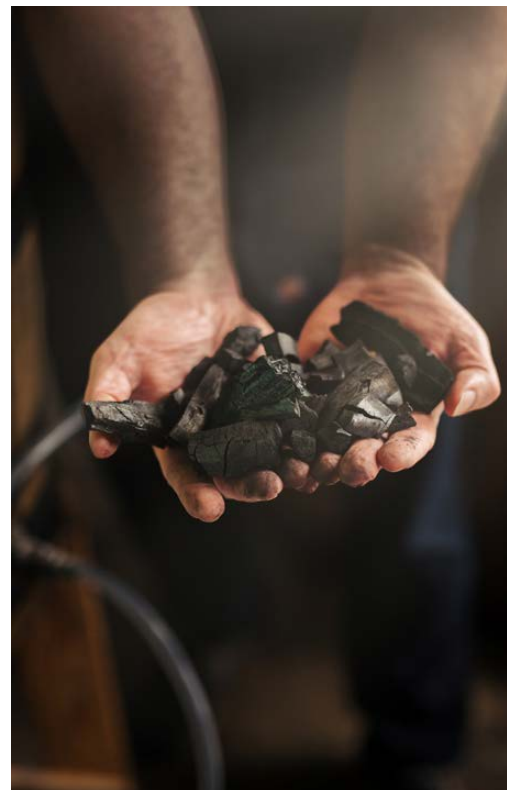
By Wendy Helfenbaum

Food and drink trails that also offer immersive activities centred around history, culture and recreation have changed the way people travel. Established in 2017, the **Tennessee Whiskey Trail** includes more than 30 distilleries with storied histories that celebrate craftsmanship, culture and the people behind the stills that use the Lincoln County Process, where spirits are filtered through sugar maple charcoal before aging, resulting in a distinctive flavour profile. From iconic brands to small-batch, family-run operations, here are some not-to-be-missed stops for behind-the-scenes tours and tastings.

In 1885, Nelson's Green Brier Distillery in

Nashville produced two million bottles annually until Prohibition kicked in. A century later, the brand was reborn by founder Charles Nelson's great-great-great-grandsons Charlie and Andy. Today, the distillery, which also houses a museum and a bottle-your-own site, produces whiskey and wheated bourbons, plus unique products like coffee caramel pecan liqueur.

One of Nashville's newer establishments, **Corsair Distillery** produces creative spirits containing non-traditional ingredients like quinoa and red absinthe. The 'brewstillery', which also offers craft beer, has won more than 800 medals for its smoked and barrel-aged spirits. Visitors can tour the facility and learn about the process.





Family-owned **Leiper's Fork Distillery** in Franklin employs a 'grain-to-glass' process using locally-sourced ingredients—half grown on their own farm—to make small-batch Tennessee whiskey, bourbon and white whiskey. Tours explain the onsite mashing, fermentation, distilling, aging and bottling steps, followed by tastings in a 200-year-old restored log cabin.

Another Franklin distillery, **Stable Reserve** was the city's first to open after Prohibition. Housed in a repurposed 1800s-era horse stable, the company operates a cozy café during the day that transforms into a craft cocktail lounge in the evenings that hosts hands-on blending classes and distills single-barrel bourbon, gin and vodka onsite.

Millions of gallons of the world's top-selling whiskey are produced in Lynchburg, in 'dry' Moore County—where selling booze has been illegal since Prohibition. Here, **Jack Daniel's Distillery** operates under a special state law allowing it to sell commemorative bottles, but you can't go to a bar for a drink. The company's water comes from a limestone cave spring, and it cultivates its own yeast strain that gives its spirits a smooth, consistent flavour. Jack Daniel's is one of the few distilleries that makes its own toasted white oak barrels.

Known for its traditional techniques like weighing grains by hand and its unique 'chill-charcoal mellowing' process where spirits are chilled before being filtered, **Cascade Hollow Distilling Co.** in Tullahoma makes George Dickel whiskey with a fruity, savoury, mineral-driven flavour profile.

Pet lovers will enjoy the 20-stop **Tennessee Whiskey Tail**, which welcomes four-legged friends. A guide, *Tails on the Trail*, lists pet-friendly hotels and restaurants.

New this spring, guests can sip their whiskey and eat it, too. The **Cork to Fork** trail brings distilleries and local eateries together to create spirit-infused dishes like signature sauces, churned spirit butters

and whiskey-kissed desserts. Visitors can enjoy culinary-driven experiences at Whiskey Trail restaurants, ice cream shops, confectioneries and breakfast spots. Many participants sell packaged versions of some of their offerings like savoury bourbon bacon jam or whiskey-infused barbecue sauce that guests can bring home.



Pro tip: Pick up an official TN Whiskey Trail Passport at a participating distillery or download a mobile one. Collect physical or digital stamps at distilleries and get a prize once you've visited them all.

Where to stay on the Tennessee Whiskey Trail

Located steps from the thriving music scene on Broadway, the 191-room historic **Holston House Nashville** mixes 1920s Art Deco architecture with a rock-and-roll vibe. Guests can order a turntable with records from room service.

The Tennessean, an 82-room luxury property near Knoxville's Old City and Market Square, received a Michelin Guide one-key designation and is known for its traditional tea service in a plush drawing room.

Since opening in 1969, the 464-room **Peabody Memphis** has been the South's 'Grand Hotel'. It's famous for its five resident Mallard ducks that parade through the lobby on a red carpet twice daily.

