Knoxville, Tennessee, is situated on both sides of the Tennessee River, which forms at the confluence of the French Broad and Holston Rivers in a valley between the Cumberland Mountains and the Great Smoky Mountains. Before European settlement, the valley was the hunting grounds of the Cherokee Indians. James White established a fort and cluster of cabins here in 1786. By 1791, the community was renamed Knoxville for Henry Knox, President Washington’s War Secretary. The 1982 World’s Fair was held in Knoxville.

The Knoxville Museum of Art celebrates the art and artists of East Tennessee. The Museum of East Tennessee History contains original artifacts from the region’s past. Exhibits at the McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee showcase the geologic, historical, and artistic past of Tennessee, as well as cultures from around the globe. The Knoxville Police Department Museum displays historical photographs, uniforms, badges, and weapons. The Girl Scout Museum at Daisy’s Place exhibits vintage uniforms, badges, and International Girl Scout Day Guide items. The Tipton Art & Heritage Center exhibits samples of marble leftover from the former Candoro Marble Company’s history as a prosperous member of the marble industry.

The oldest of the city’s seven historical homes belonged to Knoxville’s founder, James White, and is furnished with original tools and artifacts from the period. Blount Mansion is the 1792 home of William Blount, who was Governor of the Southwest Territory and later a U.S. Senator. Marble Springs State Historic Site was the home of Tennessee’s first governor, John Sevier, and encompasses a boathouse, tavern, smokehouse, and half-cantilever barn. The Georgian-style Historic Ramsey House was built in 1797 and is furnished with period antiques. Confederate Memorial Hall (Break House) was built in 1858 and served as headquarters of Confederate General James Longstreet during the 1863 Siege of Knoxville. Mabry-Hazen House was also built in 1858 and served as headquarters for both Union and Confederate forces. Crescent Bend (Armstrong Lockett House) & W.P. Toms Memorial Garden features 18th-century American and English furniture, decorative arts, and a 3-acre formal garden. Historic Westwood was built in Richardsonian Romanesque style in 1890.

Knoxville offers many opportunities for the performing arts. Theater performances range from musical theater to contemporary drama are available at the Clarence Brown Theatre at the University of Tennessee. Tennessee Stage Company is a community-based, professional African-American theater company. Children’s Theatre of Knoxville presents an annual series of 10 productions. Jubilee Community Arts & Laurel Theatre presents the traditional arts of the Southern Appalachians. The WordPlayers company offers culturally-relevant stories from a Christian worldview. The Tennessee Theatre is home to Broadway shows, the Knoxville Choral Society, Knoxville Opera, and Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, which also performs at the Civic Auditorium and Bijou Theatre. Other venues include the Square Room and Relix Variety Theatre.

Neighborhoods

Knoxville’s downtown area has experienced considerable growth in recent years with the development of high-rises and conversion of older, mostly commercial buildings into residential condominiums and loft apartments. Craftsman- and Queen Anne-style homes dominate the historic Fourth and Gill neighborhood, which dates from the 1880s to the 1940s; several duplexes and a few apartment buildings are also located here.

In North Knoxville, the North Hills neighborhood contains homes in Tudor, Spanish Revival, and Colonial Revival styles built between the two World Wars. Many homes in the Fairmont and Emorland area were built between 1930 and 1950 and share styles with those in North Hills; cottage-style homes, newer ranchers, and a few older brick duplexes are also available.

Nestled along the Holston River in East Knoxville, the Holston Hills neighborhood was designed in the 1920s around a country club and golf course and features large homes, stone cottages, and mid-century ranchers set on deep lots along winding streets. Dating to the 1920s, Sequoyah Hills in West Knoxville is an architecturally diverse neighborhood; styles include English Tudor, English Cottage, American Colonial, ranchers, contemporary Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired homes, and newer traditional homes. Although the earliest homes in the Forest Heights date back to the 1920s, most were built after the 1940s, primarily in cottage and Tudor styles. Most of the traditional two-story homes in New Westmoreland are between 15 and 20 years old and are situated on large lots.

South Knoxville is separated from the rest of the city by the Tennessee River. Founded in 1899, the Island Home neighborhood offers Craftsman and bungalow-style homes. Located along the Dogwood Trail (Knoxville’s springtime scenic driving tour), Lake Forest and Colonial Village offer a mix of cottages from the 1940s, ranchers from the 1950s, and a few traditional two-story or split level homes.

Parks and Recreation

Knoxville has 81 parks, 3 golf courses, and 25 community centers. The downtown World’s Fair Park features extensive lawns, gardens, waterfalls, and streams and the unique Knoxville Sunsphere, which was constructed for the 1982 World’s Fair and served as its symbol. The 331-acre Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area offers access to the Urban Wilderness Trail and Will Skelton Greenway and is adjacent to Ijams Nature Center, which has a new tree-based zip line adventure park among its many amenities.

A popular location for runners and walkers, the 195-acre Lakeshore Park provides views of Fort Loudon Lake and the Smoky Mountains. The park’s recreational opportunities consist of 6 lighted baseball/softball, 2 soccer fields, a playground, and open space.

Fort Loudon Lake is known for bass fishing, boating, and bird watching. Amenities include boat ramps, marina, playgrounds, swimming areas, fishing piers, trails, and golf courses.

In its 120 acres, Victor Ashe Park offers many recreational opportunities, including an 18-hole disc golf course, a dog park, 4 large soccer fields, football fields, 2 sand volleyball courts, 3 horseshoe pits, an unpaved trail, a playground, fishing areas, water access, and the paved Victor Ashe Greenway.

The Knoxville Zoo is considered the Red Panda capital of the world. Other city attractions include the University of Tennessee Football Hall of Fame and the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame.

Education

Knox County Schools educates more than 59,500 students in 50 elementary, 14 middle, 15 high, and 10 special schools. Knox County Schools offers nine magnet schools.

The University of Tennessee offers professional, undergraduate, and graduate degree programs, including those at the Colleges of Nursing and Veterinary Medicine. The University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine (UTGSM) has campuses in Memphis and Chattanooga. Knoxville College is a church-related, historically black liberal arts college. Pellissippi State is a public two-year college that offers associate degrees, certificates, and continuing education opportunities.

South College and Fountainhead College of Technology are for-profit educational institutions that offer associate and bachelor degrees and certificates.

Health Care

The following hospitals are located in Knoxville:
- Covenant Health–Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center: 517 licensed beds
- East Tennessee Children’s Hospital: 152 licensed beds
- Covenant Health–Parkwest Medical Center: 462 licensed beds
- Tenova Healthcare–Physicians Regional Medical Center: 610 licensed beds (includes Tenova Healthcare North and Tennova Healthcare–Turkey Creek Medical Center)
- The University of Tennessee Medical Center: 581 licensed beds

The University of Tennessee Medical Center is also served by Select Specialty Hospital–Knoxville, a 35-bed long-term acute care facility located within Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center.

City Stats

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<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
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<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<td>Per capita personal income, Knoxville, TN, USA:</td>
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Photograph courtesy of Visit Knoxville.