

15,000 TOURISTS VISIT NASHVILLE THE PRESENT YEAR

Motorists Will Spend More
Than Half Million Dol-
lars Here.

CITY IS A FUNNEL AND SOUTHERN GATE

Four Great Trunk Lines
Leading in and Seven
Leading Out.

Fifteen thousand auto tourists will spend more than \$500,000 in Nashville this year.

The figures are those of the Nashville Automobile Club, which keeps a record of the number of tourists who pass this way. The statistics were made public Tuesday by C. H. Peay, secretary of the club.

The gradual growth of Nashville in popularity with overland tourists is best told by the following figures given out by Mr. Peay:

Year.	Number Tourists.
1915.	1,500
1916.	2,500
1917.	3,400
1918.	4,000
1919.	5,200
1920.	9,000
1921 (estimated)	15,000

Peay's Statement.

The statement of Mr. Peay, as spokesman for the Nashville Automobile Club, follows:

"Nashville is so situated that one could hardly miss passing through our gates should they take a trip from the Northwest, the North or the Northeast to either the South, Southwest or Southeast. The Appalachian mountain ranges present a barrier which runs in a northeast-southwesterly direction, passing through western Virginia and eastern Tennessee. This and the Mississippi river territory, with its lowlands and swamps, forms a sort of funnel which turns the tourists via Nashville. The average tourist coming from New York will come via Cincinnati and Nashville on the trip south, rather than follow along the level, monotonous east coast route. He prefers the scenery and variety furnished by the Nashville route. The highways of the southeastern states may be divided into three groups. One set of them, which serves a limited territory, skirts the eastern coast. Another set parallels the Appalachian system. A third, and by far the most important, reaching from Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and Evansville, Indianapolis and Louisville, Detroit and Ft. Wayne, New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Louisville, forms an apex at Nashville, coming into our city over four trunk lines, the Dixie, the Jackson, the Bee Line and the St. Louis route. From here they branch out to Memphis, and southwestern points to New Orleans and gulf points, to the Atlantic coast or Florida points, leaving Nashville over seven main trunk lines, the Memphis-to-Bristol, East and West, the Jackson, the Dixie, the Bee Line, the Lee and the Florida Short Route.

Great Tourist Point.

But a moment's glance at the map will convince the most incredulous that Nashville is ordained to be one of the greatest automobile tourist points in the United States.

Historically, Nashville is rich. With the home of a President, the graves of two Presidents, interesting pioneer and Civil War battle grounds, the only reproduction of the Parthenon in the western hemisphere, and with the homes of many famous people, there is enough to attract those who are interested in the nation's history.

Our highways, with their rich farm-

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15,000 Tourists to Visit Nashville The Present Year

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ing sections and with their rugged hill sections furnish the variety that the motorist likes. Our weather, particularly in the fall, when most of the touring is done, is most inviting.

As early as 1915, 1,500 touring parties registered at the Nashville Automobile Club headquarters. In 1916 the number increased to 2,500; in 1917, 3,400 registered; in 1918, 4,000 parties were routed by the club; in 1919, 5,200 parties registered at the club; 1920, brought about 9,000, and 1921 promises to bring about 15,000.

\$500,000 Last Year.

Data collected by the Automobile Club shows that at least \$500,000 was spent by tourists in Nashville last year. Of course, many parties go right through the city without getting anything but gasoline and possibly a meal, but many of them stop over several days to have repairs done on their cars, to purchase tires and to look at the city.

With all, a scant 1,000 automobile owners are spending \$5 per year through the Nashville Automobile Club to look after the construction of these highways, so important to us, and possibly fifty of those are giving their time and thought to the matter of getting these highways built, marking the roads, properly supplying tourists with road information and looking after the laws and other matters affecting the operation of motor-driven vehicles upon the highways.

The business interests of Nashville should awaken to the importance of encouraging tourists to come via Nashville. They should realize the vast importance of our highway system as means to collect raw products for our warehouses and to easily distribute our merchandise to the surrounding territory.