



Memphis' only 5-Duck Meeting Hotel!



For More Than 130 Years, The Peabody Has Welcomed With Open Arms Both Visitors And Newcomers To This Great City. From The Famous Duck March In The Grand Lobby To The Four Award Winning Restaurants, The South's Grand Hotel Has Charmed Its Guests With Unqualified Luxury And True Southern Hospitality. The Peabody's Rich History Is A Product Of Long-standing Tradition, Change, Growth, And Of Course, The Wonderful Guests. The Peabody Offers A Full Range Of Services And Facilities, Including A Fully Equipped Athletic Club, Styling Salon, Convention Facilities, And Catering Services.

Built shortly after the Civil War, the Peabody Hotel is as much of an American institution as a Southern one. Its decadent lobby boasts crystal chandeliers, gargantuan floral arrangements, and triumphant Italian Renaissance revival architecture. Of course, the main attraction of the Peabody is the twice-daily "March of the Peabody Ducks", who descend from their penthouse suite each morning at 11am guided by the Peabody Duckmaster, down a red carpet and into the base of the hotel's ornate fountain. Crowds gather, flashes pop and the ducks climb the small steps to spend the day swimming in the fountain until 5pm, when they reverse their trip to the elevator and ascend.

The Peabody Ducks -- The Tradition

How did the tradition of the ducks in the Peabody fountain begin?

Back in the 1930s Frank Schutt, General Manager of the Peabody, and a friend, Chip Barwick, returned from a weekend hunting trip to Arkansas. The men had a little too much Tennessee sippin' whiskey, and thought it would be funny to place some of their live duck decoys (it was legal then for hunters to use live decoys) in the beautiful Peabody fountain. Three small English call ducks were selected as "guinea pigs," and the reaction was nothing short of enthusiastic. Thus began a Peabody tradition which was to become internationally famous. The original ducks have long since gone, but after more than 76 years, the marble fountain in the hotel lobby is still graced with ducks. Today, the Mallards are raised by a local farmer and friend of the hotel. The ducks live in the fountain until they are full grown and, on retirement from their Peabody duties, are returned to the wild. The Peabody Ducks march at 11am and 5pm daily.