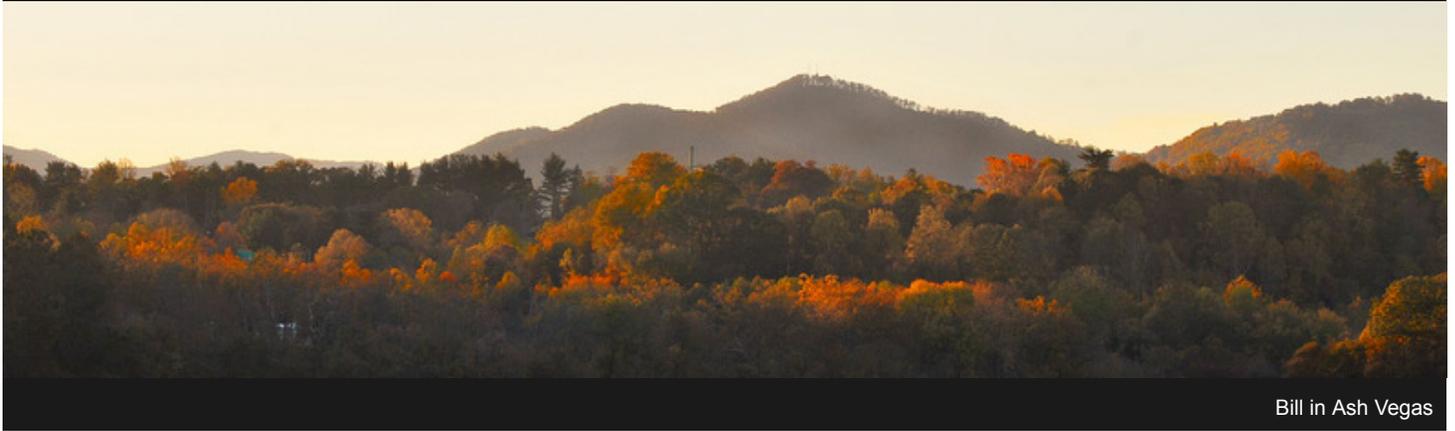




nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Bill in Ash Vegas

Asheville Where to Stay Guide

Asheville, 7 Days

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: While searching for the best hotels and bed and breakfasts in Asheville, you'll find that your travel planning is a little more unique than many other metropolitan areas around the world. Don't come to Asheville expecting to find resort hotels and downtown sky rise suites. No you won't find any of that, but you will find southern charm and hospitality you're not likely to find anywhere else. You may not see many rising hotels, but you will find many beautiful homes and mansions that have been turned into inns and bed and breakfasts. At the top of the list is Asheville's Grove Park Inn and Resort. This is the place you'll want to be to get a luxurious resort experience in the heart of Asheville. For a true down home southern experience, there are an endless number of inns and bed and breakfasts in Asheville, with most of them in the Montford Historic District. Asheville's 1900 Inn on Montford is one of the few bed and breakfasts that has received the AAA Four Diamond Rating.

contact:

tel: +1 828 669 5991 / +1 888 669 5991(Toll Free)

fax: +1 828 669 5991

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/north-carolina-black-mountain-redrockerinn-page.html>

location:

136 N Dougherty Street
Black Mountain NC
28711-3326

1 Red Rocker Inn

DESCRIPTION: The Red Rocker Inn has been voted as the BEST Bed and Breakfast in Asheville, Black Mountain and all of Western North Carolina! Readers of Southern Living Magazine have voted the Red Rocker as one of the three best inns of the South the past three years. Enjoy one of our 17 comfortable and elegant guest rooms and dine with ambience and charm in our restaurant. Choose from our many signature entrees and be sure to save room for one of our ten decadent homemade desserts. Add a Biltmore package or other special to your room for an even more memorable visit.



[more at BedandBreakfast.com](#)

contact:

tel: +1 828 254 9569

fax: +1 828 254 9518

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/north-carolina-asheville-1900innonmontford.html>

location:

296 Montford Avenue
Asheville NC 28801

2 1900 Inn on Montford

DESCRIPTION: Intimate and Romantic - The 1900 Inn on Montford invites you to be our guest and discover bed and breakfast comfort and hospitality with a warmth and graciousness that is reminiscent of Biltmore's Gilded Age. The Inn has been lovingly and thoughtfully restored to create the inviting ambience of past splendor and elegance. The residence was designed in 1900 by Richard Sharp Smith, Supervising Architect for Biltmore House. Today it is an elegant AAA Four Diamond Bed and Breakfast furnished with English and American antiques dating from 1670 to 1910. All of our exquisite rooms have private ensuite baths, king size beds, and fireplaces. All bathrooms have showers. Four bathrooms have whirlpool baths and one a clawfoot tub. Griffin Cottage, our new carriage house has three deluxe accommodations: the William Morris room and the Rossetti suite on the ground floor and the 1300 sq ft Cloisters as the entire second floor. Tumbled marble is used throughout for the floors and shower walls. All have separate showers with steam baths and two person whirlpools. The living room in the Cloisters features hand-carved paneling. All of Griffin Cottage is "children and pet friendly" with enclosed back gardens and "doggy trundle beds" in the ground floor rooms. All rooms have wired and wireless high speed Internet access.



[more at BedandBreakfast.com](#)

contact:

tel: +1 828 252 2711 / +1 800 438 0050 (Toll Free)

fax: +1 828 253 7053

<http://www.groveparkinn.com/>

location:

290 Macon Avenue
Asheville NC 28804

3 Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa

DESCRIPTION: This resort, built in 1913 on the side of Sunset Mountain at an elevation of 3,100 feet, is one of the oldest and most famous in the South. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it's a favorite year-round destination, providing old-world charm and panoramic views of the city's skyline and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Its great-hall lobby is flanked by 14-foot fireplaces; comfortably padded chairs and sofas create a feeling of coziness despite the size of the 120-foot-long room. Twenty-eight of the guest rooms are



[Hotels.com](#)

oversize and contain extras such as whirlpools. The resort has hosted some famous names, including Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald stayed at the hotel while his wife, Zelda, spent her nights in a sanitarium nearby, hence the hotel's "romantic" getaway package called the Great Gatsby. **Horizons Restaurant**, featuring an innovative but classic cuisine, is the finest in the area. Guests can also dine in the moderately priced **Blue Ridge Dining Room**, which has a legendary outdoor dining veranda. The **Carolina Cafe** also overlooks the mountains. **Elaine's** has reopened as a dueling piano bar. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: +1 828 285 0705

fax: +1 828 281 3170

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/north-carolina-asheville-chestnutstreetinn.html>

location:

176 E Chestnut St
Asheville NC 28801-2336

4 Chestnut Street Inn

DESCRIPTION: Indulge yourself at one of the most distinctive, fully restored Homes in Asheville. This Historic, Award Winning 1905 Grand Colonial Revival home will engulf you in it's warmth as you step into it's Architectural Charm and Grace in the midst of eight beautifully appointed rooms. Awaken each morning to fresh brewed coffee and tempting smells of our Home Made 3 Course Gourmet Breakfast. Relax on the Verandas while viewing Goddess Diana in the beautiful gardens. Private Baths with Jacuzzi tubs, Steam Shower, Romantic and Spa/ Massage packages available. 800/894-2955



more at BedandBreakfast.com

contact:

tel: +1 828 252 7313

fax: +1 828 252 8726

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/north-carolina-asheville-richmondhillinn.html>

location:

87 Richmond Hill Drive
Asheville NC 28806-3912

5 Richmond Hill Inn

DESCRIPTION: Romance is encouraged every moment at Richmond Hill Inn, offering the finest Asheville accommodation. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Inn features luxurious, well-appointed rooms. The Croquet Cottages feature 8 deluxe queen rooms, the Garden Pavillion boasts 15 suites and rooms. You'll Enjoy the serenity and beauty of Victorian gardens with waterfalls, a mountain brook, and spectacular flower displays.



more at BedandBreakfast.com

contact:

tel: +1 828 350 9929

<http://www.bonpaulandsharkys.com>

location:

816 Haywood Road
Asheville NC 28806

6 Bon Paul and Sharkys

DESCRIPTION: This hostel in West Asheville is named after two gold fish, Bon Paul and Sharky. It is a perfect getaway for backpackers or groups that prefer to share rooms. All rooms are co-ed dormitories with air-conditioning and 15 bunk-beds. Standard rate is \$21 for a bunk bed for a night and discounts if you are a group of 6 or more people. One Private room that sleeps two is also available, as is an only female dorm. It also offers lockers and short term luggage storage. In addition, the hostel has a full kitchen, back deck, cookouts, fireplace, board games and free outdoor dog kennels. There are plenty of adventure trails near the hostel, so you can rent a bike and explore the country side of Asheville. © wcities.com



Bon Paul and Sharkys

contact:

tel: +1 828 254 3211
fax: +1 828 254 1603
<http://www.kqzyfj.com/click-2005797-10478528>

location:

1 Resort Dr
Asheville NC 28806

7 Crowne Plaza Resort

Hotels.com

DESCRIPTION: This is Asheville's leading motor hotel, lying directly off I-240, 1 mile from downtown. The Crowne Plaza chain took over this former Holiday Inn resort and completed a \$4-million renovation. Standard double rooms have comfortable beds and such extras as refrigerators. There are tennis courts and an 9-hole golf course nearby. The restaurant, popular with families, serves typically American fare. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: +1 828 654 9040
<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/north-carolina-asheville-bentcreeklodge.html>

location:

10 Parkway Crescent
Asheville NC 28704

8 Bent Creek Lodge

DESCRIPTION: Stay in the heart of the mountains you came to see in this elegantly, rustic lodge, only yards from the Blue Ridge Parkway and 10 miles from downtown Asheville. Enjoy the spectacular mountain views, the crackling fireplace, the scrumptious breakfast, hiking trails and most of all the gracious hospitality of host Doug & Jodee Sellers. You'll know you've found a truly special place. 10 guest rooms, \$125-\$185, whirlpool tubs, free wireless Internet, Direct TV, gourmet breakfast & afternoon refreshments included.



more at BedandBreakfast.com

contact:

tel: +1 828 274 1800
fax: +1 828 274 1802
http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/AVLBMDT-Doubletree-Hotel-Biltmore-Asheville-North-Carolina/index.do

location:

115 Hendersonville Road
Asheville NC 28803

9 Doubletree Hotel Biltmore

DESCRIPTION: With a beautiful courtyard, a stunning water fountain and raised colorful flowerbeds, Doubletree Hotel Biltmore is worthy of a loud applause. Feel like a king when they welcome you with delicious chocolate chip cookies on checking into the hotel. Holding meetings and banquets becomes an easy task at Doubletree Hotel Biltmore thanks to the well-equipped room with stages and loudspeakers. Feast upon the yummy food at T.G.I Friday's and then burn off the calories in the fitness center—all in the hotel premises itself. With rooms decorated in creams, light greens and subtle reds and ergonomic furniture, staying here will be a treat to yourself. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 800 261 2221
fax: 828/254-9935
<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/north-carolina-asheville-beauforthousevictorianbb.html>

location:

61 N Liberty Street
Asheville NC 28801-1829

10 Beaufort House Inn

DESCRIPTION: Surround yourself in Victorian elegance, romance and history. Relax in the casual elegance of our one hundred year old Victorian home, enjoy one of many movies we have to offer in your own DVD player in the privacy of your own room, or pull up a cozy rocker on our wrap-around 'gingerbread' porch. All guest rooms with private bath, TV, and DVD Player.



more at BedandBreakfast.com

Asheville Snapshot

Local Info

Asheville goes by many names. It's been called the "Paris of the South," the "New Age Mecca" and even "America's New Freak Capital." It's also known as the "Happiest City" in America and included in the AARP list of the "Best Places to Reinvent Your Life." Its many monikers give a glimpse of what's in store in this little city nestled between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Great Smoky Mountains in the western part of North Carolina. The architecture, art galleries, museums, music and outdoor recreation opportunities offer engagement for the artsy, jazzy and sporty visitor.

Sights

The first stop on your itinerary should be the Biltmore Estate, considered the largest home in the country, with 250 rooms, 43 bathrooms and 65 fireplaces. It also has expansive and well-manicured gardens as well as a winery, stables and hiking trails. The Grove Arcade is another architectural landmark worth seeing, as are the Drhumor Building, Flat Iron Building and the Vance Monument. The Basilica of St. Lawrence is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a nice place to spend a couple hours. The Central United Methodist Church is beautiful in its own right. You can go on a LaZoom Comedy Tour for a more engaging way to see the city or, alternatively, on a self-guided walking tour of the 27 stations of the Urban Trail. Hiking enthusiasts can go to Chimney Rock Park, where a hike around the cliffs takes you to a picturesque waterfall. Other good venues for a hike are the trails of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Botanical Gardens at Asheville and the North Carolina Arboretum.

Dining

In the Downtown area, many of the restaurants are clustered along North Lexington Avenue and Biltmore Avenue. Merrimon Avenue in the North neighborhood also has a variety of dining establishments. In the West, the eateries can be found along Haywood Road. Grove

Arcade has a number of restaurants as well.

Shopping

While there is no shopping district per se in Asheville, Merrimon Avenue is known as the Strip, with its numerous shopping malls. The Grove Arcade has a lot of craft stores, while Lexington Avenue has many hip shops that sell vintage clothing, records and other unique stuff. If you have a sweet tooth, you can chocolates and truffles at the Chocolate Fetish. For ceramics and jewelry, head to the New Morning Gallery at Biltmore Village.

© NileGuide

History

The Asheville area was first home to the Cherokee Indians. The descendants of this tribe of friendly, hard working Indian people still live here today, co-existing with the pioneer descendants that settled here in the 1700s and today's constant flow of newcomers.

Miners and botanists became the area's first explorers. Those seeking a new home and those wanting the health benefits of the higher altitude and mild temperatures soon followed them. Most of these settlers lived peacefully with the Cherokee Indians.

In 1794, John Burton, a pioneer town planner and real estate broker, founded the small crossroads town in a valley, surrounded by mountains. Asheville was known as Morristown during its early years, then Buncombe Courthouse. In 1797 it was incorporated and officially named Asheville in honor of North Carolina Governor Samuel Ashe of New Hanover County.

Where Battery Park Hotel stands today, was the site of Battle Square. At that time it stood more than 100 feet above its present height and was called "River Hill." Named after Revolutionary War hero, Colonel Edward Buncombe, it became Buncombe County in 1792.

At Pack Place in Pack Square you can observe miniature replications of Asheville from the 1700s through the early 1900s. Looking at these miniatures of the downtown Asheville of long ago, really gives a keen sense of how much it has changed, how much has stayed the same—and how much it all has grown. The Vance Monument now stands on the site of county's first courthouse in the heart of downtown Asheville. As retailing boomed, social centers grew around this first courthouse.

The Roaring Twenties

Known as Asheville's Golden Era, the 1920s were truly a time of plenty. Asheville Author Thomas Wolfe described early 20th century Asheville as an "Oz of wonder and a purgatory of materialism." Douglas Ellington's Art deco City Hall, Edwin Wiley's Arcade and L.B. Jackson's Gothic skyscraper are lasting monuments to this Golden Age. These buildings and their unique beauty have spurred the city on to this day to renovate the downtown area to recapture the past as well as modernize.

Beyond the Crash

The economic crash in 1930 left Asheville deeply in debt and city officials had to structure a repayment plan that would take 40 years to pay off. Though not as extravagant as the Golden era of the 20s, the 30s were known more for its social aspects. The famous Rhododendron Ball and all its glamor were at its peak at this time. Asheville was a bustle of shopping, baseball, golfing and farming.

The Post World War II Era brought growth once again. Subdivisions started to pop up, more industry moved to the area and Asheville prospered. The economic growth continued and today Asheville is a thriving, popular city. Its history and mountain values mingle with the present day fast paced city life.

Many "top places to live" lists include Asheville; the city rarely, if ever, falls out of the top 20. Downtown Asheville has recently enjoyed much renovation, with

Asheville Snapshot continued

much more still underway. Its rapid rate of growth means more and more traffic on the main highways and the expressway gets busier every day. Most mountains in the area are spotted with homes. Many of the outlying areas have been bought up and new subdivisions seem to spring up monthly.

Architecture

Asheville's downtown area never experienced the economic boom of the 60s and 70s, which is a good thing architecturally speaking. At least 170 historic buildings were preserved. These buildings make up the bustling central business district and give the area a retro flair. With over 160 shops and 40 restaurants in this Art Deco style area there is plenty to explore and do. Meander the downtown streets and enjoy the city's historic flavor—one is almost guaranteed to find something to suit one's interests. For instance, the coffee shop Bean Streets, has big comfy couches and big windows for people-watching, not to mention delicious coffee, sandwiches and treats. The Kress Building, which has been beautifully renovated, houses the work of many local artisans and craftsmen. Stroll through the booths packed with a variety of wares for purchase. Pubs like Jack of the Wood offer up home-brewed beverages. The many antique shops that are scattered throughout downtown are waiting for visitors to treat themselves to that special "find."

The Wall Street/Haywood area will treat you to jewelry, crafts and award winning restaurants. Lexington Avenue is perfect for the antique lover or book lover. The Pack Square area is packed with art and culture: four museums: the Asheville Art Museum, The Health Adventure, YMI Cultural Center and the Colburn Gem and Mineral Museum; several art galleries; and the Diana Wortham Theater.

A city full of history, culture, heritage and life is waiting for you in Asheville, North Carolina. Come discover the outdoor beauty, the southern hospitality and all the

entertainment, good food, recreation and fun you could want.

©

Hotel Insights

If the beauty of the mountains was not enough to make you simply sleep under the stars, do not worry—there are lots of different places to stay in the Asheville area. If you like it fancy, we have that. Want a more rustic, laid back approach? Oh yes, we have that too. Quaint, luxurious, comfy and kid-friendly are just a few adjectives to describe accommodations available to folks coming to this city that sits in a valley surrounded by majestic mountains.

Downtown Asheville

If you want to be able walk to fine restaurants for dinner, shop or take part of Asheville's ever-growing nightlife, perhaps staying right smack downtown is perfect. The Haywood Park Hotel, and its historic grandeur will place you in the heart of Asheville. The Renaissance Asheville Hotel, a more modern 12-story hotel near downtown also caters to those looking to be in the city for their visit. Want an awesome view of the city? Stay at The Hill House Bed and Breakfast Inn located just a few minutes from downtown. Sit back and enjoy the view with other guests from the large rocking chair porch.

West Asheville

Just over the Smokey Park Bridge lies West Asheville. Minutes from downtown, this area offers many places to hang your hat as well. The Holiday Inn Great Smokies Sun Spree Resort offers up plenty of outdoor recreation with an 18-hole golf course, four clay tennis courts, and let us not forget the two nice-sized pools. If you are looking for a more charming, away-from-it-all type place, venture no further than The Richmond Hill Inn. Perched on the hill above the west side of the French Broad River, this Inn caters to those that demand the very best. Private baths and air conditioning, an award winning restaurant and gardens to stroll beckon you to this grand 1889 Victorian.

North of Asheville

Small town appeal is what Weaverville has to offer its guests. Like a village of the past, this quaint town is big on hospitality. Weaverville is only 10 minutes from Asheville, so visitors are still close to area attractions. The Dry Ridge Inn offers several packages, including the "Romantic Getaway" package and the Golf package. The Inn on Main Street, a large Victorian built in 1900 is a lovely place to stay, picnic lunches can be made for guests by request. The Secret Garden Bed& Breakfast, an elegant 1904 home, sitting on right Main Street is an oasis hidden from the bustle of the busy thoroughfare outside its walls. Guests can enjoy hors d'oeuvres on the sundeck and veranda, while bird watching.

East of Asheville

Another small community with BIG appeal is the Town of Black Mountain. Staying in this area gives the antique and craft lover an area full of treasure to explore. Enjoy your visit even more by staying at The Red Rocker Inn, famous for its huge, down-home southern-style meals. These home-cooked dinners will fill that growling stomach after a day of sightseeing. If you really want to get away from it all, escape to The BodhiTree Guest House. Handmade quilts will cover you with comfy warmth and fresh mountain air will cover your senses.

South Asheville

The Inn on Biltmore Estate is a brand-new hotel, just opened in March of this year. This \$31 million 213-room inn offers a library and plenty of spectacular views for its guests to enjoy. This new accommodation provides folks with many of activities from which to choose, including biking, horseback riding, hiking, swimming in the outdoor pool, lounging in the hot tub and working out in the fitness room. The rooms are decorated with English and French manor house flair, but have many modern amenities such as WebTV and data ports. The area around the Biltmore House also gives visitors a variety of hotel choices like The Quality Inn at Biltmore and The Baymont.

Cabins and Camping

Asheville Snapshot continued

Do you want to take a more rustic approach to where you stay? How about a log cabin? The The Log Cabin Motor Court might be your cup of tea. Built in 1930, it could well be the longest continually run place of its kind in all of Western North Carolina. Scenic sites along the French Broad River in which to pitch your tent are available in Hot Springs. There are also primitive campsites, full hook ups for RVs and cabins here as well.

More wonderful campsites are available in the Pisgah National Forest. This 500,000-acre forest offers up rockslides, swimming holes, fishing and picnic areas. Pitch your tent, and have fun. Cherokee Indian Reservation is a 56, 000 acre reservation with camping and RV accommodations.

With over 31 bed and breakfasts, more than 20 hotels, several inns, and many, many camp and cabin facilities, Asheville hollers loudly to those looking for peace and quiet, natural beauty and mountain town fun and recreation. Whether you need all the luxuries a fine hotel can offer, or a place to sleep under the stars, this city welcomes you with open arms.

©

Restaurants Insights

Asheville has become such a melting pot for people of all ethnic backgrounds. With all these different cultures, as well as, the mountain folk of long ago—the food available is quite eclectic. Never dull, and always something new to find, Asheville gives visitors a chance to savor good food that is diverse and delicious.

Al fresco Dining

Seasonal weather allows for a lot of dining al fresco. Bistro 1896, The Noodle Shop and La Caterina are also located downtown and offer outside seating.

Hannah Flanagan's Irish Pub& Restaurant located south on Biltmore Avenue features live music throughout the week in the spring and summer on their outdoor stage. Enjoy your delicious Irish style meal on the large porch with seating area while listening

to the music. Want to eat somewhere unique? How about the Double Decker Coffee Company? Enjoy gourmet coffee and pastry from this “real” double decker bus establishment. Across the street, Blue Moon Bakery& Cafe has outdoor tables to savor something from their menu of coffees, pastries and sandwiches.

Magnolia's Raw Bar& Grille has a very unique covered patio. It has the openness of a regular patio, yet it is covered enough to shield diners from heat and rain.

Several other area restaurants and eateries offer outside dining for its patrons. Whichever place you choose, Asheville, with its mild year round temperatures, certainly has the weather in which to enjoy your meal inside or out.

Upscale Dining

Looking for elegant, upscale places to dine? Perhaps Page 23 will fit the bill. Located inside the Haywood Park Hotel on the lower level, this is truly a fine dining experience of continental cuisine. Deerpark Restaurant at Biltmore Estate is also a very nice restaurant to dine at with its open-air feel. Sunset Terrace at Grove Park Inn wraps you in the beauty of the mountains and all the elegance for which the Grove Park Inn Resort and Spa is famous. Gabrielle's at Richmond Hill Inn is an award-winning restaurant that surrounds its guests with Victorian elegance and ambience. The uniquely-named Flying Frog Cafe offers a truly unique, exquisite dining experience. The menu features Indian and other European specialties. Another restaurant that features European fare is The Windmill European Grill, one of Asheville's favorite places to dine. The Market Place has an ever-changing menu—but it is always something delicious made with the finest ingredients available. They have a large selection of award winning wines to accompany your meal.

Pubs/Brew Pubs

Looking for good food and a variety of good brews? The Bier Garden has over 200 premier beers to choose from and a delicious American/Continental menu.

Celtic influences are apparent at Jack of the Wood. This downtown pub offers a huge list of beer and spirits all handcrafted. Wine is available too. Popular with the college crowd, Asheville Pizza& Brewing Co. serves up a delicious pizza and subs with ice-cold beer. Barley's Taproom& Pizzeria is another pizza staple here in the city. Live music can be heard as well covering all types of music genres. Looking for something different? Try Perks At Night for some wine, cheese or scrumptious desserts. This is a great place to hit after dinner or a movie.

Vegetarian

The Laughing Seed Cafe has long been a favorite with area vegetarians and meat lovers alike. Its menu features organic ingredients and fresh produce. Cafe Max& Rosie's is another vegetarian delight. Excellent veggie burgers can be found here, and they can be washed down with something from the juice bar. Earth Fare is no longer just a place to purchase health foods or organic produce; it now has a buffet bar for lunch or dinner that is certainly stocked with an array of healthy choices.

Pizza and Such

For more casual dining, try the Mellow Mushroom for out of this world oven fare. Their pizza crust and calzones are made with a secret recipe that includes fresh spring water. Outside seating is available on the patio in spring and summer. My Father's Pizza is another place to enjoy truly magnificent pizza. Always packed, this pizzeria has a menu that includes a vegetarian pizza with artichoke hearts and asparagus as two of its yummy toppings. There is also a patio for outside dining in the warmer months.

Whatever the food or drink of your choice, you will find something that pleases here in Asheville. Approach your dining experience like an adventure. You will not be disappointed in any that you choose.

©

Asheville Snapshot continued

Nightlife Insights

It does not matter if you are the outdoors type, the artsy type or somewhere in between, Asheville has something for everyone. With the beauty of the mountains surrounding this city, it will not matter what your plans for the day are, you will find much to do, and a beautiful city to do it in. Hospitality from the heart greets you everywhere you go; expect adventure and the discovery of things new and wonderful. Grab your camera, your kayak, your hiking boots, your shopping bag, your imagination and your zest for life. This city is alive with treasure and mountain fun.

Stuff for Kids

Take in an all-American past time by catching an Asheville Tourists Minor League Baseball Team baseball game. These games are played at the historic McCormick Field April through September. Take the kids mining at Emerald Village. They will love gem mining and taking the underground historic tour. Ghost Town in the Sky is sure to entertain the little ones with rides, gunfights and even bank robberies in an authentic, replicated old west town. If it is sweltering outside, take the kids inside! Inside the caves of Linville Cavern that is! A constant 52 degrees and filled with geological wonders, this will provide intrigue for young and old alike. Be sure to hold your little one tight when they shut off all the lights on your underground tour.

Water Fun

So many diverse water amusements await visitors in this area. The relaxing natural hot mineral springs in Hot Springs are a must for those looking for a way to soak their troubles away and feel rejuvenated. Looking for something more rambunctious? Try some white water rafting. There are several outdoor fitters in the area to set you up. The Nantahala Inn and The French Broad Rafting Company are just two of the many places that can get your rafting or kayaking adventures underway. There are many natural sliding rocks and waterfalls in the area, as well.

Festivals

Bele Chere has got to be one of the biggest draws to the Asheville area. Every July, this festival brings in people from all over the United States and beyond. Last year alone, brought 365,000 visitors to this 3-day event held in the heart of Asheville. Nine downtown stages fill the days and nights of the festival with several genres of music making up over 100 acts. Once you take part in this festival you will understand why it is one of the largest, most successful free outdoor events in the Southeast. Goombay Festival is held in August and is a multi-cultural event that covers the Afro-Caribbean traditions of crafts, food, music and dance. The Bluff Mountain Music Festival is held north of Asheville in Madison County, and is a great festival for music lovers.

Nightlife

Looking for good live music, maybe a cool drink and some scrumptious grub? You will find that sort of fun in the many nightspots in downtown Asheville. Be Here Now located in the center of downtown hosts live music acts covering jazz, rock, funk and more. Play a game of pool and listen to the live music offered at Stella Blue. Alternative rock lovers and pop music are just two of the types of music that can be heard here. Like your music in the form of jazz? Pop into Tressa's Downtown Jazz & Blues Club. This is THE jazz club in Asheville. Maybe you would like to kick your feet up and do a little dancing? Cinjades in the downtown area has a big dance floor and a full service bar. A favorite dance club of the college crowd is Scandals. A live Disk Jockey, a café and 3 different bars make this a fun and happening hang out. Club Hairspray is another dance club with a live Disk Jockey, 2 bars and a café. It has an exotic feel and serves exotic drinks. Sharkey's in West Asheville has delicious bistro type food, great beer and billiards. They also feature karaoke and have foosball tables available. An outdoor courtyard, coffeehouse with unique flair with a variety of music is to be had at Vincent's Ear, another local favorite.

Hiking, Horseback Riding, and Drives

You cannot come to the mountains here in Asheville without touring the Blue Ridge Parkway. A host of Mother Nature's beauty and wild life await you. Take a drive and breath in the fresh mountain air to rejuvenate your soul. Do not forget your camera for amazing mountain view memories. The Appalachian Trail is a great hiking experience. World famous and tracking through several towns, this is a hiking adventure for the true outdoor type. If you love horses and beautiful scenery, then check out Appalachian Riding Outfitters. They have everything you need to saddle up and take in the beauty of Nantahala Forest.

It is hard to mention all this area holds for those that come to visit. Truly an outdoor wonder of lush mountain greenery and outside splendor you will not forget your visit for years to come. Come to the mountains and enjoy all that you can. Like many folks that have already visited, you might decide to come back, and stay for good!

©

Things to Do Insights

Everyone loves to check out a tour of some kind when they are on vacation. Whether it is historical, geological, aquatic, nature or anything else, tours can offer a wonderful look into slices of life or give one a different perspective into other lives and times. Asheville certainly has its share of spectacular tours to amaze and wow the whole family.

Biltmore Estate

Probably the most popular tour is the Biltmore Estate. This grand castle-like home on over 8,000 acres welcomes 850,000 guests each year. People come back many times to take in all the beauty and splendor of the house, gardens and the winery. The gardens are home to 80 or more varieties of roses and 50,000 tulips. There are gift shops, Deerpark Restaurant, Stable Cafe at Biltmore and the Bistro for dining. The Inn on the Biltmore Estate is brand new, and spectacular. Costing \$31

Asheville Snapshot continued

million, they specialize in luxury, elegance and the pampering of guests. There are several tours that you can take at the estate—the Butler's Tour, the Technologies Tour, the Rooftop Tour and the Overview Tour—all are highly recommended. The Annual Festival of Flowers is a colossal abundance of blossoms that should not be missed in the spring. In addition, unguided tours of The Farmer's Market or Biltmore Village are nice ways to spend an afternoon. The Farmer's Market is a bevy of local produce, crafts and baked goods. The Biltmore Village is a quaint area outside the Biltmore Estate that is home to over 100 individual shops of all types. More than 50% of these businesses are handicapped accessible.

Linville Cavern

Linville Cavern offers a great look into geological wonders of caves and underground springs. Set your eyes on some of the stalagmites and stalactites of this cavern and you will be fascinated. Trout that ventured in, but were unable to find their way out are now blind from the lack of sunlight, or light of any kind. Hold on tight to someone's hand when they shut off all the lights in the cavern while you are on tour; you will experience pitch-black darkness like you have never known surrounds you.

Thomas Wolfe Memorial

Looking for a taste of history? Thomas Wolfe Memorial gives you insight into the famous North Carolinian author's childhood and life. Though the house, which was Thomas Wolfe's boyhood home, was damaged by arson in 1998, workers are currently renovating it back to its original state. The visitor's center is open. Another author's home is open for tour as well—Connemara, the home of Carl Sandburg. Famous for his poetry and biographies, his 263-acre home is open for guided tours. Come see this lovely old farmhouse and the award-winning goats his wife raised on the grounds. Smith-McDowell House Museum is an old Victorian home built around 1840. Considered the oldest brick residence of Asheville, this home is worth a visit.

Park Place

Park Place in the heart of Asheville is a one-stop complex that house three great museums worth checking out. The first, The Asheville Art Museum holds various changing exhibits throughout the year and can be a nice way for the art enthusiast to spend an afternoon. The Colburn Gem and Mineral Museum gives you an inside look at the mining of gems and the treasures that can be found in the ground. Adults and children alike will be able to take a gander at gems and minerals from all over the world. The Health Adventure is one that kids will truly enjoy. Kids love coming to this museum full of educational and fun programs. Throughout the year, kids of all ages can cure the doldrums, spark their imaginations and invoke their sense of curiosity. They will also enjoy the guided hikes at the Cradle of Forestry. This fun packed day in Mother Nature's back yard is filled with scavenger hunts and nature games. Located in the Pisgah National Forest, the Cradle of Forestry is a beautiful, fresh-air environment for kids to be kids.

The Western North Carolina Nature Center

There are several other unguided tours worth taking as well. The Western North Carolina Nature Center is home to several native creatures in their natural habitat. Stroll through and observe the animals and their homes. There is also a petting area with goats and other friendly creatures. Riverside Cemetery is the resting place for Thomas Wolfe and O. Henry. The Southern Highland Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 382 is a stop you will want to make while cruising your unguided tour of the parkway. This center has craft demonstrations and craft exhibits, and also features museum art/craft galleries.

You do not have to wander far in the city or from the city of Asheville to enjoy a wonderful tour. It does not matter what your interests are, this town caters to many with its diverse history and culture. Always growing and evolving, yet holding tight to its mountain roots, Asheville will long be a place for visitors to build memories.

Haunted Asheville

Asheville Ghost Tours(+1 888 667 3600/<http://www.ashevillerolleytours.com/indexlarge.html>)

Historic Trolley Tours

Asheville Historic Trolley Tours(+1 888 667 3600/<http://www.ashevillerolleytours.com/indexlarge.html>)

Tour Downtown

Asheville Tours(+1 800 713 7421/<http://www.ashevilletours.net/tours/tourType.cfm?ttid2=2351>)

Bus Tours

Greyhound and Trailways(+1 828 253 5353/<http://www.exploreasheville.com/local-info/getting-around/index.aspx>)

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Travel Tips

Getting There:

By Air: Asheville Regional Airport(+1 828 684 6768/ <http://http://www.flyavl.com/index.php>) offers transportation to destinations and connections throughout America. Its terminal houses the following airlines:

Continental(+1 800 525 0280/ <http://www.continental.com>)

Delta(+1 800 221 1212/ <http://www.delta.com>)

Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/ <http://www.nwa.com>)

United(+1 800 241 6522/ <http://www.ual.com>)

US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/ <http://www.usairways.com>)

There are no onsite taxi or public transportation services available at the Asheville Regional Airport. For information about van, limousine, and sedan services contact Airport Ground Transportation(+1 888 288 9915/ <http://www.ashevillelimousine.com>)

Rental Car companies include:

Asheville Snapshot continued

Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/ <http://www.alamo.com>)

Avis(+1 800 831 2847/ <http://www.avis.com>)

Budget(+1 800 527 0700/ <http://www.budget.com>)

Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/ <http://www.hertz.com>)

By Train:

There are no train services offering transportation to Asheville.

By Bus:

Asheville is serviced by Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/ <http://www.greyhound.com>) and Trailways bus lines that provide transportation to destinations throughout America.

By Car:

Asheville can be easily accessed by I-26, I-40 and I-240; and U.S. 19/23, 25, 25A, 70, and 74.

Getting Around:

Asheville is serviced by a local bus system, which provides transportation to points of interest in and around the city. For information on routes, visit their website at <http://www.asheville.nc.us/transit.htm>

For a fun alternative means of transportation, you can also take one of Asheville's Historic Trolley Tours(+1 888 667 3600). Tours feature local highlights such as the Thomas Wolfe Memorial and the downtown shopping district.

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at <https://www.travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out <http://travel.state.gov/>.

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Fun Facts

Asheville State: North Carolina **Country:** United States

Asheville by the Numbers:

Population: over 70,000 Average Winter Temperature: 42 °F/ 6 °C Average Summer Temperature: 74 °F/ 23 °C Most Precipitation: 50 in/ 1270 mm Average Snowfall: 14 in/ 356 mm Elevation: 2200 ft/ 670 m Number of Parks: 54

Quick Facts:

Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two pin plugs Time Zone: GMT-5 Country Dialing Code: 1 Area Code: 828

Did You Know?

Asheville is home to the world's largest private home, the Biltmore Estate. A relic of southern charm, this less than modest domicile has over 250 rooms.

Some of America's favorite authors spent some time in Asheville, including Thomas Wolfe, O. Henry, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

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