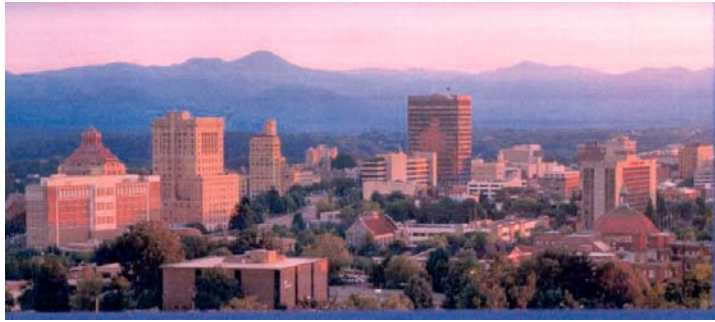


ASHEVILLE, NC



ABOUT THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Asheville, NC, is located on a high plateau nestled between the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains and between the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, giving it breathtaking views from all directions. Asheville has a population of approximately 72,000 making it the largest city in Western North Carolina. Asheville's natural and architectural beauty, moderate climate, strong job market, and outstanding educational and health care facilities make it one of the most attractive locations in the U.S. Asheville is consistently ranked high among the best places to live, work and retire. The mountain resort town is filled with many attractions you won't want to miss.

ATTRACTIONS

Biltmore Estate:

Number one on the list of attractions in Asheville is the Biltmore Estate. This 8,000 acre estate features America's largest residence, Biltmore House, a 255-room French Renaissance chateau built in 1895 by George Vanderbilt. A visit to Biltmore House with its original collection of 50,000 artworks, furnishings and antiques includes living areas, bedrooms, recreation areas, kitchens, and servant's quarters. Enjoy Biltmore's gardens and award-winning wines at the Winery or the estate's three restaurants.



Biltmore Village:

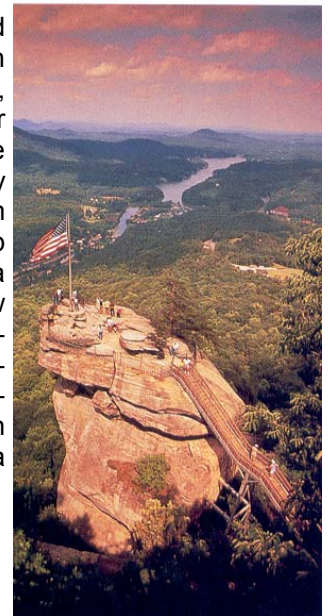
Adjacent to the Biltmore Estate entrance is Biltmore Village. The village consists of restored English style houses that now contain intriguing shops and galleries. George W. Vanderbilt intended this turn-of-the-century construction as a model village.



George W. Vanderbilt intended this turn-of-the-century construction as a model village.

Chimney Rock Park:

This park is located southeast of Asheville, high above Hickory Nut Gorge, and has a 26-story elevator ride through solid granite that takes you to the Sky Lounge, just minutes from Chimney Rock. From atop Chimney Rock you have a breath-taking 75 mile view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The park encompasses 1000 acres, including Hickory Nut Falls, which cascades 404 feet down a steep granite cliff.



Asheville Urban Trail:

Downtown Asheville features outstanding collections of early twentieth century architecture, including structures of national significance. The Asheville Urban Trail is a history and art museum without walls, a walk through time, an opportunity to see the rich architec-

ASHEVILLE, NC

ture, to enjoy neighborhoods and learn about the people and events that have given Asheville its distinctive flair. Walking the Urban Trail you will learn intriguing stories about the city's past while exploring the wealth of shops, restaurants, galleries and lively public squares. The entire trail is 1.7 miles long and takes approximately two hours to walk. There are now thirty "stations" (sculptures and plaques) that define the Urban Trail.

Thomas Wolfe Memorial is located downtown. The famous novelist's boyhood home is the Dixieland boarding house depicted in the novel Look Homeward Angel.



Blue Ridge Parkway:



The scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, with its headquarters in Asheville, winds 470 miles along the highest ridges from the Shenandoah to the Great Smoky Mountains

National Park. It offers spectacular views heading north or south from Asheville.

Folk Art Center:

On the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 382 is the Folk Art Center. Museum galleries, craft exhibits, demonstrations, and renowned craft shops are housed in the center. This is the most popular spot along the parkway. The center houses much history of Southern Appalachian craftsmanship. There are 3 galleries with changing exhibits, a craft shop, a library and an auditorium. Several thousands of pieces from the Southern Art Guild's turn of the 20th century permanent craft collection can be seen at certain times throughout the year.



Pisgah View Ranch:

Enjoy a down-home country meal at the Pisgah View Ranch. Served family style, you can fill up on fried chicken, country ham, and all the trimmings and then move on to the auditorium for after dinner entertainment. Several gift shops feature handmade quilts, dulcimers, zithers, and other mountain crafts.



Stroll around the grounds of the ranch and take advantage of the beautiful autumn foliage and weather that graces this part of the country. This is a real crowd pleaser-something different than the usual hotel or restaurant dinner.

Grove Park Inn:

While in Asheville you must take a peek at the fabulous Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa. It is one of the South's most venerable and famous grand resorts. Built in 1913 from granite stones mined from Sunset Mountain, the resort overlooks the Asheville, NC skyline and provides guests with majestic views of the legendary Blue Ridge Mountains. It's worth a walk-through visit while you're in Asheville, just to see the building's architecture, furnishings and artwork.



Other Interesting Architectural Sites



Downtown's Courthouse



Art deco building