



Free Spirit | Cultural Cool | Beautiful Blue Ridge

Layers of lush mountains that abound with adventure; profound cultural roots from literary giants to American royalty; and inspired locals whose passion projects jump from pop-up kitchens to performance art. Asheville, N.C., has been a point of pilgrimage since the 1800s as a destination for inspiration, rejuvenation and self-expression. It doesn't take long to see why George W. Vanderbilt chose this Blue Ridge city for his greatest legacy, Biltmore.

Foodie Hotels, News from The Block + a Retro Resort for the Original Tiny House

► **JUST OPENED:** The **Cambria Downtown Asheville** brings Havana to the Blue Ridge with **Hemingway's Cuba** restaurant and bar. The hotel and its rooftop restaurant offer views of the historic Grove Arcade, Cuban cocktails, croquettes and ropa vieja. ► **COMING 2018:** Asheville's famed Art Deco skyline will get a new icon and a four-star luxury property when **Hotel Arras** opens. In addition to a completely new Art Deco facade for Asheville's tallest building, the 128-room hotel will offer an extensive food focus with two restaurants by local chef Peter Pollay. The first restaurant **Bargello** will be Mediterranean-inspired. ► **NEW:** Pollay also consulted on the menu at **Capella on 9**, rooftop restaurant and bar at Asheville's new **AC Hotel**. ► **COMING 2018:** The **Asheville Foundry Inn**, part of Hilton's upper upscale Curio Collection, will preserve and reimagine three historic buildings on The Block, Asheville's historical business district for the African-American community. ► **Retro Resort:** Colorfully restored 1950s campers are available at the new **June Buge Retro Resort**, a 50-acre property that transports visitors back in time to when folks vacationed in the original tiny houses.



Two New Biltmore Exhibitions for 2018: Titanic + Chihuly

Set for February 9 through May 13, 2018, Biltmore's newest exhibition "**Glamour on Board: Fashion from 'Titanic' the Movie**" marks the first large-scale display of fashions from the Oscar-winning film. In addition to 45 costumes showcasing the elaborate wardrobes of early-1900s transatlantic voyagers, details of the Vanderbilts' extensive travels will be revealed - including George Vanderbilt's courtship of Edith Stuyvesant Dresser while at sea on a similar "floating palace." "**Chihuly at Biltmore**" brings breathtaking glass sculptures to the historic gardens May 17 - October 7, 2018. "**Chihuly Nights at Biltmore**" will showcase Dale Chihuly's glass sculptures with dramatic lighting.

Cozy Capital of America

Often ranked among the coziest cities in America, Asheville's (mostly mild) winter weather means a vibrant walkable downtown, picture-perfect long-range views of snowy peaks, romantic restaurants and bars and hiking trails all to yourself.

► Check out Asheville's **scenic fireplaces** at rooftop restaurants and bars Capella on 9 and Hemingway's Cuba or other hot spots like the Omni Grove Park Inn, Pillar Bar and Wicked Weed. ► A vet in Asheville's craft cocktail scene has opened **Little Jumbo**, serving cozy with class at the edge of the historic Montford neighborhood. Check out the date-worthy Jumbo Service, an interactive cocktail experience for two. ► French restaurant Bouchon just opened **L'Ecluse**, a comfy, romantic hideaway with a sommelier on staff to help you pick the perfect beverage.

Art Scene News: Asheville's Summer of Glass + New Insider Tours

► **Summer of Glass:** In conjunction with the Chihuly exhibition at Biltmore, Asheville glass artists and studios are celebrating the historical and contemporary context of glass and its talented artists with tours and demonstrations May through October.

► **Craft City Food & Art Tours:** Asheville's Center for Craft, Creativity & Design joins local food experts for a walking tour that features tastings, exhibits and demos from Asheville's unique makers and crafters. ► The new **Painting with Beer Tour** from Asheville Art Studio Tours explores art studios and ends with a beer painting lesson at a local brewery.



Beer Boom, New Branding for Asheville's Oldest Brewery + Cider in the South Slope

Beer is big in Asheville and only continues to grow. With 30 breweries in the city and 38 in Buncombe County, Asheville has the most breweries per capita in the country. ► **COMING SOON: Burial Beer Co.** will open its second location in a 1920s New Deal building that once housed the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps, builders of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The rest of the buildings and 1.4-acre property will be transformed into a two-story taproom and lounge, restaurant, urban gardens and an outdoor event venue preserving elements of the site's legacy. ► **New at Asheville's Oldest Brewery: Highland Brewing Company** is rebranding under second-generation leadership. Updates include packaging, a fresh tasting room and programming that occurs at the brewery's rooftop bar and meadow. ► **COMING SOON:** West Asheville's **Urban Orchard Cider Co.** has announced plans to expand to a second location in Asheville's South Slope beer district. The company has created more than 80 styles of cider since it opened four years ago.



Adventure Gateway: Forest Bathing, Unique Ways to Ride the River + New Trails

► **NEW:** Land & Lore Ecotours offers **private natural history tour** options, including hikes to waterfalls and other unique spots while local guides discuss wildlife, plants and the rich Appalachian history. ► **NEW: Ascend Adventure Wellness** combines hiking and outdoor spa treatments for the **ultimate forest bathing experience.** ► Wai Mauna has added a **six-person paddleboard and whitewater SUP lessons and tours.** ► **Bellyak** on the French Broad River - invented in Asheville, this watersport takes place on a face-first kayak that you ride on your belly. ► The **popular skyline trail that leads to the top of 404-foot Hickory Nut Falls** at Chimney Rock has reopened after being closed almost 10 years. The final fight scene in the 1992 film "The Last

of the Mohicans" was filmed here. ► **Bearwallow Mountain Trail**, a Hickory Nut Gorge-area trail known for its Instagram-worthy views, grazing cows and spring wildflowers and expanded to include a 100-foot waterfall and towering cliffs thanks to a conservation easement.



► **Food Scene. FAST:**

250+ independent restaurants; **6** James Beard-nominated chefs; **30+** breweries; **14** farmers markets; **1** spice factory (coming soon); **1** vegan butcher; **1,000+** family farms; **1** wild-foods market, the first in the nation; **1** butcher bar (coming soon); **3** craft hard cideries using local apples; the **fifth** micro sake brewery in the nation; **1** rum distillery (the only one in Western N.C.); **1** kombucha bar, all local; **1** honey bar/boutique; **1** underground supper club with wild themes and secret locations; **2** insanely creative donut shops; **2** locations to get bean-to-bar local chocolate (a third coming soon!); **1** mushroom man tour guide; and the **first** woman to legally distill moonshine.

NEW BITES/SIPS: ► **West Asheville** has an **exploding food scene** with new restaurants **BimBeribon** (global bites and superfood-enhanced fare), **Foothills Butcher Bar & Kitchen** (cleavors as decor) and **Gan Shan West** (Chef Patrick O'Cain brings dumpling and noodle counter service to food hot spot Beacham's Curve).

MORE FOOD NEWS: ► **Sunshine Sammies**, an ice-cream-sandwich food truck, opens a storefront downtown. ► **Looking Glass Creamery** is now offering cheese classes and a newly expanded tasting room. ► James Beard-nominated chef Meherwan Irani is opening **Spicewalla spice factory.** ► Asheville's Art Deco gem the S&W Cafeteria has reopened as **S&W Artisanal**, a multi-venue food hall. ► **White Labs Kitchen & Tap** serves woodfired pizzas made with White Labs' pure liquid yeast and other fermented beer-infused dishes and desserts.

More at ExploreAsheville.com/Foodtopia.