



spring

NEW! Designed for Drama: Fashion From the Classics

February 10-July 4 – Biltmore Estate

Following up on their “Downton Abbey” and “Wedding Gowns in Film” exhibits, Biltmore is continuing the fashion theme, this time with a literary twist. Featured will be more than 40 award-winning costumes from movie versions of some of George Vanderbilt’s favorite stories, inspired by his 22,000-volume library. Original books from his collection will be displayed alongside the cinematic fashions.

NEW! N.C. Small Batch Festival

March 4 – Hi-Wire Big Top Production Facility & Taproom

This inaugural event, hosted by Hi-Wire Brewing, will feature more than 20 N.C. craft breweries that have brewed a small, one-off batch that can not be found in the market. No styles are off-limits! Hi-Wire will also release two wild ales during the event.

Biltmore Blooms

March 20-May 25 – Biltmore Estate

Welcome spring with thousands of tulips and acres of azaleas, and rooms full of orchids at Biltmore. Join in for an event celebrating the beauty of G.W. Vanderbilt’s 8,000-acre estate, including gardens and landscapes designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, father of American landscape architecture.



Carolina Mountain Cheese Fest

April 23 – Highland Brewing Co.

This is no ordinary festival. With many stops along the WNC Cheese Trail in the area, it was only a matter of time before Asheville said CHEESE! Events include workshops, family-fun activities, competitions and more.

Asheville Cocktail Week

May 1-7 – Various locations

This celebration of libation creation hits on the art of mixology and craft spirits, combining the best talent and trends in the industry. One week, 12 venues, 26 events, 30 mixologists and 40 distilleries!

Asheville Herb Festival

May 5-7 – WNC Farmers Market

In its 28th year, this event highlights herbalists and herb businesses in N.C. – herb growers and vendors, gardening and landscaping specialists and makers of herbal balms, soaps, teas, medicines and other products. Join more than 25,000 other herb lovers at this year’s festival!



Asheville Bread Festival

May 6-7 – A-B Tech Campus

The first of its kind, this festival celebrates local farmers, millers and bakers. The Asheville area is the perfect place for bread enthusiasts and professionals to bake together, share ideas and network as the region supports more artisan bakeries than most states.

River Arts District Studio Stroll

May 20-21 – River Arts District

Come visit more than 180 world-class artists and working studios during this semi-annual event. Painters, potters, sculptors, weavers, photographers, jewelers, woodworkers, great food and more...all in revitalized old factories and warehouses along the French Broad River.

Asheville Beer Week

May 26-June 3 – Various locations

The four-time winner of the “Beer City USA” title sets aside an entire week each year just to celebrate craft brews. Events will include pub crawls, beer dinners, tastings and more. The Beer City Festival helps kick things off on May 27.

Centennial Anniversary of Biltmore Industries at Grovewood Village

June 17 – Grovewood Village

Discover and celebrate the history behind six English-style cottages with ties to the region’s craft legacy that housed Biltmore Industries, started by the Vanderbilts as a craft school.



summer

51st-Annual Shindig on the Green

Kicks off July 1 – Pack Square Park

The region's rich mountain heritage is showcased through its traditional musicians and dancers with stage shows and numerous informal jam sessions. Dates also in August and September.

Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands

July 21-23 – U.S. Cellular Center

The Cellular Center comes alive with fine traditional and contemporary crafts made by members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the nation. The fair also features craft demonstrations, regional music and entertainment.

90th-Annual Mountain Dance & Folk Festival

August 3-5 – A-B Tech Campus

Join in the celebration and discover the nation's longest-running folk festival. Founded by Bascom Lamar Lunsford in 1928, the festival showcases a repertoire of mountain performers who share songs and dances echoing centuries of Scottish, English,

Irish, Cherokee and African heritage.

40th-Annual Sourwood Festival

August 12-13 – Downtown Black Mountain

Enjoy the charm of historic Black Mountain among 200 vendors of arts, crafts, specialty items and food. There will be bee demos, music and dancing, as well as the annual "Sourwood Idol" singing contest.

Asheville Wine & Food Festival

August 19-20 – Downtown Asheville

The festival is a budding showcase for the area's local food and field-to-table culture, allowing attendees a chance to taste their way through the wine, craft beer, artisanal food products and independent restaurant scene.



fall & holiday

Brewgrass

September – Memorial Stadium

This annual beer festival combines over 50 breweries, 120 different beers, a lineup of national and regional bluegrass musicians and a beautiful mountain setting. Sample unique craft brews, many of them native to Beer City USA.

Christmas at Biltmore

November 3-January 7 – Biltmore Estate

Enjoy America's largest home decorated with dozens of Christmas trees, hundreds of wreaths, bows and poinsettias, miles of evergreen garland and thousands of ornaments.

National Gingerbread House Competition & Display

November 26-January 4 – Omni Grove Park Inn

Contestants from across the country will bring their culinary masterpieces to the Grove Park Inn this holiday season. Delight in the imagination shown in these sugar-and-spice creations; strolling through the competition display is a sure way to be swept up in the holiday spirit.



Winter Lights at the North Carolina Arboretum

November 17-December 31 – N.C. Arboretum

Winter Lights transforms the Arboretum's cultivated gardens into a nighttime wonderland. Walk through spectacular lighted and animated displays, designed to complement the natural landscape of the gardens.



Santa on the Chimney

December 2 & 9 – Chimney Rock

Ever wonder how Santa manages to climb down millions of chimneys in just one night? With lots of practice, naturally. Witness his daring stunt as he tries his hand at one of the world's largest chimneys with multiple 200-foot rappels!

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