



## Colorful Spirit | Autumn Adventures | Mountain Views

Surrounded by the highest peaks in the East, Asheville is steeped in natural history, fall adventure and cultural legacies – including America’s Largest Home, Biltmore. Significant variances in altitude among mountain ridges, slopes and valleys, as well as a large variety of deciduous tree species, give the Blue Ridge Mountains one of the longest and most vibrant leaf seasons *in the world*, regularly placing the area among the top fall-travel destinations, period.

### Downtown Hotels Offer Prime Leaf-Peeping Spots

**JUST OPENED:** The **AC Hotel Asheville Downtown** (a boutique brand by Marriott) is home to Capella on 9, a new rooftop restaurant and bar with 360-degree views of mountains and city landmarks. ► The **Cambria Downtown Asheville**, set next to the historic Grove Arcade, opens later this fall. ► Also check out **Pillar Bar** at **Hilton Garden Inn Asheville Downtown** and **Montford Rooftop Bar** at the **Hyatt Place Asheville Downtown**.

### Craft Brew With a View

With 29 breweries in the city and 35 in Buncombe County, Asheville has the most breweries per capita in the country. Check out the scenery while sipping your beer of choice at **Highland Brewing Company’s** rooftop patio, along the French Broad River at **New Belgium’s** “Liquid Center,” or at the top-floor tasting room of **Green Man Brewery’s** “Greenmansion” in the South Slope. **NEW:** Breweries have also been popping up in the scenic countryside around Asheville: **Turgua Brewing Company**, a small farmhouse brewery set on a 5-acre farm in Fairview and using locally sourced fruits and root vegetables, and **Whistle Hop**, with its antique train-caboose taproom, disc-golf course and sweeping mountain sights.

### NEW Ways to Get Outside

Asheville has plenty of guided outdoor activities that provide the perfect opportunity to experience the extended color. Try **Land & Lore Ecotours** with private natural-history-tour options and hikes to waterfalls near Asheville; combine hiking and outdoor spa treatments for the ultimate forest-bathing experience with **Ascend Adventure Wellness**; get to know the faces and the places of the local farming community with **Asheville Farm-to-Table Tours**, now offering three-hour mini tours; or hop on the six-person party paddleboard from **Wai Mauna Asheville SUP Tours** (season open until October 31) on the world’s third-oldest river, the French Broad.



### Asheville Fall Favorites

Float at sunrise for unparalleled views over the beautiful backdrop of Pisgah National Forest with **Asheville Hot Air Balloons**; seek out the best of nature’s bounty on a foraging tour with **No Taste Like Home**; take in the stunning vantage from **Biltmore’s Rooftop Tour** of the estate and beyond; race from peak to peak on tandem-style ziplines (like a rollercoaster through the color!) with **Navitat Canopy Adventures’** ultimate thrill ride, the **Blue Ridge Experience**; cruise along “America’s Favorite Drive,” the **Blue Ridge Parkway**; or kick back and spend some time on **The Omni Grove Park Inn’s Sunset Terrace** for its dramatic vistas.

### Fall Facts, FAST!

Asheville is fortunate to have one of the most vivid displays of autumn foliage in the world. Here’s why:

- **Extreme Elevations** | Ranging from 1,500 feet in the valleys to 6,684 feet at Mount Mitchell (the highest peak east of the Mississippi River), the color show descends the mountains.
- **Unmatched Biodiversity** | There are more than 100 species of deciduous (leaf-shedding) trees in the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- This results in an **unusually long leaf season**, starting late September in the higher elevations and extending through early November in the lower regions.
- **For more:** [www.exploreasheville.com/science-behind-fall-color](http://www.exploreasheville.com/science-behind-fall-color).



### Harvest Season: Fall Flavors & Food News

Asheville’s creative culinary community, Foodtopia, showcases the harvest season through special menu items (**NEW:** like the fall crêpe at **Crêpe Bourrée** – sugar-spiced pumpkin mousse, whipped cream, roasted pepitas and candied pecans!), events and experiential opportunities. ▶ **Taste of Biltmore** is a two-month celebration (through October 31) of the estate’s farm-to-table heritage, with food and wine taking center stage during a series of elaborate feasts in unexpected settings. ▶ Pick apples at one of the region’s dozens of orchards, such as the **Orchard at Altapass** on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Go for pumpkins at **Justus Orchard** or **Stepp’s Hillcrest Orchard**. Then, enjoy a glass of the hard stuff at **Noble Cider**, **Urban Orchard Cider Co.** or **Black Mountain Ciderworks + Meadery**.



**NEW:** **Cúrate** expands with more seats and a vermouth bar. Award-winning Chef Katie Button and her team are highlighting the concept of vermouth bars in Spain, serving small bites, Spanish vermouth, sherry and cider. **NEW:** **Beacham’s Curve**, at the bend on Haywood Road in West Asheville, is a growing food hub. OWL Bakery (specializing in naturally leavened artisan breads and European-inspired pastries) and Hole (serving up fried-to-order doughnuts) have been joined by Pizza Mind and Archetype Brewing. Gàn Shān Station’s soon-to-open second location will also call this area home.

### Maximize Your Stay: Autumn Travel Packages

- ▶ **America’s Favorite Drive Package | The Omni Grove Park Inn** - Includes overnight accommodations, the Art of Breakfast, a copy of “Best of the Blue Ridge Parkway, The Ultimate Guide to the Parkway’s Best Attractions.” Available until November 16.
- ▶ **Picnic on the Parkway | Grand Bohemian Hotel Asheville** - Includes overnight accommodations, breakfast for two, a guided Parkway hike for two, gourmet picnic basket, 3-D topography map, wildflower pocket guide and 10-percent discount at The Compleat Naturalist store. Available until October 31.
- ▶ **Fall Package | Asheville Bed & Breakfast Association** - Includes \$200 gift certificate for any ABBA inn, new “Morning in the Mountains” cookbook, welcome gift from your innkeeper and baked cookies for the ride home. Available until November 15.

### Fall Fun: Signature Events

- ▶ **Brewgrass** (September 16)  
This annual beer festival combines over 50 breweries, 120 different beers, a lineup of national and regional bluegrass musicians and a beautiful mountain setting.
- ▶ **Oktoberfest** (October 7)  
Bavarian traditions meet Asheville’s eclectic vibe, with lots of local beer on tap.
- ▶ **CiderFest** (October 7)  
Cider, kids’ activities and more, set along the French Broad River at Salvage Station.
- ▶ **Carolina Bonsai Expo** (October 10-11)  
Showcasing juried exhibits by bonsai enthusiasts hailing from a seven-state region, at The North Carolina Arboretum.
- ▶ **Burnpile Harvest Fest** (October 14)  
Hosted by Burial Beer Co., this burgeoning event features seasonal beers from 40+ regional and national breweries, a harvest feast by Burial’s permanent “food truck” kitchen, Salt & Smoke, and live music.
- ▶ **LEAF Festival** (October 19-22)  
For more than two decades, LEAF Festival has grown into an epicenter of music, art and culture for thousands of families, set upon the beautiful Lake Eden grounds in nearby Black Mountain.
- ▶ **Hickory Nut Gap Farm Barn Dances** (Fridays in September and October)  
Perfect for families. Enjoy dinner before dancing the night away, from Contra to Square Dance and Two-Step to Swing.

### All Things Fall | Where to Go for the Latest Updates

- ▶ Weekly color reports at **FallintheMountains.com** will gather input from biologists and weather experts, color-progression updates from area parks and attractions, autumn travel deals and fall events.
- ▶ Stay tuned for **Facebook Live** remotes with Explore Asheville’s fall-color experts at **www.facebook.com/Asheville**.
- ▶ **NEW THIS YEAR:** Dynamic, interactive **360-degree views** of peaking fall color and up-to-date looks at where the best and brightest can be found.