



a different kind of local color

Immersion Avant Garde

With hundreds of galleries and art studios, plus countless occasions for music and dancing, creative expression is a way of life in Asheville. There are plenty of opportunities for visitors to get in on the artsy fun. ► **Take a class in clay** at Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts ► Sit at the bar at Lexington Glassworks and **try a local beer in a pint glass blown by the artists.** ► **Move to the beat** of the Friday Night Drum Circle ► **Join a beginner drumming class** at Skinny Beats Drum Shop & Gallery. ► **Book a private candle-making experience** at Hummingbird Candle Company and experience the therapeutic benefits of working with wax.

Fresh, Immersive Cultural Adventures

NEW ► **The Legends of Art & Innovation** is a special series featuring three different large-scale, multi-sensory exhibits at **Biltmore**, which runs through 2023. These events use the latest in immersive technology to illuminate the remarkable lives of Van Gogh, Monet, and Da Vinci and their timeless masterpieces of art and design. ► **Living Language: The Cherokee Syllabary and Contemporary Art**, features 50 works of art in a variety of media by more than 30 Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Cherokee Nation artists. The exhibition, on display at the **Asheville Art Museum**, highlights the use of the written Cherokee language, a syllabary developed by Cherokee innovator Sequoyah. ► **Noir Collective AVL** has an important mission as a retail space for Black entrepreneurs, artists, makers and social activists. The shop is in the **YMI Cultural Center**, which is one of the nation's oldest African American institutions dating back to 1893.

River Arts District Evolves

Asheville's colorful art-and-warehouse neighborhood along the French Broad River, the **River Arts District (RAD)**, has entered a new era as a walkable riverfront destination and entertainment district that fully embraces its scenic location along one of the oldest rivers in the world. A greenway system with art-infused pedestrian connectivity invites visitors to experience this intensely creative area (home to more than 230 artists) by foot, bike or floatation-device-of-choice via new river access points. Take a SUP tour; watch artists working in studios; or wander to airy wine bars or music venues.

Creative Connections

► **Tour the hub of a radical experiment in education:** Explore the history of liberal arts education in America with a new one-hour tour of the historic Black Mountain College, which helped launch the region's art scene during the 20th century. ► **ZaPow**, Asheville's pop art and illustration gallery, returns with a new focus on arts education. Now located at the **Hoof and Horn Art Farm**, visitors can sign up for a landscape painting class, or embark on a horseback riding lesson.

Craft Your Experience: 2022 Art Festivals & Major Events

- Second Saturdays | River Arts District | Second Saturday of each month
- Asheville Fringe Festival | January
- Arts & Crafts Antique Show & Conference | Omni Grove Park Inn | February
- LEAF Festival | Black Mountain | May, October
- Fiber Weekend | Folk Art Center | May
- Montford Arts & Music Festival | Montford Historic District | September
- Asheville Art in the Park | Pack Square Park | June, October
- The Big Crafty | US Cellular Center | July, December
- Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands | US Cellular Center | July, October
- LEAF Downtown Asheville | Pack Square Park | August
- Sourwood Festival | Black Mountain | August
- Village Art & Craft Fair | Biltmore Village | September
- Come to Leicester Studio Tour | August
- Heritage Weekend | Folk Art Center | September
- Weaverville Art Safari | Weaverville | November
- River Arts District Studio Stroll | November



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Leaf Through Literary Legacies

With such a spectacular backdrop from which to draw inspiration, it's no wonder so many literary figures have penned noted novels on the region. Pick your read at Malaprop's Bookstore, and then make a pilgrimage to some of the famed authors' haunts. Hike Cold Mountain, the setting that inspired Charles Frazier's bestseller, or spend a day on the grounds of Connemara, poet Carl Sandburg's graceful Flat Rock home. A wander along the French Broad River is a nod to Wilma Dykeman's legacy, or stroll the

shaded grounds of Riverside Cemetery to pay homage to O. Henry. And wherever you see the name Altamont, that's an ode to Asheville's native son. The Thomas Wolfe Memorial offers tours daily. Even if you haven't read *The Great Gatsby*, no literary tour of Asheville would be complete without a visit to The Grove Park Inn where F. Scott Fitzgerald summured in glamorous style while his wife, Zelda, underwent treatment in nearby Highland Hospital. Take a walk on the AVL LIT tour to visit literary destinations and learn about Asheville's famed authors and books.

Asheville's Vaudeville Revival

To use the term "freak show," one might take offense, but not in Asheville, where sultry, sexy, comedic and vaudeville-esque theatrics are en vogue. Catch a roving comedy show on the purple LaZoom tour bus. Asheville Vaudeville troupe does it right with juggling and magic acts, burlesque, aerial arts and sideshows presented with a healthy dose of humor. The Americana Burlesque & Sideshow Festival offers shows and workshops each May. Visit to The Odditorium for an alternative drag performance by the Party Foul Drag Troupe hosted by Priscilla Chambers, runner-up on *Dragula* season 3. And for a wildly different take on Shakespearean theater, the Montford Park Players have been known to present the Bard's classics with a steampunk spin. Free productions take place at a lovely outdoor amphitheater during the warmer months.

Folk Meets Funk: An Evolution of Art

Western North Carolina as a whole is deeply entrenched in the craft tradition. Step inside the Appalachian Craft Center, Grovewood and Ariel galleries, or the Southern Highland Craft Gallery in Biltmore Village to realize the immense talent this region holds. But for every artisan bending to tradition, there's also an artist pushing the boundaries. Stroll through the River Arts District to see where folk and funk intermingle. The Bender Gallery in downtown displays a museum-quality collection of emerging and established glass artists. Dip into The Center for Craft, a nationally-recognized organization dedicated to education around American craft, including the annual Windgate Fellowship Award.



Top 5 Spots for a Truly Gatsby Moment

1. Order a gin Rickey at the Grove Park Inn where F. Scott Fitzgerald summured in high style.
2. Browse the shops of the Grove Arcade, then admire the Battery Park Hotel (now residences) on the north end. It was one of a couple of Fitzgerald's hideouts.
3. Peek inside the lobby of the Skyland Hotel in Hendersonville where the author penned "The Crack Up" in the mid 1930s.
4. Gaze at downtown Asheville's art deco masterpieces and picture yourself in the lavish era of the 30s.
5. Visit The Grove Park Inn in September when the hotel hosts Salute to F. Scott Fitzgerald Weekend, which includes guided tours of his rooms.

ART SCENE HOT SPOTS

DOWNTOWN ▶ Woolworth Walk ▶ Black Mountain College Museum + Art Center ▶ Appalachian Craft Center ▶ The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design ▶ Asheville Art Museum ▶ Dozens of galleries ▶ Wortham Center for the Performing Arts ▶ Moog Music Factory **GROVE ARCADE** ▶ Mountain Made Art Gallery ▶ Appalachian Strings ▶ Asheville Area Arts Council ▶ Asheville NC Homecrafts ▶ Battery Park Book Exchange & Champagne Bar **NEAR DOWNTOWN** ▶ Southern Highland Craft Gallery (Biltmore Village) ▶ Montford Park Players (Montford Historic District) ▶ North Carolina Homespun Museum (near Grove Park Inn) ▶ Grovewood Gallery (Near Grove Park Inn) ▶ Folk Art Center (Blue Ridge Parkway) **RIVER ARTS DISTRICT** ▶ More than 200 artists ▶ Curve Studios & Garden ▶ Cotton Mill Studios ▶ Jonas Gerard Fine Art ▶ The Wedge ▶ The Magnetic Theater