

asheville | 2018 events & festivals

spring

NEW! "Glamour on Board: Fashion from 'Titanic' the Movie"

February 9-May 13 – Biltmore Estate

Biltmore's newest exhibition 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."

Biltmore Blooms

March 20-May 24 – 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 29 – 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

April 30-May 6 – 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.

Asheville Herb Festival

May 4-6 – WNC Farmers Market

In its 29th 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 5-6 – New Belgium Brewing

The first of its kind in the Southeast, this festival highlights local farmers, breeders, millers and bakers. This year's event will be "A Celebration of Rye" and will include educational classes, products, books and samples.

NEW! "Chihuly at Biltmore"

May 17-October 7 – Biltmore Estate

Experience the breathtaking large-scale glass sculptures of Dale Chihuly as part of the first-ever art exhibition in Biltmore's historic gardens. On select evenings, Biltmore House and Gardens will be open for special viewings after dark. "Chihuly Nights at Biltmore" combines these spectacular installations with dramatic lighting and Blue Ridge Mountain sunsets.



Summer of Glass

May-October – Various locations

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.

Asheville Beer Week

May 25-June 2 – 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. New this year, the event will integrate outdoor adventure like hiking, biking, Onewheel and yoga. The week, organized by the Asheville Brewers Alliance, closes with the Beer City Festival on June 2.



summer

52nd-Annual Shindig on the Green

Kicks off June 30 – 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. Takes place across eight summer Saturdays, wrapping up September 1.

Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands

July 20-22 – 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.

91st-Annual Mountain Dance & Folk Festival

August 2-4 – 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.

41st-Annual Sourwood Festival

August 11-12 – 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.

10th-Annual Asheville Wine & Food Festival

August 17-18 – Downtown Asheville

The festival allows attendees a chance to taste their way through the wine, craft beer, artisanal food products and independent restaurant scene.

Asheville's passion for global cuisine will take center stage as the event marks its 10-year anniversary with a chef's showcase series and lively culinary village in the heart of downtown.



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 6 – 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-January – 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 16-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 1 & 8 – 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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