

events & festivals

fall & holiday

Chow Chow: An Asheville Culinary Event

September 12-15 - Various Locations



Join chefs, makers and culinary collaborators to celebrate Appalachian food traditions. Experience tasting events, chef demos and other meaningful hands-on experiences that will connect you to the many stories behind Asheville's creative table.

11th Annual Flock to the Rock

September 14 - Chimney Rock

Guided bird walks, raptor flight shows, live bird demos and workshops -- showcasing why Hickory Nut Gorge is such a premier birding location. Keep your eyes to the skies as this event coincides with fall bird migration.

4th Annual Asheville Coffee Expo

September 28 - River Arts District

Love coffee? Well, Asheville's got a latte of it. Local roasters, baristas and coffee lovers alike come together in the River Arts District for this annual street fair celebrating the coffee scene in Western North Carolina. Come enjoy food from local vendors, contests, art, music and more.

11th Annual Asheville Oktoberfest

October 5 - Pack Square Park

Mixing Bavarian tradition with Asheville's unique vibes, local brewers come together to celebrate the city's local beer scene. Guests will enjoy a variety of beer and cider from 20 different breweries and cideries, with many special seasonal ales. Pair your brews with traditional German staples such as bratwurst, pretzels and more.



7th Annual CiderFest

October 12 - Carrier Park

Cider lovers can try samples from the nation's best craft cider and mead makers at this family-friendly event that also offers live music, food, a kid zone and local arts and crafts along the French Broad River. Close to 90 different varieties of cider and mead will be on tap. North Carolina ranks seventh in the nation in apple production.



Christmas at Biltmore

November 1-January 5 - Biltmore

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.

Downton Abbey: The Exhibition

November 8-April 7 - Biltmore

Take a step into post-Edwardian England with the Crawley family as characters, costumes and sets from Downton Abbey come to life. Guests will be immersed in the social history, culture and memorable moments from the show's six-season run and new movie.

National Gingerbread House Competition & Display

November 20-January 4 - Omni Grove Park Inn

Contestants from across the country bring their culinary masterpieces to the Grove Park Inn each holiday season. Delight in the imagination shown in these gingerbread creations while you stroll through the competition display.



Winter Lights at the North Carolina Arboretum

November 22-January 4 - 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!

ASHEVILLE
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Let your
spirit
run free

spring

Biltmore Blooms

April-May - Biltmore

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.



Asheville Herb Festival

May 1-3 - WNC Farmers Market

In its 31st 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!



15th Annual Asheville Bread Festival

April - New Belgium Brewery

Each year, expert bakers come together to share their offerings and celebrate the local bread community. This year, the festival is a "Celebration of Natural Leavening" and visitors can enjoy a variety of workshops and lectures on the topic as well as a bread fair hosted at New Belgium Brewery.

Asheville Cocktail Week

April - 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. The signature event is Elixir, a craft cocktail competition created by teams of bartenders and distilleries.

LEAF Festival

May 14-17 - Lake Eden

For over 20 years, LEAF Festival has been dedicated to sharing community and culture through music and arts. A three-day festival with four stages, you can discover a soundtrack of new music in a variety of genres like African, Celtic, Bluegrass and more.



summer

54th Annual Shindig on the Green

June-August - 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.



RiverFest

July - New Belgium Brewery

Come enjoy live music, local beer food trucks and more as zany rafters float down the French Broad River in the Anything That Floats Parade. Contestants enter the competition by building outrageous rafts, floats or flotillas and categories include most creative and "green machine."

93rd Annual Mountain Dance & Folk Festival

August - UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Hall

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.



Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands

July 19-21 - U.S. Cellular Center

Peruse 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.

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