

# events & festivals

## spring

### Biltmore Blooms

*April 1- May 21 - 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 Orchid Festival

*April 4-5 - N.C. Arboretum*

Take a stroll through the Arboretum's Education Center and marvel at hundreds of carefully crafted orchid displays. Orchid experts will be on-site providing educational programs for orchid growers of all levels and visitors can purchase orchid hybrids and varieties from vendors across the U.S.

### Carolina Mountain Cheese Fest

*April 26 - 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 - 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.

### 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!

### 16th Annual Asheville Bread Festival

*May 2 - 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.

### 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.



### Buxton Hall Barbecue Festival \*

*May 17 - Highland Brewing*

Chef Elliott Moss of Buxton Hall Barbecue is celebrating all things barbecue with this inaugural festival. Bringing in pitmasters and chefs from across the South, guests will enjoy a variety of barbecue flavors, paired with chef-made sides. You can also expect live music, a chef meet & greet, and more.



### Asheville Beer Week

*May-June - 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 include pub crawls, beer dinners, tastings and more.

\* Still in planning. Name subject to change

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## summer

### 6th Annual VeganFest

June 14 - Pack Square Park

This outdoor festival showcases a variety of vegan food, beer and lifestyle products and features incredible speakers to discuss the latest vegan issues. Come enjoy everything vegan in one of the top vegan-friendly cities in the country.

### 55th 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.



### Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands

July 16-19 - 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.



### 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.



### 43rd Annual Sourwood Festival

August - 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.

## fall & holiday

### Chow Chow: An Asheville Culinary Event

September 10-13 - 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.



### Christmas at Biltmore

November 6-January 10 - 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.

### National Gingerbread House Competition & Display

November-January - 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 20-January 2 - 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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