

# asheville | 2019 events & festivals

## spring



**NEW! "A Vanderbilt House Party: The Gilded Age"**

*February 8-May 27 - Biltmore Estate*  
Visit Biltmore and immerse yourself in a turn-of-the-century house party with the Vanderbilts. From displays of elegant clothing to stories from the butler and head housekeeper, transport yourself to the glamorous nights at the Biltmore as a cherished Vanderbilt houseguest.

**Asheville Amadeus Festival**

*March 14-24 - Various locations*

Ever wonder what Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart would have loved doing in Asheville? The Asheville Symphony is hosting a 10-day festival exploring just that. Rock out to Rachmaninoff with rock guitarist Warren Haynes and Rach pianist Garrick Ohlsson as well as many other talented musicians, artists, brewers and entertainers.

**Biltmore Blooms**

*April 1-May 23 - 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 28 - 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.

**15th Annual Asheville Bread Festival**

*April 13-14 - 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 29-May 5 - 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 3-5 - 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!

**LEAF Festival**

*May 9-12 - 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.



**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.

## summer

### 5th Annual VeganFest

June 9 - 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.

### 53rd 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

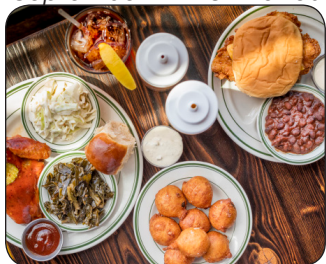
July 19-21 - U.S. Cellular Center

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.

## 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.

### 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.



### 92nd Annual Mountain Dance & Folk Festival

August 1-3 - Venue TBA



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.

### 42nd 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.

### Riverfest

August - New Belgium Brewery

Come enjoy live music, local beer food trucks and more as zany rafts 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."

### 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 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.

### Media Contact

Dodie Stephens | Landis Taylor | Sarah Lowery  
Explore Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau  
828.257.4959 direct | [Media@ExploreAsheville.com](mailto:Media@ExploreAsheville.com)  
[@AshevilleTravel](https://www.ashevilletravel.com)