



PRODUCER MARCI STEPAK

# North Carolina →

With no shortage of southern charm, North Carolina is on our minds. We've mapped a scenic drive through the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains, from Asheville to Raleigh, where burgeoning art scenes and delicious dining destinations await.

NUMBER OF DAYS TO SPEND HERE

3

EDITOR'S ITINERARY

1

*Biltmore: once the largest privately owned home in the United States.*

DAY 1

Nicknamed the hippest city in the South, tourists flock to Asheville for its myriad of microbreweries, museums, galleries, bookstores and boutiques. Check into the breathtaking Omni Grove Park Inn (2), with its great hall entrance (trust us, you will lounge fire-side here during your stay), then set out to explore.

Head straight to Biltmore House (1). Built by George Washington Vanderbilt II in the late 1800s, this palatial mansion was the largest privately owned home in the United States, boasting 250 rooms (with 43 washrooms for endless bathroom selfie options!). Allow several hours to explore the estate, including the four acres of beautiful grounds, winery, restaurants and shops.

From there, head to Wake Foot Sanctuary. Sink back in a



2

large lounge and soak your feet in a bubbly cauldron of customized potions designed to soothe and restore.

Fully recharged, it's time for dinner. Sovereign Remedies (6) - a funky, locally sourced dining and craft cocktail spot, does not disappoint. Chef Graham House has mastered the art of authentic Appalachian cuisine, particularly with his garden selections (don't miss the seared shiitakes and Appalachian hominy dishes).

Depending on your mood, either stroll over to French Broad Chocolate Lounge for an indulgent Liquid Truffle sipping chocolate, or make your way to the unfussy, intimate Ede Rhyne Distillery Company for an après-dinner farm-to-flask Amaro. Either way, sweet dreams await you back in your plush hotel room.



3



4

*You'll love the delicious, generous portions at Buxton Hall BBQ.*

PHOTOGRAPHY: 1: HENRI JARRE; 2: NICK SPENCER; 4-5: JEFF HERRING; 6: CHRIS COFFIN; AND EMILY QUARUN

## DAY 2

Begin your day at Button & Co. Bagels, the Appalachian-inspired bagel shop from James Beard nominee, chef Katie Button. The Smoked Alaskan Cod, a generous sumac-rubbed smoked cod with pickled red onion, radish and scallion cream cheese on a salt bagel, paired with strong coffee, will keep you going until at least lunchtime.

Avoid heartbreak and make a reservation months in advance (yes, really!) for a water access pass at Omni Grove's spa. Soak in the scent-infused steam rooms, contrast pools and the outdoor whirlpool with breathtaking mountain views. Dip into one of the two indoor waterfall pools, complete with a ceiling embedded with 6,500 fibre-optic stars and underwater music.

The best way to explore the sophisticated side of Asheville is at the newly renovated Asheville Art Museum (5). With 54,000 square feet, including the museum's rooftop eatery, this show-stopper space is as wondrous as it is welcoming.

Stroll the downtown shops (must-stops include the Grove Arcade, Asheville Bee Charmer, Mast General Store, Horse + Hero), then stop by the Battery Park Book Exchange – a books and bubbly (!) shop. You'll love the delicious, generous portions at Buxton Hall BBQ (4). Originally a wood-floored roller rink, their barbecue is a southern staple. Arrive



early (they don't take reservations). Good luck choosing between the juicy pulled pork and the buttermilk fried chicken sandwich. Either way, save room for the unforgettable rotating selection of pies.

End the day sipping a sophisticated spirit at Antidote, a classic cocktail bar that features local botanicals and a rooftop hangout with a fireplace. Sweet dreams!

## DAY 3

Hit the road to Raleigh and enjoy the views along the winding Blue Ridge Parkway. First stop: drop your bags at the Guest House Raleigh (7), your "hometel" for the night. This beautiful boutique Inn will have you dreaming of renovating your own home, too!

Start your tour of Raleigh eating and exploring the magical, one-of-a-kind Brewery Bhavana, a hybrid dim sum restaurant, flower shop and bookstore. Browse the curated library while waiting for your succulent, chicken ginger soup to arrive. Stroll the Warehouse district for its unique finds like Videri, a bean-to-bar local chocolate factory, the Raleigh Denim



Workshop and the CAM Raleigh, an ultra-contemporary art museum. Pre-dinner, take a quick detour to the Umstead Hotel spa to pamper yourself with one of their rejuvenating massage treatments.

Cap off the weekend with a swoon-worthy supper. A former bank and later a mortuary, the aptly named Death & Taxes (3) is the swanky setting where award-winning chef Ashley Christensen will wow your taste buds. It's a fitting way to end a long weekend that will have you longing for your next visit.

## PLAN YOUR OWN TRIP

**Antidote** [antidote.bar](http://antidote.bar)  
**Asheville Art Museum** [ashevillart.org](http://ashevillart.org)  
**Biltmore House** [biltmore.com](http://biltmore.com)  
**Brewery Bhavana** [brewerybhavana.com](http://brewerybhavana.com)  
**Button & Co. Bagels** [katiebuttonrestaurants.com/button-co-bagels](http://katiebuttonrestaurants.com/button-co-bagels)  
**Buxton Hall BBQ** [buxtonhall.com](http://buxtonhall.com)  
**Death & Taxes** [ac-restaurants.com/death-taxes/](http://ac-restaurants.com/death-taxes/)  
**Guest House Raleigh** [guesthouseraaleigh.com](http://guesthouseraaleigh.com)  
**Omni Grove Park Inn** [omnibotels.com/hotels/asheville-grove-park](http://omnibotels.com/hotels/asheville-grove-park)  
**Sovereign Remedies** [sovereignremedies.com](http://sovereignremedies.com)  
**Umstead Hotel spa** [theumstead.com](http://theumstead.com)  
**Wake Foot Sanctuary** [wakespa.com](http://wakespa.com)

## what to PACK

Sunshine and weekend road trips call for pieces that'll keep you both comfy and cool.



\$149

▲ Bloom Sunglasses in pink from Bon Look, [bonlook.ca](http://bonlook.ca)

\$345

► The Weekender natural canvas duffel from Away, [awaytravel.com](http://awaytravel.com)



\$135 per pair

▲ Allbirds, Tree Runners and Tree Brezlers in Poppy.



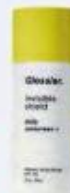
\$325

▲ Away Carry On in blush, [awaytravel.com](http://awaytravel.com)



\$32

► Glossier Invisible Shield Sunscreen, [glossier.com](http://glossier.com)



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