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**

**DAY 1**

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

**3**

- **Visit:** 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 42 bathrooms and 50 bathrooms in the main house). Explore the estate, including the four acres of beautiful grounds, vineyard, restaurants and shops.

- **Visit:** Biltmore Estate: Home sanctuary. Stop back in a large lounge and relax your feet in a bubbly cauldron of customized potions designed to soothe and restore.

- **Dine:** Sovereign Remedies (2) — a funky, locally sourced dining and cocktail spot, does not disappoint. Chef Graham House has honed his craft in the art of authentic Appalachian cuisine, particularly with his garden selections (don’t miss the fried chicken and Appalachian green beans).

**4**

- **Visit:** Ashville for its myriad of microbreweries, museums, galleries, bookstores and boutiques. Check into the breathtaking Omni Grove Park Inn (3), with its great new entrance (trust us, you will lounge fireplace level during your stay), then set out to explore.

- **Visit:** Biltmore House (4) 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 42 bathrooms and 50 bathrooms in the main house). Explore the estate, including the four acres of beautiful grounds, vineyard, restaurants and shops.

- **Visit:** Biltmore Estate: Home sanctuary. Stop back in a large lounge and relax your feet in a bubbly cauldron of customized potions designed to soothe and restore.

**3**

- **Visit:** Biltmore House (5) 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 42 bathrooms and 50 bathrooms in the main house). Explore the estate, including the four acres of beautiful grounds, vineyard, restaurants and shops.

- **Visit:** Biltmore Estate: Home sanctuary. Stop back in a large lounge and relax your feet in a bubbly cauldron of customized potions designed to soothe and restore.

**3**

- **Visit:** Biltmore House (6) 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 42 bathrooms and 50 bathrooms in the main house). Explore the estate, including the four acres of beautiful grounds, vineyard, restaurants and shops.

- **Visit:** Biltmore Estate: Home sanctuary. Stop back in a large lounge and relax your feet in a bubbly cauldron of customized potions designed to soothe and restore.

**3**

- **Visit:** Biltmore House (7) 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 42 bathrooms and 50 bathrooms in the main house). Explore the estate, including the four acres of beautiful grounds, vineyard, restaurants and shops.

- **Visit:** Biltmore Estate: Home sanctuary. Stop back in a large lounge and relax your feet in a bubbly cauldron of customized potions designed to soothe and restore.

**3**

- **Visit:** Biltmore House (8) 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 42 bathrooms and 50 bathrooms in the main house). Explore the estate, including the four acres of beautiful grounds, vineyard, restaurants and shops.

- **Visit:** Biltmore Estate: Home sanctuary. Stop back in a large lounge and relax your feet in a bubbly cauldron of customized potions designed to soothe and restore.
DAY 2

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

Avoid breakfast, and make reservations months in advance (yes, really!) for a water-access pass at Omni Grove Park Inn’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 waterfalls pools, complete with a ceiling emblazoned with 5,000 stone-optic stars and underwater music.

The best way to explore the sophisticated side of Asheville is at the newly renovated Asheville Art Museum (3). With 4,300 square feet, including the museum’s rooftop eatery, this show-stopper space is as warm and welcoming as it is inviting.

Stroll the downtown shops (must-see include the Grove Arcade, Asheville Bee Charmer, Mad Rostetter) (Stora, Henshaw + Main), then stop by the Battery Park Book Exchange (a books and bubbly shop). You’ll find this picturesque, pedestrian portion of Burton has been (4), originally a wood-fired roller mill, its 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 unapologetically rotating selection of pies.

End the day sipping a sophisticated spirit at Amisada, 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: shop your bags at the Guest House Raleigh (7), your “homebase” 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 iconic, 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 Vinaigre, a bread-to-bar chocolate factory, and the Raleigh Denim Workshop and the CAM Raleigh, an ultra-contemporary art museum. Pre-dinner, take a quick detour to the Umstead Hotel to pamper yourself with one of their rejuvenating massage treatments.

Cap off the weekend with a swoon-worthy supper. A former banker and later a mortuary, the aptly named Smith & Taylor (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**

- Amisada [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Asheville Art Museum [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Biltmore House [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Brewery Bhavana [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Button & Co. Bagels [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Button Hall BBQ [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Death & Taxes [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Guest House Raleigh [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Omni Grove Park Inn [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Sovereign Biscuit [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Umstead Hotel [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)
- Wake Food Sanctuary [asissada.bar](https://asissada.bar)