

asheville | 2015-16 events & festivals

fall & holiday 2015

Brewgrass

September 19 – Memorial Stadium

This annual beer festival combines over 50 breweries, 120 different beers, a lineup of national and regional bluegrass musicians and a beautiful mountain setting. Sample unique craft brews, many of them native to Beer City USA.

Asheville Oktoberfest

October 10 – Downtown Asheville

Sample local beers, seasonal batches and traditional German lagers at this downtown autumn event. Don't miss the Oktoberfest Games, a brewery competition with events like the stein race and keg-rolling contest.

Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands

October 15-18 – 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.



Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF)

October 15-18 – Camp Rockmont, Black Mountain

Experience cultural enrichment from around the world during a full weekend of live music, crafts, healing arts, local food and outdoor fun. Performances, workshops and a kids' area fill the valley with song and dance, and outreach efforts bring the arts to local students.

Christmas at Biltmore

November 6-January 10 – 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.

River Arts District Studio Stroll

November 14-15 – River Arts District

Come visit more than 180 world-class artists and working studios during this semi-annual event. Painters, potters, sculptors, weavers, photographers, jewelers, woodworkers, great food & more...all in revitalized old factories and warehouses along the French Broad River, just minutes from downtown.

National Gingerbread House Competition on Display

November 18-January 1 – 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 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. This year's lighting display is again designed by a former Walt Disney World designer.

Santa on the Chimney

December 5 & 12 – Chimney Rock Park

Ever wonder how Santa manages to climb down millions of chimneys across the globe in just one night? With lots of practice, naturally. Witness Santa's daring stunt as he tries his hand at one of the world's largest chimneys with multiple 200-foot rappels!



spring 2016

Fashionable Romance: Wedding Gowns in Film

February 12-July 4 – Biltmore Estate

Following up on their “Downton Abbey” exhibit, Biltmore is continuing the fashion theme with a showcase of award-winning movie gowns and wedding dresses from different centuries, matching each era with floral designs on display and also incorporating stories from behind the scenes of various Vanderbilt weddings.

Biltmore Blooms

March 19-May 27 – 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.



Artisan Bread Bakers Festival

March – A-B Tech Campus

The first of its kind, this festival celebrates local farmers, millers and bakers. The Asheville area is the perfect place for bread enthusiasts and professionals to bake together, share ideas and network as the region supports more artisan bakeries than most states.

Asheville Herb Festival

April 29-May 1 – WNC Farmers Market

In its 27th year, this event highlights herbalists and herb businesses in N.C.: herb growers and vendors, gardening and landscaping specialists, makers of herbal balms, soaps, teas, medicines and other products. Join more than 25,000 other herb lovers at this year’s festival!

Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF)

May 12-15 – Camp Rockmont, Black Mountain

Experience cultural enrichment from around the world during a full weekend of live music, crafts, healing arts, local food and outdoor fun. Performances, workshops and a kids’ area fill the valley with song and dance, and outreach efforts bring the arts to local students.

Mountain Sports Festival

May 28-29 – Carrier Park

The Mountain Sports Festival at Carrier Park is a weekend celebration of Asheville culture, athletics, music, local businesses, food, drink and more. The festival features sporting demos and competitions, kids’ activities and a full music lineup throughout the weekend.

Asheville Beer Week

May – Various locations

The four-time winner of the BeerCity USA title sets aside an entire week each year just to celebrate craft brews. Events will include pub crawls, beer dinners, tastings and more. It culminates with the Beer City Festival.

summer 2016

Mountain Dance & Folk Festival

August – Diana Wortham Theatre

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.

Asheville Wine & Food Festival

August – Downtown Asheville

The festival is a budding showcase for the area’s local food and field-to-table culture, allowing attendees a chance to taste their way through the wine, craft beer, artisanal food products and independent restaurant scene that recently put Asheville on *TripAdvisor’s* list of “Top 10 Wine and Food Destinations” in the nation.

Sourwood Honey 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 music and dancing, as well as the annual “Sourwood Idol” singing contest.



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