

ASHEVILLE

Holiday Treasures in the Mountains

2 nights / 3 days

Times listed are suggestions only

Day 1

- 3pm** Arrive and check into your hotel. The **Asheville CVB** can offer **free and helpful assistance** with blocking your group accommodations. Use our lead service to find and compare the best group room rates! As part of our service, we can also provide a **holiday themed gift** for each member of your group upon check-in.
- 5pm – 9pm** Experience the magic of **Biltmore** during the holidays. Create magical memories from the moment you arrive, starting with dinner at Biltmore's **Deerpark Restaurant or Stable Cafe**. Follow with a **Candlelight Christmas Evening** tour of the house illuminated with candles and firelight accenting delicate ornaments, priceless treasures, and an array of evergreens in every size.

Day 2

- 9am** Build on last night's momentum with a return visit to **Biltmore**, taking in the Conservatory where plants of all types bloom year round. Stroll through the **Antler Hill Village** and sample vintage award-winning wines at Biltmore's **winery**.
- 11:30am** Complete your experience with a stop in **Historic Biltmore Village**, located outside of Biltmore, featuring more than 40 shops, restaurants and galleries, most housed in historic 1900-era homes and buildings.
- 12:30pm** Enjoy **lunch** on your own in the Village at one of the charming restaurants within walking distance – Wayside Grill, Corner Kitchen, Cantina Biltmore, Fig, or Well Bread Bakery.
- 2pm** After lunch, prepare for an afternoon of holiday “gifting”. Choose from these delightful experiences:
1. “Get Your Hands Dirty” at **The Village Potters** where you can create one-of-kind pottery gifts for family, friends, or even yourself! The local artisans at The Village Potters provide all instruction and can even offer tours of other nearby artist studios in the well-known **River Arts District**. This experience lasts about two hours, so plan to spend a little time holiday shopping downtown after completing your River Arts District experience. While downtown, be sure to check out the **Grove Arcade**, a lovely shopping area that also displays a sample of the entries submitted to the **National Gingerbread House Competition** that takes place in Asheville every year.
 2. Let your group shop until they drop at the brand new **Asheville Outlets!** With 75 name-brand stores to choose from, and up to 70% off retail price, you are sure to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list! A small welcome gift is available to bus groups with advance notice.
- 6pm** Conclude your evening with **A Crest Mountain Christmas**, a fabulous variety show of holiday treasures that are sure to entertain! The holiday spirit is fully enhanced with a

delicious dinner buffet, create-your-own hot chocolate bar, and outdoor fireplace set against the backdrop of breathtaking mountain views.

Or, take a short trip to **Flat Rock Playhouse** in Hendersonville, NC and enjoy a professional production from North Carolina's state theater. The 2015 Christmas Schedule features *Oliver!* – the timeless Dickens tale. Be sure to stop at one of Asheville's group-friendly restaurants for **dinner** on your way.

Day 3

9am Enjoy a true mountain breakfast at **The Moose Café**, onsite at the **WNC Farmers Market**. With huge buttermilk biscuits topped with their famous apple butter, you'll depart Asheville with a full belly and equally full heart.

Stay a little longer to experience it all! Here are several other wonderful **holiday happenings**:

- **Winter Lights at The North Carolina Arboretum**
Designed with artistic aesthetic, Winter Lights will amaze your group by enhancing the natural beauty of the gardens and landscape. The Arboretum has collaborated with the former designer and manager of holiday decorations for Walt Disney World, to create a truly magical experience.
- **Shadrack's Christmas Wonderland**
The world's largest drive-through, fully synchronized, LED Christmas light and music show of its kind! Located on the grounds of the Western NC Agricultural Center.
- **The National Gingerbread House Competition**
Beginning in mid-November and continuing through December, The Omni Grove Park Inn is home to the National Gingerbread House Competition, featuring a couple hundred hand-built edible creations of all sizes, shapes, complexities, and themes. The winners of the competition are featured on "Good Morning America". For a parking fee, or in combination with a group meal at the resort, bus groups can enjoy the houses on display.
- **The Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove**
Experience the meaning of Christmas with a visit to The Cove, featuring the Chatlos Memorial Chapel and prayer room. Learn more about Billy Graham's ministry atop this beautiful mountain venue, fully decorated for the season.
- **Holly Jolly Christmas Trolley**
A new and limited-time specialty tour of Gray Line Trolley Tours where history is told from the point-of-view of Christmas Past. This 1.5 hour long trolley ride through Asheville features many interesting holiday stories along with sing-a-long carols throughout the ride.
- **The Altamont Theater Listening Room**
Located in downtown Asheville, close to several restaurants, Altamont Theater's "Listening Room" is the perfect place to unwind in the evening while listening to live classic holiday tunes and enjoying a glass of wine or local beer.
- **19th Century Carolina Christmas at the Smith-McDowell House**
Dressed with authentic Victorian décor from the museum's permanent collection, the historic Smith-McDowell house, home to many influential citizens in Asheville's history, is lovely way to celebrate the Christmas traditions of the past.

Please contact Beth McKinney at bmckinney@ExploreAsheville.com for more information or for contact information for the above listed attractions.