

Drink In the Art of the North Carolina Mountains

It's said that the spirit of the mountains brought artisans of all kinds to Asheville. From world-class craftspeople to world-famous authors, this itinerary gives you a glimpse of the creative side of the North Carolina Mountains – not to mention the creative side of North Carolina winemakers.

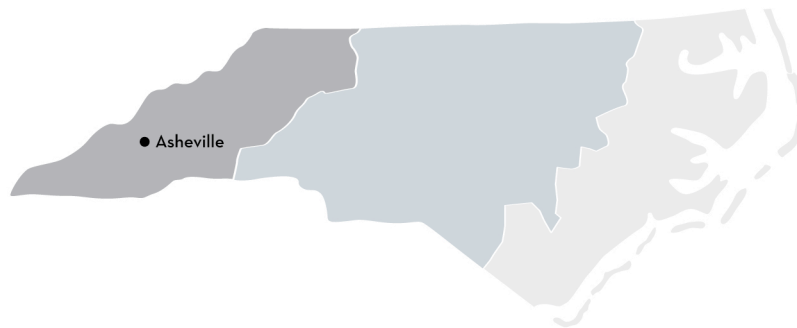
2-Day Itinerary

Day 1

Wine, dine and shop in Asheville

Day 2

Experience literary arts, crafts and the art of winemaking in Asheville and the Yadkin Valley



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 2-day itinerary. Enjoy your visit by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day One

Begin your visit to the North Carolina Mountains in **Asheville** with a guided or self-guided walking tour of the **Asheville Urban Trail**, a great way to get up close and personal with North Carolina's most architecturally diverse city. Asheville is a fascinating blend of Queen Anne, Romanesque, Revival and, of course, Art Deco. In fact, Asheville boasts of more Art Deco architecture than any other southeastern city outside of Miami Beach.

Shop for regional treasures at the **Grove Arcade Public Market**, housed in a lavishly ornamented Gothic structure. Dominating an

entire city block, the market was completed in 1929 and reopened in 2002 with over 60 owner-operated shops and restaurants.

Spend the afternoon in an amazing mountain setting at **Biltmore Estate**, the nation's largest privately owned residence. Built by George Washington Vanderbilt, this 250-room French chateau is filled with priceless artworks and furnishings. Stroll the spectacular grounds and gardens, which encompass 8,000 acres of formal and natural plantings, forests, pastures and trails. Tour the winery at **Biltmore Estate Winery** and learn how rich tradition meets state-of-the-art technology under the masterful direction of winemaker Bernard Delille.

Shop the estate's specialty shops for wine, books, toys, sophisticated apparel, even estate-grown plants. You're sure to find some special souvenirs.

Day 2

This morning, discover Asheville's literary heritage. The **Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site** is the boyhood home of author Thomas Wolfe and the setting for much of his autobiographical masterpiece, *Look Homeward, Angel*. Considered one of the giants of 20th-century American Literature, Wolfe's colorful portrayal of his family, his hometown of Asheville and the "Old Kentucky Home" boarding house earned the historic Victorian home a place as one of American Literature's most famous landmarks. Afterward, stroll through the **Riverside Cemetery** with more than 87 acres of landscaped grounds. Dating back to the early 1800s, this is the final resting place of Thomas Wolfe and short story writer O. Henry.

Drive up to the Blue Ridge Parkway's **Folk Art Center** where the **Southern Highland Craft Guild** has promoted crafts made by artists living in the mountain regions of the South for over 70 years. The Center is home to **Allanstand**, the nation's first craft shop, which opened in 1895. One of four Guild shops, Allanstand showcases an exciting array of work from traditional mountain folk art to contemporary American crafts made by the Guild's more than 900 member-artists.

After lunch, make your way east to the **Yadkin Valley** and sample the fine wines of the nation's fastest developing wine region. This region, with its perfect climate and soil composition, plays host to a growing number of wineries. The **Swan Creek** area, tucked in the valley between Brushy Mountain and the Blue Ridge, brings a touch of

Europe to the Tar Heel State. Only five miles apart, various vineyards offer a variety of wines for any taste – **Swan Creek-Laurel Gray Vineyards, Raffaldini Vineyards, Windy Gap Vineyards** and **Buck Shoals Vineyards**.

For more information:

Randolph County TDA

<http://www.visitrandolphcounty.com>

Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau

www.exploreasheville.com