



North Carolina Custom Itinerary

August 2, Day 1: Asheville Arrival / Biltmore House / Eagles Nest

Your guides will pick you up from the Asheville Airport upon flight arrival midday. From the airport, it's a short drive to one of the most famous homes in the country, Biltmore House. Here, we'll enjoy a special private meal before embarking on a tour through the Biltmore House itself. This famous residence is the largest private home in the world and an expert-led tour will give you an insider's look at what makes the Biltmore so incredible. After we've had our fill of touring the gardens, we'll make our way onto the Blue Ridge Parkway towards our home(s) for the next five nights at The Lodges at Eagles Nest near the town of Banner Elk. Tonight (and for every meal on this trip), you'll be in very good hands with your very own private chef who will cook up and serve all meals for our group. Toast to a great first day – we have many more neat experiences coming your way in the days to come!

August 3, Day 2: Linville Falls / Eagles Nest

Today is a relatively easygoing day to get you introduced to the Blue Ridge Mountains up close and personal. After breakfast at the house, we'll meet up mid-morning to drive to our destination of the day, Linville Falls. One of the most photographed waterfalls in North Carolina, the short hikes to the different viewpoints of this waterfall will provide ample opportunity to get the perfect shot and will give you a chance to stretch your legs after a day of travel yesterday. We'll enjoy a mountain top lunch with wonderful views and will continue touring the different viewpoints along the famed Blue Ridge Parkway in the afternoon as we make our way back to Eagles Nest. After some time to relax back at the lodge, we'll join together for a happy hour before dinner prepared by our private chef.

August 4, Day 3: Grandfather Mountain / Mountain Glen Golf Course / Eagles Nest

After breakfast this morning, the group will split up. Those who signed up to golf will be taken to Mountain Glen Golf Course and dropped off for your pre-arranged morning tee times. The front nine of this course features more of a links style with small bent grass greens and relatively flat open fairways. The back nine works its way up to what was once referred to as "Cranberry Draw". The 11th hole uphill dog-leg left was rated as one of the best par 4's in Western North Carolina. Holes 14 thru 18 work their way back down "Cranberry Draw" and return to the clubhouse.

Those who aren't playing golf today will head to Grandfather Mountain State Park for a jaunt around an icon of North Carolina. Grandfather Mountain is the only privately held property to pass the rigorous certification requirements to be designated as an International Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. Everyone should check out the Mile High Swinging Bridge, a 220-foot suspension bridge spanning an 80-foot-wide cleft to provide access to Linville Peak. Those in the group who are feeling more adventurous can head out on a guided hike into the rugged backcountry where a bit of scrambling and ladder climbing provides access to multiple unique ecosystems and magnificent views.

Later we'll all meet up as a group to enjoy dinner together and a lovely outdoor dessert at sunset.



August 5, Day 4: Linville Gorge / Eagles Nest

Today, we explore “The Grand Canyon of the East” – Linville Gorge for a true backcountry experience! The Linville River begins as a trickle on the flanks of Grandfather Mountain, and as it gathers steam, cuts a steep rocky gorge, dropping almost 2,000 vertical feet in 12 miles from the Falls itself to Lake James below. We’ll do a bit of hiking in/around the gorge itself and will take advantage of your guide’s favorite swimming hole (weather pending). Lunch will be eaten overlooking yet another incredible view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

August 6, Day 5: Eagles Nest Flyfishing and UTV Riding

Today, we split our group in two to take advantage of a smaller group size for two very fun activities: fly fishing and UTV riding! If you fly fish in the morning, you’ll UTV in the afternoon and vice versa. Fly fishing includes a half day lesson on casting (and catching!) on a stocked pond full of trout on property. The UTV ride takes us on trails around the Eagles Nest property so we can check out areas we haven’t seen before on our drives to/from our lodge. We’ll meet up as a group for a lunch midday between activities. Those who do not want to fly fish or UTV can spend a relaxing morning or afternoon back at the house resting up for the evening’s festivities. Tonight, we enjoy a final chef-prepared meal and then retire to a nearby fire pit where a bluegrass band will be waiting to help us celebrate our final night in North Carolina!

August 7, Day 6: Mount Mitchell State Park / Asheville

This morning, we bid goodbye to the Lodges at Eagles Nest and our private chef as we make our way back to Asheville. Along the way, we’ll stop by Mount Mitchell State Park to explore the incredible viewpoints around the highest point east of the Mississippi River. The unmatched views will provide the perfect backdrop for your last photos of the Blue Ridge Parkway and a last lunch together. In accordance with your flight time, we’ll transfer you back to Asheville for drop-off at the airport. Safe travels and we hope to see you again!