

# North Carolina – Blue Ridge Mountains & Asheville



## Trip Summary

North Carolina offers travelers everything from stunning natural terrain to classic North Carolina culture in comforting small towns. This adventure will have you traipsing through the rolling landscape to view thundering waterfalls and rich forests that cover the southeastern Blue Ridge Mountains. Overlooks on your hikes will get you “ooh”ing and “ahh”ing at the vast country sprawling beneath you. After getting your fill of the rugged North Carolina scenery, immerse yourself in an insider’s look at America’s largest private home, Biltmore Estate. This property will no doubt remind you of extravagant European architecture and the royals who resided within. Take a tour inside the mansion and a bike ride outside to get a comprehensive experience of the Biltmore grounds. This captivating six-day vacation will have you wanting to return after you hear “Y’all come back now!” from the locals.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Asheville / Linville Falls / Blowing Rock

Morning pick-up at your Asheville Hotel • Travel one hour to Linville Falls, a spectacular three-tiered waterfall plunging into the Linville Gorge • Here, we prepare for a hike to the falls nestled in dense rock and forest where we’ll enjoy a picnic lunch • Next, we shuttle to the Blue Ridge Parkway, “America’s Favorite Drive,” featuring long-range vistas and close-up views of the rugged mountains and pastoral landscapes of the Appalachian Highlands • Hike up Rough Ridge Trail where you’ll have stunning landscape views of rolling hills studded with trees as far as the eye can see • Transfer to Blowing Rock before checking into Chetola Resort • Dinner is prepared at Timberlake’s, a beautiful timber-framed setting • *Overnight Chetola Resort Lodge (L, D)*

### Day 2: Price Lake / Linville Falls / Blowing Rock

Dive into today’s activities right away by hopping in a kayak or canoe this morning for a paddle along nearby Price Lake’s shoreline • Afterwards, enjoy a guide-prepared picnic lunch • Wet your palate afterwards with a trip to a nearby winery for a wine tasting before having time to wander around Blowing Rock • This charming small town has plenty of niche shops and boutiques to nose around in • Tonight you’ll feast at The Speckled Trout • *Overnight Chetola Resort Lodge (B, L, D)*

### Day 3: Grandfather Mountain State Park / Blowing Rock

Today’s activities revolve around hiking in Grandfather Mountain State Park • Grandfather Mountain has been an icon in North Carolina’s landscape for generations, offering stunning scenery and unmatched ecological diversity • To start our day, we can’t miss a trip across the Mile High Swinging Bridge, America’s highest suspension bridge spanning an 80-foot chasm at more than one mile in elevation • Afterwards, we’ll begin our short, but challenging trek to MacRae Peak • Everyone will begin the scenic first half of the hike together; the second half is where the terrain gets challenging and is not for the faint of heart • You’ll embark up a series of cables and steep ladders to eventually summit MacRae Peak – quite the accomplishment! • Those who don’t choose to get their adrenaline pumping on the second half of the trail will check out the nearby Grandfather Mountain Zoo • This evening you’ll be rewarded with some down time all to yourself before enjoying dinner together at a local restaurant • *Overnight Chetola Resort Lodge (B, L, D)*



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## **Day 4: Linville Gorge Wilderness Area / Biltmore Estate / Asheville**

Get ready for another hike as we shuttle to Linville Gorge Wilderness Area this morning • Trek up Table Rock Mountain on this out-and-back trail • Your summit will be a rewarding, expansive bird's-eye view of the forested, rolling wilderness that lies before you • After lunch back at the base, we'll transfer back towards Asheville where we check into our next accommodation: Antler Hill Village at Biltmore Estate • The Biltmore Estate is spread out across 8,000 acres and includes French Renaissance castle built by George W. Vanderbilt in 1895 • Antler Hill Village is an area on the estate that highlights George Vanderbilt's farming legacy and our centrally located lodging is just steps away from the Winery, restaurants, shops, and outdoor activities galore • Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own at one of the nearby restaurants on the estate • *Overnight Antler Hill Village at Biltmore (B, L)*

## **Day 5: Biltmore Estate / Asheville**

This morning, a local historian leads our small group on a private behind-the-scenes tour through the Biltmore House • The Biltmore is an architectural jewel and the largest privately owned house in the United States featuring nearly 179,000 square feet of floor space including 250 rooms • After we've spent a morning learning the fascinating stories of the Biltmore Estate, we'll sit down to lunch at the Stables Café, a restaurant that was once the estate's horse stable • This afternoon, take a stroll among the ground's gardens to ponder the history of the place • Then, hop on a bike to pedal through the undulating trails of the estate with your guides • Enjoy a special delicious dinner with your guides tonight in Asheville to celebrate the end of a wonderful trip! • *Overnight Antler Hill Village at Biltmore (B, L, D)*

## **Day 6: Biltmore Estate / Asheville**

This morning, you may opt to enjoy a walk on the Biltmore Estate with your guides or choose to sleep in and eat a leisurely breakfast • Then it's time to say our fond farewells, or as they say in the Carolinas... "Y'all come back now"! • Your guides will drop off at Asheville's airport or hotels • *No overnight (B)*

*\*Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

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## Activities

**Hiking:** 1 to 3 miles per hike with moderate terrain; sometimes multiple hikes will be done in one day. The most challenging trek on this itinerary is the hike/climb up MacRae Peak on Day 3. This trek is only 2 miles round trip but takes 3+ hours due to the challenging 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the trail which features stretches of cables and ladders to reach the summit. There is a “bailout” option on this trail and those who do not wish to summit can hike half of the trail and spend the latter part of the day exploring the Grandfather Mountain Zoo.

**Biking:** There is 1 bike ride on the afternoon of Day 5 on this trip. With over 20 miles of biking trails on the Biltmore Estate, there are plenty of options for exploring the estate by bike and your guides will help you choose a distance and route that’s right for you.

**Kayaking/Canoeing:** No experience necessary. The lake is calm and flat: perfect for beginners!

**Discovery:** Gain an understanding of the wild species and plant life that call the Blue Ridge Mountains home. Hear interpretations of the land from your guides as you explore Grandfather Mountain and the Swinging Bridge, a historical landmark of the region where you can indulge in 360-degree panoramic view of Grandfather Mountain and an 80-foot chasm. Learn about the rich southern history of Asheville and the legend behind Blowing Rock. Spoil your tastebuds with local wines from Linville Falls Winery and hear about the local vineyards. Experience the grandeur of Biltmore Estate, America’s largest private home and French Renaissance chateau built by a Vanderbilt in the late 1880s which would be passed down among Vanderbilt generations.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that’s right for you.



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## Distinctive Accommodation

### **Nights 1 – 3: Chetola Resort at Blowing Rock**

Chetola Resort at Blowing Rock is a 78-acre resort within walking distance of the quaint mountain village of Blowing Rock and surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina. Our group will reside in the Chetola Lodge during our stay which includes 42 well-appointed rooms with views of Chetola Lake or overlooking the beautiful grounds. Those staying at Chetola Resort have access to the Highlands Sports and Recreation Center, Chetola Lake, and the onsite trails which adjoin with 3,600-acre Moses Cone Park. The indoor heated pool, dry sauna, and Jacuzzi beckon guests after a day spent exploring the wilds of North Carolina.

### **Nights 4 & 5: Village Hotel on Biltmore Estate**

The newest accommodation on the Biltmore Estate, the Village Hotel is located about two miles from the Biltmore House in the Antler Hill Village. A casual and relaxing way to extend your Biltmore experience, Antler Hill Village connects the estate's past and present with dining, shopping, exhibits, the Farmyard, the Winery, and more. The Village Hotel is just a short stroll away from all that charming Antler Hill Village has to offer and is the perfect home base from which to enjoy Biltmore's 8,000-acres estate. The hotel's amenities include a fitness center, heated outdoor pool, access to The Spa Biltmore (at the nearby Inn), and plenty of lovely in-room amenities that are sure to make your stay enjoyable.

### **Meals**

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions – except one dinner on your own – are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

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## Arrival & Departures

Please plan on arriving at least one day prior to your trip departure. Day one of your itinerary starts at 8:00 or 8:15 am, depending on your hotel. Your trip ends with a drop-off at either the Asheville airport (12:00 pm) or your Asheville hotel (12:30 pm).

## Trip Price

\$3,598 (\$480 single supplement)

## Trip Length

6 days/5 nights

## 2021 Dates

May 30 – June 4

September 5 – 10

September 12 – 17

September 19 – 24

## Host City

Asheville, North Carolina

Airport code: AVL

## Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Discovering beauty with  
down-home Southern style*



# North Carolina – Blue Ridge Mountains & Asheville

## Trip Reservations

### Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

**Toll free:** 800-575-1540

**Phone:** 406-655-4591

**Online:** [austinadventures.com](http://austinadventures.com)

**Email:** [reservations@austinadventures.com](mailto:reservations@austinadventures.com)

**Mail:** Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

\* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

\*\* We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

### Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Bikes, helmets and other necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

### Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- One dinner on your own.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

### Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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## Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

## Solo Travelers

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement". If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. We at Austin Adventures will do our best to match you with a suitable roommate of the same gender before departure. If you book 90 days or more before the trip and we cannot find you a roommate, 50% of the private room cost will be due at final payment time. If you book within 90 days of departure and we cannot find you a roommate, the full private room charge will be applied. If we do find you a roommate between final payment and before the trip departs, we will refund the single supplement amount paid. Some exceptions apply.

## Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

## Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

\*\*\*As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

**Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure** – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

**Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure** – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

**Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure** – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure** – No refund is given

## Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.