

Asheville, NC

Biltmore Estate: George Vanderbilt II, born in New York to the U.S. Vanderbilt family, traveled to Asheville in the 1880s with his mother on vacations. Upon arriving and throughout his stays, he fell in love with the area and decided to build a winter palace to take vacations. He fashioned the home after the working estates of Europe and set it on 125,000 acres of breathtaking scenic property. The Biltmore House, when completed in 1895, became the largest home in America. The house and property were neglected for a period of time during the early to mid 1900s after George's death, but is now flourishing again as multiple restorations bring it back to life. Only 8,000 acres remain in possession of the estate, as most of the acreage was sold and now constitutes Pisgah National Forest. As the popularity of the estate has grown, its buildings and grounds have appeared in several major motion pictures, including *Forest Gump*, *Hannibal*, *Patch Adams*, and *Last of the Mohicans*. Biltmore Estate is one of the most popular attractions of Western North Carolina, entertaining approximately 1,000,000 visitors each year, and was ranked 8th out of the top 150 structures in 2007 by the American Institute of Architects.

Grove Park Inn: E.W. Grove, a St. Louis entrepreneur, modeled the Grove Park Inn after the stately railway hotels of the Old West. The inn was built from granite boulders and was designed around Grove's idea of a "big home where every modern convenience could be found, but with all the old-fashioned qualities of genuineness with no sham". The main lobby, known as the Great Hall, is 120 feet in length with ceilings of 24 feet. Mirroring each other on either side of the lobby are two 14-foot fireplaces built of magnificent stone. The beauty of the Grove Park Inn is that partaking in its glory is not restricted to overnight guests. The small bar in the Great Hall is open to everyone, as is Elaine's, the dueling piano bar located in the bottom of the inn. The Grove Park Spa is highly celebrated for its ability to relax and rejuvenate any visitor. The only thing that may trump the beauty of this historic building itself is the beauty to be seen from perch amidst the mountains. From the front balcony, pieces of Asheville are visible surrounded by the grandeur of the Smoky Mountains. Though impressive by day, the sunset view is unmatched — watercolor fading into the mountains atop twinkling city lights leaves little to be desired

Grove Arcade: Built by E.W. Grove, the visionary and creator of the Grove Park Inn, the Grove Arcade opened in 1929 and thrived until World War II as one of the country's leading public markets. The historically renovated Grove Arcade reopened to the public in 2002 as a destination featuring boutique shopping, exciting dining and regional crafts in a beloved downtown architectural wonder.

Downtown : Asheville's downtown features a variety of activities to appease even the toughest critics. The most attractive events are the Southern Highland Craft Guild, The Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, The Goombay Festival and Bele Chere, the outdoor festival that attracts thousands of residents and visitors to the downtown area every year. The city is focused on arts and crafts, providing many cultural opportunities for both visitors and residences alike. Professional Theatre Productions, the Asheville Symphony, The Fine Arts Theatre, Asheville Arts Museum, and the Folk Arts Center are just a few of the places one can go for live music and many other activities. A large number of urban homes and downtown condos exist and are becoming increasingly popular due to its historic and cultural draw. The Montford area, Haw Creek, and West Asheville are a few the great communities you have to check out during your visit.

Education

GENERAL STATISTICS:

2007-2008 enrollment—25,709

41 School Facilities

Average Class Size 23

BCS scores consistently rank among the top 5 in NC with an average SAT score of 1060 combined (NC average is 1004 and the US average is 1017)



Public Schools

Asheville City Schools - <http://www.asheville.k12.nc.us>

Buncombe County Schools - <http://www.buncombe.k12.nc.us/>

A) Elementary

Claxton Elementary - <http://www.asheville.k12.nc.us/sites/clx/default.aspx>

Ira B. Jones - <http://www.asheville.k12.nc.us/sites/ion/default.aspx/>

WW Estes Elementary - <http://www.buncombe.k12.nc.us/wwees/site/default.asp>

William Randolph - <http://www.asheville.k12.nc.us/sites/rlc/default.aspx>

Vance - <http://www.asheville.k12.nc.us/sites/vance/default.aspx>

B) Middle

Asheville Middle School - <http://www.asheville.k12.nc.us/sites/ams/default.aspx/>

Valley Springs Middle School - <http://valleysprings.com/>

Charles D.Owen Middle School - <http://www.cdoms.buncombe.k12.nc.us/>

C) High

AC Reynolds High School - <http://www.reynoldshs.org/>

Asheville High School - <http://www.asheville.k12.nc.us/sites/ahs/default.aspx/>

Enka High School - <http://www.enkahigh.net/>

Owen High School - <http://www.cdohs.buncombe.k12.nc.us/>

TC Roberson High School - <http://buncombe.schoolwires.com/tcrhs/site/default.asp>



Private Schools

Asheville Catholic School <http://www.ashevillecatholic.org>

Hanger Hall School for Girls <http://www.hangerhall.org>

The Learning Community School <http://www.thelearningcommunity.org>

The Rainbow Mountain Children's School <http://www.rmcs.org>



Colleges and Universities

Asheville- Buncombe Technical College <http://www.asheville.cc.nc.us>

Mars Hill College <http://www.mhc.edu>

Montreat College <http://www.montreat.edu>

UNC Asheville <http://www.unca.edu>

Warren Wilson College <http://www.warren-wilson.edu>

Western Carolina University <http://www.wcu.edu>

Helpful Information for Newcomers

Location

Asheville is located in the heart of Western North Carolina.

65 miles from Greenville, S.C.

125 miles from Charlotte, N.C.

200 miles from Atlanta, GA.

Elevation 2,216 feet

Population

County - 206,330 City - 68,889

WNC has a new designation as a Metro Statistical Area!

Average Annual Temperature: 56 degrees

Climate

Asheville's mild temperate climate and four distinct seasons make outdoor activities available year round. The winter and summer temperatures here are moderated by the surrounding mountains.

Average annual rainfall - 46.97 inches

Rainiest month, July avg. 4.31 inches

Coldest month, Jan. avg. 47 high, 25 low

Warmest month, July avg. 83 high, 63 low

Economy

Asheville and Buncombe County's economy is fueled by two major industries - health care and tourism - blending with manufacturing, electronics, and service and trade businesses, which are the area's largest employers (Top employers include: Mission Hospitals, Buncombe/Henderson County Public Schools, Blue Ridge Paper Products, CarePartners, City of Asheville). As a result, the city and county have a diverse economy that provides increased opportunities to area residents. Buncombe County's average unemployment rate of 5 percent is considered the benchmark for full employment. New and expanding companies in the area include: Altec, GE Aviation, Google, Elkamet, Unison, Volvo, and VX Aerospace.

The Lobster Trap	Voted Best Seafood Restaurant in WNC—35 Patton Ave
Mamacita's	Mexican Cuisine—77 Biltmore Ave
Mela Indian Restaurant	Authentic North & South Indian Cuisine—70 N Lexington
New French Bar	Quaint European Bistro—12 Biltmore Ave
Old Europe Bistro	European Bistro—41 N Lexington
Ophelias	All Natural/Organic Fine Dining—15 Eagle Street
Rosetta's Kitchen	Vegetarian and Vegan Soul Food—116 N Lexington Ave
Tupelo Honey Cafe	Old Southern Favorites with a Creative Twist—12 College St

NORTH ASHEVILLE

<u>Ambassador's Grille</u>	Casual/Elegant Dining w/ local foods—87 Richmond Hill
<u>Bavarian Restaurant Lodge</u>	Authentic German Bavarian Food—330 Weaverville
<u>Blue Ridge</u>	Buffet w/ a view at the Grove Park—290 Macon Ave
<u>Charlotte Street Grill</u>	Casual Fine Dining—157 Charlotte St
<u>Fraziers Steak & Seafood</u>	Come hungry, Leave happy—1435 Merrimon Ave
<u>Gabrielle's</u>	Award Winning Cuisine—87 Richmond Hill
<u>Groveswood Cafe</u>	Fine Regional and Continental Cuisine—111 Groveswood Rd
<u>Horizons</u>	Classic Cuisine w/ World Class Wine—290 Macon Ave
<u>Savoy</u>	International Cuisine—641 Merrimon Ave
<u>Sunset Terrace Chophouse</u>	Grove Park Steak House—290 Macon Ave

SOUTH ASHEVILLE

<u>Amici Trattoria</u>	Tuscany Cuisine—900 Hendersonville Rd
<u>The Boathouse</u>	Waterfront Dining—65 Long Shoals Rd
<u>Chef in Motion</u>	Home-style Comfort Food—57 Victoria Rd
<u>Chelseas Tea Room</u>	Afternoon Tea—6 Boston Way
<u>The Corner Kitchen</u>	Pan-America Cuisine—3 Boston Way
<u>Fiddlin' Pig</u>	BBQ and Blue Grass—28 Tunnel Rd
<u>Frankie Bones</u>	American-Italian Cuisine—2 Gerber Rd
<u>Southside Cafe</u>	Fresh Seafood and Pastas—1800 Hendersonville Rd

EAST ASHEVILLE

<u>Black Mountain Bistro</u>	Locally owned & Reasonably Priced—203 East State St
<u>Drinkin Beanz</u>	Coffee Shop and Ice Cream Parlor—4 Olde Eastwood Village
<u>Harvest</u>	Fresh Homemade Country Food—4 Olde Eastwood Village
<u>Martin's Little Venice</u>	Italian Casual Dining—800 Fairview Rd
<u>Pomodoros</u>	A New Taste of the Old World—1070 Tunnel Rd

WEST ASHEVILLE

<u>Burgermeister's</u>	Fun-filled Relaxed Dining – 697 Haywood Rd
<u>Westville Pub</u>	Live Music, Beer, and a wide Array of Food—777 Haywood Rd
<u>SunnyPoint Café</u>	Bakery and Coffee Shop—Corner of State and Haywood Rd

Weaverville, NC

Zip Code 28787

Population: 2,600

Average Home Price: \$191,524

Median Income: 52,500

Distance to Asheville: 8 Miles

Weaverville is a small town with that "home town" feeling nestled just 8 miles outside of Asheville. There are many unique things to uncover in Weaverville. You'll delight over the quaint downtown Main Street with many local artists, Sunnyside Café, and The Well-Bread Bakery. Lake Louise lies just around the corner with walking trails, fishing, and playgrounds. Picnic at Vance Homestead before you tour the museum, then take a short trip up to the Blue Ridge Parkway for a scenic drive you won't soon forget. Experience the beauty of the Reems Creek Valley while still only minutes from downtown Asheville.

Mars Hill, NC

Zip Code: 28754

Population: 2,200

Average Home Price: \$190,000

Distance to Asheville: 18 Miles with easy access to I-26

Mars Hill has been coined "Truly a Slice of Heaven." It is a town located in the culturally rich Madison County, centered around the historic Mars Hill College which was founded in 1892. Living in this small town, you can experience The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, housed on the campus of Mars Hill and well-known as the center of Appalachian mountain music and dancing. So whether you are celebrating at the annual Madison County Heritage Festival or taking in a show by the Bailey Mountain Cloggers, you'll find you fill of local heritage. With a multitude of various Bed & Breakfasts', family farms, historic homes, and mountain cabins, Mars Hill has so much to offer people who relocate here. Mars Hill also boasts a location close to the Wolf Laurel Ski Resort and the local favorite restaurant called "The Lodge Steak and Rib Restaurant."

Swannanoa, NC

Zip Code 28778

Population: 4,132

Median Age: 36

Median Income: 34,500

Distance to Asheville: 12 Miles

Swannanoa is nestled between Asheville and Black Mountain and located just minutes away from downtown Asheville. The Folks Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway is located nearby. Swannanoa is currently experiencing exciting growth with The Cliff's Carolina Preserve, Tiger Wood's first designed course in the U. S. Carolina Preserve will be a premier, master-planned, residential community and private golf course. Swannanoa has easy access to I-40 allowing residents quick commutes to work. Due to this growth and development, Swannanoa is a great place to invest.

Favorite restaurants located nearby are: Pomodoros, Azalea Café, Filo, and East Side Grill.

Black Mountain, NC

Zip Code: 28711

Population: 7,600

Median Income: 39,000

Distance to Asheville: 20 Miles

Black Mountain is the front porch of WNC. It offers breathtaking scenery and four distinct seasons with a great, small town feel. Some small town amenities you can enjoy include furniture and antique shops, art and craft galleries, and many fine restaurants that color the town. A few of this town's landmarks are a small restaurant called *My Fathers Pizza*, The Black Mountain Bakery, and the town's local Farmer's Market. Black Mountain hosts two well-known festivals each year: *The Sourwood Festival*, offering food, games, arts and crafts, and live music; and *By the Tracks*, held at the Old Depot Station and featuring face and pumpkin painting, cake walks, and delicious food. For those people moving to the area for the scenic beauty, small town feel and lower taxes, Black mountain is a great choice. But what many folks don't know is that there are also prestigious, up-scale neighborhoods like The Settings of Black Mountain and The Cheshire Community, offering amenities such as a gated community, local shops, and lovely home sites with mountain views. Come one, come all!

Arden, NC

Zip Code: 28704

Population: 16,905

Average Household Income - \$51,286

Average Home Price - \$227,136

Distance from Asheville – 20 to 30 minutes

Distance from Hendersonville – 20 to 30 minutes

Conveniently located between Asheville and Hendersonville, residents are drawn to Arden for many reasons including: the top rated public and private schools in the area, the established family-oriented neighborhoods like Royal Pines and Glen Arden Estates, and the proximity to great shopping, dining, and nearby Asheville and Hendersonville. South Asheville is one of the fastest growing areas in Buncombe County and has attracted many residents who desire to be near shopping centers, restaurants, and new grocery stores, but still close enough for outdoor enthusiasts to Beautiful Lake Julian is just around the corner. Here you can enjoy an afternoon stroll or take in diner at the Boathouse on Lake Julian. If coffee shops, ice cream cafes, and fine restaurants aren't enough, outdoor activities abound in this area. The Blue Ridge Parkway runs through Arden and communities such as Mills River, Bent Creek, and Fletcher have community parks and recreation areas that allow you to take advantage of local hiking, fly fishing, camping, waterfalls, horseback riding, canoeing, and sailing!

Fairview, NC

Zip Code: 28730

Population: 8121

Distance from Asheville: 10-20 minutes

Median Income: \$48,561

Ave Home Sale Price (2007) \$220,500

Whether you are looking for a pastoral setting or spectacular mountain views, there is a true sense of community in this charming rural community where neighbors are friendly and life is good. Travel thru the valleys of Fairview and find local farms that offer everything from homegrown veggies, free range eggs, hormone free meat, fruits and jellies. Stop at Trout Lily Market for a great cup of coffee, locally baked goods (including bread baked in a wood fired oven!), produce and meats. You can also grab a delicious lunch, brunch or dinner at Harvest Restaurant which offers indoor/outdoor seating and live music on weekends. You will find a wide range of homes from modest farm cottages to luxury homes. Flat Top Mountain and Fairview Forest offer wooded mountain home sites, many with great views. For a more pastoral setting, Brush Creek Farms, Rilendwell, and Bridgewater are just a few examples of what Fairview has to offer.

Hendersonville, NC

Zip Code: 28739

Population: 11,808 (+13.3% change)

Distance from Asheville: 20 minutes

Median Income: \$30,000

Ave Home Sale Price (2007) 249,315

Median Home Sales Price: \$225,000

Hendersonville offers something for everyone. Often referred to as "the friendly town," Hendersonville has a blend of a small town feel and a slower pace of life. But don't be confused; you'll never run out of things to do in this amazing city. While consistently recognized as one of the top places to retire in the country, Hendersonville has a little something for all age levels. It has easy access to 2 airports, the city of Asheville, and I-26, make Hendersonville a prime location for business professionals. Hendersonville also has excellent medical care facilities, top rated public and private schools, and much more. Recreational activities include a visit to Main Street for local shopping in historic downtown, The Mountain Farm and Home Museum, The Mineral & Lapidary Museum, Amusements Unlimited, The Mast General Store, or hop on a bus at 5th Avenue Travel and take a tour for yourself! With nearby attractions such as Lake Lure and Chimney Rock, the outdoor enthusiast will find a multitude of biking and hiking trails throughout this beautiful area.

Enka/Candler, NC

Zip Code: 28715

Distance from Asheville: 10 minutes

Median Income: \$40,328

Ave Home Sale Price (2007) 176,300

Centered among rolling farmland about ten miles west of Asheville is the community of Enka-Candler. Still one of the most affordable of Asheville's housing markets, Enka-Candler offers a variety of housing types, from the million dollar plus homes surrounding Biltmore Lake, to the charming, hip small bungalows of the old mill home development of Enka Village. Enka-Candler offers easy access to both I-26 and I-40, is a short 15 minute commute to downtown Asheville, only 10 minutes to the rapidly developing West Asheville downtown shops and restaurants, and a short drive to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Many home sites offer distant views of Mt. Pisgah to the southwest, and the Smokies to the West. There is also quick access to miles of hiking trails at the North Carolina Arboretum, the 6000 acre Bent Creek Experimental Forest, and Blue Ridge Parkway. Residents of Enka/Candler and Asheville alike enjoy shopping at the nearby Farmer's Market, where local produce and hand-made crafts are abundant. Educational opportunities also fill the Enka/Candler area with the Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College (Enka campus includes the Technology Commercialization Center, the business incubator, and Corporate Technology Training and Conference Center).

Leicester, NC

Zip Code 28748

Population: 15,703

Average Home Price: \$225,000

Distance to Asheville: 10-30 miles depending on where you live!

Leicester is an area that is growing each day and sits to the West of Asheville. Enjoy the convenience of this area with a multitude of shopping centers, restaurants, and local business. As you drive through Leicester you will see diversity in the houses. There is an open land feel in many areas of Leicester and there are some beautiful views of the mountains and pasture land. There are many streams and creeks in this area. Many areas in Leicester have that feel of coming back to nature, of stopping to take a breath. Many times as you walk around, you can hear nature and even smell the earth. Asheville Farm is located in Leicester and boasts a large variety of organic foods as well as Icelandic Sheep, goats, and free-range Guinea Fowl! If organic cooking isn't your thing, visit the local favorites like the Rock House Restaurant, Nona Mia, and the Leicester Grill for some true home style cooking!

Moving Checklist...

Plan ahead:

Decide what will and will not go in the move.

Get estimates from several moving companies and truck rental companies.

Plan your itinerary to make travel and lodging reservations early.

Transfer your bank accounts (they will be happy to open accounts by mail).

Request your records from doctors and dentists.

Obtain your children's school records.

Draw up a floor plan showing where your furniture should be placed.

Pay existing bills and pay off local charge accounts.

If moving for employment reasons, be sure to track your expenses for possible deductions.