

LYNNE & STEVE'S INSIDER'S GUIDE TO ASHEVILLE



WELCOME TO ASHEVILLE!

Steve and I love to travel all over the world, but we always look at each other when travelling home and say "I can't wait to get home to Asheville". Asheville has just about everything we want in life - mountains, natural beauty, world class restaurants, musicians galore and top shelf galleries. Did we mention how friendly the people in this town are?

Steve migrated here from NYC in 2002 as a life long Yankee, (as Lynne calls him), and Lynne came up from Atlanta in 2000, so the Southern part was nothing new... However, the ole saying "There's No Place Like Home" has never been more true than it is for us here. We welcome you to Asheville - please let us know if there is a way we can help steer you towards the best of our town- we love playing tour guide.

Have fun,
Lynne & Steve



5 EXPERIENCES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS



1. Take a picnic up to Craggy Pinnacle. This is one of favorite places on earth, and it's so close! Only half an hour from Asheville headed north on the Blue Ridge Parkway (just past the Craggy Gardens Visitor's Center), this is where we take all of our out of town friends. The short 3/4 mile trail to the overlook is pretty easy and offers beautiful foliage, our favorite tree (above left), fields of ferns and a 360 view you won't believe. Insider tip: When you go up almost to the top, take the dirt path less travelled off to the right and walk a minute or two to our favorite picnic spot.



2. Brewery "Cruise": As of today, Asheville has 30 breweries, and for a town of 90,000 that is pretty incredible. You can take a tour with Asheville Brews Cruise or just meander on foot to catch at least a handful of breweries. Our personal favorites are Burial Brewing (we love Surf Wax IPA!) and Zili-coah Brewing, but there are too many to name here. Many are downtown and within walking distance of our downtown "nests", but others are an easy Uber away.

3. Explore the River Arts District (RAD) via tube or kayak. Rent a tube from Zen Tubing or a canoe from French Broad Outfitters and then float your way down the French Broad River, stopping as you want to relax and take in the sites. Stop at some of our favorite places such as the Bywater for a quick cocktail, Smoky Park Supper Club for one of Asheville's best burgers (full beer and wine list too while sitting at picnic table by the river), or listen to some tunes at Salvage Station. Ah, summer in the mountains...



4. The Biltmore Estate: This is one of those tourist attractions that is actually worthy of the hype. Spend a day here, and you will not be sorry. Enjoy touring the inside of America's largest home, then wander through the many gardens, greenhouse and the bass pond. Enjoy a delicious meal at one of the many restaurants on site and then sign up for kayak paddle on the French Broad River, a farm tour, tea time at the inn, wine tour at the winery or a mountain bike ride on the many trails. Really, this place has it all.



5. Romantic Date Night: Start your evening with a drink at the sunset patio at the Grovepark Inn to see the sun setting over the mountain (or if it's winter sit by the massive fireplace in the lobby). Follow this with dinner at one of our favorite restaurants downtown such as Limones, Rhubarb, Storm or Curate, then indulge in dessert at the ever-popular French Broad Chocolate Lounge. Up for more? Wander over to Jack of the Wood for a fun pub musical scene or see who is playing at the Orange Peel or Grey Eagle. If hunger strikes again late night, try Aux Bar on Lexington, one of the few late night spots downtown with a fantastic patio.

LYNNE & STEVE'S VERSION OF A PERFECT DAY

1. Start with a matcha latte at High Five or cappuccino at Izzy's downtown. Next, depending on your level of hunger, head to Over Easy for a big southern breakfast with local ingredients, or walk to the Rhu and find the pastries that dreams are made of (and some yummy picnic supplies). Next, hop in the car and head towards the Blue Ridge Parkway for a hike, preferably to Black Balsam, about an hour away headed south. Hike up to the balds and go for as long as you want, stopping for photos and taking in the views. If you've had enough, head back to Asheville, but if you want more, head back towards town but stop in about one mile at Graveyard Fields on your left, where you can hike down to a waterfall and cool off. Still want more? Stop at mile marker 417 and take the 3/4 mile trail to a sweet swimming hole. Finally, head back to Asheville, stop at Burial for a beer and dinner at Storm nearby. For us, this is a perfect day.



2. If it's a Sunday, go to Limones for their delicious brunch (and the city's best margaritas if you're feeling feisty). Stroll around the shops downtown - some of our favorites are Ware (same building as the Urban Nest) for gifts you can feel good about, Embellish for locally made gifts and jewelry, Mink and Frock for women's clothing, and Battery Park Book Exchange for used books. Next, go to your massage that you reserved at Sensibilities, or grab a friend and head to Wake for a treat for your feet with a soak and foot massage. Gather your energy for your walk over to Sovereign Remedies for a hand crafted cocktail while you get ready for dinner of tapas at Curate (which you reserved months in advance!), and order the "Spanish Experience". Thank us later. Or, Uber over to Gan Shan Station,

another favorite of ours. Chef. owner Patrick O'Cain is making some of the best food in town.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SOME OF OUR MILLENNIAL FRIENDS



“For drinks, you can't beat the margaritas at en La Calle, or better yet, get the El Santo. No matter how many times I try to recreate it, I can't come close but I dream of it in NYC. The food at en la Calle is fantastic if you're up for sharing a bunch of apps, but if you're looking to experience some of the best restaurants in Asheville, I'd recommend popping over to Limones or Curate.

For more casual, but equally delicious food, All Souls is a must. It was started by the team behind one of the best bakeries in Asheville that makes amazing, locally sourced pizzas and salads. In the summer, I love grabbing a picnic table and sitting outside. If you like craft beer at all, you must go to Burial. I think they undoubtedly make the best beer in Asheville, particularly if you like IPAs. I also cannot recommend Gan Shan station enough. They now have a restaurant in both North Asheville and West Asheville and make the most delicious, locally sourced (a recurring theme in Asheville), Asian food. The dumplings are NOT to be missed .

For breakfast, OWL in West Asheville makes amazing pastries, or if you're gearing up for a hike and looking for something a little more substantial, Taco Billy nails it every time. Insider tip: get the veggie mama breakfast taco w/ avocado, it is crazy good”.

“I love Asheville the most for it's outdoor offerings. My perfect day starts with an early run at Bent Creek and a yoga class at Asheville Community Yoga ("pay what you can" donation pricing!). I'll then do computer work or read at any of the High Five locations (don't miss the cubano or oat golden milk), grab lunch at Chai Pani, and I'll end my day by playing cards over tacos from the Taqueria Munoz truck at Zillicoah brewery or meeting friends at Burial. I also love going to Asheville Pizza & Brewing Company on Merrimon to watch their \$3 movies while eating Funky Chicken pizza and drinking a pint of Ninja Porter.



When friends are in town, I'll take them to West Asheville in the morning to get Hole Doughnuts and/or Owl Bakery treats (usually both :)). After grabbing sweets, we'll get coffee at Battlecat or Forage inside Flora, and wander in shops on Haywood. We'll get lunch at 12 Bones for their famous blueberry chipotle ribs and gallery hop in the River Arts District to find pottery and jewelry. We'll then finish the day lounging at Dobra Tea in the afternoon and grab dinner and beers downtown.”

SOME OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS NOT YET MENTIONED

Take a walk at the NC Arboretum in the spring time to see the incredible tulip display and Bonsai garden. Ride my bike on the Blue Ridge Parkway up to Craggy Gardens Picnic Area or mountain bike at Bent Creek. Get a day pass at the Grove Park Spa with girl friends. Go to 5 Walnut Wine Bar on a Thursday night to hear music and enjoy great wine. Visit the Black Mountain College Museum and Blue Spiral Gallery. Walk to the South Slope to the Tracey Morgan Gallery. Indulge in handmade donuts at Hole in W. Asheville. Try Gingers Revenge ginger beer and then walk inside the Ramp to see what's happening in the galleries there, followed by a stop at the other end of the Ramp's new French Broad Chocolate Factory and Cafe. Tour Sierra Nevada Brewery and play games or listen to music outside. Grab a glass of wine or cappuccino at the Battery Park Book Exchange and find a cozy chair to read in. Go to Izzy's for a latte and see the local art show hanging there. Take the elevator from the Urban Nest down to the Lobster Trap and order local beer, oysters and really go for it with the Lobster dinner! Visit art galleries in River Arts District. Grab a beer from the Wedge after picking up ribs at the 12 Bones next door and picnic there. Pizza, beer and a \$3 movie at Asheville Pizza. Vegan dinner at Plant in N. Asheville. Ice Cream from Ultimate Ice Cream on Charlotte St. See what's playing at the Grey Eagle Music Hall and enjoy the taqueria inside it for dinner before the show. Walk the Urban Trail downtown. Take a day trip to Cashiers and Highlands. Ride bike around North Asheville with a stop off at Little Jumbo for cocktails and a snack.

LYNNE AND STEVE'S VACATION RENTALS

THE ORIGINAL URBAN NEST



Our first baby, this condo is in the heart of downtown Asheville - you seriously can't find a better location if you want to walk everywhere. Luxury above it all on the 3rd floor between College St. and Patton Avenue, this "nest" has 1 BR/queen bed, 1 BR/twin bed, sleeper sofa (queen) and 1 full bathroom. Enjoy taking the elevator down 2 floors into the Lobster Trap or walking steps to many other restaurants.

THE NEST ON BROADWAY



The NOB, as we call it, is an airy, sunny studio apartment in the same house as Drover's Way. This private apartment has a queen bed and private full bath, as well as a dining area, sitting area with TV and kitchenette area for coffee, tea, etc. Enjoy the rockers on the front porch to watch the world go by, and enjoy the free onsite parking. We are just a short walk up the hill to all that downtown Asheville offers.

DROVER'S WAY



Drover's Way is next to the NOB, and is similar but different. Drover's has a queen bed, full private bathroom and a separate room with kitchenette, sofa, TV and dining area. Just as the NOB, we are within walking distance of all downtown attractions yet slightly out of the central business district. Park your car in the free onsite parking and walk everywhere.

THE COTTAGE AT SLEEPY GAP



The Cottage at Sleepy Gap is our newest creation, and is the recipient of much devotion and love in 2018! We completely renovated this humble cottage and turned into something that still has character, but has been updated with modern conveniences and comforts in the middle of 4 acres of woods that abut National Forest. This home has a luxury king bed, a window twin bed, full bath, stocked kitchen, and comfie livingi room.

THINGS TO DO IN ASHEVILLE IN THE WINTER MONTHS

DRIVE TO DUPONT FOREST TO HIKE BY THE FROZEN WATERFALLS

GET A DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE AT SENSIBILITIES

GET HOT COCOA OR COCKTAILS AT THE GROVE PARK INN AND SIT BY THEIR HUGE ROARING FIRE (BETTER YET, IF OFF SEASON, BUY A DAY PASS AT THE SPA!)

SIGN UP FOR A FOOD TOUR WITH STU HELM

TAKE THE HAUNTED LAZOOM TOUR AS A DIFFERENT VIEW OF DOWNTOWN AVL

BEER AND LOBSTER AT THE LOBSTER TRAP WHILE LISTENING TO ACOUSTIC MUSIC

GO TO SIERRA NEVADA FOR A BREWERY TOUR AND DINNER

EXPLORE THE MOMENTUM AND BLUE SPIRAL GALLERIES DOWNTOWN

GO TO THE SOUTH SLOPE TO THE TRACEY MORGAN PHOTO GALLERY, VISIT THE ARTS COUNCIL, AND WALK UP THE BLOCK TO THE FUNKATORIUM

TOUR THE ARTIST'S STUDIOS IN THE RIVER ARTS DISTRICT (MY FAVS ARE RAND KRAMER AND AKIRA SATAKE)

DANCE TO A LOCAL BAND AT JACK OF THE WOODS

GET A TABLE TO DINE AT CURATE AS IT'S OFF SEASON AND POSSIBLE TO DO SO!

HIKE ON THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY THEN GO TO SHOJI SPA TO SOAK IN HOT TUB