



National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

Architecture, Art & Craft in Asheville



*Photo used with permission from
The Biltmore Company, Asheville, North Carolina*

October 5-9, 2026



Asheville City Hall
(Sandra Cohen-Rose)

Architecture, Art & Craft in **ASHEVILLE**

Just as the flanks of the Blue Ridge Mountains burst into autumn majesty, National Trust Tours invites you to join a privileged group of members on a custom-designed cultural escape in Asheville led by local Asheville author and preservationist Bruce Johnson. From the seemingly unending splendors of the Biltmore Estate to secret Art Deco gems, our itinerary will delve into the Asheville area's architecture wonders and unique cultural charms, from glassblowing to woodworking to bluegrass music. Visits to remarkable private historic residences, and meals at favorite local restaurants – including the magical Grove Park Inn – this program is the perfect fall getaway!

Architecture, Art & Craft in ASHEVILLE



Asheville City Hall
and Buncombe County Courthouse
(Warren Lelway)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

A Gracious Blue Ridge Welcome

Upon arrival in Asheville, North Carolina, transfer independently to the Hotel. As an introduction to Asheville's architectural heritage, we'll join our Study Leader on a leisurely guided stroll through downtown, visiting Art Deco masterpieces like the City Building, the Courthouse, and the eclectic Grove Arcade. Our stroll ends with sky-high cocktails and drinks at a downtown rooftop with breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Get to know your fellow travelers this evening during our welcome dinner at a top downtown restaurant. *(Rec,D)*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Treasures of Art & Architecture

Encounter Asheville's artistic side this morning during a

special curatorial tour at the Asheville Art Museum, an intriguing mix of artwork by top 20th-century regional artists, artists of international acclaim who worked at the nearby Black Mountain School, Cherokee artists and artisans of the last 200 years, and numerous local masters of contemporary craft and studio glass. The museum truly celebrates Western North Carolina's unique blend of artistic interests. We then drive through Grove Park, Asheville's most beautiful early 20th-century neighborhood, admiring old homes before arriving at the Grove Park Inn for a magical lunch at one of Asheville's true historic gems, opened in 1913. After lunch, we tour Grovewood Village, the historic weaving and woodworking complex of Biltmore Industries, an Arts and Crafts enterprise that played a significant role in the Appalachian Craft Revival during the early 20th century. Today, the complex is home to 8 working artist studios, occupied by 10 local furniture, ceramics, and craft makers. We have the chance to tour some of the studios and see

how the region's crafts are being preserved. Later this afternoon, we are the special guests of leading Asheville preservationists, moving around town to learn about active projects and being invited into two fascinating private historic residences to meet with the owners. Dinner and the evening are on your own today. *(B,L)*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Biltmore® & Biltmore Village

Today is dedicated to the lavish early 20th-century architectural gems that bring special renown to the Asheville area. We begin in historic Biltmore Village, largely built by George Washington Vanderbilt in the late 1800s. Our expert guide will uncover the area's fascinating history, from Richard Morris Hunt's lovely Cathedral of All Souls to other historic structures. Following a delicious farm to table lunch, we embark on a private tour of the 250-room French Renaissance château, the largest undertaking in residential architecture in the nation. Inside the mansion,

we view original works by John Singer Sargent and Renoir, as well as magnificent 16th century tapestries and hundreds of priceless artifacts from George and Edith Vanderbilt's collection. We continue with a guided stroll the majestic Italian, Shrub, and Walled gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, the father of American landscape architecture. *(B,L)*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Autumn Colors & Folk Art

You can choose to enjoy a leisurely breakfast in the hotel or partake in an optional early morning excursion out into the stunning Blue Ridge Mountains dressed in their autumn best for a sunrise hike to Craggy Pinnacle, with the

area's best 360° mountain views. Later this morning, explore the galleries of the Folk Art Center just outside the city, with the area's best collection of contemporary craft and studio glass, all housed in a lovely new facility. Next, visit several examples of important religious architecture in Asheville, including the First Baptist Church, designed by architect Douglas Ellington and built in 1925–1927. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, it is a four-story, domed, polygonal brick building with Art Deco design influences. Return to Asheville in time for a free lunch and independent afternoon before rejoining your fellow travelers for a gourmet farewell dinner at one of the city's top restaurants. *(B,D)*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Farewell to Asheville

Transfer independently to the Asheville airport for return flights home. *(B)*



Mountain and Foliage Views from Grove Park Inn (Jennifer Boyer)

Asheville

October 5–9, 2026

Tour Information



National Trust for Historic Preservation
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Architecture, Art & Craft in Asheville

Dates: October 5-9, 2026

Tour Cost:

Land Package \$3,595

Single Supplement..... \$695

Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants.

Activity Level: Moderate, good overall mobility required.

Deposit & Final Payment: A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on June 23, 2026 and must be paid by check to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

Flights: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

Tour Inclusions: 4 nights at the in Asheville; breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, 1 reception, 2 glasses of wine or beer at included dinners; land transportation by private motor coach; entrance fees to sites and visits listed in the itinerary; leaBruce Johnson; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert local on-site guides; gratuities for local guides and drivers and at included meals; bottled water on coach; service charges, taxes, and portage fees.

Tour Exclusions: Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portage; airport transfers upon arrival and departure; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

Terms and Conditions: ISDI requires that all tour participants be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and have received a booster shot to participate on the tour. Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

Cancellations & Refunds: Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before June 23, 2026 full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between June 24 and August 17, 2026: full refund minus \$1,650 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after August 18, 2026: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or National Trust Tours due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

Travel Insurance: Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations, as well as Cancel for Any Reason. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be sent upon tour registration. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

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TO REGISTER OR FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

National Trust Tours at

888.484.8785 or by email at info@nationaltrusttours.com