



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
**National Trust Tours**

# Architecture, Art & Craft in **ASHEVILLE**

October 5-9, 2026



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

# Architecture, Art & Craft in Asheville



Asheville City Hall (Sandra Cohen-Rose)

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. 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. With wonderful accommodations at the Flat Iron Hotel -which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 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!

## Travel with Heath Towson

Heath Towson is an Asheville Native - born and raised in the "Land of the Sky." Driven by a love for the history of Asheville and antique automobiles, he has dedicated his research to uncovering Asheville's hidden history. Heath believes in historic preservation and currently serves on the board of the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County. He also serves as a weekend docent at the Estes-Winn Antique Car Museum in Grovewood Village.



Flat Iron Hotel

## Stay at the Flat Iron Hotel

Experience the twenties roar again in the Flat Iron Hotel, an iconic former office building in historic downtown, now restored with awe-inspiring sights, hyperlocal flavors, and heartfelt comfort. To look at the Flatiron building is to look at the soul of Asheville. One of the first skyscrapers built in this booming mountain town during its 1920s heyday, The Flat Iron dominated the Asheville skyline when it was completed in 1926. Historic design features, modern comfort, and endless views of the Blue Ridge Mountains — it's the unforgettable moments and the smallest of details that will shape your stay at The Flat Iron.



**MONDAY, OCTOBER 5**

## A Gracious Blue Ridge Welcome

Upon arrival in Asheville, North Carolina, transfer independently to the fabulous Flat Iron Hotel, a 1926 beauty directly in the heart of downtown Asheville. The accommodations offer modern comfort, historic design features and views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. As an introduction to Asheville's architectural heritage, we'll join our Study Leader in 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)*

**TUESDAY, 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)*

**WEDNESDAY, 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)

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**

## **Folk Art**

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)

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**

## **Farewell to Asheville**

Transfer independently to the Asheville airport for return flights home. Breakfast is included at the Flat Iron Hotel today. (B)



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



# Architecture, Art & Craft in ASHEVILLE

## October 5-9, 2026

**Tour Cost:**

Land Package.....\$3,595  
Single Supplement.....\$795

*Land Package is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants.*

*Land Package rate is for a room with a King bed. Rooms with 2 separate Queen beds are available for a supplement of \$100.*

**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 1, 2026, payable by check or bank transfer (ACH, wire, or Zelle) to International Seminar Design, Inc. Credit cards are not accepted for final balance. 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 Flat Iron Hotel, Asheville; 4 breakfasts, 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; 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 portorage fees.

**Tour Exclusions:** Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portorage; airport transfers; 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:** 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. ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email unless specifically requested otherwise.

**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 1, 2026: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between June 2 and August 21, 2026: full refund minus \$1,800 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after August 22, 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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National Trust for Historic Preservation  
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## **Chicago: Epicenter of American Architecture**

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## **Pittsburgh: Art & Architecture in the Steel City**

*September 15–19, 2026*

## **An Ode to New Orleans**

*November 15–19, 2026*

***For more information, visit [nationaltrusttours.com](https://nationaltrusttours.com)***

*Travel with National Trust Tours is open to members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places.*

*Membership is \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. To learn more about the NTHP, visit [www.savingplaces.org](https://www.savingplaces.org).*