

## Jewel of the Blue Ridge Bicycle Tour



This tour is hosted in one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities in the world. I have titled this tour the Jewel of the Blue Ridge because it is the most magnificent city along what is arguably the most spectacular road in the world. The cycling on this tour will see us using the Blue Ridge Parkway extensively but we will also cycle some of the surrounding areas more scenic back roads. But this tour is not all about cycling, we will take time to truly enjoy this marvelous city. Options include a visit to the world famous Biltmore Estates, canoe or raft down the Broad River, and stroll around the streets of downtown with its many interesting shops and galleries. The nights will bring a new energy to the city of Asheville. We will take part in some of the areas more popular nighttime activities; listening to live music, take in a play, and of course sample some of the most diverse dining opportunities to be found anywhere.

### Detailed Itinerary

#### Day 1 - Arrive in Asheville

After settling into your room at the fabulous Haywood Park Hotel in downtown Asheville we get together in the early afternoon for an informal greeting where we will go over the itinerary and safety issues. Afterwards we will walk around town and sample the local cuisine.

**Meals: Dinner**

#### Day 2 - Mt. Mitchell & Biltmore Estate

Depending on the desires of the group we will cycle to or from Mt. Mitchell in the morning and take a tour of the magnificent Biltmore Estates and Winery in the afternoon. Today's cycling will also include a stop at the Folk Art Center, located at mile marker 382. This stop will allow you to purchase some culturally unique gifts created by local artisans. The dining tonight will be a wonderful experience in the Biltmore region of Asheville.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Mileage: options ranging from 30 to 60+ miles**

#### Day 3 - Parkway Cycling and River Floating

**Dates:** May 17-20, June 7-10

**Cost:**

Accommodations: 3 Nights Lodging

Single Occupancy \$1400

Double Occupancy \$1075

Deposit - \$250 per person with the remainder due 60 days before the tour start date.

**Places of Interest:**

There are so many places of interest it is hard to list them all. Below are a few links that will allow you to find the most popular activities and things to do in Asheville.

- [BRP Virtual Visitor Center](#)
- [Grove Arcade](#)
- [Blue Ridge Parkway Official Site](#)
- [Biltmore Estates](#)
- [Asheville Tourism](#)

**Accommodations:**

Night 1, 2, 3:  
Asheville, NC

[Haywood Park Hotel](#)



Today we will cycle from the highest point along the Parkway down to the river valley of the French Broad. The dramatic views along this stretch will be inspiring as we wind our way along the Balsam Mountain Range before plunging down to our river destination. After the mornings cycling we will paddle down the French Broad and back to our host city. Tonight's celebratory dinner will be one to truly remember.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Mileage: options ranging from 30 to 50+ miles**

#### **Day 4 - Final Farwell**

After our last group meal, breakfast in downtown, you are free to depart at your leisure. The trip home will be a time of reflection on the incredible experience of the past few days and the new friends you have made along the way. For those of you in no hurry to get home there will be an option to get a little more cycling in around this fabulous city.

**Meals: Breakfast Mileage: optional day of cycling with options ranging from 25 to 50+ miles**