

FAMILY-FRIENDLY THINGS TO DO  
SHOPPING + DINING + LODGING + EVENTS + DAYTRIPS

WNC **parent**  
family  
**FUN**guide





**GET OUT and GO...**

...to a place where there's something for everyone in the family. The lively focal point of the Western North Carolina mountains, Asheville is a family-friendly destination in itself, while being close to anywhere else you'd want to go. With so many options for family fun, the challenge is in the choosing. But take heart – you can always return.

The WNC Parent Family Fun Guide includes some of the best things to do and places to go for families visiting or living in Asheville and just beyond. These listings are a sampling of area businesses and are not to be considered all-inclusive.

Find more things to do online and special offers from local businesses featured in the WNC Parent Family Fun Guide at [CITIZEN-TIMES.com/FamilyFunGuide](http://CITIZEN-TIMES.com/FamilyFunGuide)



**LISTING LOCATOR LEGEND:**

- C** = Central      **W** = West      **E** = East  
**N** = North      **D** = Downtown      **S** = South



## GET in MOTION

Outdoor & Recreational Activities

When the **URGE** for **OUTDOOR ADVENTURE** strikes, Asheville's alluring natural world awaits at your doorstep. Romp through picturesque gardens and trails or rock hop in gurgling streams at the North Carolina **Arboretum** or **Botanical Gardens** at Asheville. Visit the **Asheville Outdoor Center** and raft down the peaceful French Broad River, which runs through the city. Cast a fishing line, take a dip in a pool or lake or visit a local family farm. Hang out with native animals at the **WNC Nature Center**, which also features indoor and outdoor exhibits, a petting zoo and nature trail. Paddle around the lake on a paddleboat or canoe at **Lake Julian Park**, then break for a picnic and playground time. Play a round of miniature golf, try a pony ride or soar above it all in a hot air balloon. Stop to watch as eyes widen in wonder and laughter bounces in the breeze. Then take a break from the outdoors and venture inside for more fun.

### BY WATER

#### Asheville Outdoor Center ☺

521 Amboy Road, Asheville  
828-232-1970 ✦ [paddlewithus.com](http://paddlewithus.com)  
(see our ad on page 11)

#### Lake Powhatan Beach ☺☹

375 Wesley Branch Road, Asheville ✦ 828-670-5627

#### Altamont Anglers Fly Fishing ☺

30 Caledonia Road, Asheville  
828-252-9266 ✦ [altamontanglers.com](http://altamontanglers.com)

#### Asheville Drifters Fly Fishing ☹

48 Westall Ave., Asheville  
828-215-7379 ✦ [ashevilledrifters.com](http://ashevilledrifters.com)

#### Curtis Wright Outfitters ☺

5 All Souls Crescent, Asheville  
828-274-3471 ✦ [curtiswrightoutfitters.com](http://curtiswrightoutfitters.com)

#### Brookside Fly Fishing Guides

Asheville ✦ 828-215-4234 ✦ [brooksideguides.com](http://brooksideguides.com)



## PLAY and LEARN

Attractions, Arts & Culture  
Outdoor & Recreational Activities

**EXPLORE** Asheville's **BUSTLING** downtown, then work your way outward. Be inspired as you rev up your creative side and delve into history at a variety of attractions in the area. Art lovers in the family will rejoice here. Watch artists at work at the **Folk Art Center** and in the funky **River Arts District**. Music is everywhere, with street performers downtown daily and the famed Friday night **Drum Circle** in **Pritchard Park** - a must-see, participatory event. History buffs of the house might enjoy sites like the **Vance Birthplace** or **Smith-McDowell House Museum**. Meanwhile, the renowned **Biltmore House** - the largest privately owned home in the United States - has universal appeal: in addition to the spectacular house itself, the visually striking grounds and gardens invite the kids to run and play, and there are a variety of recreational and other activities geared towards the whole family. Spend the day at the museums of Pack Place, including **Asheville Art Museum**, **The Health Adventure** and **Colburn Earth Science Museum**. Or, board a historic trolley tour for an inside scoop on the town.

REV UP your CREATIVE side!





**REFRESH and UNWIND**  
Family-Friendly Lodging

**AFTER** all the **EXCITEMENT**, relax and recharge in your home away from home. A warm bed after a long day is just the ticket for some much-needed R&R. With all of the choices available in Asheville, it's easy to find the perfect place for the family's down time. Often, the accommodations become part of the fun, featuring amenities like swimming pools and kids' activities. A cozy mountain home in the woods can also be a destination in itself and there are plenty to choose from in the area. Kick it up a notch and find a room with a mountain view. To make life easy, most family-friendly hotels offer complimentary breakfast buffets, which make it a snap to get out and on your way. Others offer convenient access to both great restaurants and area attractions, keeping travel time to a minimum. Choose your home base with amenities that best suit the family's needs and rest easy.

**HOME** away from **HOME**





## **BROWSE** or **BUY:**

### Kid-Style Shopping

Be it a **PRACTICAL** need or **WHIMSICAL** delight, the shoppers of the family won't be disappointed. Whether you're shopping with your kids or for your kids, you're likely to find just the right something special. Children's boutiques abound, carrying every heart's desire, from clothes, books, toys and more. Find everything from typical favorites to items with a mountain theme. Treat the kids to a vacation souvenir or reward good behavior on the trip with a diversion for the road. Stumble upon that special one-of-a-kind item or find an old standard at the mall. Stop by **Mast**, a larger version of an old-time general store, for everything from outdoor gear and home accessories to children's toys and old-fashioned candy. Duck inside the historic **Grove Arcade** downtown or stroll down the streets of historic **Biltmore Village**, just south of downtown. Venture a bit further out to the quaint town centers of Black Mountain or Weaverville, or to Biltmore Park Town Square in S. Asheville. Hint: Don't forget, Asheville can be a shopper's paradise for parents, too – take time out for your own shopping spree.

**SHOPPING** with your **KIDS** or for your **KIDS**





  
**GRAB a BITE**  
Dining with Kid Appeal

It can be hard to **BREAK** for **FOOD** when you're having so much fun, but the family has to eat. The choices are endless here in Asheville - a town known for its diverse, and healthful, assortment of flavorful fare. What you'll also find is a large variety of eateries that cater to families, with free or reduced kids' meals, kid-friendly menus and classic, home-style cuisine. Sidle up to an old-fashioned soda fountain at **Woolworth Walk** or try a new spin on an old kids' favorite - hot dogs - at **Cats & Dawgs**, in downtown Asheville. Combine fun and food at the town's favorite family movie house, **Asheville Pizza & Brewing Company**, with its game room and festive family nights. If eating healthy is the goal, there are plenty of wholesome options, including family-friendly restaurants serving up organic, local and/or vegetarian food. Or, visit one of the local farmers' markets for nourishing snacks or picnic provisions. **Earth Fare**, a large natural foods grocery store and café, hosts a family dinner night weekly with special activities and free kids' meals. Have the kids been good? Take them out for a sweet treat - ice cream, candy and chocolate always bring a smile.

assortment of **FLAVORFUL FARE**





## **HIT the ROAD:** Don't-Miss Day Trips

### Feeling **EXTRA ADVENTUROUS?**

When you're ready to chart some new territory, more thrills await just outside of Asheville. Hop in the car and you'll be back before nightfall. Enjoy beautiful rolling hills, lush forests and mountain views as you travel, finding new family fun all within just an hour or two. It's a vacation within a vacation whether you choose an amusement park, historic attraction or recreational excursion. Start with a jaunt to the neighboring historic Hendersonville/Flat Rock area and easily find a day's worth of fun. Be mesmerized by the waterfalls and other breathtaking natural attractions of nearby DuPont State Forest and Pisgah National Forest. Visit scenic Lake Lure & Beach and Chimney Rock State Park, also less than an hour away. Venture a bit farther to places like Cherokee; Greenville, S.C.; or Tennessee, among others, for an endless array of more fun.

### **NORTH CAROLINA: HENDERSONVILLE/FLAT ROCK**

#### **Historic Hendersonville/ Village of Flat Rock Visitor Center**

201 S. Main St., Hendersonville  
828-693-9708 ♦ [historichendersonville.org](http://historichendersonville.org)  
(see our ad on page 45)

#### **Hands On! A Child's Gallery**

318 N. Main St., Hendersonville  
828-697-8333 ♦ [handsonwnc.org](http://handsonwnc.org)  
(see our ad on page 14)

#### **Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site**

81 Carl Sandburg Lane, Flat Rock  
828-693-4178 ♦ [nps.gov/carl](http://nps.gov/carl)

#### **Historic Johnson Farm**

3346 Haywood Road, Hendersonville  
828-891-6585 ♦ [historicjohnsonfarm.org](http://historicjohnsonfarm.org)

#### **Holmes Educational State Forest**

1299 Crab Creek Road, Hendersonville  
828-692-0100 ♦ [ncesf.org](http://ncesf.org)





## SAVE the DATE:

Fun Festivals & Special Events

The **PEOPLE** of Asheville and the surrounding mountains love to **CELEBRATE**. In this fun-loving part of the world, there's almost always a party going on and the whole family's invited. A varied assortment of festivals and events make many days, and nights special and highlight local arts and culture. Some of the larger family-friendly festivals include the **North Carolina Mountain State Fair, North Carolina Apple Festival, Bele Chere, Shindig on the Green, Goombay Festival** and the **Lexington Avenue Arts & Fun Festival (LAAFF)**. Area farms, libraries, parks and museums also have special events for families. Or, catch an Asheville Tourists baseball game during the spring/summer season. To find out what's going on around town, pick up the local newspaper, Asheville Citizen Times on Fridays or visit [CITIZEN-TIMES.com](http://CITIZEN-TIMES.com).

