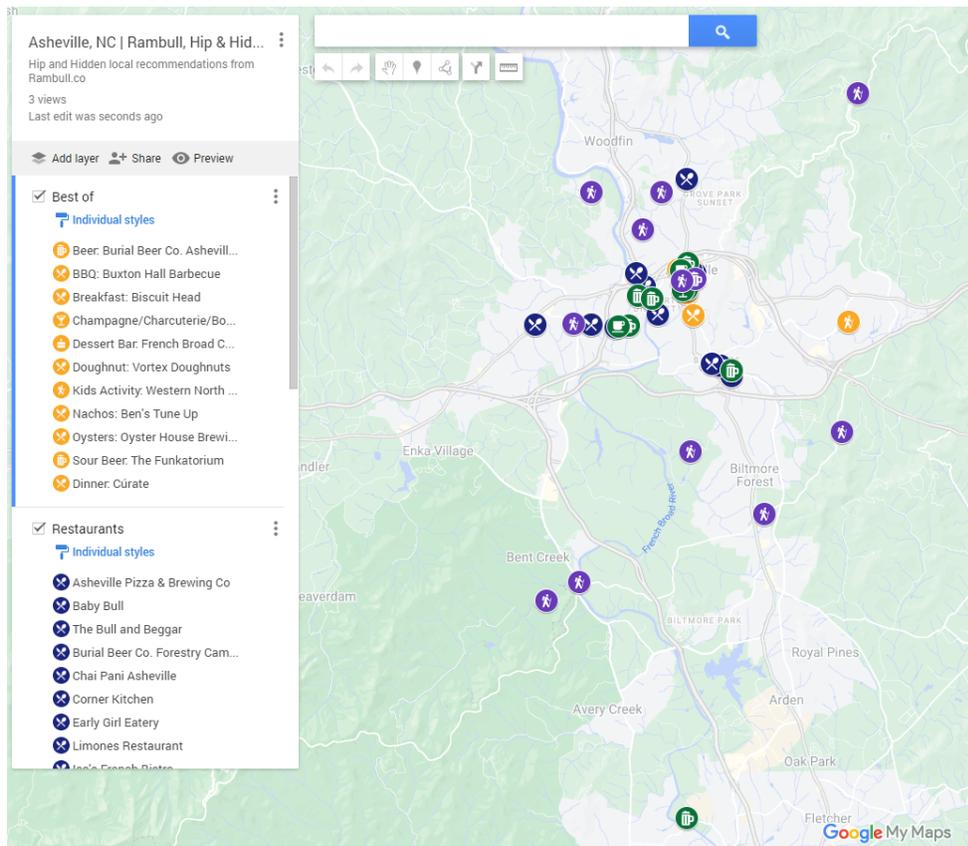




Hip and Hidden  
Local Recommendations

## North Carolina: Asheville, NC

Link to google map with all recommendations and descriptions [here](#).



### Best of:

#### BBQ: **Buxton Hall BBQ**

“Asheville is known for its beer but North Carolina is known for its BBQ. Buxton Hall has some of the barbecue in the state! It’s conveniently located next to Catawba on the South Slope.”

#### Beer: **Burial**

In a city known as the beer capital of the US, Burial takes the cake for best beer and could easily win best brewery atmosphere. It puts off what might be described as a ‘moody’ vibe. Come here to drink great beer, awesome food, and a great hang out area.



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**Breakfast: Biscuithead**

“Biscuit Head is the one of the two best breakfast places in the city (the other being Sunny Point). Biscuithead is much for grab-and-go than sitting down. Order at the counter and then served at your table. Remember to pair your biscuit with a homemade jam! Depending on how early you get there, expect long lines but they move quickly”

**Combination of Champagne, Charcuterie, and Books: Battery Park Book Exchange**

“One of downtown Asheville’s ‘must visits’. Perfect for anyone that loves some combo of champagne, charcuterie, and bookstores. Find this hidden gem within the historic Grove Arcade, Battery Park offers delicious wines and local bites within a two-story bookstore. Pairs a beautiful bookstore setting with an extensive wine selection. BPBE is also a pet-friendly wine bar that has been featured on Wine Enthusiast’s list of “Top 20 Wine Bars in America.” Live Jazz music every weekend adds to the ambiance”

**Desert Bar: French Broad Chocolate Lounge**

“An ‘if you know, you know’ institution in a city that has the best dessert bars. If you only have time for a few, go to the best and most famous, the French Broad Chocolate Lounge and Asheville Chocolate — vegan and gluten-free options included.”

**Dinner: Curate**

“If you are planning a trip, you need to get a reservation ASAP. Curate is a Spanish Tapas spot and arguably the most popular restaurant in Asheville. Be sure to book a reservation ~30 days before you want to go, definitely worth the hype. It recently earned the title of “One of the 100 Best Wine Restaurants in the U.S.” from Wine Enthusiast. Pro Tip: Bodega by Curate is a casual spot for sandwiches and vermouth cocktails, while Curate is a full on tapas-style meal.”

**Donuts: Vortex**

“Yep, these are amazing donuts. Vortex is a funky but stylish spot that also has vegan options, plus gourmet coffee.”

**Kids Activity: Western North Carolina Nature Center**

“Perfect for kids 3 and up, is the WNCNC which features award-winning exhibits that are home to 60 species of wild and domestic animals and hundreds of species of plants. The park is really well done and is the best spot to visit for animal-lovers. Everything is native to Western Carolina and the surrounding area, so if you want a glimpse of what exotic animals and plants roam the mountaintops, then you came to the right place.”

**Nachos: Ben’s Tuneup**



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“If you need to refuel and take a break from a brewery hop on the South Slope, head to Ben's Tune Up for homemade Saki and iced coffee. Locals absolutely love the pork nachos. Seriously, stop to get the nachos. You will not be disappointed.”

Oysters: **Oyster House Brewing Company**

“Come for the patio scene and oysters. This is a hip neighborhood joint that also serves seafood & sandwiches, and housemade beers.”

Sour Beer: **The Funkatorium**

“Personally, I can't stand Sours but I know there is a dedicated group of loyalists. Check out Wicked Weed and the Funkatorium which is in the South Slope of Asheville. It is the East Coast's first sour beer dedicated taproom.”

Restaurants:

**Asheville Pizza & Brewing Co**

“Legendary pizzas at this funky, upbeat spot known for its locally brewed beers, starters & specialty pies.”

**Baby Bull**

“A counter-service joint with understated vibes and a terrace crafting fulfilling burgers.”

**Bull and Beggar**

“This is an amazing french restaurant right by the Wedge. Known for being high-end fare & wine offered in a bi-level venue with rustic, yet stylish, decor.”

**Burial Forestry Camp in South Asheville**

“A hidden gem with a great down-home atmosphere. Serves sandwiches, charcuterie boards, fish & meat dishes, plus wine & draft beer.”

**Chai Pani**

“Good for either lunch or dinner with walkup Indian “Street Food.” It recently won a James Beard award for the most outstanding restaurant in America. Not surprisingly, they have the line around the block to prove it! Get there early or plan to wait at least an hour. I recommend splitting different items with some friends or family and everybody trying different items. Personally think that the Crispy Masala Fish Tikka Roll is the best thing on the menu.”

**Corner Kitchen**



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“The recommendation for brunch but also great for lunch, or dinner. It is located in a quaint little house. You’ll likely need a reservation. If you are there for brunch, try their bloody mary.”

### **Early Girl Eatery**

“Another great brunch option with welcoming vibes. Vegetarian options are plentiful.”

### **Limonas**

“Another spot you’ll most likely need a reservation. Great for dinner or brunch with modern Californian & Mexican cooking plus creative cocktails served in a quaint, homey setting.

### **Isa’s French Bistro**

“More brunch recommendations...the restaurant is an airy, contemporary bistro offering outdoor seating & elevated seasonal American cuisine.”

### **Red Ginger Dimsum & Tapas**

“This is a very authentic Chinese cuisine at an unbeatable price. Eat here for a trendy, contemporary spot offering modern dim sum & Chinese small plates, plus wine & cocktails.”

### **Red Stag Grill**

“Note - they do not take reservations, so plan accordingly. Red Stage is an original steakhouse in the Bohemian Hotel with ‘locavore’ cuisine. Rustic-chic.”

### **Rhubarb**

“A trendy, contemporary spot for farm-to-table eats. They also do a weekly family-style dinner. Get the burrata”

### **Rocky’s Hot Chicken Shack**

“If you like Nashville hot chicken, this is the spot. Be careful, even mild is SPICY!”

### **Sunny Point Cafe**

“There are two distinct breakfast camps for Asheville foodies. One camp swears that Sunny Point is the best breakfast in town and the other sings Biscuit Head's praises. I don't have an allegiance to either spot because they both are so damn good. Sunny Point is a traditional, table-service restaurant with inventive breakfast dishes that use locally-sourced ingredients. The wait may be long, but the food is worth it.”

### **The Admiral**

“Really great food in a quirky part of town! Be sure to make a reservation. An innovative, changing global menu & cocktails served in a modest cinder-block building.”



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### **Vivian**

“A dinner and cocktail spot. An airy, light filled spot that has a changing European inspired menu.”

### **White Duck Taco**

“Fantastic tacos for an informal lunch. This is a colorful outpost of a taqueria mini-chain known for its eclectic, ever-changing combinations.”

### Drinking:

### **Antidote at Chemist Spirits**

“Fun cocktail bar downtown that is a chic, turn-of-the-century-inspired spot. They have a rooftop terrace & a patio.”

### **Archetype Brewing**

“Great vibes and music. Brewery offering flagship & experimental beers in a relaxed taproom with a family-friendly vibe.”

### **Asheville Yacht Club**

“This fun dive offers delicious cocktails, late-night eats, and a no-nonsense attitude.”

### **BattleCat Coffee Bar**

“Those in the know flock here for specialty coffee drinks and light fare in a spunky converted house with a bohemian vibe.”

### **Catawba**

“Great vibes, music, and beer. Dogs and food trucks welcome.”

### **DSSOLVR**

“Tiny but mighty space and beer selection. Great IPAs to choose from”

### **Hillman**

“This is a fantastic local brewery with outdoor tables and a great, relaxed vibe.”

### **Jack of the Wood**

“A favorite local Asheville hangout. Cozy pub with nightly live music.”

### **New Belgium Brewing Co**



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“New Belgium's East Coast Headquarters is located along the French Broad River between the hip River Arts District and West Asheville. An excellent option to enjoy a beer while watching tubers meander down the river.”

### **Sierra Nevada Brewing Co**

“Sierra Nevada's East Coast headquarters is a marvel to behold. The brewery, or perhaps castle is a more apt description, is nestled on a 10+ acre private, wooded lot, a short 20-minute drive from Asheville. Make a reservation for dinner and enjoy a beer and live music by the fire outside while waiting for your table. It is also by the airport - I recommend hitting this when you come in because there is nothing else over there but the food is so good.”

### **The Chemist Spirits**

“This female-led distillery strikes a perfect balance between the traditional craft and the modern American spirits movement. Juniper is still present, yes, but it's more of a hint in the background, allowing botanicals like lemon verbena, cardamom and mint to truly shine as a distinct American citrus-forward flavor dances across your palate. I can't wait for you to try it.”

### **The Wedge**

“Relaxed brewery in a 19th-century warehouse with craft beer on tap & food trucks parked outside.”

### **Trade and Lore**

“Cafe serving locally roasted coffee and light bites, craft beer, and natural wine. One of the best places to get coffee in Asheville. There are tons of fun latte flavors and some rockin' pastries. 12/10 recommend ordering the chai latte! For all the non-coffee drinkers alcoholic beverages are also available, as are fresh juices (delicious) and various kombuchas.”

### Activities:

#### **Asheville Retrocade**

“Best place for game lovers! New and old school with plenty of drinks and snacks.”

#### **Brent Creek River Park**

“Bent Creek is a great spot for a run or bike on dirt roads.”

#### **Craven Gap Trail**

“The Craven Gap Trailhead is about a 15-20 minute drive from the heart of downtown Asheville. The route is located just off of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Follow Town Mountain Road for scenic views of downtown.”



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### **Craggy Gardens**

“Craggy Gardens is a favorite hike near Asheville on the Blue Ridge Parkway! This 1.4-mile hike yields breathtaking views of the mountains. It is located roughly 30 minutes from downtown Asheville, Craggy Gardens provides picturesque panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The ride to Craggy will take you along the Blue Ridge Parkway, known for its scenic overlooks. There are a number of trails, ranging from beginner to advanced, around the Craggy Gardens area. A few of them will take you to the summit - springtime views are perfect any time of day!”

### **Drive the Blue Ridge Parkway**

“The Blue Ridge Parkway is minutes away from Downtown Asheville. It's the perfect place for an easy drive, short hike, or breathtaking photoshoot. A favorite fun-fact: the Blue Ridge Parkway is the most visited US National Park. Helps when you are a highway...”

### **Frying Pan Mountain Lookout Mountain**

“An easy, short hike up to a unique mountain escape from a truly unbelievable perspective.”

### **La Zoom Tour**

“If you are looking for a tour of Asheville in the form of a Comedy Show, this has been very popular in the area.”

### **Montford Area Historic District**

“A visually stimulating part of town, Montford is one of Asheville's oldest and most architecturally impressive neighborhoods. The area also attracted many prominent visitors in the early 1900s. Two of those visitors being: F. Scott Fitzgerald (author of *The Great Gatsby*) and his wife Zelda Fitzgerald. The couple is said to have come to lavish parties in the Montford area of Asheville in the 1920s -specifically in the home of Dr. Carole and his wife (renowned pianist composer Bela Bartok).”

### **North Asheville Tailgate Market**

“Shop local! Open Saturday 8 a.m. - noon. Visit the Asheville Tailgate Market located on the beautiful campus of UNC Asheville. Enjoy a breakfast crepe, grab a cup of freshly roasted coffee or pick up a tasty baked good while you meander through the market.”

### **North Carolina Arboretum**

“Created in the vision of the late Frederick Olmstead, the mastermind of the landscaping for the the Chicago World Fair and Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate, the North Carolina Arboretum is a national treasure to horticulturalists and a pretty cool spot for the rest of us. With 10-acres of



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streams, nature trails, bridges, and spots perfect for picnicking, this lesser-known gem is also a refuge for endangered wildflowers.”

**Richmond Hill Disc Golf Course**

“If you're looking for a fun way to get outside, check out Richmond Hill Disc Golf Course. Located just 10 minutes from downtown, Richmond Hill houses a beautiful 18-hole course.”

**Skinny Dip Falls Trail Head**

“Really beautiful waterfall off of the Blue Ridge Parkway.”

**Shoji Spa & Retreat**

“Shoji Spa services include outdoor hot tub soaks, cedar sauna, and state-of-the-art massages. Shoji Spa is an escape, minutes from downtown.”

**South Slope Mural Trail**

“The South Slope Mural Trail is a self guided "tour" that will lead you through the area to see wonderfully creative and colorful murals. This can be a good way to enjoy the city, grab a snack, and see some art. For direction check out this website:

<https://www.exploreasheville.com/south-slope-mural-trail/>”

**The Biltmore Estate**

“Visit Vanderbilt's magnum opus in the Blue Ridge Mountains. After taking a quick trip to Asheville in the late 1800's, Vanderbilt realized the mountain air soothed his respiratory ailments. Relying on his wealth and employing the premier architects of the day, Vanderbilt built the largest privately-owned house in the United States. Plan a visit to the house, tour Olmstead's gardens, and sample wines from Biltmore's vineyard.”