

What is it like moving to Asheville?

We are so often asked by individuals contemplating a move to Asheville what it is like; so, we created the following to help answer all questions.

You can find additional information on businesses, realtors, health, etc. on the website GayAshevilleNc.com

Welcoming Community:

As you peruse through the website, you will see the many activities and opportunities through organizations to find anything you are looking for or interested in for all ages. Asheville is a very gay welcoming community and was one of the first cities to pass an equal rights bill for city/county employment.

Not only, most of our businesses, but a majority of our religious places of worship offer a safe and welcome home to worship. Just look on the website under spirituality. Looking for doctors, clinics and more, check out the [GayAshevilleNc](http://GayAshevilleNc.com) website under businesses and look for a listing for your specific needs.

Places to Stay During Visits: Asheville is a destination city, which means that we are always busy, even during other cities off-peak season. Staying downtown, where all the action is, can be expensive. Asheville Downtown Hotels are as expensive or more so than most major cities. Lesser expensive hotels can be found on the perimeter. To the east, Biltmore and Hendersonville Rd are places that are somewhat less than downtown, to the west and Patton Ave (Smoky Park HWY) lesser expensive hotels are available and to the east, Tunnel Road and out off I-40 are lesser expensive hotels. Many Air B&B's are available throughout the area with costs based on amenities and locations.

Asheville Activities: Downtown is very vibrant both day and night, filled with many street side cafes, street entertainment and businesses open late. Activities take place all week long and there are plenty of venues from music venues to Piano Bar to restaurants with special entertainment throughout downtown. For LGBT activities see the calendar on the [GayAshevilleNC](http://GayAshevilleNC.com) website.

LGBT Organizations: Variety is the spice of life and Asheville offers so much to get involved. There are special organizations for same sex only as well as mixed groups for socializing. Community outreach is one of Asheville area's keys to success. For those interested in getting involved, you can choose from any of the many political and activist groups, special interest health groups, sports oriented and our Blue Ridge Pride organization. We welcome all to not just move to Asheville; but to become active. See the many groups on the website Resources Page.

Gay Neighborhoods: There is no "gayborhood" as in many other cities, as the entire city is made up of pockets of neighborhoods with many gays integrated into them. Check out the many realtors on the [GayAshevilleNC website and listed below](http://GayAshevilleNC.com). They are very knowledgeable of the communities and will guide you to the best area for your budget and lifestyle. Outside of Asheville; most areas are about a 15 to 20-minute drive to downtown city-center. Highways cross through with two major interstates. Our regional airport is 20 minutes from downtown and has four major carriers presently flying in and out. Full contact information on below realtors is available on the website.

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THE ALLEN TEAM - KELLER WILLIAMS PROFESSIONALS REALTY info@theallenteamasheville.com

Ben O. Pruette - Premier/Southeby's ben.pruette@premiersir.com

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David Henry Keller Williams davidhenry@kw.com

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Accommodations: Living in Asheville is rather expensive. Our homes/Condos and taxes are the most expensive in NC; however, there are bargains and less expensive homes outside of city limits. Apartments are high and the occupancy rate is 99% full. Apartments outside of city are less expensive and usually more available. See Realtors.

Asheville Offerings: For a city, our size, we have a symphony, lyric opera, regional ballet, community chorus, Gay Men's Chorus, gay rugby, and much more. Our civic center is host to many sports and concerts. Our downtown is one of the most vibrant and the amount of night-time activities rival even the largest cities. We constantly are on a "one of the top-ten cities for...." which is a major reason why so many people find Asheville.

Safety: Safety is an issue many people ask about. As far as the LGBTQ community, we have very little violence towards the community, so you do not have to fear moving here or walking about. As in any city, discretion is always the key to exercise. As we have grown, crime has come to the mountains; however, it is not directed to our community and is not rampant. As stated above, movement downtown, even in the evening, is very safe. Many people that live in nearby communities either walk or bike to and from downtown.

Employment: Asheville has become a major city to move to or retire to; however, it is best served by individuals that bring their jobs with them. Our employment opportunities are limited to the medical community; which always has openings. Low paying Hospitality jobs are abundant, but they do not all pay living wages. While we love having new faces move to Asheville; we don't want to mislead the opportunities here. Unless you are transferring with an employer or have a skill that is needed in Asheville, please double check before making the move if expecting to find suitable employment once here.

Get Involved: If you are also looking for a city to become involved, you have found the right place. We have so many opportunities for individuals to volunteer, support and join. From our civic to LGBTQ Non-Profits, your talents will be most appreciated. That also includes the talent of just "jumping in" and helping-out.

Welcome to Asheville, "the gayest little city in the US"