



ASHEVILLE

Wedding Planning Guide



Do you dream of castles and mansions? Or are you more of a Birkenstock babe? Maybe you'll rock climb to your "I do's" or choose a hip, urban setting for the big day.

You might decide on Mediterranean cuisine for your reception fare or go totally vegan (locally-grown, of course).

Whatever kind of bride you are, in Asheville, you can have it "any way you like it."



"We wanted to share how much we loved having our wedding take place in Asheville! From the moment we chose our former home city as the stage, the Convention & Visitors Bureau was helpful and genuinely concerned about providing useful information for us, our vendors and out-of-town guests.

Along with our own festivities, Asheville provided many interesting and memorable places and things to do while we were there! From the fabulous independent dining and shopping choices to super accommodating inns and hotels, we couldn't have asked for a more beautiful and unique city to celebrate our wedding!"

— Sandra & Greg, Charlotte, NC

Explore Asheville *Wedding Services*

Congratulations on your engagement. Now you can begin planning the perfect event! Choosing the Asheville area as the location of your wedding provides a magical setting that will create memories of a lifetime. You will also have access to the assistance of the Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau.

We can make your planning process easier!

Explore Asheville offers a **free and time saving** service to help in your wedding planning. We can send the details of your wedding guests' accommodation needs to area accommodations your behalf saving you from having to make numerous individual phone calls. The accommodation representatives will contact you directly with the rates and availability they can offer.

When you are ready to start securing group rates for your guests, contact weddings@exploreasheville.com. We can also provide Asheville Visitor Guides and maps for your out-of-town wedding guests.

Explore Asheville
27 College Place, NC 28801



Photo by Jesse Kitt Photography

Vow to be Different

Think about all the weddings you've been to. One blending into the next.

A sea of sameness. But this is your big day, your big chance to do something different. To be remembered for getting married in a castle, on top of a mountain or even on a sprawling farm. It's your chance to make real, lasting memories for you as well as your guests. It's your chance to be different. In Asheville.

From the friendly experts ready to help with all your needs, to the amenities you can only find here, to the unique adventures sure to please visiting wedding guests, the Asheville area is a great place to tie the knot. But it's not about what we think - this is your day. So don't just take our word for it. Here's what people who found wedded bliss in Asheville have to say.

"We knew after our first visit to Asheville that the city would be the perfect backdrop for our wedding one day. Luckily, it became a reality four years later. More than 180 of our guests traveled to Asheville over the July 4th weekend to celebrate with us and take in the beautiful scenery, rich architectural legacy and charming downtown the city has to offer. The CVB offered a wealth of information, from assistance with guest accommodations to providing maps for our out-of-town guest bags. Asheville was an amazing destination wedding spot. We wouldn't change a thing."

— Meredith & Brian, Elon, NC

"The natural splendor, creative pulse of artisans of every persuasion, intelligence of the city, dining to please every palate, glorious weather, and mountains 'to have and to hold' made Asheville the perfect choice for my daughter's special day.

Our guests simply loved their weekend in Asheville. With choices for sightseeing, art shopping, hiking, biking, rafting, golfing, antiques and world-class spas, the wedding was also a first-rate vacation experience."

— Ronee, Mother of the Bride, Atlanta, GA



Photo by Realities Photography

“Scott and I met near Asheville, spending our summers up here at a local camp, and we moved to Asheville as soon as we both graduated from college. When we started to plan our wedding, everything came together like magic—the vintage romantic atmosphere and themes of our venue came through in every other aspect we selected, from the flowers (milk glass and apothecary terrariums) to my jewelry (estate-piece earrings). The most helpful were the bridal libraries where we could meet with multiple vendors and browse all kinds of ideas in one convenient spot. Having our wedding in Asheville allowed us to share this place we love with both our families—we served a favorite Asheville beer at the reception, and even got to have our rehearsal dinner at our favorite date-night restaurant. With so many options, it was easy to bring together exactly what we wanted, and we had more fun than we ever imagined.”

— Scott & Cat, Asheville, NC





Travel to Asheville

Asheville is an easy day drive from many major cities. Your traveling wedding guests can get here with ease either by car or plane. The Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) offers non-stop flights and easy connections through major US hubs. Check www.FlyAVL.com for the latest flight schedules.

Airport Distances

Asheville Regional Airport (AVL)	10 mi
Greenville Spartanburg International (GSP)	77 mi
Charlotte Douglas International (CLT)	125 mi
Knoxville McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS)	129 mi

Driving Distances

Alabama		Ohio	
Birmingham	331 mi	Cincinnati	372 mi
		Cleveland	540 mi
Florida		Pennsylvania	
Fort Lauderdale	726 mi	Philadelphia	628 mi
Jacksonville	408 mi	Pittsburgh	477 mi
Miami	749 mi		
Orlando	547 mi	South Carolina	
Tampa	585 mi	Charleston	259 mi
		Columbia	153 mi
Georgia		Greenville	59 mi
Atlanta	188 mi	Myrtle Beach	281 mi
Augusta	170 mi		
Savannah	288 mi	Tennessee	
		Chattanooga	226 mi
Kentucky		Knoxville	111 mi
Lexington	265 mi	Memphis	494 mi
Louisville	340 mi	Nashville	288 mi
New York		Virginia	
New York City	690 mi	Charlottesville	324 mi
North Carolina		Richmond	346 mi
Chapel Hill	224 mi	Virginia Beach	398 mi
Charlotte	122 mi		
Winston-Salem	146 mi		
Raleigh	231 mi		
Wilmington	318 mi		

“When deciding where to hold our January wedding, Asheville was a perfect fit! The local vendors we worked with were fantastic and made it easy to plan the event from out-of-state. Also, our friends and family had several airport options and scenic driving routes to get to our destination. Not only did Asheville provide a beautiful backdrop for our wedding, but everyone enjoyed all the area had to offer in restaurants, shops and recreation. We couldn’t have chosen a better place for our wedding and can’t wait to visit again!”

— Heather & Rich, Chicago, IL



Guests

A wedding in Asheville treats your guests to a memorable getaway. Here the scenic landscape, the vibrant streets of downtown, creative energy and unique venues make an amazing backdrop for your wedding while offering guests a bountiful experiential banquet. Your guests can take in Asheville's exciting nightlife, explore culinary delights, find their inner outdoor warriors and connect with one another in a setting that is as fun as it is beautiful.

When you plan a destination wedding in Asheville, your guests can enjoy a whitewater rafting adventure or a zip line tour through the treetops. You might organize a walking tour through Art Deco architecture in downtown or send guests on a relaxing drive through the dramatic vistas of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Guests of all ages will have a wonderful vacation experience while celebrating your big day.

More experiences your guests will love:

- See why we call Asheville a "Foodtopian Society" by taking a walking restaurant tour or cooking class and enjoying farm-to-table cuisine.
- Sample Asheville's craft brews on the Brews Cruise, or design a custom local beer experience... with more than ten breweries in the Asheville area, it's not difficult!
- Spend an afternoon visiting artists' studios in the River Arts District.
- Take a trip to Chimney Rock State Park for amazing views.
- See what's new at America's Largest Home, Biltmore.
- Celebrate nature with a hike in the mountains, a trip to the NC Arboretum or a round of golf.
- Discover the charming shops & restaurants in the nearby towns of Black Mountain or Weaverville.
- Become an Asheville trivia expert, take a guided tour by trolley, the purple bus of LaZoom comedy tour, a segway or on foot.
- Tell your guests to connect with us before they travel for insider tips on making the most out of their time in Asheville.

ExploreAsheville.com

 Facebook.com/Asheville

 @VisitAsheville



Photo by Zaire Kacz

Seasons in Asheville

Winter

Winter is a magical season to be married in Asheville. You'll be surrounded by sweeping winter views and crisp, fresh air while the town remains cozy, alive and festive. Experience the magic of Biltmore, regally decked out for the holidays, while you settle in to the unrivaled elegance of the Inn on Biltmore Estate, recognized by Condé Nast Traveler's readers' choice awards as one of the 100 best hotels in the world.

In the historic Montford neighborhood, cozy Bed & Breakfasts welcome your wedding party with inviting fireplaces and sumptuous antique furnishings. Treat your guests to the ultimate winter beverage – a sippable, hot liquid chocolate truffle at the French Broad Chocolate Lounge, or a local seasonal brew like Cold Mountain Winter Ale from Highland Brewing Company.

Spring

Ask the locals and they'll tell you the spring color in Asheville is as fantastic as fall – making it an ideal backdrop for your spring wedding. It seems that the entire city is in bloom, and enchanting scents are everywhere.

Carry a bouquet of springtime fresh pink peonies. Plan your ceremony in the gardens of the North Carolina Arboretum or in the field at Claxton Farm. Local chefs are scouring the farmers' markets for fresh spring fruits and vegetables, ready to make your wedding a true Foodtopian event.

Asheville has long been known as a mecca for rest and rejuvenation, and Asheville's spa culture offers soothing retreats for wedding couples and their guests. As nature breathes new life into the beautiful spring months, why not take your wedding party to Shoji, a Japanese style outdoor hot tub and massage spa where you can soak in the sights and relax before the big day.

Asheville Climate

Any time is a beautiful time to get married in Asheville! The region has four distinct seasons, with the warmest months of the year being July and August while winter hits its peak in January. Average annual snowfall generally does not exceed more than 16.1 inches.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp. (°F)	36.9	39.5	47.3	54.9	63.9	71.7	70.8	72.4	66.9	55.0	49.0	36.6
Mean Daily Maximum (°F)	47.7	51.6	58.4	66.9	73.2	82.7	80.3	81.9	74.8	64.5	60.0	45.3
Mean Daily Minimum (°F)	26.0	27.3	36.2	42.9	54.5	60.7	61.3	62.8	58.9	45.4	37.9	27.9
Precipitation (inches)	2.40	1.87	4.70	3.54	9.18	6.41	2.88	3.69	8.17	5.50	5.26	9.16

Source: National Climatic Data Center (Local Climatological Data 2009)



Summer

Summer in Asheville has been a favorite time to escape to the mountains for more than a century and a wonderful season to celebrate your wedding vows in your own personal style. From fireflies to butterflies, nature is in full swing. Asheville has many stunning outdoor ceremony and reception sites – get married in the open field of a farm, the lush yard of a mansion or under the bright canopy of trees.

Take your wedding party to Sliding Rock for a thrilling ride down a 60-foot gently sloping boulder into an eight-foot pool, or plan a hike to inspiring heights. You might host a bachelorette fly-fishing expedition, complete with expert instruction. Your guests can enjoy the long warm evenings at an outdoor café, or local beer tasting room like Wedge Brewing in the River Arts District.

A summer wedding in Asheville also means fresh field-to-table cuisine. Innovative chefs and caterers take advantage of the opportunity to showcase the bounty of our mountains making your rehearsal dinner or reception a treat for the taste buds.



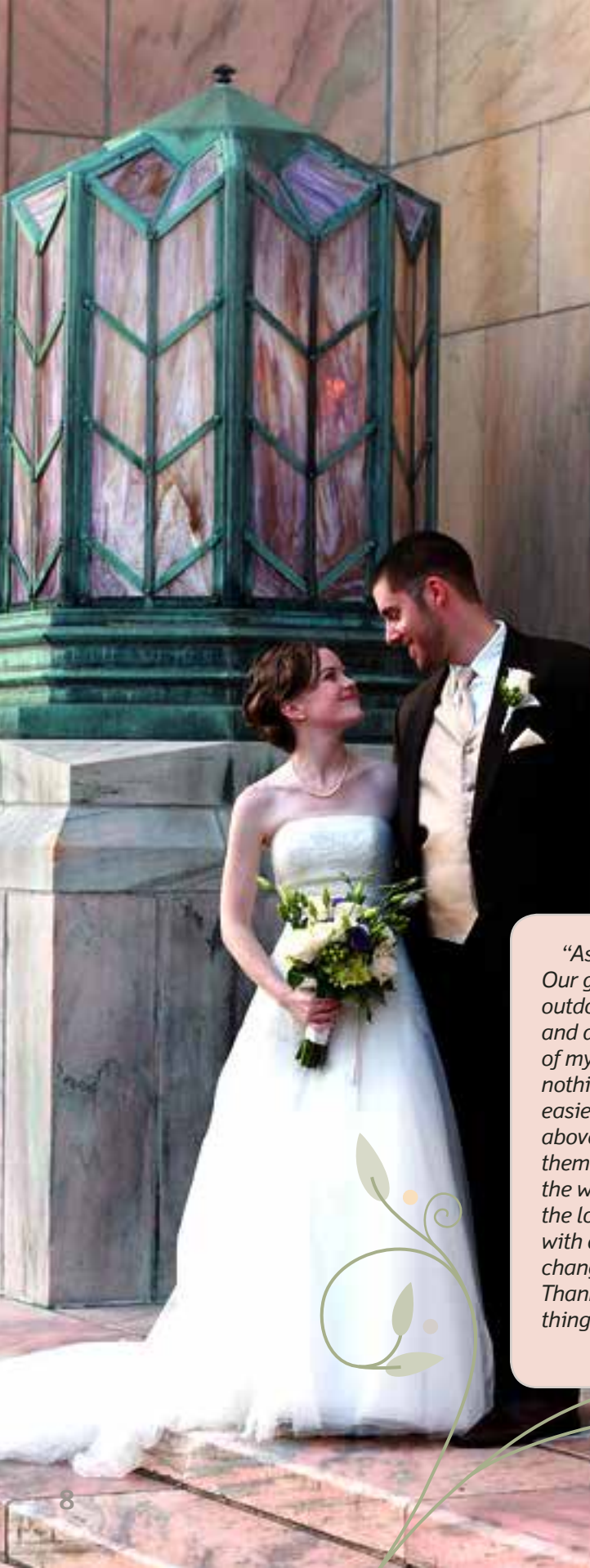
Fall

There's no place like the Blue Ridge Mountains for fall color, and Asheville is ringed by magnificent mountain views with striking photo opportunities for your wedding album.

At The Omni Grove Park Inn, exchange vows at the Skyline Room & Mountain View Terrace with its authentic Gustav Stickley touches and jaw-dropping views. Fall is spectacular in nearby Black Mountain, a small town with big southern charm and many gracious destinations.

Host an outdoor wedding with fantastic fall views at The Crest Center or an urban chic wedding at The Venue downtown. There are even haunted Asheville tours to add to your urban list of fun pre-wedding activities. Your wedding guests will be amazed by the energy of the Asheville region in the fall, one of the most popular times to visit.





Marriage Requirements for Buncombe County

Marriage licenses and certificates of marriage can be purchased at the Buncombe County Register of Deeds.

Office Location and Hours of Operation

205 College Street, Asheville, NC 28801

Phone 828.250.4301

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

When arriving for a marriage license, both parties should arrive prior to 4:30 p.m.

Requirements

To obtain a wedding license, both parties must be present with valid photo identification and Social Security Cards.

The license is valid for 60 days from the date of issue and can be used for marriage anywhere within the state of North Carolina.

Additional information is available on the Buncombe County Register of Deeds website:

[http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/
RegisterDeeds/marriagelicense.aspx](http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/RegisterDeeds/marriagelicense.aspx)

"Asheville was the perfect location for our destination wedding! Our guests were entertained from the moment they arrived! From outdoor activities, to trolley and ghost tours, great restaurants and downtown nightlife, Asheville had a little something for all of my guests. There was never a dull moment when they had nothing to do. Planning the wedding from Florida was so much easier than I expected. All of the vendors and local hotels went above and beyond my expectations. From the time I contacted them to the day after the wedding, they were there every step of the way to ensure I was pleased. Everyone, especially the staff at the local hotels, was so friendly and more than happy to help out with anything I needed. To this day, there is not one thing I would change about my wedding day, especially having it in Asheville. Thanks to the great location and the great people, there is not one thing I regret about my wedding day!"

— Raffaele & Chris, Prospect, CT



LOVE
ASHEVILLE

PUT YOUR \$
WHERE YOUR ♥ IS

BUY LOCAL

www.AshevilleGrown.com

Local Gifts

Asheville also makes it easy to give a special thank you to guests and wedding attendants. Send your guests home with local flavor and foodie souvenirs like organic chocolate, craft brews, homemade jams, mustard or local Sourwood honey. The Asheville Shop at the Asheville Visitor Center, located at 36 Montford Avenue, has a great selection of tasty homegrown treats.

If art is on your shopping list, spend some time visiting artist galleries in the River Arts District to find thoughtful handmade gifts. Downtown also offers many options for creative treasures – The Kress Emporium and Woolworth Walk showcase the work of many local and regional artists.

Photo by Two Ring Studios





“Asheville proved to be an ideal location to host our destination wedding. The Blue Ridge Mountains provided a breathtaking backdrop for our outdoor ceremony, and with a variety of attractions and activities, our guests could do as much or as little as they wanted! Most of our guests had never been to Asheville before, and I was happy they could turn our wedding weekend into an enjoyable vacation. The day before the event, our family toured Biltmore, my groom and his men went whitewater rafting and my bridesmaids and I enjoyed a relaxing day at the spa. Everyone was given an enjoyable, diverse way to experience some of the treats Asheville has to offer.”

— Lisa & Matt, Peoria, Illinois


Photo by Sarah Rominger



Photo by Michael Oppenheim

“The Asheville CVB was wonderful in helping me find outstanding accommodations for our guests. They contacted us quickly after we made inquiries and were always fast getting back to us. The room blocking system they employ gave us multiple lodging options at multiple price points. Since we are not from the area, and we were restricted by a tight budget, this was particularly helpful. The Travel Guides provided by the CVB went beyond the obvious tourist choices for Asheville. We love Asheville and really wanted to help our guests have an extraordinary experience. The CVB certainly helped make that happen.”

— Jenni, Austin, TX

A photograph of a wedding couple standing in a large, rustic wooden gazebo. The groom, on the left, is wearing a dark brown suit and a white boutonniere. The bride, on the right, is wearing a white, tiered wedding dress and holding a bouquet of pink and white flowers. The gazebo has a high, peaked roof with exposed wooden beams. The background shows a lush green forest. A decorative floral graphic is in the bottom left corner.

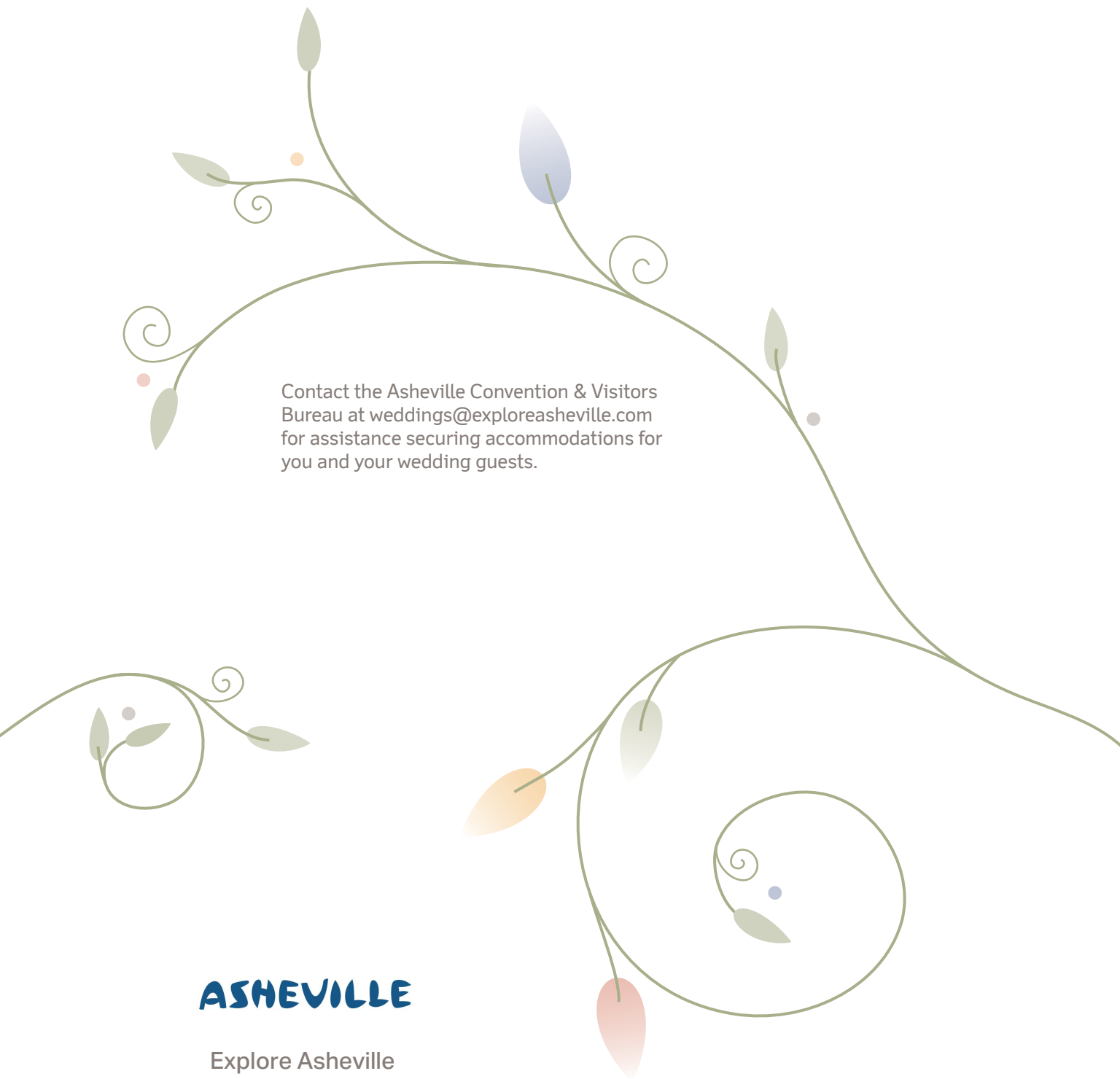
"We had visited Asheville the Christmas prior to our engagement and just fell in love with the culture and spirit of the town. We then decided that Asheville was the place for our magical day! It had so much to offer our out-of-town guests and was just the perfect setting for us to say "I Do!" Deciding on Asheville as our wedding location was by far the easiest decision we made during the wedding planning process. Thank you to all the Asheville venues because we had fabulous service from everyone!"

— Michelle & Charles, Charlotte, NC



“Gabe and I live in Asheville, and wanted to invite our families to our home. Our big day went off perfectly. The venues we chose were beautiful, and everyone was so helpful and nice! By the time our guests were ready to leave, at least five or six of them had decided they wanted to move here and make Asheville their home! The Visitors Bureau was a lifesaver for us. Having all of our family out of town meant that we had to do lots of the planning and legwork ourselves. When I called the Visitors Bureau to look for hotels, they offered to take some information from me and call local hotels in the area to try to find a perfect fit. It saved me so much time, energy and stress! They offered that service (and other services for helping couples with wedding planning) for free! Thanks so much!”

— Gabe & Kati, Asheville, NC

A decorative illustration of a green vine with several leaves and swirls. The leaves are in various colors: green, blue, orange, and red. The vine starts from the left, goes up, then curves down and then up again, ending on the right side of the page.

Contact the Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau at weddings@exploreasheville.com for assistance securing accommodations for you and your wedding guests.

ASHEVILLE

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