

# Rankings

Compiled by the *Asheville Metro Business Research Center*

The Asheville area has been recognized by a wide range of print and on-line publications.

## 2009

**Black Mountain named as one of the Best Places to Live Now!** *National Geographic Adventure Magazine, October 2009*

**Included as one of 10 Best Places to Retire** *US News & World Report, October 2009*

**Included as a Favorite City for Business Trips** *USA Today Road Warriors, August 2009*

**Ranked #8 of Top 10 Metro Areas for Quality of Life** *Business Facilities Magazine, July 2009*

**Ranked #2 as One of the Nation's Top Arts Destinations** *AmericanStyle Magazine*

**Ranked #6 Best Metro Places for Business & Careers** *Forbes.com, March 2009*

**Included in 21 Best U.S. Towns for Baby Boomers' Active Retirement** <http://www.bestboomertowns.com>

## 2008

**11 of 20 Best Places to Retire** *Black Enterprise magazine, October 2008*

**7 of Top 10 Best Midsize Cities for Doing Business** *Inc.com, July 2008*

**46 of 200 Best Performing Large Cities, 2nd Biggest Single-Year Gainer** *Milken Institute, September 2008*

**2 of the Top 25 Small-City Art Destinations for 2008** *AmericanStyle magazine, June Issue 2008*

**26 of 200 Large Metros Best Places for Business & Careers** *Forbes, March 2008*

**41 of 100 Best Places to Live and Launch** *CNN Money.com, March 2008*

## 2007

**5-Star Business Opportunity Metro** *Expansion Management August 2007*

**Best Southern Town** *Outside magazine's August edition 2007*

**7 of Top U.S. Cities to live in** *Frommer's Cities Ranked & Rated 2nd Edition, May 2007*

**23 of 200 Large Metros Best Places for Business & Careers** *Forbes, April 2007*

**1 of the top 100 places to live in 2007** *Relocate-America, April 2007*

**2 of Top 10 easy spring weekend getaways** *MSNBC, April 2007*

**3 of the Top 10 up-and-coming travel destinations** *VirtualTourist Spring 2007*

**1 of 10 America's Best Eco-Neighborhoods** *Natural Home, January/February 2007*

## 2006

**24 of 200 Large Metros Best Places for Business & Careers** *Forbes, May 2006*

**7 of 50 Smart Places to Live** *Kiplinger's Personal Finance, May 2006*

**2 of America's Top 25 Small Town Arts Destinations** *AmericanStyle, Summer 2006*

**Designated Preserve America Community by First Lady Laura Bush** *October 2006*

**1 of 10 America's Best Eco-Neighborhoods** *Natural Home, December 2006*

See reverse for 2002-2005 Rankings



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Asheville Metro Business Research Center is a service of the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, supported in part by the

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COALITION** for Asheville-Buncombe County

## 2005

**One of the Five Best Places to Retire** *Money Adviser, Consumer Reports* September 2005  
**8 of 10 Best Places to Live** *MSN/Sperling's Best Places* July 2005  
**19 of Top 25 Most Secure U.S. Places to Live** *Farmers Insurance Group* June 2005  
**31 of 168 Small Metros Best Places For Business And Careers** *Forbes* May 2005  
**31 of 394 Regions, Entrepreneurial/Innovation Index** *Small Business Administration* April 2005  
**8 of America's Top 25 Small Town Arts Destinations** *AmericanStyle, Summer* 2005  
**11 of 50 Best Places To Live** *Men's Journal* April 2005

## 2004

**One of Ten Great Adventure Towns** *National Geographic ADVENTURE magazine, September* 2004  
**One of "Five Cities That Are Special"** *USA TODAY, July* 2004  
**10 of America's Top 25 Arts Destinations** *AmericanStyle, Summer* 2004  
**Best Place to Live, Number 8 of 331 Metros** *CitiesRanked and Rated, March* 2004

## 2003

**Top Ten Towns for a Second-Home Investment** *MSN Money, October* 2003  
**Best College Towns (#4 Warren Wilson College)** *Outside magazine, September* 2003  
**Best Places To Retire** *MSN July 30, 2003*  
**Top 15 Dream Towns (Best Places to Reinvent Your Life)** *AARP magazine, May/June* 2003  
**18 of America's Top 25 Arts Destinations** *AmericanStyle Summer* 2003  
**Top Family Getaways** *Parents magazine, April* 2003  
**Top Safe & Cheap Getaways (One of Five)** *USA TODAY, April 4, 2003*

## 2002

**Mountain Biking: Where To Ride (1 of 4 Cities)** *National Geographic ADVENTURE magazine, Dec 2002/Jan* 2003  
**America's Happiest City for Women** *Self magazine, October* 2002  
**Top 15 Most Popular Cities to Live** *Harris Poll, September* 2002  
**Grade A- for Twenty-Five Years of Economic Strength** *POLICOM Study of U.S. Metros* July 2002  
**One of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations** *National Trust for Historic Preservation* July 2002  
**13 of America's Top 25 Arts Destinations** *AmericanStyle Summer* 2002  
**One of America's 5 Best Biking Towns** *Bike magazine June* 2002  
**Ranked 14 of 200 Metros for One-Year High-Tech Output Growth** *Forbes-Milken Institute Best Places* May 2002  
**Ranked 3rd in Top 10 Great Literary Trips in the Nation** *Book magazine May/June* 2002  
**The 20 Best Places to Retire in the World** *Barron's March* 2002  
**One Urban Haven in the World** *The Wallpaper magazine Annual Round-up* Jan/Feb 2002  
**29 of Top Fifty Hottest Cities for Manufacturing Expansions & Relocations** *Expansion Management magazine, January* 2002