



# ASHEVILLE AREA

## RANKINGS

compiled by:

Asheville Metro Business Research Center  
A Service of the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce

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

### 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*

### 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*

### 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*

See reverse for 2001-2002 Rankings

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For detailed information, published listings, market reports, and analysis, contact:  
Asheville Metro Business Research Center (828) 258-6137, email: [econdev@ashevillechamber.org](mailto:econdev@ashevillechamber.org)

## 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*

## 2001

**America's Best 100 Retirement Towns** *Where to Retire Special Issue 2001*  
**Reader's Choice Awards (Mountain Destination & Weekend Getaway)** *Southern Living November 2001*  
**Best Five Places to Retire** *MSN HomeAdvisor 2001*  
**America's Top 50 Places (Biltmore Estate)** *National Geographic Traveler October 2001*  
**Ten Great Towns For Retired Singles** *Where to Retire Summer 2001*  
**America's Best Places to Live and Work 2001 (One of Ten Top Small Cities)** *Employment Review 2001*  
**Number 8 of America's Top 25 Arts Destinations** *AmericanStyle Summer 2001*  
**Top 10 Whitewater Towns** *Whitewater Paddling 2001*  
**The Ten Best U.S. Cities For Mountain Bikers** *Mountainbike.com*  
**Best Top Places For Wired Companies Who Want To Run a Business From Paradise** *Industry Standard, February 2001*  
**33rd of 294 Metros For Relative High-tech Output Growth 1999-2000** *Forbes-Milken Best Places Ranking 2001*  
**One of Top Thirty Metros For Small Business Vitality** *Demographics Daily 2001*