

AFAR

WHERE TRAVEL CAN TAKE YOU

NEW YORK

AUSTRIA

ST. PETERSBURG

MOROCCO

PERU

TUSCANY

TRAVEL
BEYOND
THE
ORDINARY

ON THE ROAD
3 QUIRKY
JOURNEYS

SECRET HIKES
AROUND
THE WORLD

A SOUTH
AMERICAN
HOT SPOT

KENYA BEYOND
THE SAFARIS

JULY/AUGUST 2012 AFAR.COM






\$4.99US \$5.99CAN



08

7 851 08310 0

GUIDE

-  STAY
-  DINE
-  SHOP
-  MUST-DO
-  DRINK

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Writer Emma John spent much of her time in North Carolina learning how to play bluegrass (see page 80). But Asheville, a lively college town, offers much for non-musician visitors to enjoy.



JOSEPH THRIFT VIOLINS

North Carolina native Joe Thrift studied instrument making in Europe before setting up his home workshop in Surry County. Make an appointment to see and play his fiddles and Stradivarius-style violins. (336) 352-4471, josephthriftviolins.com

JOHN C. CAMPBELL FOLK SCHOOL

Founded in 1925, the Folk School was inspired by the rural Danish learning centers called *folkehøjskoles*. Weeklong and weekend courses teach everything from basket-weaving and metalwork to how to build a hardwood mountain dulcimer. 1 Folk School Rd., Brasstown, (800) 365-5724, folkschool.org



WEST END BAKERY

The cinnamon buns, says writer Emma John, are "legendary," made with the same local organic flour the bakery uses in its pizza dough. The breads, such as spinach-feta and flax-almond, change daily, with vegan and gluten-free varieties on offer. Grilled cheese sandwiches and bagels stuffed with smoked trout make West End popular for breakfast and lunch. 757 Hayward Rd., (828) 252-9378, westendbakery.com



CÚRATE

Félix Meana and Katie Button, veterans of *elBulli* in Spain, converted Asheville's former downtown bus depot into a stylish tapas bar. *Cúrate* means to cure oneself, which diners can do with traditional Spanish dishes such as Catalan sausage *bocadillos*, codfish salad, and honey-drizzled fried eggplant. 11 Biltmore Ave., (828) 239-2946, curatetapasbar.com

GROVE ARCADE PUBLIC MARKET

This massive building housed the National Climatic Data Center for half a century before it was restored in 2002 to its original function as a retail center. Find more than 50 businesses in the market, including Nutz About Fudge and the Battery Park Book Exchange & Champagne Bar. 1 Page Ave., (828) 252-7799, grovearcade.com



ALOFT ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN

Opening in August, Starwood's new Asheville property is a high-tech option in bluegrass country. Amenities include a 24-hour snack pantry, a gym, and a big-screen-appointed lobby. When you're not exploring the neighborhood art scene, lounge around the modernist outdoor seating area or sip a signature Fiji Lychee cocktail in the W XYZ bar. Doubles from \$159, 51 Biltmore Ave., (828) 232-2838, starwoodhotels.com/aloft-hotels