



TRAVEL OUR VIRTUAL HIGHWAY

NORTH CAROLINA AT A GLANCE

ISSUE NO. 2



THE BILTMORE ESTATE *An American Château*

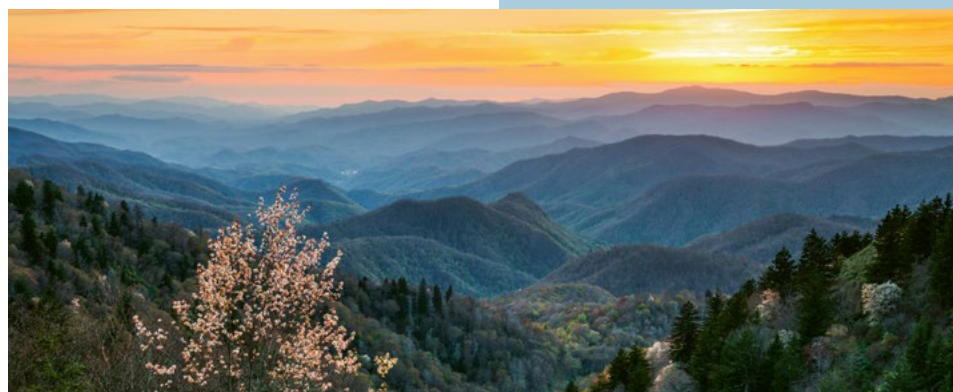
A recent road-trip to see the largest home in the country took me to Asheville, NC. In the 1890's George & Edith Vanderbilt hired Architect Richard Morris Hunt & Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmstead to design this 175,000 SF (4 acres) "summer home" on the original

125,000 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains. This architectural jewel of the Gilded Age includes 33 bedrooms, 65 fireplaces and 43 bathrooms. Just imagine, 43 bathrooms! Walk through hidden doors, view priceless art, meet the guests of the Vanderbilts & **Learn more at www.biltmore.com**



BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

Extending 550 miles southwest from Pennsylvania to Georgia, the Blue Ridge Mountains are part of the eastern side of the Appalachian Mountains. Their famous bluish color comes from the isoprene released into the atmosphere by the trees. The temperate climate supports thick forests of oak, hickory and fir trees, and over 700 species of flora and fauna. Mt. Mitchell is the highest peak east of the Mississippi River at 6,684 feet. The Blue Ridge Mts. are home



to 2 national parks, 8 national forests, the 469-mile long scenic Blue Ridge highway, and an estimated 1,500 American black bears. **Learn more at www.nps.gov/blri**

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DOWNTON ABBEY THE AWARD-WINNING MASTERPIECE

The historical fiction PBS series *Downton Abbey* has come to life at the Biltmore. The beloved drama follows The Crawley Family and their loyal servants through the highs and lows of the 1920's. Full-size replicas of their dining room and kitchen were erected in the estate's exhibit hall, including costumes and gowns worn by the cast. Love, ambition, heartbreak and hope made DA an instant classic. **Learn more and watch at www.pbs.org/downtonabbey**



The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

This historic structure protects one of the most hazardous sections of the Atlantic Coast. Thousands of shipwrecks have occurred in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic". With 269 steps it is the tallest brick lighthouse in the U.S. at 198.49' and part of America's first national seashore. **Learn more at www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/chls.htm**

Explore more **LIGHTHOUSES** at www.architecturaldigest.com/gallery/american-lighthouses-slideshow

I love weekend road-trips! Two and a half days to explore something new is just the right amount of time...most of the time. I could have spent three more days in North Carolina, especially imagining life at the Biltmore. As an architect the estate itself was awe-inspiring. But, watching my favorite characters from Downton Abbey come to life was exhilarating. So much fun when your interests and your passions align! Definitely a must see series; and look out for Matthew, he's my favorite.

Wishing you well,

Emma



DID YOU KNOW?

Babe Ruth hit his first home run on March 7, 1914 in Fayetteville, NC. He had a total of 714 home runs during his 22 seasons in the MLB.

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