

# Welcome to Montreat Conference Center

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Welcome to Montreat Conference Center located in Montreat, NC. Nestled in the mountains of Western North Carolina, Montreat is a private, non-profit conference center with roots in the PC(USA). Over 30,000 guests come from all walks of life to Montreat each year and find it's a place to encounter God through relationships, renewal, recreation, and rest. Here are a few things you should know about this beautiful valley and our neighboring towns and cities.

## All are welcome here.

The Montreat Conference Center is a Christian institution that strives to demonstrate intentional hospitality to all. As a key part of that commitment, we will not tolerate discrimination on our campus against any child of God, including discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, ability, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

In the spirit of this statement, we will continue to invite our conferees, guests, and visitors to use the restrooms in which they feel most comfortable.

You can read all of our policies at [montreat.org/policies](https://montreat.org/policies).

## We love our mountains.

Montreat is located in a 4,000-acre cove of the Blue Ridge Mountains, with relatively mild weather. Casual, informal clothing, an umbrella, a sweater, and comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Since we are in the mountains, our campus is hilly. If you have limited mobility, let us know and we can make arrangements to assist you.

If you'd like to take advantage of the permanently protected wilderness around Montreat, check out our [hiking trails](#).

## Take advantage of this place set apart.

Montreat is often described as a "thin place" or a "place set apart." Central to our campus is Lake Susan, a small, serene lake that is home to a variety of wildlife and is fed by Flat Creek, which runs through the valley. Our facilities seek to incorporate the natural beauty of Montreat, and for that reason they are simple with an emphasis on comfort rather than modern amenities. Most guest rooms do not have televisions, mini-fridges, microwaves, coffee makers, or hair dryers. Not totally lost to the modern world, however, Assembly Inn is equipped with wifi, air conditioning, and a lobby with couches, chairs, and work spaces. All of our lodges all have updated common areas and kitchens.

## Questions?

You can always call the front desk of Assembly Inn at 828-419-9844 and they will direct you to the right person.

# Getting to Montreat

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## If you're flying...

If you are flying in to Asheville Regional Airport (AVL), Montreat is approximately 30 minutes away by automobile. To pre-arrange ground transportation, you may call 828.209.3660 or visit [flyavl.com](http://flyavl.com). When you arrive, the airport Ground Transportation desk is located in the Baggage Claim area. If you prefer to Lyft or Uber, the fare estimate is \$35. When leaving Montreat by Lyft or Uber, allow extra time for your driver to get to Montreat and then to the airport.

## If you're driving...

For Internet mapping enthusiasts, Montreat Conference Center's physical address is 401 Assembly Drive, Montreat, NC 28757. See below for most direct route from Interstate 40 to Montreat.

If you are driving, via Interstate 40, take Exit 64 to Black Mountain/ Montreat/ Route 9. (This exit is 15 miles east of Asheville.) At the exit, turn north on Route 9 and go through three traffic lights in Black Mountain. Route 9 will become Montreat Road, and you will drive approximately two miles to the stone gate at the Montreat entrance. From the gate, continue approximately 1.5 miles to Lake Susan and Assembly Inn at the heart of the conference center.

# Staying Outside Montreat

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## Staying in Black Mountain

If you are staying in Black Mountain and commuting to Montreat, you can expect your drive in to be between 5 and 15 minutes. You will stick to surface roads and will likely not encounter traffic, but might encounter the occasional train! If you are responsible for your own meals (which you likely are if you're staying outside Montreat) we recommend eating where you're staying or eating in downtown Black Mountain. Check out pages 3-4 for options in Black Mountain. If you're looking to take your time and explore the larger surrounding area, check out pages 5-6.

## Staying in Asheville

If you are staying in Asheville and commuting to Montreat, you can expect your drive in to be between 25 and 35 minutes depending on traffic. If you are responsible for your own meals (which you likely are if you're staying outside Montreat) we recommend packing a picnic lunch or eating in downtown Black Mountain. Check out pages 3-4 for options in Black Mountain. If you're looking to take your time and explore Asheville or the larger surrounding area, check out pages 5-6.

# Local Eats

## Black Mountain, NC

Black Mountain is “the little town that rocks” and it’s only a 5 minute drive from Montreat!

If you’re not eating in Montreat’s Galax Dining Room, you’ll want to check out food options in Black Mountain! Named “America’s Prettiest Small Town” by Trip Advisor, there is plenty this small town has to offer to visitors from near and far. Below you’ll find locally owned options; if you’re looking for a quicker option, you can find Starbucks, McDonald’s, Taco Bell, Wendy’s, and Ingles along Highway 9, which runs straight through Black Mountain from the Montreat gate.

### Coffee

<b>The Dripolator</b>	Bright, mellow roastery & coffee shop providing coffee, smoothies, pastries & free Wi-Fi.	221 W State St <i>7 min. drive</i>
<b>Dynamite Roasting Co.</b>	Locally roasted coffee.	3198 US Hwy 70 <i>11 min. drive</i>
<b>Sassafras On Sutton</b>	Book store & coffee spot.	108 Sutton Ave <i>7 min. drive</i>

### Sweet Treats

<b>Hey Hey Cupcake!</b>	Gourmet cupcake shop.	102 W. State St. <i>5 min. drive</i>
<b>Kilwin’s Chocolates, Fudge &amp; Ice Cream</b>	Old-fashioned confectionery selling chocolates, ice cream, handmade sweets & gift baskets.	116 W. State St. <i>5 min. drive</i>
<b>Traditions Bakery</b>	The best donuts in town!	100 West St. <i>7 min. drive</i>

### Drinks

<b>Lookout Brewery</b>	Small-batch brewery offering a range of beers for sale or on-site tasting, plus home-brew supplies.	103 S Ridgeway Ave.#1 <i>7 min. drive</i>	Brewery
<b>Pisgah Brewing</b>	Organic microbrewery offers a taproom with housemade beers & an outdoor stage.	150 Eastside Drive <i>15 min. drive</i>	Brewery
<b>Native Social Kitchen &amp; Social Pub</b>	Craft Brews & Full Bar	204 Whitson Ave <i>15 min. drive</i>	Bar & Restaurant
<b>Black Mountain Ale House</b>	Craft Brews & Full Bar	117-C Cherry St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Bar & Restaurant
<b>Trailhead Restaurant &amp; Bar</b>	Craft Brews & Full Bar	207 West State St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Bar & Restaurant
<b>unWINE’d at Mellie Mac’s Garden Shack</b>	Wine Bar	304 W State St <i>8 min. drive</i>	Wine Bar

## Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

<b>Blue Ridge Biscuit Company</b>	Creative comfort food fare offered for breakfast & lunch in a cozy, homespun cafe & bakery.	601 W. State St. <i>10 min. drive</i>	Breakfast, Lunch
<b>Louise's Kitchen</b>	Quaint cafe doing eclectic comfort-food breakfast, lunch & brunch in a charming old-house setting.	115 Black Mountain Ave. <i>8 min. drive</i>	Breakfast, Lunch
<b>Black Eyed Susan Cafe</b>	Southern Modern. <i>Located in Mellie Mac's Garden Shack</i>	304 West State St. <i>8 min. drive</i>	Lunch
<b>Mac's Grill</b>	Best Burgers in town.	104 West St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch
<b>Roots &amp; Fruits Market</b>	Health foods market & café.	151 S Ridgeway Ave <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch
<b>Veranda Cafe &amp; Gifts</b>	Family-owned Southern nook since 1996 with lunch specials, homemade desserts & a dog-friendly patio.	119 Cherry St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch
<b>Black Bear Tavern</b>	American Classic style food.	10 East Market St. <i>11 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner
<b>Black Mountain Bistro</b>	New American dishes.	203 E. State St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner
<b>Foothills Butcher Bar</b>	American menu made with sustainably sourced meats & other local goods,	107 Black Mountain Ave. <i>10 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner
<b>Fresh Wood Fired Pizza &amp; Pasta</b>	Artisanal, wood-fired pizzas, locally grown produce & craft beers in rustic little house & patio.	100 South Ridgeway Ave. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner
<b>La Guinguette</b>	French fare.	105 Richardson Blvd <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner
<b>Black Mountain Ale House</b>	Charming eatery offering New American entrees along with sandwiches, burgers & salads, plus a bar.	117-C Cherry St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner, Drinks
<b>Dark City Deli</b>	Gourmet sandwiches & local beer on tap	122 Cherry St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner, Drinks
<b>Ole's Guacamoles</b>	Mexican kitchen.	401 E. State St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner, Drinks
<b>Trailhead Restaurant And Bar</b>	Burgers & other grub are offered along with local craft beers & live music at this industrial haunt.	207 West State St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner, Drinks
<b>My Father's Pizza</b>	Longtime, family-run pizzeria offering gourmet specialty pies & a variety of pasta dishes.	110 Cherry St. <i>7 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner
<b>Okie Dokies Smokehouse</b>	Brisket & ribs served with a variety of Southern sides in a cozy, down-home spot with a patio.	2375 US Hwy 70	Lunch, Dinner
<b>Phil's Bar-B-Que Pit</b>	Popular joint serving up generous plates of BBQ & comfort eats at the counter in a kitschy space.	701 NC Hwy 9 <i>10 min. drive</i>	Lunch, Dinner
<b>Berliner Kindl</b>	Traditional German fare is served in a quaint, old-world setting with a bar, a deli & a gift shop.	121 Broadway <i>7 min. drive</i>	Dinner
<b>Native Kitchen &amp; Social Pub</b>	Snug, hip gastropub featuring New American eats & craft brews, plus live music & an outdoor patio.	204 Whitson Ave.	Dinner, Drinks

To find out more about dining options in Black Mountain, check out [exploreblackmountain.com](http://exploreblackmountain.com).

# Exploring the Area

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## Explore Black Mountain

*5 minutes from Montreat*

Black Mountain, NC is the town closest to Montreat. Named “America’s Prettiest Small Town” by Trip Advisor, Black Mountain has no shortages of activities for visitors. Downtown Black Mountain is home to historic buildings, locally owned shops, great coffee and treats, and even a museum! Check out one of the town’s restaurants or breweries on your own, or book a food tour with Black Mountain’s [Creative Mountain Food Tours](#). If you want to learn about more things to do in Black Mountain visit [exploreblackmountain.com](http://exploreblackmountain.com).

## Explore Asheville

*30 minutes from Montreat*

Asheville, NC is a funky mountain town located near Montreat. *Forbes* named Asheville one of “The Coolest Places to Go in 2018” and it is filled with things to do. Check out some of the eclectic eats, downtown shops, or one of the many local breweries that keep people calling Asheville “Beer City, USA.” If you are looking for best of lists or ideas for your trip to Asheville, check out at [romanticasheville.com](http://romanticasheville.com)

## Explore Marion

*30 minutes from Montreat*

If you’re in the mood for a real-life small mountain town, head down the mountain to Marion, NC. Home to local eateries, a fantastic donut shop, and McDowell county’s first ever brewery, downtown Marion is the small town lover’s dream. If you’re looking to get away from the crowd, give Marion a try!