

# *Join the Garden Club of South Carolina “Christmas at Biltmore”*

**November 12-14, 2024**



Join us as we travel to the Biltmore Estate during its most “gilded” season. “Christmas at Biltmore” begins with a majestic Norway spruce and pathway luminaries welcoming you to America’s largest home. With baubles, bows and bright lights around every corner, you’ll be in awe of the spectacular seasonal décor. We enjoy an Evening Candlelight Tour, with heartwarming stories about the Vanderbilt family during this special time of year.

We also experience a thrilling new Chihuly at Biltmore Exhibition.

“Christmas at Biltmore” is an experience you’ll remember for a lifetime.  
Come along, grab your bells and jingle your way into the holiday season!

### **A bit of history....**

Biltmore House is a Châteauesque-style mansion built for George Washington Vanderbilt II between 1889 and 1895 and is the largest privately owned house in the United States. George Vanderbilt opened his opulent estate on Christmas Eve of 1895 to family and friends from across the country. Still owned by George Vanderbilt's descendants, the Biltmore House remains one of the most prominent examples of Gilded Age mansions in the country.

The Hallmark Channel’s 2023 film, “A Biltmore Christmas,” created enhanced interest in visiting the estate during the holiday season.

### **Day One, Tuesday, November 12:**

We board our private motor coach in Columbia and begin your travels into North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. With a comfort stop along the way, you will arrive in downtown Asheville about noon. Free time to find a local eatery for lunch on your own before our afternoon activities.

After lunch gather at the Hummingbird Candle Company, where we participate in a private candle making experience. You'll select a scent, pour your own candle and decorate the outer sleeve in a holiday theme, creating a fun gift or a decoration for your home.



We continue to the Biltmore Estate, arriving at the Village Hotel, our home for two nights. This casual hotel is conveniently located in Antler Hill Village, just a short stroll from the shops, restaurants and the Biltmore Winery. After time to refresh, walk just a few steps to the Winery for a wine tasting. Here we sample and discover the varied nuances and the undertones of five Biltmore wines. Don't miss the Chihuly "Gold and Garnet" Chandelier in the winery! Afterwards you can continue to

explore Antler Hill Village, a vibrant hub of activity that connects the estate's past and present with dining and shopping. Have dinner on your own at one of the eateries, then take a stroll under the glittering lights.

### **Day Two, Wednesday, November 13:**

We start our day with an included breakfast served at hotel. Then we board the coach along with an Estate Guide and head out on a Premium Property Tour. The tour will provide an overview of the grounds, breathtaking architecture, along with a history of this large estate and gardens. The estate encompasses more than 8,000 acres, including the renown gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture.

Our tour ends at the "Chihuly at Biltmore" Exhibit. This installation experience showcases Dale Chihuly's awe-inspiring works that have captivated millions. Witness artworks presented in an intimate gallery setting inside Amherst at Deerpark, then visit the the large-scale installation at the front of Biltmore House.



Travel back to the Antler Hill Village where there will be time for lunch on your own. Afterwards we spend the rest of the afternoon visiting the Conservatory with its high domed glasshouses, home to the many tropicals and rare plants of the collection. The formal gardens display late fall plantings and the lovely paths surrounding the lush landscapes are living tributes to Olmsted's genius. There are also option tours such as an Historic Barn Walking Tour, a Biltmore House Backstairs tour, Bird Walks and more.

Tonight our holiday dinner is served at the charming Stables Cafe. This award-winning restaurant will be dressed with holiday décor, and the menu will offer festive flavors of the season. Following dinner, we will walk over to the Biltmore House for a self-guided Evening Candlelight Tour. The atmosphere of candlelight and cozy flames in the fireplaces invite you to imagine yourself as a guest at the first Vanderbilt family Christmas in 1895.

*“It was a magical day....it was today, at Biltmore.”*

After the evening tour we return to the hotel.

**Day Three, Thursday, November 14:**

Bid adieu to the Biltmore Estate after breakfast. Arrive in Spartanburg late morning where we visit the indoor Holiday Artisan Market presented at the Artists Collective. Browse through displays of dozens of local artists offering works in clay, photography, painting, jewelry, glass and other artful items. Here’s a chance to do holiday shopping and support local artists at the same time. After your visit to the Holiday Market, have lunch on your own at one of the nearby restaurants. We arrive back in Columbia about 300 pm.

*Thank you for joining us on this holiday tour and for supporting the Garden Club of South Carolina*

***Our tour includes:***

Transportation by motor coach from Columbia or a Spartanburg pick up site.  
2 nights accommodation at the Village Hotel on the Biltmore Estate  
2 breakfasts at the hotel  
Wine tasting reception of the Winery’s award-winning vintages  
Dinner together at The Stables  
Premium Property Tour with private guide  
Admission to the Chihuly Glass Art Exhibition  
Self-guided Evening Candlelight Tour at Biltmore House  
Visit to the glass Conservatory to see the amazing tropical flower displays  
Visit to the Holiday Artisan Market in Spartanburg  
Baggage service for one piece of luggage  
Private motor coach service throughout the tour  
Taxes and gratuities (gratuities for coach driver and local guide are not included)

**\*\* Per person double occupancy: \$1,198.00    \*\* Per person single occupancy: \$1,582.00**

A deposit of \$500 per person is required by April 20. Final payment due by June 15, 2024  
A donation for David’s Memorial Garden Fund is appreciated! Please note this on your check.

**\*\*Space is only held with a paid deposit so don’t delay.**

**NOTICE-** Biltmore is very strict about payments and allowing us to hold space, We were given 12 rooms and encourage sharing so that more people can go, so please find a roommate.

For more information and to book this tour contact Garden Tour Chair Joyce Moore at 864.270.5033 or email [joycekmooore1@gmail.com](mailto:joycekmooore1@gmail.com) for a registration form and detailed itinerary.