



March 20, 2020

COVID-19 Crisis: 7 Things You Can Do Today

As the coronavirus crisis continues to unfold, the Explore Asheville team is continuing to work hard to bring you information, resources, and support. Here are seven things to do and know.

- 1. Join the call to action.**[time sensitive: TODAY if possible!] Destinations International is imploring members of the tourism industry to let Congress know how COVID-19 is impacting businesses NOW while a comprehensive economic package designed to provide direct relief to our industry is being considered TODAY. [Read the request here](#) and [use this form to send your urgent message to Congress](#).
- 2. Participate in an important business impact survey.** [takes only 3 minutes!] The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce invites business owners to take three minutes to share how your business is responding to COVID-19 and what resources you may need. Your responses will allow the Chamber to inform discussions with elected officials about emergency services and relief. [Take the 3-minute survey here](#).
- 3. Discover resources for small business + other helpful info.** We've compiled (and are continuing to update) a list of business resources, such as information on new state and federal employment benefits, how to apply for SBA disaster relief, **and more**. [Check it out here](#).
- 4. Send us updates in your business operations for ExploreAsheville.com.** We've built a new section of [new section of our website](#) with information on changes in operating hours, temporary closures and other business updates. If you have changes you'd like for us to add, [learn more and find out how to submit them](#). Please note that this is an ever-evolving site with new features and other improvements added continuously.

5. Help make #AshevilleStrong.

There are numerous ways you can make a difference during these unprecedented times. Buy [#AshevilleStrong](#) gift cards to use later on at local businesses. [Give blood](#) – there is a critical need. [Support local eateries](#) by going to a new section on ExploreAsheville.com to find out who's offering takeout, delivery, or curbside pick-up.

6. Have a moment of zen.

This week has been one of the most catastrophic our industry has seen, far surpassing 9/11 and the great recession. While we've seen quick progress in the form of the SBA Small Business Relief Fund and the Family First Response Act ([learn more here](#) from NC Restaurant & Lodging Association), the stress and anxiety can feel overwhelming. [Visit our "Virtual Asheville" page when you need a break.](#)

7. Know that we are here for you.

Our physical offices are closed as we practice social distancing, but we are still here for you, available during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. [Contact us anytime](#) by phone or email, just like usual!



Explore Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau
27 College Place • Asheville, North Carolina 28801
ExploreAshevilleCVB.com | (828) 210-2724

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