

BILTMORE FAQ

What are the various opportunities for getting to see the Biltmore Estate while I am at NASIG?

First – there is:

An Evening at the Biltmore Estate – Friday, June 5th, 2009. \$125 per person

NASIG is pleased to offer a special evening at the Biltmore Estate for the first 140 registrants and guests who sign up for this opportunity. It was our hope to offer an all-conference evening at the Biltmore but our budget would not allow. Happily, though, there will be ample opportunities for NASIG conference goers to visit the “America’s Largest Home” if this special event does not tempt you.

What do I get for \$125? (Entrance/Tour + Coach transport + Meal + taxes & fees)

Basic entrance tickets to Biltmore Estate range in price, depending on the season, from around \$33 to more than \$50. We were able to lock in an entrance price of \$40 for *this event*. This is an excellent value since we will be in Asheville during a peak season. (During peak seasons, regular tickets are over \$50) This ticket price allows you **free re-entry** to the Estate on either Sunday or Monday so you can revisit the house and spend more time in areas you missed on Friday or you can take advantage of other side trips within the Estate if you so desire. You will be transported to and from the Estate on Friday evening by chartered motor coach and the cost of this transport (\$35) is built into the total price. Also included in this total price is a fine dining experience (\$50):

Our menu: Baby Field Greens, Cucumber, Tomatoes, Croutons, Caramelized Onion Ranch Dressing / Herb Crusted Chicken Breast Stuffed with Prosciutto, Spinach and Brie, Chardonnay Cream Sauce + 2 sides / Chef’s Dessert Sampler (three petite desserts on one plate), rolls, water, tea, coffee for the table

A cash bar will be on hand and Biltmore Estate wines, along with a full selection of other beverages, will be available. (Estate wines by the bottle for the table will be offered).

Please note that many of the ingredients used in food preparations are grown locally and/or on the Estate.

What makes this event special? Instead of negotiating the daytime crowds, NASIG goers will have the pleasure of exclusive guided evening tours of the house and gardens, after enjoying a fine dining experience at the adjacent Stable Café. Your time will be well spent as you will have the chance to linger over dinner and then tour the house at your leisure.

What if I have children with me? For NASIG conference registrants who plan to bring their families to Asheville, the Friday evening function *might not* be your best value because we have to charge the full event price for each individual, regardless of age, due to the cost-recovery nature of the event. Regular estate entrance at other times allows *free* access for children under the age of 9. Youth tickets (ages 10-17) will be NASIG discounted at \$18 and Adult discount tickets will be available during the NASIG conference for \$36. So, depending on your situation, you might instead want to take advantage of discounted entrance tickets either before or after the conference. (We’re working with Biltmore to get vouchers for these discounts.)

For visits *other* than the Friday night event, what if I don’t have my own transportation? Most local transit choices (trolleys, busses) **will only take you as far as the front gate**. From there, it is another 3 miles to

the actual house (and hiking in from the front gate is not allowed.) It IS possible to call a taxi for the trip from the gate to the house. (Cost: approx. \$15 *one way*) It would be best to get together with colleagues who have a car!

If you do have your own wheels, there is plenty of visitor parking near the house and there are shuttles for anyone who doesn't care to or cannot walk from the parking areas.

What's so special? It's just a big house!

The Biltmore Estate is *more than* just a large, opulent mansion – it is a moment in American history. It is also the largest privately owned residence in the United States. This wonderful estate captures a time long past and has been carefully kept faithful to its period. There are so many fascinating aspects about it. To quote from their web site:

“A family-owned company, our mission is the preservation of Biltmore as a privately-owned, profitable, working estate. Biltmore does not receive any governmental funding or grants, making it one of the United States' most significant National Historic Landmarks that is preserved solely through private funding.”

Regardless of what option works best for you, we urge you to consider making the trek to the Biltmore Estate at some point during your visit to Asheville. You won't regret it – one can spend far more \$\$ on Disney facilities and other similar entertainment parks, but the Biltmore Estates offers cultural and historic insights of enduring value. There is no other private home in the U.S. like the Biltmore Estate, so take the opportunity to see it if you can!

<http://www.biltmore.com/>