

My Life in the South

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The South is, and isn't, what you think it is
- I ended up there for reasons I won't go into
- Most photos are from my iPhone
- I learned to love to eat out here.

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The Bearded One Goes to Asheville!

I spent about 4 months in Dixie before the family moved down, and while I visited up to Illinois once or twice a month, the reality was I had plenty of time to kill on weekends, and this led to road trips to Asheville and other places. Now before I get too far into the road trips, it is worth mentioning Red Clay was an hour and fifteen minutes from a decent town, and two to three hours from a two pretty good towns, and about 4 to 5 hours from Savannah and Charleston, which are just great towns.

Asheville is a pretty good town, two hours North of nowhere...I mean, Red Clay.

So what is there to do in Asheville? A LOT!

Asheville is a vibrant community

in the West North Carolina mountains. The have a beer bus tour that will take you to all the local microbreweries and that is all I recall.

My family says they have a host of cultural events, art fairs in the square, and great architecture. Like many southern towns, it is great for walking about and just being part of the scene, which I apparently was half way through



Asheville, where even the Atheists want clean streets.

beer tour.

Come inside the news letter for more exciting stories and pictures of Asheville, NC, where cool people live and I don't!

The Bearded One Leaves Red Clay for the Weekend!

Let me just say that Red Clay, South Carolina really sucks if you are alone and need something to do. Like a lot of Southern small towns, people have lived there forever, and gone to the same church forever, and they really don't need you as a friend. In the most friendliest way possible,

they say "Hey"! And then go home to the people they have known forever.

So yes, I did get the fuck out of town every chance I could, and drove on average over two hours each way to have lunch in some other town. Yes, I burned

a lot of gas and hurt the environment, but if the environment had to spend two consecutive weekends in Red Clay, it too would have hopped in the car and driven 120 miles to the furthest Waffle house its iPhone restaurant app would pick up.

Funky Little Shops Give Asheville Shopping Funkiness!



Can you say funky? Do you want to? I try to avoid it as a word.

So how do you separate yourself from some of your money in Asheville? Well just go there and they will help you. Southern people are so polite. I mean they make you enjoy it, and feel good about giving them your money. Even the northern people who fake southern accents are so sweet! My opinion on the cordiality of the South is so high, that if I had to pick

a place to spend my money in a frivolous manner or to get ass raped, both options would involve Southerners (I hope)! A good old southern ass-raping, followed by some barbecue and corn liquor, none of which would cost too much money, now that has a certain appeal to it, doesn't it? And I don't think this describes Asheville at all, except man you can drop some coin faster than (Foul analogy not printed due to it being too nasty even for me to want to be associated with it but it did involve the F word).

"I remember the first time I had to shit in North Carolina. I was nervous about where to go, but being at the Biltmore I had plenty of options. All I can say is my first bowel movement in NC went great! Thanks Biltmore!"

The Biltmore Estate, Touristy but with really clean toilets.

In Asheville a great place to go is the Biltmore Estate, where you can get a day pass or a membership pass that allows you access to the 8,000 acre estate and mansion. It is a tourist trap, but still neat.

There are hiking trails and really gorgeous gardens in season that are to die for! And if you have no real taste for wine, the wine tasting area can easily seduce you into buying 3

or 4 bottles of mediocre wines for \$10 to \$15 a piece, and a pair of crappy Biltmore wine glasses at \$8.50 each. Might as well pay \$4 for some Biltmore party mix, \$5 for a Biltmore baguette, and \$12 for some Biltmore cheese, none of which is made on the Estate.

When you are done spending, you can eat on a veranda overlooking the Biltmore Estate Village, which

looks like it broke off from some Disney park and floated north. On the plus side, the bathrooms are amazingly clean, just an honorable place to shit.



Walking around in Asheville!

Asheville is a really nice town to walk around in, even if you are not stoned or looking to get a little Colorado mind-set if you know I mean. Here is a picture I took not stoned of a little side street. I need to type out like 75 to 125 words to fill this space and that is more than it looks like when you start whaling away on the keyboard trying to fill it all up.

But I digress, Asheville really is a nice place to walk about, and come inside the news letters to find out where you can get some tasty food and beads. I saw a guy who I think could get you some weed too, but he wouldn't let me take his picture, so you will have to find him on your own (Hint: he looked like weed head).



The side streets of Asheville, even when empty, give off the charm of a bygone era when whores probably roamed them.

Tasty Treats for the Tum Tum tummy



**Southwest-
ern style
black bean
burger and
fries for \$5**

hand made gourmet potato chips, next door to a cigar shop, is pretty freaking awesome!

And when you walk about Asheville, the choices between Al Fresco dining and taking something away to sit in one of the beautiful small parks can be even harder than choosing the food. Either way though, come and eat the good food found almost anywhere in downtown Asheville.



What can I say about food in the South? These people love to eat! And not just the "Holy crap, that shit will kill you Paula Dean food", but a lot of really tasty things. And the fact that you can get fresh,

A Perfect Day!



For me, a perfect day in Asheville would start with a tour of the town on foot. Wandering by the inspiring architecture of pre civil war churches and buildings that once hustled and bustled with the energy of the antebellum era, one cannot help but lose track of the morning. But once the morning is lost, just stroll into the many dozens of charming cafes, where fusion meets southern, and your tastes buds will be delighted!



**A blueberry
Smoothie and
Tomato Bisque
soup is the
perfect light
lunch!**

Biltmore Gardens—SHRUBBERY!



For me, the highlight of the Biltmore is really the garden areas. Stepping through one of the many gateways into the garden is a step back in time to the gilded age. Biltmore's gardens are many acres of the type of old growth shrubbery that would send the Knights who say Ni into convulsions that would rattle their reindeer antlers. Ni, Peng, and Neee-wom!





SubmitAndPray.com

Primary Business Address
Double Wide Cube
Wage Slave Boulevard
Main Street, USA (recently outsourced to Mexico and China)
Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
E-mail: thebeardedone@submitandpray.com

Submit And Pray

Hey you! Thanks for checking out our newsletter! I bet you are wondering what SubmitAndPray.com is all about? Well join the crowd people, because it is not about much more than the SAP ERP System, Terrorism, and my musing about how being a middle manager has basically murdered me. The site was founded maybe in 2010 and is widely regarded as mediocre, grammatically sloppy, and a little fucked up in general. But it also has some work instruction on SAP which seem to help some people, and a bunch of power points on terrorism that no one seems interested in. There is some other stuff too.



Closing Comments

This is a standard template that I have adopted to chronicle my adventures in the South. I ended up there when I left a really horrible middle management job in the Mid West. I recently got back to the Mid West at my own request, but my intentions are to get back down South in a couple of years.

The South is divided into places I would like to live, and those I do not want to see again.

Areas I have been to and would recommend without reservation include Asheville and Hendersonville in North Carolina, Greenville and Charleston in South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia. Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC would make the list except their traffic just sucks.

Columbia, SC would be manageable, as would places like High Point, NC.

Areas that would work as second homes with a bucolic retreat include places like the very charming but small Abbeville, SC.

Later newsletters, maybe one or two, will run through the pluses of some of the bigger towns.

I do rate the Southern cities, especial-



Waterfall at the bass pond in the Biltmore Gardens.

ly Charleston and Savannah, as some of the greatest cities I have seen for living. I have been to Boston, New York, Chicago, Montreal, Paris, London, Cairo, Stockholm, Tokyo, Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong and many other of the world's great cities, but if I had to pick one to live in and never leave, it would likely be Savannah or Charleston (ok, maybe Paris).

But when I buy my next house, it probably will be near Asheville, so I can have a large enough acreage to do the things I want to do.

See you at the Biltmore!

Cordially,

The Bearded One