

Warm up this Winter in the Blue Ridge Foothills

Explore our quaint downtowns this winter and enjoy the warm and friendly faces that will welcome you to Lake Lure and the Blue Ridge Foothills. The following are some must see stops during the winter months you don't want to miss.

Stay:

Firehouse Inn B&B

Carrier House B&B

Eat:

MiPubelito Mexican Restaurant
Barley's Pizzeria and Taproom
The Fountain at Smith's Drugs
Big Dave's Seafood
Scoggins Steak and Seafood

The Olive Tree
Fat Tracy's
Copper Penny
Foothills Cafe

Rutherford Thai
Gregory's
Louie's Cafe
Don's Italian

Tours and Trails:

Cherry Bounce Trail Driving Tour
Historic Downtown Walking Tour
Thermal Belt Rail Trail

Main Street Kid's Safari
Broad River Paddle Trail

The Gold Mile
Purple Martin Greenway

Don't Miss:

Bennett Classic Car Museum
Bostic Lincoln Center
Washburn General Store

The Bechtler House and Mint Site
KidSenses Interactive Children's Museum
Defiant Whisky Distillery

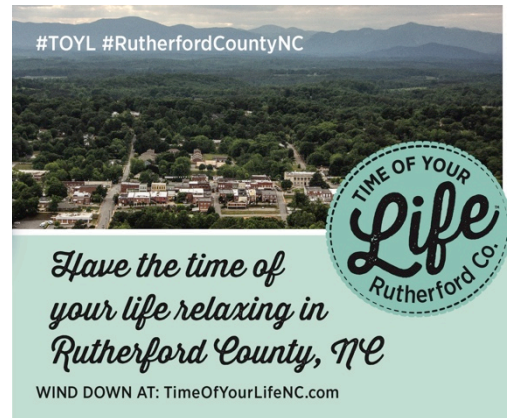
DAY 1: COUNTY TOUR



One of the best ways to get acquainted with our area is to take off on one of our scenic driving tours. The one we recommend during the winter season is our **Cherry Bounce Trail**. This backroads tour comes from an old moonshine route taken by those in search of Amos Owens' famous Cherry Bounce drink made from the sweet cherries of Golden Valley. Depending on when you arrive to our area, the tour can take anywhere from an hour and a half to five hours, if you get lost in the nostalgia you find along the way.

The tour, which originates in downtown Rutherfordton, transports you back in time as you explore historic markers dating back to both the American Revolution as well as the Civil War, visit **Defiant Whisky Distillery** set in heart of Golden Valley, **Washburn General Store**, one of the oldest, family ran businesses in North Carolina, the **Bostic Lincoln Center**, a museum dedicated to President Abraham Lincoln, and lots of other hometown favorite spots. It's a great way to learn about our area and get a sneak peek at some of the stops we recommend throughout your stay.

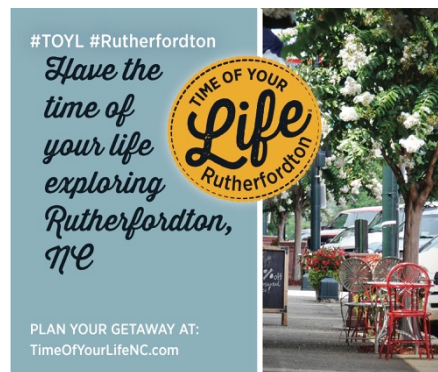
Upon your return to Rutherfordton, grab a seat at **MiPubelito Mexican Restaurant**, a local favorite for lunch or dinner that always feels like a party.



Day 2: DOWNTOWN RUTHERFORDTON and SPINDALE

Begin your day with breakfast at **The Olive Tree**. A Greek restaurant that will pleasantly surprise you with home made potatoes, plentiful omelets, and a southern take on biscuits and gravy that even the locals approve of.

Next, stroll the streets of downtown Rutherfordton. Named **2016 NC Small Town of the Year** by the NC Rural Center, Rutherfordton provides a number of activities such as shopping, historic walking tours, and heritage displays. Local boutique shops include **Paws and Purrs**, the perfect place to find a something for your furry friends, **Hills Hardware** which includes a wide range of shopping items such as local t-shirts, hand made wooden toys, and **925 To Go** jewelry shop on the top floor. **The VAC** is an art store featuring unique pieces from local artists. They have a wide range of items including pottery, glass work, jewelry, area photography and paintings. Across the street you will find **The Gallery** which contains a great selection of beautiful items that make perfect gifts.



If you are already in love with our quaint town, take the **Historic Downtown Walking Tour** to learn more about the area and the history that surrounds you. You can pick up a map at the **Welcome Center** in Rutherfordton, or download one online at **RutherfordtonTrails.com**.

Traveling with kids? We have you covered. **KidSenses Interactive Children's Museum** is a top rated attraction for the little ones. Interactive exhibits encourage imagination and adventure around every turn. You can also explore the **Main Street Safari Trail** that begins at KidSenses or Kiwanis Park and takes kids on a journey through time and history. They can even earn points and prizes through the Kids in Park program.

Take time out for lunch at **Rutherford Thai**. Featured in Our State magazine, it provides a serene atmosphere and some of the best Thai food you can find.

After lunch stroll up to 6th street and visit **The Bechtler House**, home of Christopher Bechtler who minted America's first \$1 gold coin and operated one of the most successful private mints during the NC Gold Rush. After taking the house tour, drive up to the **Bechtler Mint Site and Historic Park** to see the famous "Hidden Floor of Gold", a cutting edge invention of Bechtler's that allowed him to collect gold dust off the feet of his visitors to the mint.



Afterwards cruise on down to Spindale. If you get there early enough, catch an afternoon jam session at **BSharp Music**. Make sure to stop in at **Spindazzle** and browse their array of clothing, jewelry and home decor items. The selection is so great, you may have a hard time picking out your favorite item.

Downtown Spindale comes alive at night and is a local hot spot for music and food. Stop in to enjoy dinner and possibly some local music at **Barley's Pizzeria and Taproom**. Their voodoo wings are some of the best you will ever taste!

Day 3: MAIN STREET FOREST CITY

Meet some of the locals while enjoying a southern cooked breakfast at **The Fountain at Smith's Drugs** in downtown Forest City. Discover down home favorites such as liver mush and country ham along side a big ole heaping of grits.

While downtown, discover local finds in the quaint shops that line Main Street. **Puzzle Creek** is an outdoor enthusiasts one-stop shop for gear and supplies. **Mirror Mirror** offers trendy items for your home while **The Twisted Pear** serves up the best selection of craft beer in the county in easy to take home packaging. Looking for some souvenir gifts to take back home? Check out a wide selection at **Burnt Chimney Mercantile**.

As your appetite beckons, head to **Louie's Cafe** on Broadway for a slice of authentic NY Pizza. That's right, NY Pizza right here in North Carolina.

Our next stop is **Bennett Classic Car Museum**. This museum has a huge selection of classic cars including Barney Fife's police car from the Andy Griffith Show. Think back to simpler times as you admire the craftsmanship and details that went into every car. Afterwards stop in **Banfield Pottery Studio** and admire handcrafted pottery made from whisky mash at Defiant Whisky Distillery.

End your evening with a sampling of delicious choices offered at **Copper Penny Grill**. Don't forget to try their shrimp and lobster bisque. It is to die for!



We hope you have enjoyed your visit to Lake Lure and the Blue Ridge Foothills. Come back and visit us this spring or summer and explore the other end of the county where we have the best in water sports, bouldering, hiking and zip lining as well as beautiful **Chimney Rock State Park**.

Lake Lure &
the Blue Ridge Foothills

*Have the
time of your life!*

in Lake Lure & the Blue Ridge Foothills of Rutherford County, NC
Download our travel guide online at RutherfordTourism.com or call 800.849.5998

Quick Reference Guide for Top Stops

Stay:

Firehouse Inn B&B
134 North Washington Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-286-9030

Carrier House B&B
255 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-4222

Eat:

Mi Pueblito Mexican Restaurant
139 South Washington Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-286-2860

Copper Penny
146 East Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043
828-287-3853
Closed Sunday

Rutherford Thai
123 West 2nd Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-980-1622
Closed Sunday

Foothills Cafe
138 East Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043
828-229-3188
Closed Sunday

The Olive Tree
151 Central Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-9458
Closed Monday

The Fountain at Smith's Drug
139 East Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043
828-245-4591
Closed Sunday

Gregory's Original
161 Park Lane Drive
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-2171
Closed Sunday

Louie's Cafe
235 South Powell Street
Forest City, NC 28139
828-247-9009
Closed Sunday

Scoggins Steak and Seafood
300 Chimney Rock Road
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-3167
Closed Sunday & Monday

Big Dave's Seafood
123 Commercial Drive
Forest City, NC 28043
828-245-9844
Closed Monday

Barley's Pizzeria and Taproom
123 West Main Street
Spindale, NC 28160
828-288-8388

Don's Italian
619 Oakland Road
Spindale, NC 28160
828-288-3711
Closed Monday

Fat Tracy's
135 West Main Street
Spindale, NC 28160
828-287-5004

Don't Miss:

Bennett Classic Car Museum
241 Vance Street
Forest City, NC 28043
828-247-1767
Closed Sunday

Bostic Lincoln Center
112 Depot Street
Bostic, NC 28018
828-245-9800
Closed Sunday-Wednesday

Washburn General Store
2426 Bostic Sunshine Highway
Bostic, NC 28018
828-245-4129
Closed Sunday and Wednesday

The Bechtler House and Mint Site
130 West 6th Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-6113
House closed Monday-Thursday

KidSenses Interactive Children's Museum
172 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-286-2120
Closed Sunday and Monday

Defiant Whisky Distillery
228 Redbud Lane
Bostic, NC 28018
828-245-2041
Call for tour hours

Shopping:

Paws and Purrs
212 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28129
828-288-9553
Closed Sunday and Monday

Hills Hardware
184 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-7155
Closed Sunday & Monday

925 To Go
Located at Hills Hardware

The VAC
160 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-288-5009
Closed Sunday and Monday

The Gallery
181 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-5647
Closed Saturday & Sunday

B-Sharp Music
129 West Main Street
Spindale, NC 28160
828-286-4444
Closed Sunday

Spindazzle
109 West Main Street
Spindale, NC 28160
828-351-2417
Closed Sunday

Puzzle Creek
121 East Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043
828-245-6050
Closed Sunday

Mirror Mirror
106 East Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043
828-229-5600
Closed Sunday

The Twisted Pear
184 East Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043
828-447-9599

Burnt Chimney Mercantile
110 North Powell Street
Forest City, NC 28043
828-245-1786
Closed Sunday & Monday

Banfield Pottery
128 East Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043
828-447-7118
Limited hours, call for details