

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

North Carolina

Famous Film Stops in Rutherford County

The home to Lake Lure, Chimney Rock and “small town friendly” main streets has hosted a surprising share of nationally recognized film productions.



Firefly Cove on Lake Lure, scene of the famous “lift” scene in “Dirty Dancing.”

With beauty both idyllic and iconic, it’s not surprising that movie magic has often been conjured here in Rutherford County. Most notable on the list is “Dirty Dancing,” the classic story of star-crossed love set amid the mountains and cool waters of a 1960s summer resort.

Since the movie’s release in 1987, thousands of fans from around the globe have made the pilgrimage to Lake Lure to relive the locations where the passion grew between blue-collar Johnny Castle (Patrick Swayze) and privileged Frances “Baby” Houseman (Jennifer Grey).

You can also relive “The Last of The Mohicans,” the breathtaking 1992 film version of James Fenimore Cooper’s classic novel set during the French and Indian War. Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park serves as the backdrop for the film’s final culminating fight scenes.

Dirty Dancing (1987, Lionsgate)

- You can book the exact same rooms where Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey slept at the 1927 Lake Lure Inn & Spa.

- Lake Lure Tours pontoon boat guides will show you Firefly Cove where the movie's staff camp and dance scenes were shot, as well as the famous "lift scene." <http://lakelure.com/activities/>
- Play golf on Rumbling Bald Resort's Bald Mountain Golf Course where Baby asks her father for money at hole #16. <http://www.rumblingbald.com/>
- Dine or stay at the Esmeralda Inn where the original dance floor upon which Johnny and Baby shared their final dance has been repurposed into a rustic foyer.
 - <http://www.theesmeralda.com/>



The Last of The Mohicans (1992, 20th Century Fox)

- The last 17 minutes of the movie, which included the climactic fight scene, were filmed atop Hickory Nut Falls located within Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park.
 - Take a leisurely hike to reach Hickory Nut Falls where Cora Munro (Madeleine Stowe) takes her "final" plunge and where Hawkeye (Daniel Day-Lewis) fights for her life—and his own—against members of the Huron Tribe.
 - <http://www.chimneyrockpark.com/park/interestpoints/forest.php>

My Fellow Americans (1996, Warner Bros.)

This film involved two former U.S. Presidents exposing the corruption of the current office-holder; they strolled at Morse Park in Lake Lure, and visitors can take a walk there, too. The film starred Jack Lemmon, James Garner and Dan Akroyd.

<http://www.townoflakelure.com/morse-park.php>

Firestarter (1984, Universal Studios)

Scenes for the movie adaptation of the Stephen King novel about a child with frightening pyrokinetic abilities (a young Drew Barrymore) were filmed at:

- The bridge and entrance to Chimney Rock State Park in Chimney Rock
<http://www.chimneyrockpark.com>
- Sunset Cove right at Papa Bob's Cabin, today, a lakeside vacation rental where you can hideaway. www.vrbo.com/34359

The Rutherford County Line (1987)

This action thriller was filmed in Rutherfordton and was based on the life of an actual Rutherford County sheriff, Damon Huskey. <http://www.rutherfordton.net>

Thunder Road (1958, United Artists)

Drive around Lake Lure, and you're on roads where scenes from this cult classic were filmed. But don't speed! Written, produced and starring Robert Mitchum, the film is often noted as the first car chase movie.

About Rutherford County, NC

Rutherford County is home to Lake Lure, Chimney Rock and "small-town-friendly" main streets nestled in the Western NC mountains and foothills. An emerging outdoor destination gaining national recognition with its bouldering, bike trails, waterways and lake, the getaway is also known for its relaxing pontoon boat tours on Lake Lure, family-friendly destinations and movie heritage.

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