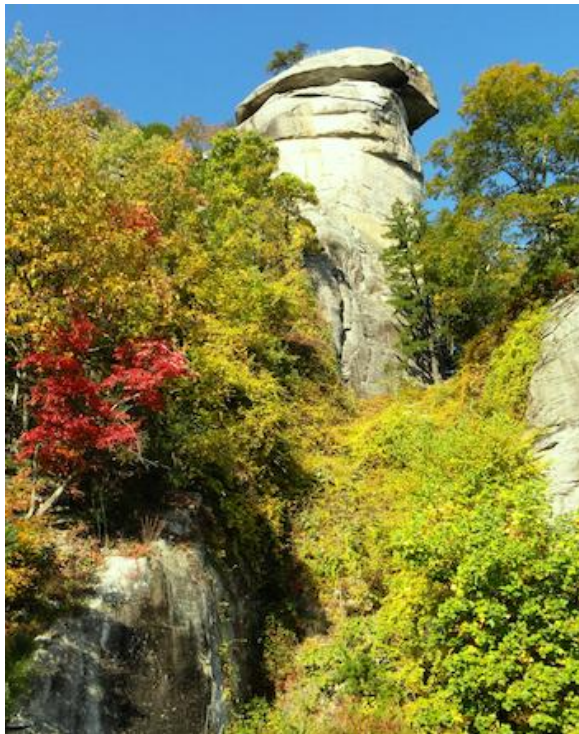


Explore Chimney Rock State Park A Park For You, A Park For Everyone

[Chimney Rock State Park](#) is like a backpack stuffed full of surprises. From native wildlife and diverse vegetation, to educational trails and exquisite views, the park inspires and delivers at every turn, crook and corner. Jutting above the [Hickory Nut Gorge](#) at an elevation of more than 2,200 feet, the rock formation that is Chimney Rock is an icon of the Southeastern United States. And so are the views it delivers.

On a clear day, you can see as far as 75 miles into the northeastern horizon from the top of Chimney Rock. Enjoy a steady, yet scenic staircase hike to the top via the [Outcroppings Trail](#), or take the 26-story elevator capable of transporting anyone to the top of the rock. The [Sky Lounge Gift Shop & Deli](#) is located here, offering drinks, treats and souvenirs.





[Looking Up At Chimney Rock](#)

THE ELEVATOR

“The elevator gives everybody access to a mountain experience” says Mary Jaeger-Gale, the passionate general manager of Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park. She has worked there for 33 years and is still enthralled with this park.

For more than 100 years, the Morse Family owned Chimney Rock Park, and they built the elevator to the top. The state of North Carolina acquired the park in 2007 and has added hundreds of acres since.

Now more than 6,000 acres, the park invites explorers to two developed areas: The Chimney Rock area itself (about 1,000 acres) and Rumbling Bald Climbing Access. In the coming years, more acres will open to the public.

THE TRAILS AND BOULDERING

A number of trails offer strikingly different takes on the park.

[Hickory Nut Falls Trail](#) winds through Hickory Nut Gorge to the bottom of Hickory Nut Falls. The second highest falls of its kind east of the Mississippi River, the falls played a major role in “The Last of the Mohicans,” the 1992 movie starring Daniel Day-Lewis.



[Hickory Nut Falls](#)

The [Great Woodland Adventure Trail](#) is designed for children and features 12 discovery stations with locally made animal sculptures to entertain and educate guests on animals found in the park.





HIKING

To reach the highest point in the park, take the [Skyline Trail](#) to **Exclamation Point** at 2,480 feet.

The summit offers a view of Chimney Rock, Lake Lure and the Hickory Nut Gorge.

If bouldering and technical rock climbing are part of your adventure, the park's [Rumbling Bald Climbing Access](#) is still a relatively new gem. This area offers 1,500 bouldering problems.

Free permits are required and available at the **Rumbling Bald Trail** trailhead. Enjoy the half-mile hike from the parking area to the climbing zone.

And here's more info and [Chimney Rock's climbing partners](#).





[Chimney Rock Village](#)

FOOD

No explorer will go hungry here. [Old Rock Café](#) at the entrance to Chimney Rock State Park in **Chimney Rock Village** features Zagat-rated burgers, wraps, salads and desserts, local craft beer, and more.

You can also order a “Hiker’s Lunch” to take with you. Many groups make this a scheduled stop on their trip.



THE PARK BY THE NUMBERS

- **315 feet** – the height of iconic Chimney Rock
- **26 stories** – the elevator option to the top of the rock
- **2,480 feet** – Exclamation Point, the highest peak in the park via the Skyline Trail
- **75 miles** – the distance you can see from atop Chimney Rock on a clear day
- **535 million** – approximate age, in years, of Chimney Rock
- **1,500** – number of bouldering problems at Rumbling Bald Climbing Access

Need Assistance? We can help!

Welcome Center in Lake Lure

800.849.5998 or 828.287.6113
2932 Memorial Highway (US-64/74)
Lake Lure NC 28746

RutherfordTourism.com