



YOUR GUIDE TO A CAROLINA CHRISTMAS



Explore Over a Million Yuletide Lights

LIGHT THE
TALLEST CEDAR
TREE IN WNC

SEE SANTA
RAPPEL DOWN
**America's
Largest
"Chimney"**

PLUS EXPERIENCE

Small Town Parades

Carriage Rides

Fairy Villages

Santa Visits

VisitNCSmallTowns.com/CarolinaChristmas



DOWNTOWN FOREST CITY offers a multitude of selfie possibilities for the whole family with event filled weekends.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

It's A Carolina Christmas

Discover a wonderland with more than a million Christmas lights, where Santa rappels down America's largest outdoor "chimney," and where parades, hayrides, carriage rides and Santa visits are plentiful & fun.

In **Lake Lure and the Blue Ridge Foothills in Western North Carolina**, our winter events are steeped in tradition and sprinkled with enchantment. Here are a few yuletide events sure to bring together all of your favorite holiday traditions.



DOWNTOWN RUTHERFORDTON is Lighting the Tallest Cedar Tree in WNC on the Courthouse steps.

3 Hometown Celebrations

6 Dining, Events & Gift guide

4 Christmas in Carolina



See Santa rappel down America's largest "chimney" in **CHIMNEY ROCK**.

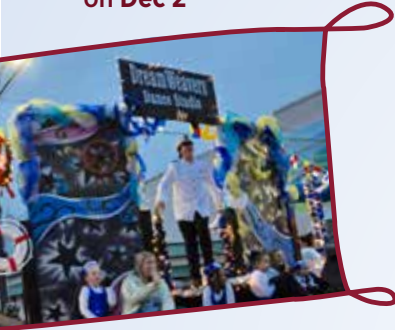
GET ALL YOUR HOLIDAY EVENT DETAILS AT VISITNCSMALLTOWNS.COM/CAROLINACHRISTMAS

Hometown Celebrations



Spindale

Christmas parade, shopping and dining on Dec 2



Forest City

Over 1 million lights until early January! Carriage & hayrides, Santa's House, ice skating, shopping and dining each Friday - Sunday, Nov 23-Jan 2



Lake Lure

The Flowering Bridge becomes a fairy village Nov-Jan

10th Annual New Year's Day Polar Plunge Jan 1



Rutherfordton

Live windows, Christmas market, holiday parade, lighting of the largest cedar tree, and live music on Dec 2



Chimney Rock

Santa on the Chimney—watch Santa rappel down the world's largest, natural chimney then visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus on Dec 2 & 9



This year spend Christmas in Carolina

surrounded by hometown traditions that warm the soul

With a chill in the air, the most delightful part of winter in Lake Lure & the Blue Ridge Foothills is Christmas.

Being here during the holiday season is like entering a Norman Rockwell Christmas card. **Explore not just one, but five quintessential small towns sprinkled with all the trimmings you would expect;** festive windows with hand-painted holiday scenes lead you down Main Street as you take in the historic charm of downtown restaurants and boutiques, kids impatiently wait for a chance to tell Santa exactly what's on their list, life-long friends embrace as if they haven't seen each other in years, and horse-drawn carriages escort you through a canopy of over a million twinkling lights.

There's no better place than Rutherford County to enjoy a true Carolina Christmas. Join us this year, and start a new holiday tradition that will lead to unique experiences and a lifetime of lasting memories.



FOREST CITY



RUTHERFORDTON

The City of a Million Lights

The small town of **Forest City's Hometown Holidays** is a lighting extravaganza that dates back to the early 1930s. Close your eyes and picture listening to carolers as the smell of gingerbread and hot chocolate fill the air. Residents and visitors gather around the iconic Main Street fountain to capture the perfect holiday picture, while majestic horses lead you on a carriage tour through the wonderland of twinkling lights. It is an experience like no other that brings guests back year after year.

It all begins **November 23**, Thanksgiving night, with the annual lighting of the tree ceremony followed by the highly anticipated Christmas parade on **Sunday, November 26**. **Hometown Holiday** festivities take place throughout the month and includes an ice skating rink, Santa's House, horse-drawn carriage rides, and hayrides on weekends.

North Carolina's Largest Living Cedar Christmas Tree

For almost 100 years this notable tree has adorned the Rutherfordton Courthouse lawn serving as a shady spot to take a break for adults as well as a natural jungle gym for kids. However, at Christmas it takes on the role of N.C.'s largest living cedar Christmas tree.

The **Tree Lighting Ceremony** is the pinnacle of an all-day Christmas celebration held **Saturday, December 2**, in downtown Rutherfordton. The day begins with a Holiday Market and free pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus in Main Street Park. Stroll the streets to view hand-painted holiday scenes and live interactive windows such as Santa's workshop where elves are hard-at-work building holiday toys.

Next, take a seat and enjoy the **Rutherfordton-Spindale Christmas parade**. From marching bands and fire trucks to dance teams and Christmas floats,



LAKE LURE

this parade begins in Spindale at 3:00 pm and travels on to Rutherfordton at 5:00 pm.

Finally, it's time to light the tree. Make your way to the courthouse lawn by 6:30 pm to partake in the experience, then stay afterwards to dance along with Ol' 74 Jazz as they sing your favorite holiday tunes. Food, music, and fun are waiting for you in Rutherfordton.

A Whimsical Bridge that Brings to Life the Magic of the Season

You won't find this experience anywhere else in the Carolinas! Each **November** the **Lake Lure Flowering Bridge**, turns into a Christmas fairy tale with sparkling white lights, miniature holiday village scenes, and whimsical creations of local artwork, all nestled alongside winter greenery. The bridge, one of only a few like it in the world, was created and is cared for by volunteers from this idyllic lake town.

Santa Rappels Down the World's Largest Natural Chimney

Down the street from Lake Lure, and atop the mountain awaits the holiday thrill of watching Santa, adorned in his bright red suit, rappel down the world's largest natural chimney—**Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park**.

"This has become such a wonderful annual tradition for so many people," said Mary Jaeger-Gale, General Manager of the Park. "Everyone is always amazed at the level of practice required by Santa to get presents to their intended destination on Christmas morning." Visitors get two opportunities to see this holiday stunt on **Saturday, December 2 and 9**.

Embraced by towering granite cliffs, Chimney Rock Village kicks off the holiday season on **Friday, December 1** with a tree-lighting ceremony, chili cook-off, cake walk, and bingo at the Village Fire Department. On **Saturday, December 2** the sounds of Christmas music gets everybody in the spirit with local musicians and Santa handing out stockings for the children to take around to the shops for special treats. [MORE>](#)

Christmas in Carolina continued...

Enhance your yuletide season with traditions, sparkly lights, and nippy air in the five small towns of Forest City, Spindale, Rutherfordton, Lake Lure and Chimney Rock. In today's environment of mass-produced sameness, the shops, inns, and cafes in our Western North Carolina small-towns represent an extension of the individual owners who welcome visitors with a genuineness not often found in the big cities. Christmas here is oozing in the nostalgia we long for during this time of year. We are reminded that it's possible to disconnect completely from the hustle and bustle and rediscover that spending the holidays together is all about rekindling the joy and nostalgia of our favorite Christmas time memories. ■



Rumbling Bald Resort

Delectable smells, good conversation, and a comfortable atmosphere make Thanksgiving everyone's favorite meal of the year. Surround yourself with Family and Friends and join us for a **Thanksgiving Day Feast on Thursday, Nov 23rd between 11am-4pm.**

Adults \$32 each

Children 6-12 \$17 each

Children 5 & Under Free

*Reservations for either event are strongly encouraged by calling **828.694.3016***



Village Scoop at 439 Main St, Chimney

Rock will have Hershey's Peppermint Ice Cream for the holidays. Also available are hand-packed quarts of any flavor, which are great to take home and enjoy at holiday meals with the family!



Esmeralda Inn & Restaurant

- Thanksgiving Buffet on **Thursday, Nov 23**
Reservations recommended
- Wine Dinner on **Wednesday, Dec 6th** at 6 pm
- Wine Down Wednesday *offered weekly* (with the purchase of dinner you get 15% off any bottle of wine)
- New Year's Eve Dinner on **Sunday, Dec 31** two seatings, 6pm & 9pm

Visit TheEsmeralda.com or call **828.625.2999**



Copper Penny and Foothills Café

Nothing like a free dinner out with no dishes after holiday guests depart. Gift certificates available from \$10 and up. Both restaurants are located in **downtown Forest City.**



COPPER PENNY



MI PUEBLITO



LA STRADA



Rumbling Bald Resort

Spend time with Family and Friends this holiday season at our **Christmas Eve Buffet.**

- Adults** \$36 each
- Children 6-12** \$19 each
- Children 5 & Under** Free

Come ring in the New Year with Family and Friends at our **New Year's Eve** Dinner Party.

Adults \$49 (Includes a Champagne Toast at Midnight.)

*Reservations for either event are strongly encouraged by calling **828.694.3016***



Mi Pueblito Mexican Restaurant

is hosting Santa and Mrs. Claus with a twist of Hispanic tradition. Visit and snap a pic with Santa, read with Mrs. Claus, and take home a keepsake all while enjoying fresh Mexican cuisine with the family.

Free for dinner patrons.

Tuesday, Dec 5
Rutherfordton 5-8pm

Saturday, Dec 9
Shelby 5-8pm

Tuesday, Dec 12
Forest City 5-8pm

***MI Pubs.com** Private dining rooms and gift certificates also available.*



La Strada at Lake Lure's

Annual **Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve** All-You-Care-To-Eat Buffet. Seatings at 5:15 & 7:30

- Adults** \$23.99 each
- Children 7-10** \$10.99 each
- Children 6 & Under** Free

*Reservations are strongly encouraged by calling **828.625.1118**. Private dining room and gift certificates also available.*



Holiday Boutique at the Art at the VAC (Visual Arts Center)

Downtown Rutherfordton
ArtattheVAC.com

Find that one-of-a kind gift, handmade by local artists at special holiday prices. Tuesday-Saturday, **November 17-December 23** for all those last minute shoppers. Pottery, scarves, greeting cards featuring local art, jewelry, candles, wood and so much more!

Popcorn Plus

Downtown Forest City
PopcornPlus.com

- > Gift Certificates
- > Holiday Gift Boxes & Tins
- > Sports Tins & Pails
- > Gourmet Popcorn
- > Hot Apple Cider, Hot Chocolate, Cappuccino, Coffee



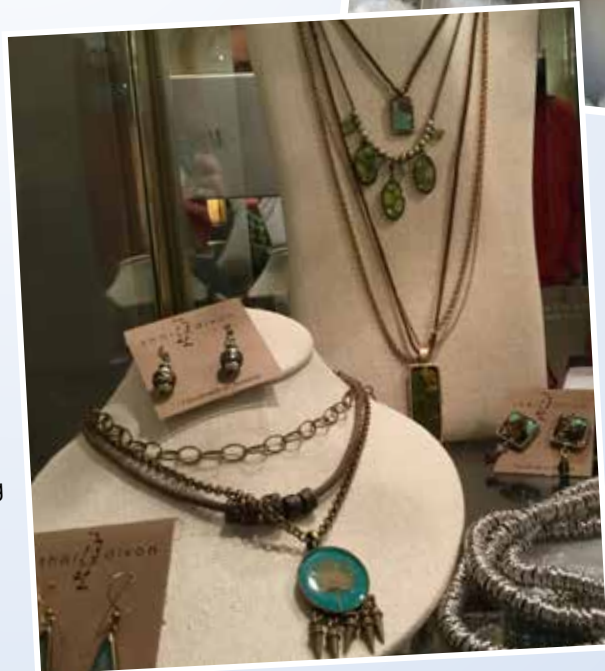
HOLIDAY Gift Guide



BlueRidge Design

Downtown Rutherfordton
BlueRidgeDesignNC.com

Browse a beautiful selection of trending home décor items including holiday accents, custom furniture, lotions, candles and special pricing on Hunter Douglas shades.





Chestnut Forge Furniture Marketplace

Rutherfordton

ChestnutForgeandFurniture.com

A special find located on a private farm in the country, everything about this store is unique. Features handcrafted items from local artists and the best in farmhouse style home décor.

Open Saturday from 10-5 and Sunday from 12-5.



Washburn's General Store

Bostic

WashburnStore.com

Over a dozen varieties of fresh, old-fashioned candy just for the holiday season as well as personalized gift baskets available for all price ranges.



Esmeralda Inn & Restaurant

Chimney Rock

TheEsmeralda.com

Fabulous retail section at The Inn selling house made hot cocoa, assorted breads such as pumpkin or zucchini bread, home made granola, coffee and more.

Defiant Whisky

Bostic

DefiantWhisky.com

For the whisky connoisseur in your life, give the gift of Defiant made with four of Mother's Nature's purest ingredients in the heart of North Carolina's Golden Valley. Tour the distillery and shop for cool gifts like branded serving ware, T-shirts, hats and of course a bottle of Defiant Whisky to take home and enjoy.





2nd Annual Christmas on the Farm

Friday, Dec 1 5pm-9pm

Saturday, Dec 2 10am-9pm

Sunday, Dec 3 2pm-9pm

New Beginnings Historic Farm

is creating the perfect Christmas celebration with a touch of whimsy and old-fashioned fun with their holiday themed farm event.

The 1910 farmhouse will be decked out in holiday finery, covered in lights, tons of decorations and more. Gingerbread cookie decorating and a free Christmas movie shown on the big screen under the stars at 6pm each evening. In addition, candlelight tours of the decorated historic home, farm animals to feed and pet, hayrides, popcorn, hot cocoa, hot apple cider, and baked goods.

For other questions or general inquiries contact,

Sheri Crenshaw at 828.275.1683 or

NewBeginningsFarm8@gmail.com

seeking local vendors.



Old St. John's Shape Note Singing

Saturday, Dec 9 10am-3pm

Sunday, Dec 10 10am-3pm

St. John's Historic Church, Rutherfordton

ChristianHarmony.org/Schedule.html

*Contact Jane Cannon with any questions at **828.287.0508** or **706.410.0982** or email her at **crvjaneannon@gmail.com***



Riverside Lodge in Chimney Rock Village

Riverside Lodge will be decked out in holiday décor and serving hot chocolate throughout the season.

Perfect getaway to spend your holiday.

Book today by calling

828.375.0157 or online

TheRiversideLodgeAt-ChimneyRock.com





THE SPIRIT OF A CAROLINA CHRISTMAS



VisitNCSmallTowns.com/CarolinaChristmas