



Lake Lure &  
the Blue Ridge Foothills  
Rutherford County, NC

# 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](http://VisitNCSmallTowns.com/CarolinaChristmas)





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

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### *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.

#### 3 Hometown Celebrations

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



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



GET ALL YOUR HOLIDAY EVENT DETAILS AT [VISITNCSMALLTOWNS.COM/CAROLINACHRISTMAS](http://VISITNCSMALLTOWNS.COM/CAROLINACHRISTMAS)



# Hometown Celebrations



## Spindale

Christmas parade, shopping and dining on Dec 1



## Forest City

Over 1 million lights  
Carriage & hayrides, Santa's House, ice skating, shopping and dining each Friday - Sunday, Nov 22-Dec 23



## Lake Lure

The Flowering Bridge becomes a fairy village Nov-Jan

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 1



## Chimney Rock

Santa on the Chimney—watch Santa rappel down the world's largest, natural chimney then visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus on Dec 1 & 8





# *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 22**, Thanksgiving night, with the annual lighting of the tree ceremony followed by the highly anticipated Christmas parade on **Sunday, November 25**. **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 - **November 30-December 22**.

## *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 1**, in downtown Rutherfordton. The day begins with a Holiday Market and free pictures with Santa in Main Street Park. Stroll the streets to view hand-painted holiday scenes and decorated 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 3:30 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. [\*Visit their website for additional details.\*](#)

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

You won't find this experience anywhere else in the Carolinas! Each **December** 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**.

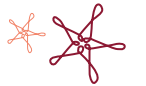
"This has become such a wonderful annual tradition for so many people," said Mary Jaeger-Gale, General Manager of the Park. "Everyone is always amazed at the level of practice required by Santa to get presents to their intended destination on Christmas morning." Visitors get two opportunities to see this holiday stunt on **Saturday, December 1 and 8**.

Embraced by towering granite cliffs, Chimney Rock Village kicks off the holiday season on **Friday, November 30** with a tree-lighting ceremony, chili cook-off, cake walk, and bingo at the Village Fire Department. On **Saturday, December 1** 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.



*Forest City*



*Chimney Rock Village*



*Rutherfordton*





Lake Lure<sup>TM</sup>  
the Blue Ridge Foothills  
Rutherford County, NC

# THE SPIRIT OF A CAROLINA CHRISTMAS



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