

FREE THINGS TO DO 3-Day Itinerary

(You provide the room and board – we provide all the free things you can do.

For reasonable room prices and coupons, go to our website at

www.rutherfordtourism.com)

DAY 1

Entering Rutherford County from the West on Hwy 64/74A/9:

Rocky Broad River Walk

What's there: This natural walkway has been enhanced with stone bridges and the artistic efforts of the community, and overlooks the famous Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park. Along this riverwalk, you will find boulders and rushing water, but you will also find access to riverfront shops and restaurants along the 1/8 mile trail.

Where is it: Main Street, Chimney Rock

Open: Anytime

Then continue on Hwy 64/74A/9 to:

Lake Lure Town Center Walkway and Park

What's there: The mountain lakeside walkway leads into a gorgeous park with gazebo and picnic tables on the water

Where is it: Hwy 64/74A/9, Lake Lure – Across from the Lake Lure Inn

Open: Anytime

Contact: (828) 625-9983 or www.townoflakelure.com

Then cross the street to:

1927 Lake Lure Inn and Spa

What's there: Take a comfortable hour or so to walk through the public rooms, halls, and lobby to experience the hundreds of antiques and historical exhibits, including a world-class collection of upright music boxes from the 19th century. The tour is self-guided and free.

Where is it: Hwy 64/74A/9, Lake Lure

Open: 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m

Contact: (888) 434-4970 or www.lakelure.com/arts.php

Then continue on Hwy 64/74A/9, and turn right onto Hwy 9. The trail head is on the left to:

Donald Ross Nature Trail Park

What's there: 10 new wooded mountain hiking trails.

Where is it: Hwy 9, Lake Lure

Open: Daytime

Contact: (828) 625-9983 or www.townoflakelure.com

DAY 2

Then go back towards Lake Lure and turn right onto 64/74A – travel 20 minutes to Rutherfordton to:

St. Francis Episcopal Church

What's there: Originally a plantation chapel, this stone church features Tiffany stained Glass and a labyrinth.

Where is it: Main Street, Rutherfordton

Open: Anytime

Then go south on Main Street, approx. ¼ mile, and turn right into the Rutherford County Annex Parking Lot to:

Rutherford County Heritage Display

What's there: Take 15 minutes to see an overview exhibit of the most significant events in Rutherford County's history. Includes information and stories of the Bechtler Mint, Gilbert Town, Overmountain Men and the Revolutionary War, Civil War, textiles, historic photographs, and artifacts.

Where is it: Main Street, Rutherfordton

Open: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

Contact: (828) 288-4017

Then go south on Main Street, approx. ¼ mile, park on Main Street to:

Art Galleries and Main Street Park

What's there: The artist guild gallery and other free art galleries, as well as local antique shops and a main street park.

Where is it: Main Street, Rutherfordton

Open: 10:00 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m., Monday - Saturday

Then go south on Main Street, turn left at light onto Charlotte Street (CVS Pharmacy). Go 1 ½ miles to Main Street, Spindale. Park anywhere along Main Street to:

Thermal Belt Rail Trails

What's there: Walk the Thermal Belt Rail Trails in Spindale – 8 miles and a portion through Main Street. Travel northwest along trail to Gilbert Town Battlefield and Tanner Clothiers, a short way from Bechtler site. Also enjoy quaint shops.

Where is it: Main Street, Spindale

Open: Anytime

Contact: (828) 447-1590 or www.rutherfordoutdoor.org

Then go, from Oak Street/Main Street Spindale, turn left onto Oak Street. Go to light at Oak Street and Hwy 74BYP and turn left, continue for 2 miles on Hwy 74BYP and turn right onto ICC Loop to:

WNCW Tour

What's there: one of the nation's best Americana and new music venues for both recorded and live music.

Where is it: Isothermal Community College Campus

Open: By reservation

Contact: Call in advance 828-287-8000 or www.wncw.org

DAY 3

Then go, from light at ICC Loop and Hwy 74BYP, turn right onto Hwy 74BYP go 1.3 miles and turn left, at light, onto Oak Street, approx. 1.4 miles, turn left onto Harmon Street. Turn onto Depot Street (second right) to:

Rutherford County Farm Museum

What's there: Don't let the outside fool you...the museum houses hundreds of historic items, including antique farm and home equipment. Two large murals depict the cultivation of cotton and early textile mills in the county.

Where is it: 240 Depot Street, Forest City

Open: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday – Saturday

Admission: \$2 for adults – free for kids

Contact: 828-248-1248

Then go from Depot Street to light at Broadway, turn left. Go to light at Main Street / Broadway and turn right. Continue on Main Street to Bostic-Sunshine Hwy, approx 1.4 miles and turn left. Continue on Bostic-Sunshine Hwy for 2 miles turn right onto Church Street to first left to:

Bostic Lincoln Center

What's there: an exploration of the persistent theory that Abraham Lincoln was born here. The Bostic Lincoln Center collects, documents, researches and preserves generational lore through audio/visual history and exhibits that President Abraham Lincoln, was born on Puzzle Creek near Bostic, North Carolina.

Where is it: 112 Depot Street, Bostic

Open: Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Contact: 828-245-9800 or www.bosticlincolncenter.com

Then head north on Harrill Street to Bostic-Sunshine Hwy and turn right. Continue 2.4 miles, then right into parking lot to:

Washburn's General Store

What's there: Step back into time in the "Old fashioned country store" established in 1831; overalls, milk churns; farm bells; cast iron cookware; wood cook stoves; hard to find general merchandise. Listed in National Register of Historic Places.

Where is it: 2426 Bostic Sunshine Hwy, Bostic

Contact: 828-245-4129

Then continue on Bostic-Sunshine Hwy to Hwy 226. Turn Right to go to:

Becky's Country Store

What's there: Live Free Bluegrass Music Jams

Where is it: 2259 NC Hwy 226, Golden Valley, NC

Open: Tuesday Evenings

Contact: 828-245-1733