

Lake Lure



CHIMNEY
ROCK Village

lofty views & deep history

Hiking in Beautiful Hickory Nut Gorge

With its stunning views, a 404-foot waterfall and multiple trails of varying degrees of difficulty, [Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park](#) is the preeminent hiking destination in Hickory Nut Gorge.

While it doesn't happen often, the Park may be forced to close temporarily at times due to weather-related mishaps or various safety precautions. During those occasions, you can still enjoy many other hiking options in Hickory Nut Gorge. Below are some suggested trails that you can explore before or after you enjoy shopping and grabbing a bite to eat in the Lake Lure & Chimney Rock Village area.

You can get additional hiking information for Rutherford County at the Lake Lure and the Blue Ridge Foothills Visitor's Center located just over a mile east of the Park at 2932 Memorial Hwy in Lake Lure or at [Visitncsmalltowns.com](#)

Rocky Broad RiverWalk - Next door to 385 Main St, Chimney Rock, NC 28720.
[Chimneyrock.org](#)

The Riverwalk runs parallel to Main Street in Chimney Rock Village with easy access to restaurants, mini-golf and gem mining and offers fantastic views of the Rocky Broad River and Chimney Rock Mountain. Once parked in Chimney Rock Village, you can access the short trail using either one of the access paths located beside the Old Rock Café or Bubba O'Leary's General Store & Outfitters.

Rumbling Bald Climbing Access & Trail - 827 Boys Camp Rd., Lake Lure, NC 28746.
[Chimneyrockpark.com](#)

Part of the considerable acreage encompassing Chimney Rock State Park, Rumbling Bald Trail is located inside the Rumbling Bald Climbing Access off of Boys Camp Road. (No fee required.) It is a loop trail that meanders through a beautiful hardwood forest along the south face of Rumbling Bald Mountain, revealing huge boulder fields and the base of the cliff areas. This is also a well-known area for bouldering, rappelling or rock climbing.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – At the intersection of Memorial Highway & Boys Camp Road, Lake Lure, NC 28746. [lakelurefloweringbridge.org](#)

Not far the Park, an abundance of flowers and shrubs cover a converted highway bridge, this once busy thoroughfare carried traffic in and out of the area for over 75 years. Today, the bridge is part garden, part whimsical pedestrian path. It joins the towns of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock Village in a multisensory, mini-journey through 15 eye-popping, nose-tingling stops. More than 700 plant varieties flourish in raised beds made all the more fascinating by the interplay of local art along the way.

Morse Park - 2930 Memorial Hwy, Lake Lure, NC 28746. [Townoflakelure.com](#)

Morse Park is a wonderful place for a walk or run. You can use the Lake Lure Town Center Walkway, located near the trail, to access the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge and Lake Lure's public beach. The Park

features beautiful views of Lake Lure and vistas of the mountains of Hickory Nut Gorge, plenty of space for picnicking and enjoying quality family time. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail - 271 NC 9 Hwy, Lake Lure, NC 28746. Townoflakeure.com

This park encompasses ten interconnecting trails totaling 3.3 miles of natural surface paths of varying difficulty over rolling terrain. The trailhead has graveled parking for approximately 20 vehicles. The trails are wide, family-friendly, dog-friendly and well-marked. This park offers a more intimate exchange with nature through a woodland hike experience.

Buffalo Creek Park - 2191 Buffalo Creek Road, Lake Lure, NC 28746. www.buffalocreekpark.com

This park was designed for mountain biking with switchbacks, berms and rollers for jumping, but it is a multi-use park ideal for hikers, trail runners and nature lovers too. This is the only bike trail system of its kind within 20 miles. The current phase has a 3.5 mile loop and a one-mile extension. The trail is challenging due to the elevation change. The next phase of the park is the Weed Patch Mountain Trail, a new 8-mile long connection from the end of the current extension to Eagle Rock on Chimney Rock State Park land. The Weed Patch Mountain Trail is a back-country biking and hiking experience requiring skill and preparation. It will officially open in April 2018, making Buffalo Creek Park Lake Lure's largest public town park at 1,500 acres.

Bearwallow Trail – Gerton, NC. Ten miles from Chimney Rock State Park. Rutherfordoutdoor.org

Bearwallow Mountain is just 10 miles from Chimney Rock and the Hickory Nut Gorge. It is a 1-mile trail constructed by volunteers and takes hikers to a bald summit at 4,232 ft. elevation with panoramic views. Starting from the entrance to Chimney Rock State Park on US- Hwy 74A (Memorial Highway), travel west eleven miles. Turn left on Bearwallow Mountain Road. Travel 2.1 miles to the top of the ridge and park on the side of the road (where pavement starts) near the gate in front of a dirt road. Note that this road will become a gravel/dirt road for some time.

Florence Nature Preserve – 3836 Gerton Hwy, Gerton, NC 28735 Between Chimney Rock Village & the Town of Gerton. Rutherfordoutdoor.org

Florence Preserve is located between Chimney Rock and Gerton. It consists of a fairly extensive network of trails that wind throughout the preserve. A couple of sections are tied together with gravel roads. None of the trails are officially named, but they are usually referred to by their trail blaze color. From the Park's front gate, turn left headed toward Asheville. Continue straight on US-74A west for 6.3 miles.