

Mint A Historic Day Trip to Rutherfordton

For centuries the Town of Rutherfordton has been attracting visitors both far and wide. Once home to Christopher Bechtler, the man who minted America's first one-dollar gold coin, Rutherfordton is one of the oldest towns in western North Carolina known for its longstanding heritage and scenic landscapes. Between the nuggets of gold, resting sites of war soldiers, antebellum homes and a legacy of architectural structures, your experience will be a minted original. Spend a day in a friendly small town and be awe-inspired by the various trails to explore, a world culinary tour that pleases the taste buds and where family fun is aplenty. Discoveries are found at every turn here in Rutherfordton.



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HIGHLIGHTS

Lodging:

Firehouse Inn
Carrier Houses Bed and Breakfast
Paradise Retreat
4 Paws Kingdom Campground

Entertainment:

Crestview Park
Purple Martin Greenway
Kids Main Street Safari Trail
The Gold Fever Trail
Historic Downtown Walking Tour
KidSenses Interactive Children's Museum
Bechtler House
Bechtler Mint Site
Tips to Toes Day Spa

Shops:

Blue Ridge Design & Gift Shop
The Gallery
Hills Hardware & General Store
Art @ the VAC Art Gallery
Michelle Parisou Factory Store
Paws and Purrs Barkery & Boutique
Victorian Lace Antique Mall

Eats:

The Olive Tree Greek Restaurant
Rutherford Thai
Be Happy Eats & Sweets
Mi Pueblito Mexican
Gregory's Original
Corner BBQ
Amendment 21
Main Street Coffee & Ice Cream
Small Town Coffee Roasters
The Twisted Pear Taproom
Yellow Sun Brewery

Can't Miss Surprises & Seasonal Events:

Gardenwoods
Cleghorn Gun & Golf Clubs
Art Murals
Jesse James Railroad Express
MayFest Spring Craft Festival
Hilltop Fall Festival & Soapbox Derby
Carolina Christmas

Arriving in Rutherfordton you instantly feel at home, an escape from the hustle and bustle into a place that is a literal gold mine of rich history. As you approach downtown, you'll pass beautiful antebellum homes leading you to a collection of historic buildings that line the main street, filled with up and coming small businesses including boutiques, galleries, eateries and attractions. Start the day off with a delicious breakfast in an unlikely place. Popular for its Greek cuisine and expansive lounge, **The Olive Tree** serves up generous portions of omelets, biscuits and gravy, pancakes and country sides. A tip from the locals, try the homemade potatoes! Afterwards, take a left out of the restaurant and follow the side street down to an eclectic showroom located inside the iconic Firehouse Inn. Browse **Blue Ridge Design & Gift Shop** for home décor, body and bath products and handmade jewelry. Then head around the corner towards Main Street and grab a cup of Joe to perk you up and keep you moving. The aroma from **Small Town Coffee Roasters** will leer you in!

Continue strolling the streets of downtown Rutherfordton, featuring a variety of shops spanning generations. Discover a new brand of clothing made right here in Rutherfordton at **Michelle Parisou Factory Store**, a collection of International lifestyle prints. Then, step into **The Gallery**, a beautiful place providing a great selection of unique items, which make perfect gifts. Next, head across the street to **Victorian Lace Antique Mall** and scout out antique collectibles, furniture, vintage clothing, old books, coins and more. On one side of the antique mall is **Paws and Purrs Barkery Boutique**, the perfect place to pick up something special for the furry friends in your life. On the other side visit **Hills Hardware and General Store** to find locally made shirts, toys and home goods. Complete your shopping excursion marveling at creations by local artists inside the **Art at the Visual Arts Center** offering a collection of unique pieces from pottery and glasswork to jewelry, photography and paintings.

Next, check out one of the downtown attractions. Unwind with a pampered moment at **Tips to Toes Day Spa**. Receive a massage treatment, rejuvenating facial, and treat yourself to a pedicure all leaving you refreshed and relaxed. They are great with kids too! Speaking of the young ones, **KidSenses Interactive Children's Museum** is the perfect place to let their imaginations run wild. With twelve different interactive exhibits and innovative science programs, the opportunity to stimulate creativity and exploration will blow their little minds keeping them entertained for hours. Kids can take the adventure outside and continue exploring along the **Main Street Safari Trail**, a guide through time and history throughout the town. They even get a chance to earn points and prizes through The Kids in Parks program.

Between all of the shopping and fun activities, it's time to break for lunch. There are plenty of options to choose from offering authentic items from around the globe. **Rutherford Thai**, located just off Main Street, is the best! From dumplings and spring rolls to pad Thai and drunken noodles, your taste buds will thank you. If Mexican is up your alley, then take a short walk down to **Mi Pueblito** to snack on chips and salsa while you choose from burritos, enchiladas, or the popular La Favorita. Prefer something lighter, go no further than **Be Happy Eats and Sweets** for a homemade sandwich, salad or daily special. Opt to try a local favorite, just a short drive from Downtown Main Street, with our southern flare at **Corner BBQ**, a counter walkup serving pile-high barbeque pork sandwiches, plus hot dogs, hamburgers, fries and onion rings. And if you're not sure what you are in the mood for, **Gregory's Original** is a perfect alternative as they provide a menu pleasing to all palates including wings, pasta, salads, hot subs, burgers and more.

Now that you are fueled up, spend the early afternoon getting acquainted with the sights that make up the rich history of Rutherfordton. The best way to enjoy these is to follow along the **Historic Walking Trail**, a guide you can pick up at the Welcome Center in Rutherfordton or download online at RutherfordtonTrails.com. Follow the path of the Overmountain Men on their way to the battle at Kings Mountain. Stroll by the largest remaining cluster of antebellum homes in the southeast region. Visit

the final resting sites of Civil War soldiers and learn about how the town received its name during the Revolutionary War.

Did you know America's first Gold Rush happened in North Carolina almost 50 years before the California Gold Rush? End the walking trail tour at the **Bechtler House Heritage Center**, headquarters of the NC Gold Trail and home to jeweler, gunsmith and minter of the first \$1 gold coin seventeen years before the U.S. Mint made their own. Visitors can view the coin press and the only known Bechtler rifle in existence. Then, just a short drive up the road, explore the **Bechtler Mint & Historic Park** where you will be lead to the tunnel extending along a mineral vein and the "hidden floor of gold" designed by Christopher Bechtler himself. Don't forget to pick up a map of the NC Gold Trail, a heritage destination driving tour highlighting significant points across the state that contributed to the history of the N.C Gold Rush.

Upon your return to Rutherfordton, treat yourself with something decadent at **Main Street Coffee and Ice Cream**. Choose from over twenty-eight different flavors of Hershey's ice cream and build yourself a sundae or try one of the percolating drinks. Unwind and indulge in your sweets while sitting at **Main Street Park** in the heart of downtown. Afterwards, take a short drive down the street to **Crestview Park** and live it up outdoors at the many surrounding recreational activities. Step on the **Purple Martin Greenway**, Rutherfordton's first natural trail system. Have fun discovering local fauna and flora, creeks and a waterfall. The pathway is great for walking with pets, biking and hiking in the woods.

As the evening hours begin to roll in, paint the town and grab a bite to eat. Tour and sample Rutherfordton's locally made craft beer at **Yellow Sun Brewery**. Be entertained at the **Twisted Pear** taproom with live music and trivia nights while sampling a wide selection of craft beers and wine from all around North Carolina. Kickback in a neighborhood bar and grill over pub-style eats and an eclectic variety of spirits and brews.

Having too much fun to leave? Consider staying overnight inside one of Rutherfordton's bed and breakfasts, campgrounds or rental homes. Located on Main Street, **The Carrier Houses B&B** has two Victorian style homes decorated with period furnishings, relaxing front porches, a garden with a water fountain and a lovely dining room providing delicious breakfast. One block from downtown sits the **Firehouse Inn**, a restored firehouse station complete with European décor, fireplaces, garden terrace and a large dining room. Traveling with pets? America's first dog-dedicated campground can be found in Rutherfordton at **4 Paws Kingdom Campground and Dog Retreat**. Choose from RV sites, rental cabins and yurts. Stay and play in the dog park and enjoy unique special events. Check out our pet-friendly getaway [HERE](#) for even more fur friendly fun.

Stick around in the morning to visit attractions you missed the prior day. Grab a quick breakfast at **Jesse James Railroad Express** offering locally favorite donuts and egg sandwiches. Get out on the course at **Cleghorn Golf and Country Club** and test your marksmanship skills on the range at **Cleghorn Gun Club**. Shop at **Gardenwoods** for quality products for the home, garden, and specialty gifts. And if you want to get to know the whole county, hop on our mural trail starting in downtown Rutherfordton providing views of drawings that speak to our history, beauty and love of the arts.

Make plans to come back and see us again! Many annual festivals and holiday events happen throughout the year that are chocked full of family activities, arts and crafts, live entertainment, and seasonal fun. Check out our [event calendar](#) and don't miss a chance for another weekend getaway to Historic Downtown Rutherfordton, or visit any one of the other small towns in Chimney Rock, Lake Lure, Spindale, Forest City and Bostic.

Quick Reference Guide for Featured Stops

For a complete list of lodging, restaurants, shops and things to do, visit our website at www.visitncsmalltowns.com.

Stay:

Firehouse Inn
134 North Washington Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-286-9030
thefirehouseinn.com/

4 Paws Kingdom Campground and Dog Retreat
335 Lazy Creek Drive
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-7324
4pawskingdom.com/

Carrier House Inn
255 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-4222
carrierhouses.com/

Paradise Retreat
609 North Washington Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
<https://www.visitncsmalltowns.com/listing/paradise-retreat/664/>

Eat:

Amendment 21 Grill
198 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
704-466-4230

Main Street Coffee & Ice Cream
185 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-288-4950

Bee Happy Eats & Sweets
213 Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-395-2444

Rutherford Thai
123 W 2nd Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-980-1622

Corner BBQ
694 North Washington Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-3853

Small Town Coffee Roasters
116 West Court Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-367-0126

Gregory's Original
161 Park Lane Drive
Rutherfordton, NC 28746

The Olive Tree Greek Restaurant
151 Central Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-9459

Jesse James Railroad Express
531 Railroad Avenue
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-447-4644

The Twisted Pear Taproom
187 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-447-9599

Mi Pueblito Mexican
139 South Washington Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-286-2860

Yellow Sun Brewery
27 Trade Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-375-0089

Attractions:

Crestview Park
Highway 221 South
(1-mile from Downtown on Park Street)
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-3520

Purple Martin Greenway
Highway 221 South
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-3520
rutherfordtontrails.com/purple-martin-greenway/

Kids Main Street Safari Trail
www.rutherfordtontrails.com

KidSenses Interactive Children's Museum
172 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-286-2120
<http://www.kidsenses.org/>

Historic Downtown Walking Tour
www.RutherfordtonTrails.com

NC Gold Trail & Bechtler House
130 West 6th Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-286-9977
www.visitncgold.com/

Bechtler Mint Site
342 Gilboa Church Road
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Tips to Toes Day Spa
173 North Main St.
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-288-7183

Blue Ridge Design & Gift Shop
134 North Washington Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-256-8069
blueridgedesignllc.com/

Art at the VAC
160 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-288-5009
www.ArtattheVAC.com

Michelle Parisou Factory Store
163 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Paws and Purrs Barkery & Boutique
212 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-288-9553

Hills Hardware & General Store
184 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-4105

The Gallery
181 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-5647

Victorian Lace Antique Mall
196 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-2820