



## It's Easy to Have the Time of Your Life At Rumbling Bald Resort in Lake Lure, N.C.

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A postcard from the Rumbling Bald Resort on Lake Lure, North Carolina might start out something like this:

*Hi y'all,*

*Having the time of my life.*

*See you soon.*

If you are familiar with the Patrick Swayze/Jennifer Grey romantic movie “Dirty Dancing”, then you’ll get the obvious reference from the flick’s theme song and surely want to visit

If not, then maybe it’s time to check out the picturesque resort located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains where scenes from the iconic 1987 movie were filmed.



Cinematic buffs might visit Rumbling Bald Resort for the nostalgia of enjoying a stay where Swayze, Grey and Jerry Orbach hung out while filming, but there are plenty of more reasons to plan a stay at the iconic western Carolina resort. It’s kind of a one-stop shop for all-things outdoors – from 36 holes of quality golf to hiking, biking, water sports to just plain old relaxing.

The resort was a hangout for stars of “Dirty Dancing.”

For any or all of those things and more, Rumbling Bald Resort is a perfect getaway. There are villas, home rentals and even home sales available to suit every visitor's needs – be it a family reunion, golf buddies trip or seeking a permanent residence or vacation home.

## Getting There

First, you have to get to Rumbling Bald Resort, and for that you need to know where exactly Lake Lure is. Coming from Nashville and other Tennessee points, you shoot down I-40 until you get to Asheville and then head south.

Once off the interstate is when things get interesting, scenic and a tad harrowing as you navigate some of the most winding roads in the region. Drivers are torn between taking in the fantastic scenery and making that next turn.

Once onsite, though, the white-knuckle driving has proved worth every turn as Rumbling Bald Resort offers visitors a respite from the hustle and bustle of the real world. At Rumbling Bald, it's more about sit back and relax and leave your worries at the front gate.

"The whole point of this resort is to get you outside," said Jeff Geisler, managing director, business units. "It's to get you to the lake. It's to get you on a boat on the lake. It's to get you



Apple Valley is a companion course at the Rumbling Bald Resort to hike. For those of you who are of a little higher caliber, we have two different golf courses you can play. The whole point is to get you outside and to reconnect you with the things that make you human."

## The Golf

Getting outside and connecting with Bald Mountain golf course, which is on-site at the resort, and Apple Valley golf course, which is just a short drive away, is a treat.

Bald Mountain golf course is a nice mountain golf course. Constant elevation changes make approach shots a challenge. Don't let the yardage – it tips out at 6,233 yards from the blue tees – fool you. Tight fairways and smallish greens will test your game no matter the skill level. With fantastic views of Bald Mountain and numerous creeks with rushing mountain water playing a soothing tune winding through the course, the temptation is to find a hammock under a shade tree and soak in the atmosphere and forget about golf for a while.

Bald Mountain, designed in 1968 by W.B. Lewis, is unique in that it features five par 5s and five par 3s. No. 16 can be considered the signature hole. The 160-yard par 3 requires a tee shot over water to a smallish green. It's the site where several scenes for Dirty Dancing were shot.

Apple Valley is the younger of the two courses, opened in 1986. The Don Maples design plays through a valley, then rises into Youngs Mountain before returning to the valley. It is the antithesis of Bald Mountain. Where on Bald Mountain it sometimes feels like you have to thread tee shots through the eye of a needle, Apple Valley gives players room off the tee and larger putting surfaces.

The courses are unique in their own way and fun to play.

## **A Focus on Wellness**

Golf might be the centerpiece of most resorts, but at Rumbling Bald it's only part of the experience. A wellness center, hiking/fitness trails and tennis, pickleball and basketball courts are available. North Shore Beach is the resort's private lakeside beach, and there is the Trout Stream Pool with Lazy River. There are scenic lake cruises available, and paddleboards, kayaks and canoeing are popular activities.

Dining options include Legends on the Lake, a kind of sports-pub themed restaurant overlooking Lake Lure that offers casual dining and Pinnacle Southern Kitchen at Apple Valley golf course which features Carolina-style BBQ.

A spa and salon are also available.

Geisler said Rumbling Bald Mountain Resort's target demographic is families.

"We start seeing them from the middle of June to Labor Day," he said. "They rent a condo, they rent a house. There are a lot of family reunions. A lot of people come in and spend time on the beach. They will go for a cruise. There is a swimming pool. There is a workout center, and we are close to some hiking trails. We make a little bit of money on the golf courses."

Geisler said once he can get families to the resort, there is a chance they will decide to keep coming back or perhaps purchase a second home or a retirement home in the community because, well, they are having the time of their life.

## **Rutherford County Tourism**

Rumbling Bald Resort is a key component to Rutherford County's tourism hub, but as Don Cason of the tourism development authority points out, it's not the only thing going on in a county that consists of several small, unique communities.

The county is in the midst of trying to enhance its visibility regionally, and Cason says officials have a saying about the area.

"We have everything around us but we are in the middle of nowhere and are close to everything," he said. "We definitely feel like our niche is people who want to come and get away. You mention Asheville and the beaches and with that comes big crowds, no ifs, ands or buts. If you want to come here, you can do a little bit of everything and not be overcrowded and have the beauty of the mountains and the towns. I think that is the biggest asset that we have."

Perhaps the best-known of the towns is Chimney Rock Village, a quaint town that is home to Chimney Rock State Park, the 10th-most visited tourist attraction in North Carolina.

Rutherfordton was established in 1787 and its claim to fame is that it was once the home of Christopher Bechtler, who minted America's first \$1 gold coin.

Forest City's Hometown Holidays celebration has been a local tradition since 1930 in which more than one million lights light up Main Street.

Among the many attractions are the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge, which features over 1,200 species of plants and flowers and the Thermal Belt Rail Trail, a 13-mile, 12-foot wide paved and gravel trail that connects Spindale, Rutherfordton, Ruth and Forest City.

There's a plethora of wineries, distilleries and breweries throughout Rutherford County, and Washburn's General Store in Bostic, the state's oldest continually-run, family-owned retail business in the state, is a must-visit.

Of course, nothing beats the annual Dirty Dancing Festival in Lake Lure each August.

*For more information about Rumbling Bald Resort, go to [RumblingBald.com](http://RumblingBald.com). For more information about Rutherford County, go to [VisitNCsmalltowns.com](http://VisitNCsmalltowns.com).*