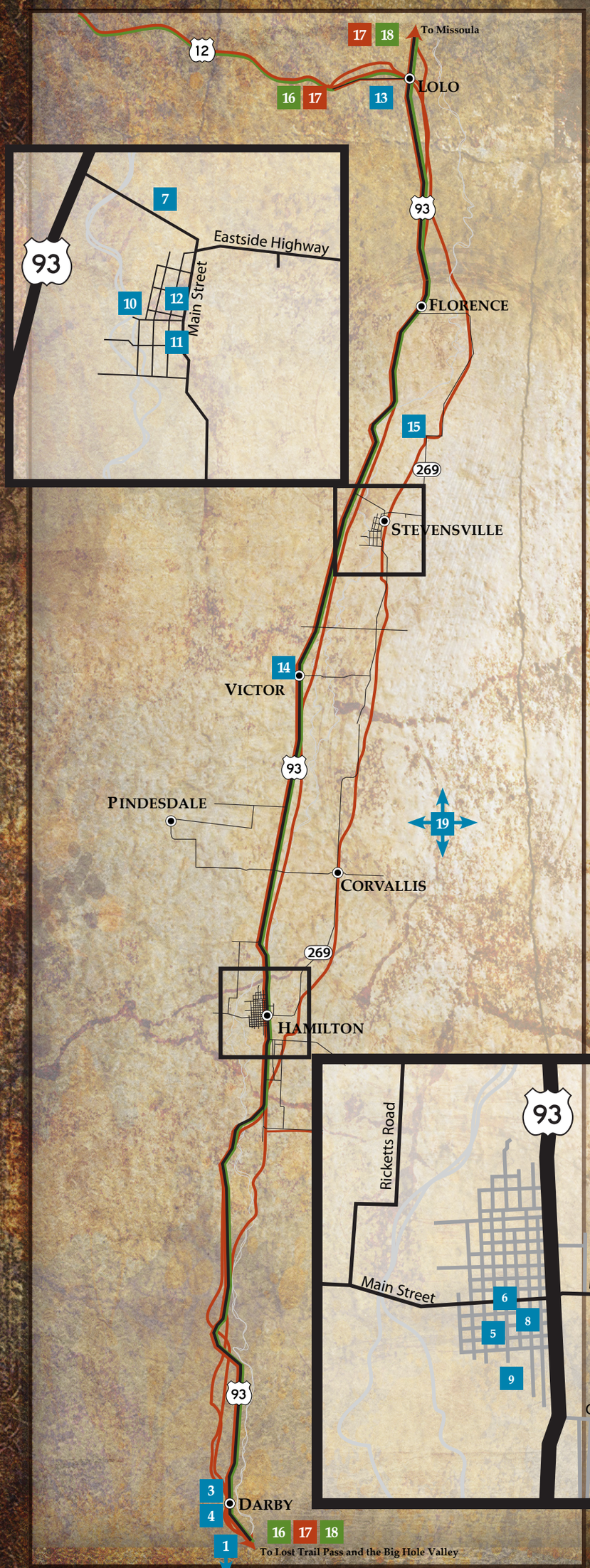
Historic Bitterroot Valley



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Historic Bitterroot Valley

1 Historic Alta Ranger Station

Built in 1899, the Alta Ranger Station. located on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River, is the oldest surviving Forest Service Ranger Station in the United States. The silent little cabin speaks volumes about the early days of our national forest and the people who lived and worked here.

2 Daly Mansion

Located on 46 acres of lush landscape, the Daly Mansion is the historic home of 19th Century American industrialist Marcus Daly. The exhibits convey the story of Daly and his rise from working-class immigrant to copper magnate, as well as local, regional, and international history tied to his extended family.

251 Eastside Highway, North of Hamilton
406 363-6004 | dalymansion.org

3 Historic Darby Ranger Station and Museum

Built by the CCC between 1937-39, this Forest Service Ranger Station has served many community needs over its career. Faithfully restored, it now houses artifacts, maps, and photographs that tell the story of the rugged individuals who staffed this "isolated" ranger station.

712 North Main, Darby | 406 821-3913

4 Darby Memorial Pioneer Museum

The Pioneer Memorial Museum is housed in a fine hand-hewn log homestead. Here you'll find domestic artifacts, as well as work implements of the early settlers, preserved in impeccable condition.

101 East Tanner, Darby | 406 821-3753

5 Hamilton Southside Residential Historic District

The architectural character of this pleasant district was initially shaped by copper king Marcus Daly in the 1890s. Several waves of development left an assortment of vernacular forms from high style Victorian to Romanesque to Craftsman and Colonial Revival. Picturesque Revival and Cape Cod style cottages can be found interspersed in with the earlier styles, even a Moderne style here and there. See bottom of page for web link to more ...

6 Hamilton Commercial Historic District

Downtown Hamilton invites you to take in our charming architecture, before stepping into our up-to-the-minute shops. Just call us HIP-store-ical! Also, look for the Historic Downtown Walking Tour brochure, available at most merchants, or find online at https://mhs/mt.gov/Portals/11/shpo/docs/Hamilton.pdf.

hamiltondowntownassociation.org

7 Fort Owen State Park

Major John Owen arrived in the Bitterroot Valley in 1850 and established the fort and began trading with the Indians and the growing number of immigrants. Today you can browse through the partially-reconstructed structures and enjoy interpretive signs and exhibits that detail the fort's history.

100 Stevensville Cutoff Road
stateparks.mt.gov/fortowen

8 Ravalli County Museum

Ravalli County Museum houses historical collections and archives from all of Ravalli County and provides community events, exhibits, and educational programming throughout the year. Children's activities every Sunday.

205 Bedford Hamilton | 406 363-3338
ravallimuseum.org

9 Rocky Mountain Laboratory Historic District

RML is a NIH research facility not open to the public. Informational displays can be seen by stopping in the Visitor Center and viewing the wall display and video monitor of research projects. Many historic buildings are visible from the street, and historic photos are available via the Montana Memory Project

903 South 4th Street, Hamilton
montanamemory.org

10 Historic St. Mary's Mission

Founded in 1841 by Fr. DeSmet. Visit Chief Victor's Cabin, Fr. Ravalli's Cabin/Pharmacy, and St. Mary's Chapel. Tours available.

315 Charlos Street, Stevensville
406 777-5734 | stmarysmission.org

11 Stevensville Historical Museum

The Stevensville Historical Museum houses exhibits on the history of Stevensville, recognized as the first permanent Caucasian settlement in the state of Montana and the traditional homeland of the Salish Indians.

517 Main Street, Stevensville
406 777-1007 | stevensvillemuseum.com

12 Stevensville Main Street

Visit Historic Stevensville, "Where Montana Began" -- Est. 1841. Check out the Historic Plaques on our downtown buildings and experience Stevensville "Then and Now".

406 777-3773 | mainstreetstevensville.com

13 Travelers Rest State Park

Along the banks of Lolo Creek, visitors can explore the landscape used for centuries by native peoples, visited twice by the Corps of Discovery, and home to a wondrous diversity of plants and animals. The Park features a nature trail and the Holt Museum and Visitors Center where families can enjoy hands-on exhibits about Lewis & Clark, Native American cultural history, and wildlife.

6717 Highway 12 West, Lolo
406 275-4253 | travelersrest.org

14 Victor Heritage Museum

The Victor Heritage Museum is housed in the old and fully restored Northern Pacific Railroad's 1928 Victor Depot where you'll find interpretation of the history of the Victor area.

125 Blake Street, Victor | 406 642-3997
victorheritagemuseum.org

15 Whaley Homestead

The Whaley Homestead at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge is on the National Register of Historic Places because it exhibits unique qualities of vernacular frontier architecture associated with the beginnings and evolution of agricultural development.

406 777-5552
fws.gov/refuge/lee_metcalf

16 Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

Hwys 93 & 43 Lolo to Dillon
fs.usda.gov/npnht
Exhibit, auto tour brochures, maps, and books available at the Ravalli County Museum.

17 Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

Hwys 93 & 43 Lolo to Dillon
Exhibit, auto tour brochures, maps, and books available at the Ravalli County Museum and Travelers Rest State Park.

nps.gov/lecl | lewisandclark.org

18 Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail

Missoula to south of Darby
nps.gov/iafl
Interpretation, maps, and books available at the Ravalli County Museum.

19 Salish Bitterroot Homeland

cskt.org

While the Bitterroot Valley is a small slice of the overall aboriginal territory of the Salish, it stands at the heart of both the tribe's history and its creation stories. Even today, over a century after a forced removal, the Bitterroot remains a cherished homeland, a place Salish people return to often to pray, to reflect, and to reconnect with their ancestral homeland. Exhibits and interpretation on the Salish people can be found in the Bitterroot at #8 Ravalli County Museum, #10 Historic St. Mary's Mission, and #13 Travelers Rest.

National Register: Information on National Register districts, sites and signs can be found at montanahistorywiki.pbworks.com. Search for "National Register Ravalli."

BITTERROOT CULTURAL HERITAGE TRUST

Visit #8 Ravalli County Museum to have your National Parks Passport stamped for the three National Trails. Passports are available for purchase at the Museum.

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