



YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

www.visityellowstonecountry.com · 800.736.5276



Billed as “America’s First Playground,” Yellowstone Country is a study in appealing contrasts. One minute, you’re sampling Montana’s legendary “cold smoke” powder, the next, soaking toastily, neck deep in a mineral hot spring.

Breakfast might be home cooked and served in a stockyard shack; dinner, gourmet sushi. Here, rugged peaks open to prairies, ski bums and ranchers rub shoulders with creative professionals and college kids, and you’re just as likely to spot a grizzly or a wolf as a progressive art gallery.

As for the region’s namesake, Yellowstone National Park proves no exception to the rule of extremes. Claiming nearly half of the world’s geysers, America’s first national park showcases tumbling waterfalls, calm forest valleys, roaring earth and intricate geothermal formations. This corner of Montana opens the door to Yellowstone in winter—a rare, otherworldly experience when bison wear frosted fur and geysers steam through a fresh blanket of white.

True to its contradictory charms, Yellowstone Country can be a plush safari or a dirt bagger’s paradise, all while living up to its “America’s First Playground” moniker. With luxurious mountain lodges and bare-bones Forest Service cabins, dude ranches and day spas, world-class skiing and self-guided hikes, Yellowstone Country offers an exhilarating taste of nearly every extreme.



Left: Camping under starry skies at Baker’s Hole Campground in the Gallatin National Forest

Above: Snowmobiling at Two Top Mountain near West Yellowstone

AT A GLANCE

- + It’s perfectly legal to zoom around the streets of West Yellowstone on your snowmobile.
- + Enjoy the “Biggest Skiing in America” at Big Sky Resort with 5,800 acres of snow, 4,350 vertical feet and over 300 named ski runs to explore.
- + Calamity Jane—legendary army scout, prospector, prostitute, frontierswoman and star of *Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show*—lived in a cabin at 213 W. Main Street in Livingston for a spell, as well as in Big Timber.
- + At Greycliff Prairie Dog Town State Park, near Big Timber, prairie dogs frolic, socialize and bark (to the delight of visitors) on a 98-acre protected habitat.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Yellowstone Country has four distinct seasons, sometimes all in the same day. Still, Montana's unpredictable weather is what often affords pleasant surprises, like weathering a summer shower in one of Red Lodge's microbreweries or getting discounted turns when the ski resorts open a week early.

In general, though, summertime hosts warm, not-too-hot weather and with it, the full gamut of outdoor recreation. This is a dreamy season of farmers markets, outdoor concerts, and sidewalk dining. Spring and fall are often the best deal—cheaper prices and recreational treats like sunny spring skiing or fall color hikes. In the winter, Yellowstone Country transforms into a snowy playground of ski resorts, sleigh rides, backcountry yurt trips and steaming hot springs. Don't be afraid to visit Yellowstone in winter—snowcoaches keep travelers toasty while whisking them into a quiet white world seen by few tourists.

HOW TO GET HERE

Drivers will generally arrive via East or West I-90, while the jet set usually arrive at the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport at Gallatin Field, a few miles outside Bozeman. West Yellowstone has flights in the summer. Car rentals are strongly recommended.

WHAT TO PACK

Layers, and lots of them. Yellowstone Country is characterized by cold mornings on even warm days, and snow-melting moments on chilly ones. No matter what season, a weatherproof jacket, sunglasses and a bathing suit will all come in handy. In winter, bring snow boots or high-topped hiking boots and an extra pair of dry shoes too. Fancy duds are hardly ever needed in Yellowstone Country.

BEAR SPRAY

When traveling off the beaten path in Yellowstone, recreating in some national forest areas and venturing off the Beartooth All-American Road, travelers are advised to pack bear spray. Pick this up at outdoor stores in town and make sure to read the directions. (Hint: don't spray it on like bug spray.)

FOOD

Yellowstone Country pleasantly surprises most foodies. In Red Lodge, Livingston, Big Sky and Bozeman, you'll find stores and eateries catering to gluten-free, organic, vegetarian and vegan diners, as well as the expected chain restaurants and small-town diner fare. A little local questioning will lead you to Latin cuisine, sushi, Thai food, farm-to-table establishments, fresh bakeries and chocolatiers. Outside of these metros, expect to be pleasantly surprised by the occasional gourmet offering, and ready to savor local fare in one-restaurant small towns. Montana restaurants sometimes serve up unexpected treats like elk, bison and wild game—if you haven't tried it, now's your chance.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

To socialize like a local, check RedLodge.com, the Bozone.com, LivelyTimes.com and flyers at the Bozeman Community Food Co-op for concerts, operas, festivals and special events.



This map is for reference only; see the Official Montana Highway Map for more detail.



Downtown Bozeman



Downtown Livingston

PLACES TO GO

COMMUNITIES

ABSAROKEE is 14 miles south of Columbus, on a scenic drive along MT 78. The banks of the Stillwater and Rosebud Rivers are nearby; the warm and friendly people you'll meet will fill you in on the best places to wet a line.
www.absarokeearea.com

BIG SKY The scenic community of Big Sky is nestled high in mountain meadows, surrounded by timberland, the Spanish Peaks Primitive Area and the Gallatin National Forest. Majestic 11,166-foot Lone Mountain towers over this paradise and is home to Big Sky Resort. This lively village is a year-round playground for outdoor recreationists. Golf, tennis, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, mountain biking, whitewater rafting and ziplining are all spoken here. Big Sky is a prime destination for all winter activities. You're close to Yellowstone National Park and some of the finest snowmobile trails in the country. Reliable, dry, powdery snow provides a quality cross-country skiing experience. Lone Mountain Ranch offers a staff of certified Professional Ski Instructors of America and the finest rental equipment to guarantee a perfect outing. Big Sky Resort allows skiers and boarders access to the "Biggest Skiing in America" with an astonishing 5,800 acres of terrain.

406.995.3000
www.visitbigskymt.com

BIG TIMBER is the gateway to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and has some of the best blue-ribbon trout fishing in the state. Granite Peak, located in the nearby Beartooth Range, is the highest mountain in Montana at 12,799 feet. Activities and guided services for this area include ranch vacations, hiking, river floats, hunting, fishing, golf and the historic Big Timber Rodeo, held in June. South of Big Timber you can snowmobile the Boulder Canyon Trail, which follows a beautiful corridor that divides the towering peaks of the Absaroka and Beartooth ranges.
 406.932.5131
www.bigtimber.com

BOZEMAN It's not easy to describe Bozeman to someone who's never been here. It's one of the most diverse small towns in the Rocky Mountain West. Bozeman is blessed with an eclectic mix of ranchers, artists, professors, ski enthusiasts and entrepreneurs drawn here by world-class, year-round outdoor recreation, Montana State University and a slice of old-fashioned Americana. Ranked as the #1 Ski Town in North America by *Powder Magazine* in 2010, Bozeman is perfectly located for the winter sports lover. Bridger Bowl, 16 miles north of town, offers some of the most exciting ski, snowboard and telemark experiences you'll find anywhere. Just a bit farther down the road is Bohart

Ranch with a 30 km scenic trail system professionally groomed for both classic and skate skiing. Bohart also offers snowshoeing. Or find your own trail—you can showshoe anywhere you can hike or bike in the summer. Snowmobilers shouldn't miss the ever-popular 120-mile Big Sky Snowmobile Trail between Bozeman and West Yellowstone. The ride goes through the Gallatin Canyon and a small portion of Yellowstone Park, featuring some of the best scenery around. If ice climbing is your thing, head south of town to Hyalite Canyon. With more than 200 pitches of naturally forming, reliable and accessible ice, this is a premier ice climbing destination.
 800.228.4224
www.bozemancvb.com

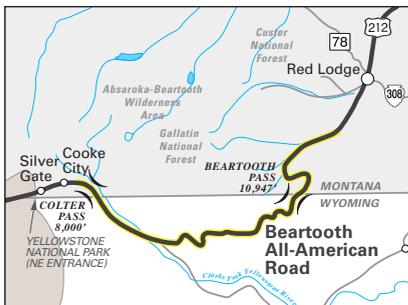
COLUMBUS This full-service community in the foothills of the Beartooth Range boasts the most scenic route to Yellowstone National Park via MT 78 and US 212 over the Beartooth All-American Road. Located at the confluence of the Stillwater and Yellowstone Rivers, Columbus offers plenty of outdoor recreation. Visit the Museum of the Beartooths for an understanding of area history, including artifacts of the Rosebud River Crow Indians, Northern Pacific Railroad memorabilia and World War II history.
 406.322.4505
www.stillwatercounty.chamber.com



Mountain goats near the Beartooth All-American Road

BEARTOOTH ALL-AMERICAN ROAD

Even seasoned mountaineers tend to gasp at the high-elevation views on the popular drive (or legendary motorcycle tour) between Red Lodge and Cooke City.



+ Since the drive is a winding 65 miles, it takes a minimum of two to three hours and is best enjoyed as at least a day trip, with time to pull off at scenic points and enjoy a hike. The route is peppered with campsites and trails, and can easily be stretched into a multiday camping and hiking trip. If you plan to hike, bring bear spray.

+ Due to snow, the road is typically open from mid-May to mid-October. (That said, you'll still see hitchhikers with skis well into June.)

+ The road soars up to 10,947 feet in the Wyoming section and 10,350 feet in the Montana section.

+ Called one of the most scenic drives in America, the Beartooth All-American Road features sweeping views of more than 20 peaks reaching over 12,000 feet in elevation.

406.446.1718
www.beartoothhighway.com

COOKE CITY is a small town full of rustic Old West atmosphere. Hike the rugged terrain to Grasshopper Glacier, a cross-country skier's dream in the snow-covered months. Love snowmobiling? You'll find world-class groomed trails and deep powder play areas for novices and experts alike. The makers of both Yamaha and Arctic Cat snowmobiles have chosen the Cooke City/Silver Gate area as a test site and promotional film location for their machines.

406.838.2495
www.cookecitychamber.org

GARDINER Gardiner is the original and only year-round, drive-in entrance to Yellowstone National Park and is known as the "wildlife capital of the West." The town's backyard is Paradise Valley. Need we say more? Sandwiched between the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness to the west and Yellowstone to the south, seasonal activities abound with a focus on the outdoors. Winter months allow you to access more than 84 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in the Gallatin National Forest. The Yellowstone National Park Heritage and Research Center in Gardiner houses the National Park Service archives, Yellowstone museum collections and reference libraries.

406.848.7971
www.gardinerchamber.com

LIVINGSTON Located between the Gallatin Range and the Crazy Mountains, the town of Livingston is nestled along the free-flowing Yellowstone River. Main Street and the historic districts are reminders of the town's bygone golden era. The downtown buildings from the 1880s and

90s still stand as a testimony of the Old West and give Livingston its special turn-of-the-19th-century charm. The Heart of Art in Montana—Livingston Downtown Gallery Walks occur on the fourth Friday during June, July, August and September from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wander from gallery to gallery meeting artists and enjoying refreshments.

406.222.0850
www.discoverlivingston.com

RED LODGE You'll find no shortage of things to do in this charming alpine town nestled in the foothills of the magnificent Beartooth Mountains. Summer lures avid hikers, golfers, mountain bikers, anglers and campers. Visit the town's historic district and view buildings and houses built between 1883 and 1915 during the coal mining boom. Visit the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary, Carbon County Historical Society Museum and Red Lodge Mountain Resort, which offers big mountain skiing without the big mountain crowds and prices. West of Red Lodge on MT 78 is Red Lodge Nordic Center with over 15 km of trails laid out to take advantage of the inspiring views and easygoing terrain. A great place for family fun.

406.446.1718
www.redlodgechamber.org

WEST YELLOWSTONE serves as the western entrance to the famous Yellowstone National Park—America's first national park. The town takes advantage of extraordinary amounts of snow in winter by grooming hundreds of miles of snowmobile and cross-country ski trails and hosting races in both sports.



Chico Hot Springs Resort, Pray



Bighorn ram in Yellowstone National Park

Want to try something tamer? How about Montana's easiest-to-learn sport—snowshoeing—keeping you on top of some spectacular trails. Or drive a team of sled dogs to scenery that's otherwise inaccessible. In summer, when you aren't in the park, visit the shops in town or wander outside of town to Hebgen and Quake Lakes and the picturesque Madison River.

406.646.7701

www.destinationyellowstone.com

NOTABLE SITES

CHICO HOT SPRINGS RESORT,

located east of Emigrant, was established in 1900 and is on the National Historic Register. Originally a hotel, then a medical facility, Chico is now a resort, complete with spa facilities and exceptional dining. Don't miss the two open-air mineral hot springs pools, which were visited by guests such as Teddy Roosevelt and artist Charlie Russell. The resort is an ideal location for vacations, weddings, family reunions and business meetings. The winter season gives you local access to excellent cross-country ski trails or the unique opportunity to be in a sled or driving your own team of huskies—dogsledding through Montana's backcountry without disturbing the land or wildlife.

406.333.4933

www.chicohotsprings.com

GRANITE PEAK is Montana's highest peak at 12,799 feet. Located north of Cooke City in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Granite Peak is considered one of the most difficult ascents in the lower 48 states. It was first climbed by Elers Koch in 1923. As the name indicates, it is composed mostly of granite. Climbing this peak is a time-consuming endeavor and not one to be tackled as a day hike or by inexperienced hikers/climbers.

GRIZZLY AND WOLF DISCOVERY CENTER

is a not-for-profit wildlife park and educational facility dedicated to providing visitors to the Yellowstone area the unique opportunity to learn about, view and ultimately appreciate the grizzly bear and gray wolf. Visit the center to see live bears and wolves and get a fascinating glimpse into their worlds. Located in West Yellowstone, it's a great family experience that's open all year. Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center bears do not hibernate!

406.646.7001

www.grizzlydiscoveryctr.org

LIVINGSTON DEPOT CENTER

is a beautifully restored 1902 Northern Pacific Railway station that operates as a museum, typically from late May to mid-September. The museum exhibit "Rails Across the Rockies: A History of People and Places" examines the Northern Pacific's key role beginning in the 1880s, as well as broader regional railroad

history. The exhibit is complemented by "The Livingston Depot in History and Architecture," as well as one new special exhibit each year.

406.222.2300

www.livingstonmuseums.org

PARADISE VALLEY Flanked by the Absaroka Range to the east and the Gallatin Range to the west, and with the Yellowstone River running through it, Paradise Valley is one of the most beautiful and serene drives in the state. Take the East River Road for access to campgrounds and hiking trails in the Absaroka Range. The drive from Livingston to Gardiner on US 89 is well worth your time and is a good route to Yellowstone National Park.

YELLOWSTONE GIANT SCREEN THEATRE

Until you've been to the Yellowstone Giant Screen Theatre, you haven't had the complete Yellowstone experience. The theatre boasts a six-story-high screen and 12,000 watts of digital-quality surround sound. It's conveniently located beside the west entrance of Yellowstone National Park and the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center on 101 South Canyon. Open all year.

888.854.5862

www.yellowstonegiantscreen.com



Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, Yellowstone National Park

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Come and experience the most active geothermal region on Earth. There are 10,000 thermal features and more than 300 geysers within the park's 2.2 million acres. See Old Faithful, the most popular geyser in the world. View the colorful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and the wild beauty of Yellowstone Lake. Look for bears, wolves, elk and bison in the Lamar and Hayden Valleys. Go hiking, camping and fishing and enjoy exhibits and ranger-led programs throughout the park. Wintertime is truly a magical time to visit Yellowstone, where there is the best snow on Earth! It comes early, stays late and offers an incredible powder experience. The greater Yellowstone area has numerous trails and excellent backcountry skiing. The Yellowstone Association offers a variety of winter animal watching day trips. Try snowshoeing on paths at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Guided snowmobile tours are a great way to get an up-close and open-air park experience. Snowcoach tours run through most of

the park during the winter season and are available from a number of National Park Service vendors.

307.344.7381

www.nps.gov/yell

THINGS TO DO

EVENTS

For exact dates and a complete listing of all events go to visitmt.com/events.

WILD WEST WINTERFEST –

BOZEMAN, FEBRUARY Put on your coats and boots and join us for the annual WinterFest. A fun day of family events: the All-Breed Horse Sale, chili cook-off, Dog Keg Pull, hockey tournament, kids' activities, farm barn, ski joring competition and the Sweetheart Fur and Feather Show. In between events, enjoy some delicious food, listen to great music and wander through the commercial exhibitor building. 406.582.3270

WINTER CARNIVAL – RED LODGE, FEBRUARY-MARCH This one-day extravaganza has tons of events, prizes and good times. It's complete with live music, a rail jam, cardboard classic and lots of prize giveaways. 406.446.2610

RENDEZVOUS CROSS-COUNTRY SKI RACE – WEST YELLOWSTONE, MARCH The Rendezvous Cross-Country Ski Race is the region's premier cross-country ski event. More than 600 skiers of both classic and skate technique compete in this festive and fun event. Sponsored by Holiday Inn West Yellowstone and local merchants, the event is for skiers of all ages and abilities. 406.640.0465

NATIONAL FINALS SKI JORING RACES – RED LODGE, MARCH

What do you get when you cross alpine skiers and cowboys? Red Lodge's National Finals Ski Joring Races. Horse and rider pull a skier through the course, which consists of four jumps and numerous slalom gates. It's winter fun, Western style! 406.698.9322

MONTANA SNOWMOBILE EXPO – WEST YELLOWSTONE, MARCH

West Yellowstone's Snowmobile EXPO combines top-notch drag, kids racing and full-action snowcross racing with a "First Look" at the upcoming season's new snowmobiles and products. Radar runs and a funny-money casino night round out the weekend. 406.646.7701

TERRAIN PARK JAM SNOWBOARD/SKIER – BOZEMAN, MARCH

Terrain Park Jam Snowboard/Skier is held in the Terrain Park at Bridger Bowl. Competitors have the opportunity to hit a feature as many times as the clock allows in this judged event. 406.586.1518

THE POND SKIM – BIG SKY, APRIL

Back by popular demand, Big Sky Resort hosts this popular event where skiers and snowboarders navigate and skim across, or in some cases, directly into, a pond filled with water. Also featured is live music, food specials and an after party. 406.995.5765

LIVINGSTON ROUNDUP RODEO – LIVINGSTON, JULY This rodeo draws over 10,000 spectators every year to its open-air arena near the Yellowstone River. Come see all-American cowboy traditions and fireworks each night.
406.222.3199

SUMMERFEST ALONG THE YELLOWSTONE – LIVINGSTON, JULY Summerfest is held in Livingston's Mars Park. Events include kids' activities, a beer garden, a great variety of live outdoor music, dancing, art and craft vendors, food from across the West and free swimming.
406.222.8155

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS – RED LODGE, AUGUST The Festival of Nations honors Red Lodge's roots as a coal mining town and the diverse ethnic groups that worked and settled the area. Sample ethnic food while enjoying a variety of cultural activities and performances.
406.446.1718

ROCKIN' THE RIVERS – THREE FORKS, AUGUST Rockin' the Rivers features a classic rock concert held at "The Bridge" near Three Forks. Past years have been huge successes, with music by Journey, Foreigner, 38 Special, Sammy Hagar, Rick Derringer, BTO, Creedence Clearwater Revisited and other top name rock bands from the 60s to the present.
406.285.0099

SMOKING WATERS MOUNTAIN MAN RENDEZVOUS – WEST YELLOWSTONE, AUGUST Step into the experience of 1800s life at the Smoking Waters Mountain Man

Rendezvous. The encampment, complete with Traders' Row, fires the imagination of what it must have been like to live in that era. Entertainment, demonstrations and seminars are included. Admission is free.
406.646.7931

SWEET PEA FESTIVAL – BOZEMAN, AUGUST Sweet Pea is a festival of the arts featuring a microbrew and beer garden, dining on Main Street and entertainment in Bozeman's Lindley Park, which includes music, dance, theater and children's activities.
406.586.4003

BRIDGER MOUNTAINS RAPTOR MIGRATION – BOZEMAN, AUGUST-OCTOBER Be a part of the fall migration counts atop the ridge above the Bridger Bowl ski area near Bozeman. The Bridger Range is an important fall flyway for raptors and is noted for the largest concentration of golden eagles in the lower 48 states. Seventeen additional species may also be seen during this time. Groups and children are welcome.
801.484.6808, ext 101

"RUNNING OF THE SHEEP" SHEEP DRIVE – REED POINT, SEPTEMBER The Reed Point Community Club's annual "Great Montana Sheep Drive" features hundreds of sturdy Montana-bred woolies charging down the six blocks of Main Street in an event some say is matched only by the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain. The event also has a parade including the Shriner's Band, floats, antique cars, covered wagons, horse groups and more.
406.326.2315

GET WET

Yellowstone Country is full of aquatic diversions, from soothing, naturally heated mineral soaks, to rip-roaring river trips to blue-ribbon streams. Choose your temperature and thrill-level to suit.

Hot Springs

Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa, east of Emigrant, has two open-air mineral hot springs pools, a garden-to-table restaurant and historic lodging on-site.
www.chicohotsprings.com

Bozeman Hot Springs, located west of Bozeman on US 191, offers nine pools full of mineral-rich water flowing from a geothermal well at the site.
www.bozemanhotsprings.co



Soaking in the Boiling River, Yellowstone National Park

The Boiling River is created where geothermally heated water cascades into the Gardner River, just outside of Gardiner. Hot water from the springs mixes with cool water from the river to form a range of perfect soaking temperatures in scenic pools along the river's edge. The river is open during daylight hours only, swimsuits are required, and you'll need a pass to Yellowstone National Park to get in.

Whitewater Rafting

In Big Sky, Gardiner and Livingston, a multitude of rafting companies each strive to outdo one another—meaning when it comes to float trips, all your options are good ones. For information on guides and locations, visit visitmt.com/riverguides.

Fishing

The Yellowstone River is considered to be one of the greatest trout streams in the world and is officially classed as a blue-ribbon stream. The 692-mile undammed river flows northward through Yellowstone National Park and into Paradise Valley where you can easily catch rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout. For information on guides, regulations and more, check out visitmt.com/fishing.

For more information on hot springs, whitewater rafting and other water adventures and opportunities, go to visitmt.com/outdoors.



Annual "Running of the Sheep" sheep drive in Reed Point



Exploring Lone Peak at Big Sky Resort, Big Sky

YELLOWSTONE SKI FESTIVAL – WEST YELLOWSTONE, NOVEMBER

During November, West Yellowstone comes alive for the annual Yellowstone Ski Festival. Thanksgiving week features technique clinics, manufacturers' exhibits and wax clinics mixed with an overall warm feeling of camaraderie. The clinics vary in length and fees. Official Nor-Am races cap the month.

406.646.7701

CULTURE/HISTORY

AMERICAN COMPUTER AND ROBOTICS MUSEUM

The award-winning museum, located in Bozeman, brings together 4,000 years of technology through thousands of artifacts displayed in a visitor-friendly environment. The exhibits are designed to appeal both to the novice and technology expert. Catch up on brains, thinking machines and computing history and gain a newfound respect for the speed of innovation during the past few decades. Open all year.

406.582.1288

www.compustory.com

MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK

Enjoy a picnic and some fishing at this scenic state park at the confluence of the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers. Lewis and Clark anticipated this important headwaters all the way up the Missouri River. A three-mile drive off I-90 at Three Forks, this undeveloped park provides outdoor interpretive signs, picnic spots, short hiking trails and a small campground. Open all year. For more information on the park or for camping reservations, go to stateparks.mt.gov.

406.285.3610

MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES Travel through four billion years of Earth's history at this entertaining and fascinating Bozeman museum, one of the 14 stops on the Dinosaur Trail. "One Day 80 Million Years Ago" is a re-creation of the dinosaur nesting colonies discovered by Jack Horner, the museum's world-famous curator of paleontology. And don't miss the world-class Taylor Planetarium. Open all year.

406.994.2251

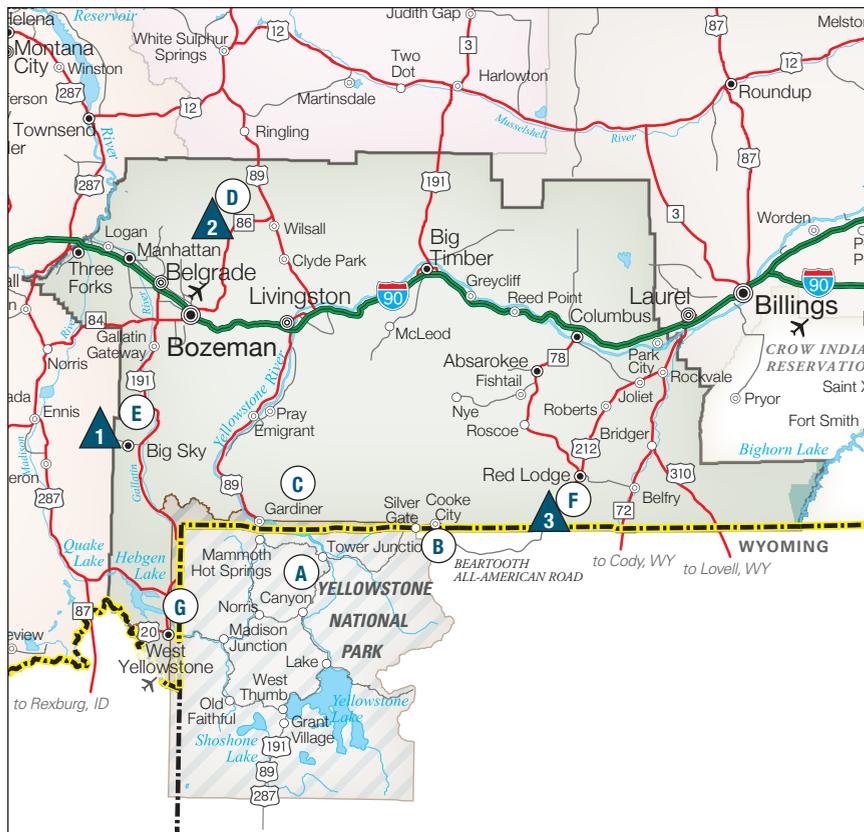
www.museumoftherockies.org

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

CAMPING Sleep under the stars! Camping is the perfect way to get back to nature, and Yellowstone Country is a camper's paradise for the novice and experienced camper alike. Whether you want to set up in luxury at an RV park or pitch a tent at the end of a mountain trail, we have the perfect spot for you. The stars in the night sky will astound you! www.visitmt.com/camping

COONEY STATE PARK Cooney Reservoir is a popular recreation area in south-central Montana offering boating, swimming, camping and fishing. It's always a busy place in the summer. The park features good walleye and rainbow trout fishing and boating opportunities. Seventy-three campsites are available, 13 of which have electrical hookups, at this 309-acre site. Located 18 miles south of Columbus. Open all year. For more information on the park or for camping reservations, go to stateparks.mt.gov. 406.445.2326

SKIING IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY



In Yellowstone Country, lifts whisk you up to acres of powder, groomers (or intrepid trail-breakers) pave the way for skinny skiing, and snowcats deposit you into secret backcountry stashes and Yellowstone National Park's scenic spots.

Downhill Skiing & Snowboarding

Southwest Montana delivers the Biggest Skiing in America, a hip college local's hill and a lesser-known, laid-back destination resort.

Light, dry snow, untracked runs and non-existent lift lines create the perfect recipe for exploration, no matter what your skill level. Visit skimt.com.

- 1** Big Sky Resort, Big Sky
800.548.4486
www.bigskyresort.com
- 2** Bridger Bowl, Bozeman
800.223.9609
www.bridgerbowl.com
- 3** Red Lodge Mountain, Red Lodge
800.444.8977
www.redlodgemountain.com

Eagle Mount

Eagle Mount works in cooperation with Bridger Bowl, Big Sky Resort and Red Lodge Mountain to provide quality adaptive lessons. All lessons are given by volunteer instructors specifically trained in adaptive techniques of mono and bi-skiing, 3- and 4-tracking, blind or visually impaired and those with cognitive or developmental delays. The program teaches skiers to become independent so they may one day be able to ski with family and friends. Adaptive equipment is provided with lessons, or a discounted rate is offered for those needing to rent equipment. Eagle Mount is a registered ski school through the Professional Ski Instructors of America, PSIA.org.

Bridger Bowl and Big Sky Resort
406.586.1781
www.eaglemount.org

Red Lodge Mountain
406.996-2949
www.eaglemount.us

Cross-Country Skiing

Yellowstone Country is the Nordic ski capital of North America. You won't find a more diverse trail system anywhere. Yellowstone National Park offers incredible backcountry skiing as well as a number of trails. Cross-country skiing is a wonderful way to savor the Montana landscape. Visit wintermt.com/xcski.

- A** Yellowstone National Park
307.344.7381
www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/skiyell.htm

Ski Trails in National Forests

Custer Gallatin National Forest
406.522.2520 or 406.587.6701
www.fs.usda.gov/gallatin

- B** Bannock Trail
Cooke City to Silver Gate
406.848.7375
- C** Bear Creek Trail System
Jardine, 5 miles NE of Gardiner
406.848.7375

Cross-Country Ski Centers/Trails

- D** Bohart Ranch, 16 miles NE of Bozeman
on MT 86, 406.586.9070
www.bohartranchxcski.com
- E** Lone Mountain Ranch, Big Sky
406.995.4644 or 800.514.4644
www.lonemountainranch.com
- F** Red Lodge Nordic Center
2 miles W of Red Lodge on MT 78
www.beartoothtrails.org
- G** Rendezvous Ski Trails, West Yellowstone
www.rendezvouskitrails.com

Backcountry Skiing

If you're looking for a ski adventure, try backcountry skiing. With the proper equipment, a bit of hiking will deliver you to an alpine peak or mountainside gorge filled with untouched powder. Other opportunities to access the backcountry include snowmobile, helicopter or snowcat. For access and guide information visit wintermt.com/snowcoaches.

Go With A Pro

Learn to ski with a pro. Lesson packages include two or three days of lessons, rentals and lift tickets valid over the course of the current winter season. Check out the list of participating ski areas around the state at wintermt.com/gowithapro.



Dogsledding, Paradise Valley

DOGSLEDDING Make like the Iditarod and drive your own team of fluffy malamutes into the mountains. Husky hot spots are Big Sky and West Yellowstone. Some rides can take you to scenery that's otherwise inaccessible. You can find everything from quick half-day sled outings with a guide to multi-night resort adventures with planned dogsled itineraries.

www.wintermt.com/dogsled

FISHING Browns, cutthroats, rainbows, brookies. Blue-ribbon trout streams—the Yellowstone, Gallatin and Madison Rivers—totaling 1,000 miles. Yellowstone Country has 61 state fishing access sites. Be sure to obtain permission before you enter or cross private land. Consult local fly shops for specific gear recommendations. Fishing permits are required and may be obtained at various centers around Yellowstone Country.

406.444.2535

www.fwp.mt.gov/fishing

HIKING AND BACKPACKING in Yellowstone Country is truly endless, with more than 100 trails in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Crazy Mountains, Paradise Valley and Bozeman and Red Lodge areas. When hiking here, be prepared for unexpected situations and carry plenty of water and appropriate gear,

because there's a good chance you might encounter animals or unexpected changes in the weather.

www.visitmt.com/hiking

RANCH VACATIONS Yellowstone Country has over 30 working and guest ranches where you can have a real ranch adventure, complete with riding, roping, branding and cattle driving. Grab your hat, saddle up and hit the trail for unbelievable vistas and a genuine Western experience.

www.visitmt.com/ranch

SLEIGH RIDES Watch the winter dusk unfold to the tune of jingling sleigh bells while gliding through snow-dusted woods on a horse-drawn sleigh. There are various companies throughout Yellowstone Country offering sleigh rides. Some include appetizers or desserts, or a complete Montana-raised prime rib dinner illuminated by kerosene lanterns. Reservations are recommended.

www.wintermt.com/sleighrides

SNOWCOACHES AND SNOWCATS Get whisked away on a snowcoach adventure—they do the driving, you do the gawking. If the tour is through Yellowstone, your driver will stop for strolls and photo shoots and you'll catch an entrancing earful about the park. If a toasty snowcoach seems a little too



Ziplining in Gallatin Canyon with Yellowstone Zip

tame, bring along your skis or snowshoes. Combined tours mix 'coaching and guided skiing, while a system of shuttle coaches cut straight to the chase, delivering skiers and snowshoers to trailheads throughout the park. Beyond Yellowstone, try snowcoaching's burlier cousin, snowcatting. Snowcats climb high into the mountains, transporting lucky riders to a day's worth of backcountry S-turns, a high-altitude gourmet dinner spread, a sleepover in a high-country yurt or some combination of the three. No matter where your snowcoach or snowcat takes you, rest assured: that place is a rarely seen, spectacular side of Montana. And you've got a window seat.

www.wintermt.com/snowcoaches

SNOWMOBILING Some consider this area to be the Sturgis of snowmobiling. Groomed and ungroomed postcard trails lure you into the backcountry. Feel right at home at sno-mo meccas like West Yellowstone, where you'll see many of the same friendly faces (under helmets) every year, and nobody blinks twice if you ride your machine around town. Area outfitters can rent you one of the latest low-emission models, and usually clothing and helmets, too. Guides can show you the ropes and also (if you're good) their secret powder stashes.

www.wintermt.com/snowmobiling

WEST YELLOWSTONE BIRDING

TRAIL Take in the awesome scenery and natural diversity of the West Yellowstone area and Hebgen Lake basin. The area provides a stunning array of habitats for birding and wildlife viewing.
www.visitmt.com/birdwatching

WILDLIFE VIEWING Wildlife habits and personalities, weather patterns, mating seasons and time of day greatly affect the potential for viewing wildlife. Visitors who opt to view in the early morning or late evening hours have the greatest potential to see wildlife. Yellowstone Country viewing hot spots are Bozeman for birds and Yellowstone National Park in Mammoth and Lamar Valley for wildlife. Be safe while wildlife watching. Never try to touch, approach, chase or disturb an animal. Not only can interacting with wildlife endanger you, it can lead to their demise. Animals accustomed to human food and contact can become aggressive and must be destroyed if they can't be relocated. Leaving empty soda cans and food wrappers behind is the same as feeding wildlife. If you see trash, please help by disposing of it properly.
www.visitmt.com/watchablewildlife

YELLOWSTONE WILDLIFE

SANCTUARY, in Red Lodge, provides a home for native animals that have been injured, orphaned or become too accustomed to humans to be returned to

the wild. Residents of the center include mountain lions, wolves, coyotes, black bears, bison and other animals native to Montana. Open all year.
406.446.1133
www.yellowstonewildlifesanctuary.org

ZIPLINING Big Sky isn't only for skiing. Any time of the year you can experience flight through the trees for an unforgettable memory. Experienced and entertaining guides take you via zipline over gullies, through forests and across the Gallatin River. It's the ultimate adventure.
Big Sky Resort
406.995.5769
www.bigskyresort.com

Montana Whitewater Raft Company and Yellowstone Zip Line and Canopy Tours
800.799.4465
www.montanawhitewater.com
www.yellowstonezip.com

SCENIC & WILDLIFE

ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH

WILDERNESS AREA This part of the Custer Gallatin National Forest is a true paradise for hikers, anglers and horseback riders. The wilderness area adjoins Yellowstone National Park on its northern edge and offers more than 640 alpine lakes and hundreds of miles of hiking trails. Major access points are from Gardiner, Big Timber, Livingston,

Red Lodge and Cooke City. Just out of Cooke City and Gardiner, you can access the Bannock Trail or the Bear Creek Trail System for excellent snowmobiling, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.
406.522.2520
www.fs.usda.gov/gallatin

GALLATIN CORRIDOR This drive through the Gallatin Canyon from Bozeman to Big Sky and on to West Yellowstone offers gorgeous views on your way to Yellowstone National Park. There are plenty of side roads and trails to explore along the way, so plan ahead to make some stops and enjoy this scenic area. And don't forget your fishing rod. The Gallatin River offers epic fly fishing. In the winter this is the perfect location for the snowmobile lover. Yellowstone National Park is just south of the Gallatin Canyon, and you can sled all the way to West Yellowstone on the popular Big Sky Snowmobile Trail.

LEE METCALF WILDERNESS AREA

is scattered across the Madison Range in south-central Montana. Experience great hiking, camping and wildlife viewing including mountain goats and sheep, black and grizzly bears, moose, elk, cougars and wolves. Cutthroat, rainbow and brook trout can be found in the lakes and streams.
406.522.2520
www.fs.usda.gov/gallatin



Horseback riding, Lone Mountain Ranch