

MONTANA

2015–2016 OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOK



VISITMT.COM

MONTANA

2015–2016 GUIDEBOOK

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Above: *Bitterroot Valley*

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Cover Photo: *View of Glacier National Park from the Going-to-the-Sun Road*

Back Cover Photo: *Bison near Gardiner, Gateway to Yellowstone National Park*

TAKE YOUR TIME AND EXPLORE WHAT FOLKS IN MONTANA ALREADY KNOW.

Growing up in Montana, I never took for granted the spectacular wide-open spaces that make our state one of the last truly unspoiled places on Earth. Montana is still a place where you can walk for miles and see more elk, bear and trout than people. Our world-class rivers, majestic mountains and rolling plains are where I hunt, fish and hike with my family. We hope your travels will give you the same special memories we have from growing up here. On behalf of the people of Montana, we invite you to join us in exploring the "Last Best Place."



Steve Bullock, Governor of Montana



Governor Steve Bullock and family



Star trails over Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park

MONTANA

It's time.

Most people don't even know places like this exist.

But here it is, waiting for you to find it—mountains and valleys, bears and bison, waterfalls and trout streams.

The sky feels bigger here. The locals on downtown streets and well-worn bar stools are friendlier. And every once in a while, a herd of elk crossing the road causes a traffic jam.

You're probably flipping through this guide because Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks are on your bucket list. And if you haven't been yet, by all means, get to planning—they're spectacular beyond words. But don't stop there, because between them lies a world of nature, history and recreation worthy of a lifetime of exploration.

You've been dreaming of locking eyes with a bison. Of cresting the Continental Divide thousands of feet above the valley floor. Of skiing without lift lines. Of finally visiting a place like this.

Permission granted.

Montana. It's time.



Hiker near Cracker Lake in Glacier National Park



Grizzly bear cubs in Yellowstone National Park



Fly fishing on the Yellowstone River



Mount Oberlin in Glacier National Park

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Glacier National Park is the center of a vast collection of wilderness and natural wonders known as the Crown of the Continent. It spreads north into Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park, south into the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and east into the plains of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

No matter how long your visit to Glacier, you'll wish you could extend it. Those who have made the area their home will tell you they're still exploring, crossing places and events off their bucket lists. Below, you'll find a few things to add to yours.



Glacier Park Boat Company at Many Glacier in Glacier National Park

CAN'T-MISS OPPORTUNITIES

The easiest and most popular way to see Glacier in the summer is by driving the **Going-to-the-Sun Road**. Completed in 1932, it is a true engineering marvel that climbs over the Continental Divide, connecting the west entrance at West Glacier to the east entrance at St. Mary. Even those visitors who never venture outside their vehicles are treated to views of turquoise glacial lakes, massive mountains and the park's iconic wildlife.

Better than driving yourself, though, is a guided tour, either in a vintage 1930s convertible **Red Jammer bus** or with **Sun Tours**, which offers a Native American perspective.

Glacier's scenery can also be explored on the water. **Glacier Park Boat Company** offers guided tours on five of the park's glacial lakes

in vintage wooden boats. These tours include views you won't find anywhere else, as well as interesting stories about the park and the boats themselves.

Perhaps the most rewarding way to see Glacier National Park is on foot. **Hiking the park's 700+ miles of trails** not only provides an opportunity to more closely connect with nature, but is also the only way to access the vast majority of Glacier's more than one million acres.

Trails range in difficulty and remoteness from the wheelchair-accessible Trail of the Cedars boardwalk to the harrowing Garden Wall traverse to a myriad of multiday backpacking routes. Several of the trails in the park can also be explored on **guided horseback trips**.



Guided tours at Many Glacier Hotel



North Fork of the Flathead River

DIGGING DEEPER

Several outfitters offer scenic floats and whitewater rafting trips on the rivers that form the southern and western borders of Glacier National Park—the Middle Fork and the North Fork of the Flathead River, respectively.

Both of these rivers also boast excellent fishing. If you've got a day to spend with a guide learning the ins and outs, Glacier can be one of the best places in the world to get bitten by the fly fishing bug.

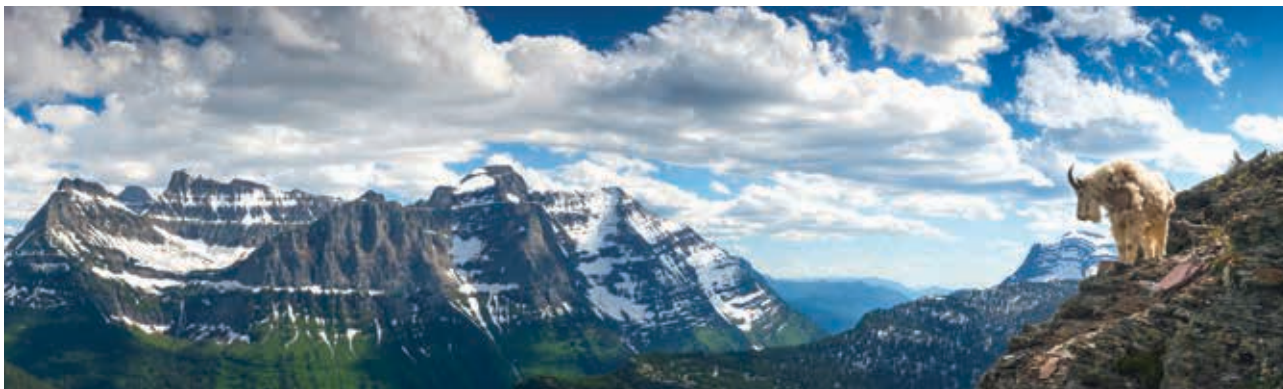
Venturing out onto the park's western border river comes with an added benefit—you're likely to discover the remote town of Polebridge hiding near the end of the unpaved

North Fork Road. This off-the-grid community is home to the famous Polebridge Mercantile and its selection of baked goods, a rustic eatery and access to Glacier's northwest entrance. From here you can drive to the stunning shore of Bowman Lake, but it's all hiking from there.

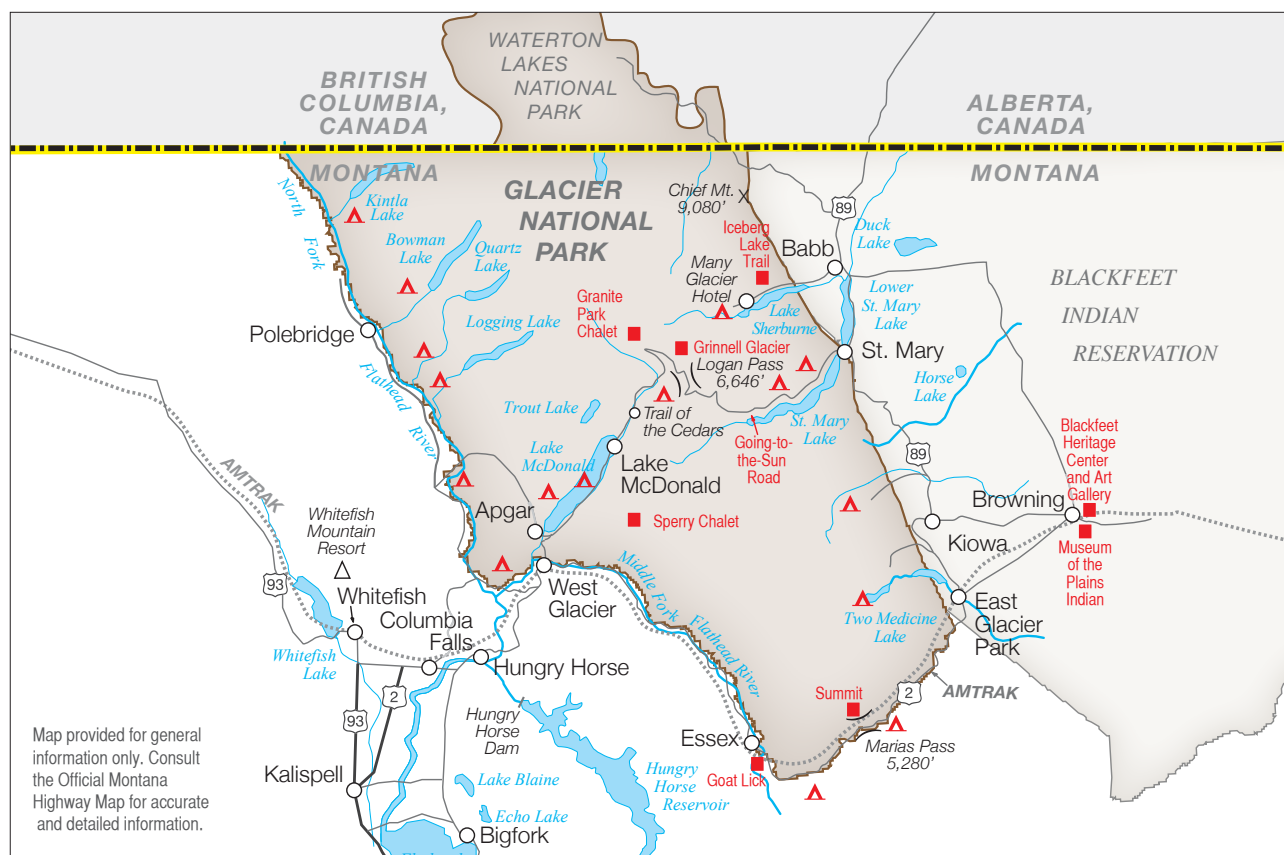
See or stay in at least one of the park's three main historic log-construction lodges—Lake McDonald Lodge, Many Glacier Hotel and Glacier Park Lodge. If you're a bit more adventurous, the Sperry Chalet and Granite Park Chalet are unique hike-in lodging options.



View from the Going-to-the-Sun Road



Mountain goat in Glacier National Park



EXPLORING THE AREA

There are several **charming small towns** in and around the park—Whitefish with its picturesque downtown, Bigfork on the north end of Flathead Lake, Browning on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and many others.

Also worth considering are the Hungry Horse Dam and the reservoir of the same name, the **Bob Marshall Wilderness Area** and a string of roadside stands featuring an endless array of delicious huckleberry products along US 2 between West Glacier and Columbia Falls.

Each of these and many places in between offer opportunities to find your unique Montana moment. For more detailed information, turn to the Glacier Country section on page 24.

FURTHER EXPLORATION: For more on Glacier National Park and what the surrounding area has to offer, check out visitmt.com, nps.gov/glac and crownofthecontinent.net.

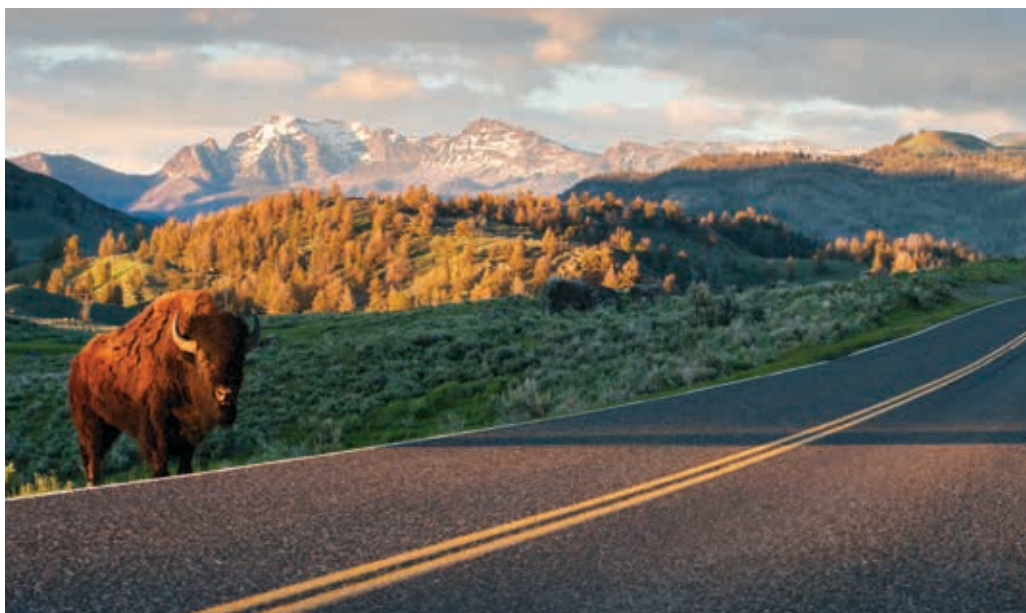


Old Faithful near West Yellowstone, Gateway to Yellowstone National Park

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

The world's first national park is one of the planet's most unique collections of geography, geothermal activity and wildlife. Bison, grizzly bears and wolves live here among other large species just as they did in 1872, and thousands of geysers provide a backdrop for the historic lodges, mountains, rivers and canyons that make this one of the most spectacular places in America.

Yellowstone is enormous—more than two million acres—and fortunately, much of the park is accessible by car or RV. But to get the most out of your Yellowstone visit, you'll want to stretch your legs on a hike or two, and make time to visit the charming small towns at the park's three Montana entrances.



Bison near Tower Junction in Yellowstone National Park

CAN'T-MISS OPPORTUNITIES

The roads in Yellowstone National Park form a large “lower loop” in the center, with arms reaching out to the park's five entrances to make **seeing Yellowstone by car** easy no matter where you begin.

Geothermal activity defines Yellowstone in many ways, and dependable features like the **Old Faithful geyser** are rightly some of its most popular attractions. The Old Faithful complex includes a fantastic visitor center and makes a good first or second stop when driving the lower loop.

Many of the most interesting geothermal features can be found elsewhere along the lower loop, however. **Norris Geyser Basin** is north of Old Faithful and includes the rarely

erupting but spectacular Steamboat Geyser. And Midway Geyser Basin includes **Grand Prismatic Spring**—stunningly colored by bacteria that feed on its boiling water and the subject of some of the park's most iconic photographs.

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is well worth the trip on its own, and can be explored several different ways. We recommend a short hike to one of the lookouts with a view of the Lower Falls.

Large animals are often seen from roads throughout the park, but the **Lamar Valley** is one of the most common places for successful **wildlife viewing**.



View of the Absaroka Mountains from Livingston

DIGGING DEEPER

We've only scratched the surface so far, but when you slow down, extend your stay and venture off the beaten path in Yellowstone, you can find some truly memorable experiences.

The family-style dining at the **Roosevelt Lodge Cabins** is a good start. Finding a secluded spring-fed river bend to test your fly fishing prowess is the next step, followed by a much deeper exploration of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and the area south of Grant Village.

Boat tours are available on Yellowstone Lake, where you'll find that even a large body of water cannot quell the geothermal energy brewing beneath the Earth's thin crust.

But it's only when you begin to explore the more than **1,100 miles of hiking trails in Yellowstone** that you unlock the true power of this primordial place.



Pronghorn in Paradise Valley



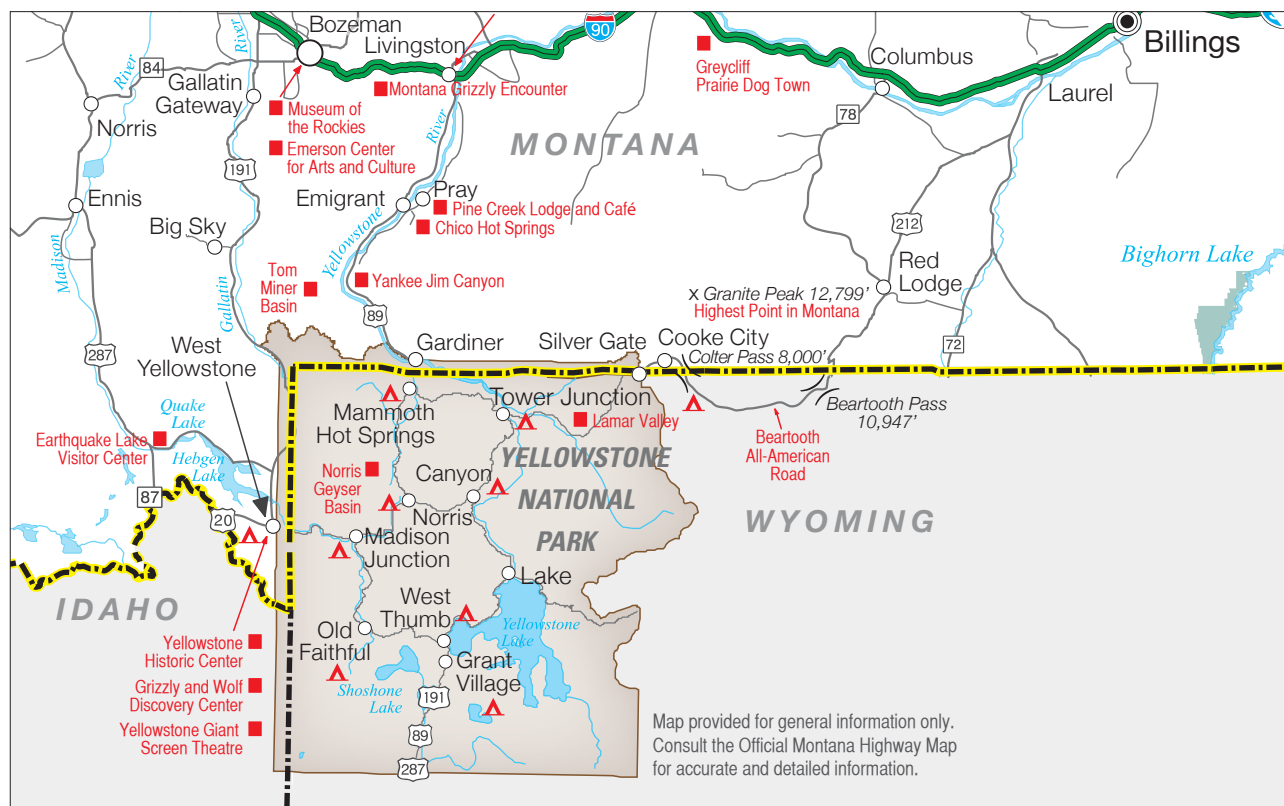
Grand Prismatic Spring near West Yellowstone



Mammoth Terraces near Gardiner



Bison near Gardiner, Gateway to Yellowstone National Park



EXPLORING THE AREA

It may take a little longer, but there is nothing in the world like the drive from downtown Red Lodge, over the **shockingly beautiful Beartooth Highway** and into rustic Cooke City and through Yellowstone's northeast entrance.

West Yellowstone, at the park's west entrance, is only a little way from Big Sky Resort, and from there it's an easy drive to Bozeman, one of Montana's cultural hubs and a good base camp for a Yellowstone trip.

The north entrance, including **the original Roosevelt Arch**, is in Gardiner, Montana. From there, a scenic drive north through the aptly named Paradise Valley and past Chico Hot Springs leads to Livingston, the original Montana railroad stop for Yellowstone visitors.

Much like the rest of Montana, Yellowstone is too big and full of surprises for you to just show up and lounge about—it's a destination built for constant exploration. And between these mountains, prairies and rivers is your perfect Montana experience. For more detailed information on the area, turn to page 56.

FURTHER EXPLORATION: For more on Yellowstone National Park and what the surrounding area has to offer, check out visitmt.com, nps.gov/yell and yellowstonegetourism.org.



Bighorn sheep below Mount Wilbur in Glacier National Park

WINTER IN MONTANA

When the snow flies (and fly it does), Montana is transformed. The majesty and solitude of our two national parks are often much easier to find under a blanket of snow. Our 15 ski areas are drastically less crowded than what you're likely to find in other states. And the wildlife we're famous for is sometimes even easier to encounter than in other seasons.

We've got mountains to ski or snowboard, ice to climb, hot springs to discover and trails to explore on Nordic skis, snowshoes, dogsled or snowmobile. Here are a few ideas to get you started.



Whitefish Mountain Resort in Whitefish

CAN'T-MISS OPPORTUNITIES

In Montana, four inches of snow might turn into the deepest day you've ever had on the slopes. Why? Because it also snowed six inches yesterday and four the day before that, lift lines are almost unheard of, and there just aren't enough people on the slopes to ski everything off before noon.

Whether you're gazing into Glacier National Park as you ascend **Whitefish Mountain Resort's** Big Mountain Express, driving up to encounter Lone Peak towering above Big Sky for the first time or just finding that your legs get a workout more quickly than you're used to, Montana takes skiing to another level.

Montana's 15 ski areas fall into three categories: mom-and-pop hills with serious character and low-priced lift tickets, day areas with terrain to rival anything in the country without the trappings of a full resort and some of the biggest, best resorts in the country. And that doesn't even include the endless backcountry ski terrain throughout the state.

All three categories have a secret weapon: they're in Montana. Which means that after a day at **Bridger Bowl** or **Big Sky**, a snowmobile ride or a snowcoach tour to **Old Faithful in Yellowstone** is definitely on the menu. And don't forget après-ski refreshment options as well. Montana ranks third in the nation for breweries per capita, meaning one of our **53 taprooms** is certainly never far.



Snowmobiling near West Yellowstone



Sleigh ride dinner at Lone Mountain Ranch near Big Sky



Downtown Whitefish

DIGGING DEEPER

Cross-country skiing in Montana is the real deal, with hundreds of miles of groomed trails across the state. The **Izaak Walton Inn** in Essex is a quick drive from Whitefish and makes it easy to unplug as you explore its network of trails without TV or cell service. For cross-country skiing near Big Sky Resort, **Lone Mountain Ranch** offers miles of groomed trails, as well as sleigh-ride dinners as a perfect cap to the day.

Just inside Yellowstone National Park between Gardiner and Mammoth Hot Springs is an unmarked parking lot. From there, a half-mile walk along the Gardner River leads to the **Boiling River**, a spot where a natural hot

spring mixes with cold river water to form perfectly heated pools for soaking along the river's edge. Hot spring pools and resorts abound across the state as well. **Chico Hot Springs** to the north of Yellowstone and **Fairmont Hot Springs** northwest of Butte are both popular family-friendly destinations that will take the chill off.

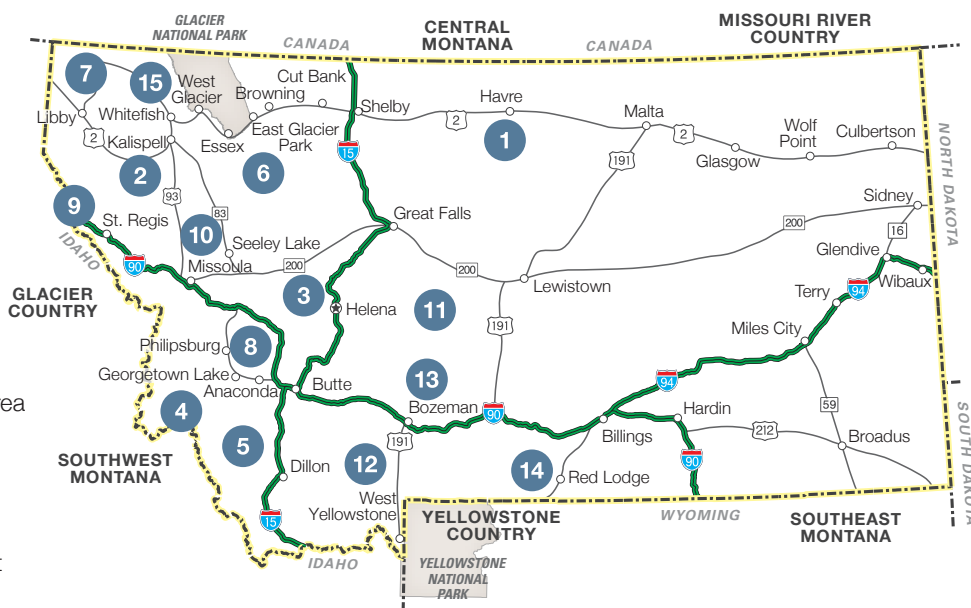
In Glacier National Park, guided **snowshoe tours** and **cross-country trails** give new perspective to views routinely seen by car or on foot in summer. In Yellowstone, snowcoaches offer tours to passengers along the park's lower loop, to and from the still-open Old Faithful complex. And in both parks, animals can be easier to track and spot against the fields of pure white snow.



Cross-country skiing near Whitefish

15 UNDISCOVERED SKI AREAS

1. Bear Paw Ski Bowl
2. Blacktail Mountain Ski Area
3. Great Divide
4. Lost Trail Powder Mountain
5. Maverick Mountain
6. Teton Pass
7. Turner Mountain
8. Discovery Ski Area
9. Lookout Pass Ski and Rec Area
10. Montana Snowbowl
11. Showdown Montana
12. Big Sky Resort
13. Bridger Bowl
14. Red Lodge Mountain Resort
15. Whitefish Mountain Resort



Both West Yellowstone and Cooke City transform into **snowmobile meccas** during winter, leaving a layer of snow on the streets to facilitate easy transport by sled to and from Yellowstone's entrances, your dinner and hotel.

If you're looking to try **winter camping**, yurt rentals, available at a variety of scenic locations, combine the adventure of sleeping in wild country with creature comforts like a bed and wood stove. Throughout Montana, the northern tradition of traveling via dog power lives on with **guided dogsled tours**. Hold on to your hat—they move faster than you might think.

In Montana, snow is more than just something we have to shovel from our driveways—it's a whole other season of opportunity to find the moments that make life interesting.

FURTHER EXPLORATION: For more on winter in Montana, check out visitmt.com.

OUTDOORS & ADVENTURE

It's time. To experience Montana's vast outdoor playground. Whether rivers, lakes, mountains or prairies are more your style, getting outside is one of the best ways to recharge your spirit. With more than 3.4 million acres spread between 15 distinct wilderness areas, you're surrounded by opportunities to bike, hike, camp, boat, fish, sightsee and more.



North Fork of the Flathead River

CAN'T-MISS OPPORTUNITIES

There are more than 3,223 named lakes and reservoirs in Montana. **Flathead Lake**, in northwest Montana, is the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. It boasts quaint lakeside towns and water-based activities, as well as a healthy sailing community that throws the occasional regatta. To the east, **Fort Peck Lake** is a vast oasis in the prairie, with fantastic walleye and northern pike fishing, winter ice fishing and more total shoreline than the entire state of California.

Montana's rivers have inspired generations of fishermen, and more recently, whitewater enthusiasts. In western Montana, the **Flathead River** offers equal parts trout habitat and whitewater on the boundary of Glacier National Park. The city of Missoula has engineered a feature on the Clark Fork River called **Brennan's Wave** that lets kayakers "surf" in one spot and practice tricks.

The Yellowstone, America's longest undammed river, follows I-90 across much of the state and also provides whitewater rafting, canoeing, fishing opportunities and more.

Hiking in Montana is endless, as you might imagine. For destination hikes to waterfalls in south-central Montana, **Natural Bridge Falls** and **Palisades Falls** are great options; in the northwest, don't miss **Kootenai Falls**. For longer journeys on foot, the **Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness** and the **Bob Marshall Wilderness** are both places where you could trek for days without seeing another person. Horse pack trips via area outfitters make these vast wild areas even more accessible.



Mountain biking near Bozeman



Camping in Southeast Montana

DIGGING DEEPER

One of the less populated areas of Montana is home to some amazing, unique geologic formations. **Makoshika State Park** near Glendive is filled with scenic badlands and is also Montana's largest state park, while **Medicine Rocks State Park** campground might be one of the most uniquely scenic places to pitch a tent in the state. When you're in the area, visit the Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area. There you'll find the **Calypso Trail**, which features amazing spires and natural bridges.

For sublime beauty in central Montana near Great Falls, **Sluice Boxes State Park** is another place to bring your camera as you hike, fish, picnic or raft through the remains of old mines, a railroad and historic cabins lining the dramatic Belt Creek Canyon.

To see what was once called one of the most scenic stretches of railroad in the country, you'll need a bike.

Montana is the gateway to the **Route of the Hiawatha Trail**, which starts at Lookout Pass, alongside I-90 west of Missoula, and crosses into Idaho. The non-motorized route takes cyclists through open tunnels and over high trestles.

To see the biggest trees in Montana, head north near Libby, to the **Ross Creek Cedars Scenic Area**. These 500-year-old behemoths grow to 12 feet in diameter and 175 feet tall. A paved nature trail and extended day hike trail allow one to really experience the impressive canopy of an old-growth forest.

The best-kept secret in Montana might just be the **Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area**, which straddles the border between Montana and Wyoming a couple hours south of Billings. Canyon walls more than 1,000 feet high contain the long, narrow Bighorn Lake, where boating, fishing and kayaking are all popular.



Near Polson south of Flathead Lake

HISTORY & CULTURE

Long before the name Montana defined this place back in 1889, there were animals and people who called these mountains, valleys and plains their home. The stories of early inhabitants are examples of innovation and toughness shaped by necessity and survival, and ignite the history lover in all of us. Dinosaurs, Native American culture, Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery, mining's heyday and the settling of the West—they all happened right here.



Digging for fossils at Makoshika State Park near Glendive



Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Crow Agency

CAN'T-MISS OPPORTUNITIES

The **Montana Dinosaur Trail** is a collaborative of 14 dinosaur-themed museums and state parks. Bozeman's **Museum of the Rockies** hosts one of the largest collections of dinosaur fossils in the world, and farther east you'll find gems like the **Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum** and the **Makoshika Dinosaur Museum**.

Much of Montana's landscape remains unchanged since the Lewis and Clark Expedition's historic journey across the West more than 200 years ago, and today it's easy to fill your bucket list with monuments and interpretive centers built in their honor. Near Billings you'll find the only remaining physical evidence of the corps on the trail at **Pompeys Pillar National Monument**.

In Three Forks visit the **Headwaters Heritage Museum**, and in Great Falls the **Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center**.

Of course, the history of the West wasn't lived by just one group of people. The **Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument**, southeast of Billings off I-90, memorializes the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry and the Sioux and Cheyenne in one of the Native Americans' last armed efforts to preserve their way of life. Both interpretive tours and self-guided audio tours are available. Farther west, near Wisdom, the **Big Hole National Battlefield** tells the story of the largest battle fought between the Nez Perce and the U.S. government.



Annual Crow Fair and Rodeo, Crow Agency

DIGGING DEEPER

For those wanting to literally dig deeper, Montana is one of those rare places where you can join in on real paleontology in action. The **Two Medicine Dinosaur Museum** in Central Montana, as well as several others on the Montana Dinosaur Trail, allow visitors to dig for fossils alongside working field paleontologists.

The first major gold discovery in Montana happened in Bannack in 1862. Now a ghost town, **Bannack State Park's** preserved buildings allow you to relive the gold rush of the American West. **Nevada and Virginia City** operate as living ghost towns, offering hands-on family-friendly activities like panning for gold and stagecoach rides. Of course, some ghost towns have not been refurbished and require imagination as they stand the test of time—and those can be just as interesting.

Granite Ghost Town State Park outside Philipsburg and **Marysville** outside Helena are two of the best to get you started on a ghost-hunting expedition.

Montana's ghost towns aren't the only cities with history worth exploring. Butte, one of the largest cities west of the Mississippi in the late 19th century, was built on top of a gigantic copper deposit that produced most of the wire used to first bring electricity to the United States. The once booming Uptown Butte has a hilly, charismatic flair, but don't miss a **hidden underground tour** with Old Butte Historical Adventures. For an underground mine tour, you'll want to check out the **World Museum of Mining**.

FURTHER EXPLORATION: Learn more about these destinations and other interesting historic places across Montana at visitmt.com.



Bannack State Park near Dillon



William Clark's signature at Pompeys Pillar National Monument



Prairie sunset in eastern Montana

LAST BEST PLACES

THE SIX REGIONS OF MONTANA



Montana is a big place—filled to the brim with natural wonders, charming small towns and breathtaking experiences, each different from the next. In fact, it's so big and diverse that your breadth of travel options can feel a bit overwhelming.

To help you begin planning your visit, we've split Montana into six distinct regions. You should not feel restricted by their borders, but instead take inspiration from the way Montana's geography has led to six unique collections of scenery, history, people and activities.

In the following sections, you can explore each of these regions in detail, creating an itinerary that matches your personal interests.

Montana is a special place, and one that we're all still exploring. We hope you'll join us here soon.



GLACIER COUNTRY

www.glaciermt.com • 800.338.5072

Glacier Country is the Montana that people who have never been to Montana tend to envision—woodsy, with alpine lakes and towering mountain panoramas; wild, with bison, bears and huckleberries galore. Glacier National Park, the quintessential postcard snap, does nothing to dispel this notion, while areas like the Seeley-Swan, the Bitterroot Valley and the National Bison Range in Moiese only bolster the region's majestic reputation.

There's no shortage of ways to soak up all this grandeur, either. For starters, you'll see plenty just through your car windows, or, to shake the distraction of driving, the viewing car of Amtrak's Empire Builder line. For a little recreation with your scenery, raft trips, horseback trail rides, bike paths, snowmobile trips, cross-country outings and downhill ski days all guarantee views and wildlife sightings. You can even put a few major dents in your bucket list here—tracking untouched powder on a backcountry snowcat adventure or gazing at high-altitude panoramas from a helicopter tour high above the Rocky Mountains.

While your overworked camera recharges, hit Missoula, where eateries serving up locally sourced products, farmers markets and chocolatiers mingle with cowboy bars and hunting supply stores. Or roll into Bigfork for gourmet cuisine, art galleries and golf. Whether you snowmobile or skinny-ski, eat sushi or bison burgers, swill microbrews or local wines, Glacier Country tends to feel like the Montana you've always imagined: often homegrown, occasionally cosmopolitan and always beautiful.



Left: Quiet moment on Lower Stillwater Lake

Above: Hiking the Stoney Indian Pass trail in Glacier National Park

AT A GLANCE

- + Clearing the snow-laden Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park is a serious effort: snowplows must battle the "Big Drift," anywhere from 50 to 80 feet deep.
- + Every horse in A Carousel for Missoula in Caras Park is hand carved, and each horse has its own backstory.
- + The Bitterroot Valley is named for the bitterroot flower found there, the roots of which were once a staple food for the Flathead tribes. Now, it's Montana's official state flower.
- + Kootenai Falls, near Libby, is one of the largest free-flowing waterfalls in the northwestern U.S.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

BEST TIME TO VISIT

In the summer, Glacier Country is abuzz with fruit stands hawking homegrown cherries, glacier lilies blooming and boats cruising the region's many lakes. If you visit Glacier National Park in the summer, it's the most popular season with the most road and trail accessibility of the entire year. Arrive on bicycle in the springtime weeks before the Going-to-the-Sun Road opens to vehicles for a serene taste of Glacier. Note: it's a good idea to check road status before you come, as Going-to-the-Sun Road opens in its entirety only when the snow is plowed, which is usually mid-June.

Springtime in the rest of the region is a thrill for kayakers and rafters when the rapids swell with snowmelt. Go in autumn for hikes, bike rides and outdoor pursuits while the weather is still pleasant and the crowds are thinning.

In the winter, an ice fishing perch, snowshoe outing or cross-country ski trip affords views of snowcapped peaks, while a lift ticket or a snowmobile will actually put you on one.

HOW TO GET HERE

Take a flight into Kalispell or Missoula, or arrive on the blood-pressure-lowering Amtrak Empire Builder and rent a car. If you bring your own wheels, you'll probably drive in via I-90 or US 93 or US 2—watch for deer on the road in the evening.

WHAT TO PACK

Anything goes in cultural Missoula, where the clothing style can be dressy or casual. In art towns like Bigfork and Whitefish, clothing ranges from outdoorsy-chic to boutique fashion to just jeans. Everywhere in the region, pack layers appropriate for hiking, horseback riding, rafting and playing outside—wicking shirts, quick-drying pants, rain gear and polar fleeces are good bets.

Fleeces, parkas, snow pants and snow boots are customary for this region in the winter, although the valleys aren't as snowy as Southwest Montana and Yellowstone Country. Beyond hiking boots and snow boots, don't worry about bringing your own outdoor gear if it's a hassle; there are rentals and outfitters for almost every recreational pursuit here.

CANADA & WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

Easy to forget sometimes, Canada is a separate country from America, so if you go to the Canadian side of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, you will need to show your passport to return to the U.S. Also, be prepared to pay a small entry fee at the gates of Waterton Lakes National Park.

PHOTOGRAPHING TRIBAL CEREMONIES

Powwows and dances have deep religious significance and typically do not allow flash photography. Be sure to have permission before snapping photos at tribal ceremonies. For more information on proper etiquette while visiting the reservations and how to best enjoy your experience, contact tribal offices at visitmt.com/indiannations.

WATER

Glacier Country is famous for its pure lakes and streams, but all that lovely water carries the very real risk of *Giardia lamblia*, an unpleasant intestinal parasite. Resist the urge to sample even clear-looking streams, and if you must, filter or treat your water first.

FOOD

Montanans in Glacier Country love to eat, as you'll find in the plethora of friendly cafes and widespread varied eateries. In the larger towns you'll encounter creative fare like sushi, local-focused pizza and French and Thai cuisine. In more rural locales, look for small country cafes and steakhouses.





The colorful and quaint downtown of Bigfork

PLACES TO GO

COMMUNITIES

BIGFORK Hugging the sparkling blue bay where the Swan River flows into Flathead Lake, this picturesque, almost storybook-like community charms with its world-class art galleries, fine dining and live theater. Named “One of the 100 Best Small Art Towns” in the nation, this community truly loves the arts, as noted by its numerous galleries and Bigfork Summer Playhouse. And while this thriving community welcomes visitors with 50 shops, 25 restaurants and 16 galleries, it’s also a great launching point for playing on Flathead Lake. Winter offers great snowmobiling opportunities between Flathead Lake and Swan Lake in the Crane Mountain area.

406.837.5888

www.bigfork.org

EAST GLACIER PARK is located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, which is home to the Amskapi Pikuni Band of the Blackfeet Nation. Learn about East Glacier Park and the surrounding area’s historical and cultural significance to the Blackfeet by saddling up with Glacier Gateways Trailrides on a guided horseback trip into the heart of this American Indian land. Or hop onboard a Sun Tours bus and see Glacier National Park—the “Backbone of the World”—from the perspective of the Blackfeet people. Take on grand vistas, unique geology and abundant wildlife-

viewing by driving the Looking Glass Road (MT 49), which starts at the aspen prairie edge near East Glacier Park. If you plan to get off the road to explore, make sure you purchase a \$10 recreation permit at one of the local shops in East Glacier Park or Browning. Permits are required to access tribal lands for hiking. After the drive, stop at one of the local restaurants for a bison burger or huckleberry shake.

406.226.4403

www.eastglacierpark.info

EUREKA is tucked away in Montana’s northwest corner along the Tobacco River. It’s easy to while away the hours exploring the downtown shops and cafes. Learn about area history at the Tobacco Valley Historical Village, where you’ll find a unique collection of buildings and other structures from the 1880s to 1920s. Ten Lakes Scenic Area treats visitors to mountain drives, pristine lakes and abundant fishing. Also located nearby is Lake Koocanusa and the Lake Koocanusa Scenic Byway. Surrounding Forest Service lands offer miles of hiking trails, fishing, camping, groomed snowmobile trails and cross-country skiing.

406.889.4636

www.welcome2eureka.com

HAMILTON Anchoring the Bitterroot Valley is Hamilton, the central trade area for hundreds of small farms, ranches and orchards that fill the valley. Hamilton is the hub of the local arts scene for the valley, with community theater, live music at local pubs and a hopping

downtown. It’s also Montana’s gateway to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and offers a number of other year-round recreational attractions.

406.363.2400

www.bitterrootchamber.com

KALISPELL Centrally located between Flathead Lake, Whitefish and Glacier National Park is the hub of the Flathead Valley and year-round outdoor recreation. A bustling community, Kalispell has a notable Old West charm that seems to effortlessly coincide with modern-day arts and culture. Stroll through the historic downtown district and explore its local studios and galleries. Visit the Conrad Mansion Museum, Hockaday Museum of Art and The Museum at Central School to learn more about the region’s history. Plus, time it right and you may catch the sounds of the Glacier Symphony and Choral.

406.758.2800

www.discoverkalispell.com

LIBBY Located in Montana’s northwest corner in a valley carved by the Kootenai River and at the base of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is the bustling community of Libby. Combining small-town charm with breathtaking scenery, Libby welcomes visitors to explore its surrounding area attractions—including Ross Creek Cedar Grove, Kootenai Falls, Libby Dam and Turner Mountain—and soak up its hometown allure.

406.293.4167

www.libbychamber.org

GOING-TO-THE-SUN ROAD

Glacier's most famous attraction, the 52-mile Going-to-the-Sun Road takes you between the park's east and west entrances. Along the way, you pass gorgeous granite peaks, waterfalls, serene lakes, historic lodges and more as you make your way to the top of the Continental Divide at Logan Pass.



The visitor center at Logan Pass points you to trails leading to backcountry destinations such as turquoise alpine lakes and backcountry chalets. In 1983 the Going-to-the-Sun Road was included in the National Register of Historic Places and in 1985 was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

The entire Going-to-the-Sun Road is open for two-way motorized traffic from mid-June to mid-September, weather permitting.

Glacier's shuttle system gives visitors an option to sit back and enjoy the scenery. Ride for free as often as you like. Guided tours are also available on the park's historic red buses, or learn about the park from the perspective of the Blackfeet Tribe with Sun Tours.

406.888.7800

www.visitmt.com/glac · www.nps.gov/glac

View the Glacier National Park Video Series at visitmt.com/glaciervideos.

MISSOULA Sitting in a lush valley at the confluence of three nearby rivers is Montana's cultural hub—Missoula. The city is home to the University of Montana, nine historic districts, funky boutiques, live theater and music, a symphony and delectable dining. It's a prime launching point for outdoor recreationists who enjoy rafting, fishing, floating, hiking, golfing, snowmobiling and downhill and cross-country skiing. Head to Caras Park in the heart of downtown Missoula and watch kayakers play at Brennan's Wave on the Clark Fork River. Other "must-see" attractions include the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation with its impressive displays, theater and gift center; the Smokejumper Visitor Center, where you'll learn the science of fighting forest fires; and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

406.532.3250

www.destinationmissoula.org

POLSON is located on the Flathead Indian Reservation in a natural amphitheater at the south end of Flathead Lake. This area of the valley is a prime cherry-growing region and home to numerous cherry orchards. The broad, sweeping Mission Valley south of Polson is bordered by the rugged, snowcapped Mission Mountains. The Flathead River features whitewater rafting and Kerr Dam. Also located nearby: the National Bison Range at Moiese, as well as the Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges for bird watchers. Two museums, The Miracle of America Museum and Polson-Flathead Historical Museum, offer many displays and memorabilia. Polson Bay Golf Course is nestled near the Mission Mountains, at the base of Flathead Lake.

406.883.5969

www.polsonchamber.com

SEELEY LAKE An outdoor adventure lover's paradise, Seeley Lake offers access to nearby trails, lakes, streams, the Lolo National Forest and Bob Marshall Wilderness. In winter, Seeley is a mecca for snowmobilers, dogsledders and cross-country skiers, while the warm season attracts water lovers to the valley's numerous waterways. To experience the Seeley-Swan Valley at its best, rent your toy of choice (bike, canoe, snowmobile) in town and let the adventure begin.

406.677.2880

www.seeleylakechamber.com

WEST GLACIER anchors the western entrance to Glacier National Park and provides a variety of visitor services including lodging, cafes and gift shops. The vistas seen from Going-to-the-Sun Road are breathtaking as you cross the Continental Divide at 6,646-foot-high Logan Pass, and many guided tours of Glacier National Park and the surrounding area are offered out of West Glacier. Enjoy fishing, whitewater rafting, golfing, hiking, helicopter tours, horseback riding and much more. West Glacier is also one of the year-round stops on Amtrak's northern route across Montana.

WHITEFISH Named one of the "Top 25 Ski Towns in the World" by *National Geographic*, Whitefish is located on the shores of Whitefish Lake and at the base of Big Mountain—home to Whitefish Mountain Resort. A short jaunt to Glacier National Park, Whitefish is a year-round destination with plentiful attractions and a mixed array of shops, coffeehouses, restaurants, community gatherings and kick-up-your-heels nightlife. Visitors can enjoy snowmobiling, skiing, snowboarding, hiking, biking, boating and live professional



The Red Bus tour along the Going-to-the-Sun Road, Glacier National Park

theater, as well as stellar dining.
406.862.3548 or 406.862.3390
www.explorewhitefish.com

NOTABLE SITES

THE BLACKFEET NATION is located in the northwestern part of Montana, bordering the Canadian province of Alberta on the north and Glacier National Park to the west. The Blackfeet, or Pikuni, belong to what is called the Blackfoot Confederacy. This confederacy consists of the Montana Blackfeet of Pikuni and three other tribes residing in Canada: the North Peigan/Pikuni, Blook/Kainai and Blackfoot/Siksika. Blackfeet call themselves Niitsitapi, meaning “the real people.” If you’re near Browning, stop at the Museum of the Plains Indian for a glimpse of well-curated artifacts and exhibits or buy authentic goods from the gift shop. The Blackfeet Heritage Center also has a wide variety of arts, crafts and jewelry. During the summer, the center offers art demonstrations from local artisans. If you want to learn more about Blackfeet history and culture, join the Blackfeet Cultural History Tour or take the self-guided Blackfeet Trail Tour.

Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Browning
406.338.7521
www.blackfeetnation.com

FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION

is home to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, which are a combination of the Salish, the Pend d’Oreille and the Kootenai. The reservation lies between Missoula and Kalispell and includes fertile valleys, towering mountain ranges and the lower half of Flathead Lake. The tribes are environmental stewards—the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness is a designated wilderness preserve. Permits are required for hiking, camping and fishing and are available at many local stores. The town of Pablo is home to The People’s Center—a museum that offers a vital, living encounter with Native American culture. The center features an exhibit gallery, educational programs such as beading classes and a gift shop with locally made crafts including beadwork.

Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo
406.675.2700
www.cskt.org

FLATHEAD LAKE At nearly 200 square miles and surrounded by six state parks, Flathead is the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi and a perfect

destination for anyone who enjoys boating, swimming, fishing, sailing, waterskiing and outdoor fun. Nearby towns are Polson, Lakeside, Somers, Bigfork and Kalispell.
www.visitmt.com/flatheadlake

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK is part of the world’s first International Peace Park (a distinction it shares with Waterton Lakes National Park, its Canadian neighbor to the north). And after visiting this park’s more than one million acres of natural wonder and beauty, you’ll agree that it is, indeed, a place of peace. Glacier itself is one of the largest intact ecosystems in the continental U.S., meaning wildlife—bighorn sheep, moose, grizzlies and more—thrive within the park’s borders. Hike 734 miles of trails ranging from wheelchair-accessible walkways through cedar groves to rugged backcountry hikes atop steep cliffs. If you don’t want to drive or hike, try a tour bus, take a guided horseback ride or climb aboard a scenic boat tour. Come winter, most of Glacier’s roads are left to pile up with snow except for a small portion of the Going-to-the-Sun Road from West Glacier to Lake McDonald Lodge and from the St. Mary entrance about a mile to the St. Mary Campground. The rest of the park is just waiting for you to explore via snowshoes and cross-country skis.

406.888.7800
www.nps.gov/glac

LIBBY DAM VISITOR CENTER on Lake Koocanusa is a great place to visit with family and friends. During the summer, free dam tours are offered daily, with photo ID;

off-season, call ahead to schedule a tour. The visitor center is open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, with limited services in May and September. Inside the center, you will find interactive educational displays, regional info, a bookstore and more. Nearby are playgrounds, picnic shelters, boat ramps, hiking, fishing, camping, wildlife watching and a challenging 18-hole disc-golf course.
406.293.5577

MUSEUM OF THE PLAINS INDIAN

is located in Browning and contains a permanent exhibit of the creative works of Native American artists and craftspeople. You can see artwork along with traditional costumes of Northern Plains men, women and children. Beyond the permanent exhibits are two special exhibition galleries with changing presentations. Open all year.
406.338.2230

www.browningmontana.com/museum

NATIONAL BISON RANGE Enjoy a self-guided auto tour of this national treasure that protects one of the most important remaining herds of American bison. The refuge, approximately 25 miles north of Missoula near Moiese, is home to about 350 to 500 of these majestic animals. Other wildlife found at the National Bison Range includes elk, white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep and black bears. Open all year.

406.644.2211
www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range



Teepees near East Glacier Park on the Blackfeet Nation



Bigfork Whitewater Festival

SMOKEJUMPER VISITOR CENTER, in Missoula, is the largest active smokejumper base in the nation. The center is a unique opportunity to learn about this unusual, demanding and dramatic occupation. As you walk through the center, you can visit the National Smokejumper Memorial, explore a replica of a 1930s lookout tower and take a tour of the smokejumper loft, where the smokejumpers work when they are not fighting fires. Open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day. Open by appointment year-round.

406.329.4934

www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/smokejumpers/missoula

THINGS TO DO

EVENTS

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

SEELEY LAKE AREA WINTERFEST – SEELEY LAKE, JANUARY Winterfest kicks off with a torchlight parade, biathlon and bonfire. Enjoy snow sculpture viewing and competition through the entire event. 406.677.2880

BIG SKY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL – MISSOULA, FEBRUARY The Big Sky Documentary Film Festival showcases the best in documentary films from around the world. This 11-day event attracts more than 25,000 people and screens more than 100 films. All films

are shown at the historic Wilma Theater, Crystal Theater or Top Hat in downtown Missoula. Filmmakers from around the world are in attendance to address audiences after their films screen. Tickets and passes are sold at the venues or online. 406.541.3456

WHITEFISH WINTER CARNIVAL – WHITEFISH, FEBRUARY Join in the fascinating mythology of the Whitefish Winter Carnival. Notable events include the Grand Parade, Kiddie Carnival and Black Star Beer Barter. Round out the weekend at the Torchlight Parade and fireworks at Whitefish Mountain Resort —a spectacular, must-see display. 406.862.3501

SNOWBOARD JAM – MISSOULA, FEBRUARY/MARCH Snowboard Jam consists of two days of events for snowboarders, including giant slalom, Slope Style Jam and the Banked Slalom. Cash purse and prizes are available at this U.S.S.A.-sanctioned event. 406.549.9777

RENDEZVOUS DAYS – EUREKA, APRIL This event celebrates the end of winter and the coming of spring. Enjoy activities such as a mountain man camp, black powder shoot, parade, Village Vendors Arts, crafts, food, quilt show, flea market, the mud bog and sand drags, kids' gold rush and antique and classic car show. 406.889.4636

BIGFORK WHITEWATER FESTIVAL – BIGFORK, MAY The Bigfork Whitewater Festival involves kayaking on the "Wild Mile" of the Swan River, which runs through Bigfork. At the height of spring runoff, the "Wild Mile" is considered a class V whitewater. There are festivities running throughout the weekend. 406.837.5888

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS – FLATHEAD LAKE AREA, JULY Several communities host parades and spectacular fireworks shows over the lake. Other activities include competitive games for kids and family and an arts and crafts fair. 406.532.3234

DALY DAYS – HAMILTON, JULY Step back in time as life during the turn of the 20th century is re-created at the Daly Mansion. Festivities include reenactors in the house and on the grounds, demonstrations, antique farm equipment and cars, carriage rides down Providence Way, local artisans, music, a pie and bread sale, tours and more. 406.360.9124

LEWIS AND CLARK FESTIVAL – CUT BANK, JULY The Lewis and Clark Festival annually brings together people from all over Montana to celebrate Lewis and Clark in a contemporary fashion. Events include parades, an arts and crafts fair, talent shows, Lewis and Clark site tours and a farmers market. 406.949.2160

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN DAYS – BROWNING, JULY North American Indian Days hosts American Indians from across the U.S. and Canada. Featured events include traditional drumming, games and dancing contests, the crowning of Miss Blackfeet, a parade, fun run, PRCA rodeo events and more. 406.338.5194

POLSON MAIN STREET FLATHEAD CHERRY FESTIVAL – POLSON, JULY Over 100 vendors showcase their goods on Main Street for this family event featuring cherry-related foods, displays of Montana-made items for sale and activities for kids. 406.871.8252

BITTERROOT CELTIC GAMES & GATHERING – HAMILTON, AUGUST The festival takes place on the beautiful Daly Mansion grounds. Your admission

includes a tour of the mansion and a weekend full of Highland games, Celtic music, bagpipes and dancing. Kilts are not required to attend the festival but are required to compete!
406.274.8886

HUCKLEBERRY FESTIVAL – TROUT CREEK, AUGUST The annual Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek includes live entertainment, a huckleberry pancake breakfast, run for fun, parade, children's activities, arts and crafts booths, dancing under the stars and karaoke.
406.827.3301

RIVER CITY ROOTS FEST – MISSOULA, AUGUST The region's largest arts and music festival showcases downtown Missoula. The event includes an all-day music stage, tasty local dishes, art festival, 4-mile run/walk and children's activities!
406.543.4238

SANDERS COUNTY FAIR AND PRCA RODEO – PLAINS, LABOR DAY WEEKEND An old-fashioned country fair with no charge to enter. The fair includes agricultural exhibits where locals display their talents. PRCA-sanctioned rodeos and bull riding and the largest demolition derby in the Northwest plus a carnival for the "kid" in us all. Located at the fairgrounds along the banks of the Clark Fork River.
406.826.3202

MONTANA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL – BIGFORK, SEPTEMBER The sport of dragon boat racing originated more than 2,300 years ago. Today it's one of the fastest growing sports in the world. Teams of 20 paddlers, a drummer and a steer person compete against each other in colorful and ornate 46-foot-long boats on Flathead Lake. All ages and skill levels can participate as well as cheer from shore.
888.888.2308 or 406.758.2800

THE GREAT NORTHWEST OKTOBERFEST – WHITEFISH, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER Join the fun in Whitefish for two weekends of authentic German beer, food, music and fun — Montana style!
406.862.3501

CHRISTMAS TOURS AT THE CONRAD MANSION – KALISPELL, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER Christmas is a very special time of year at the historic Charles Conrad Mansion, a museum on the National Register of Historic Places. The Conrad family holiday traditions are the focus of the holiday tours. Guided tours

run Friday through Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. A Tea and Tour is hosted each Saturday during the Christmas tour season at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and reservations are required.
406.755.2166

CULTURE/HISTORY

ALPINE THEATRE PROJECT Montana's world-class professional Equity theater brings artists from Broadway and other major regional theaters to perform in the beautiful Flathead Valley in productions ranging from classic musicals to contemporary drama. Operates year-round in Whitefish.
406.862.7469
www.atpwhitefish.org

BLACKFEET CULTURAL HISTORY TOURS Experience the Blackfeet Cultural History Tour where Blackfeet history and culture come alive with examples from both modern science and Blackfeet oral history and traditions. In the spring and fall ask about bison herd tours. Buffalo jumps, tepee rings and medicine lodges are a sample of what you'll experience. Open all year.
406.338.2787
www.blackfeetculturecamp.com

CONRAD MANSION MUSEUM Charles Conrad founded the city of Kalispell in 1891 and four years later built this historic home. The Norman-style mansion is an example of luxurious 19th-century living. The 26 rooms are originally furnished and have been completely restored to include Tiffany-style windows, bedrooms with canopied four-poster beds, bathrooms with imported marble lavatories and eight fireplaces. The mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places and has operated as a museum since 1976. Open May through October and Thanksgiving through New Year.
406.755.2166
www.conradmansion.com

HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT FORT MISSOULA The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula was established by community efforts in 1975 to save what remained of original Fort Missoula and to interpret the area's history. The museum is located on 32 acres in the heart of historic Fort Missoula with a collection that includes 24,000 objects and 13 historic structures. Open all year.
406.728.3476
www.fortmissoulamuseum.org

GOLFING IN GLACIER COUNTRY

Glacier Country offers the rare combination of renowned courses, stunning scenery and affordability. You'll never be bored with the ever-changing countryside as you enjoy your game.



Golfing in Whitefish

Golf Digest named the Flathead Valley area a "Top 50 Golf Destination." Add to that a perfectly mild shoulder season, which helps make the courses available to fit into anyone's vacation schedule, and you can swing your clubs here during much of the year.

Our typical golf season lasts from approximately May through October 15. These dates depend on weather and winter snowfall.

Weather in Montana can take sudden turns, from sunshine to showers and back again in the time it takes to play 18 holes, so always come prepared.

For more information visit visitmt.com/golfing and glaciermt.com/golf.php.



Ski joring during the Whitefish Winter Carnival

MARCUS DALY MANSION Marcus Daly, an enterprising Irish immigrant and one of Montana's Copper Kings, purchased the Anthony Chaffin homestead in 1886 to serve as his family's summer residence. The mansion has over 56 stunning rooms, with 25 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms and seven fireplaces, five of which have imported Italian marble. The three-story, 24,000-square-foot mansion is situated on 50 tree-planted acres in the heart of the Bitterroot Valley in Hamilton. Open daily May through October, with special events occurring throughout the year.

406.363.6004

www.dalymansion.org

THE PEOPLE'S CENTER is a unique cultural center built by the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille peoples. The center features an exhibit gallery, educational and natural history programs and a gift shop. Open all year.

406.675.0160

www.peoplescenter.org

ST. IGNATIUS MISSION Experience the beauty of this Catholic church built in the early 1890s, featuring 58 original paintings by Brother Joseph Carignano. The Mission Mountains provide a beautiful backdrop for the church, located on the Flathead Indian Reservation in St. Ignatius.

406.745.2768

www.visitmt.com/stignatiusmission

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

ALPINE SLIDE, ZIPLINE TOURS, AERIAL ADVENTURE PARK, WALK IN THE TREETOPS AND MOUNTAIN BIKING

Start your Whitefish Mountain Resort summer adventure by grabbing a sled and racing down the Alpine Slide, controlling your speed through straightaways and around curved banks. Next up is the Zipline Tour—the longest zipline tour in Montana—with amazing views of Whitefish Lake and the Flathead Valley. Test your skills at the Aerial Adventure Park. Participants are fitted with harnesses and gloves, led through a safety and park usage demonstration and are then free to navigate through their choice of five courses of varying difficulty. For an elevated adventure, join Walk in the Treetops on a 2.5-hour boardwalk tour through the treetop canopy. Additional resort activities include hiking to the 6,817-foot summit—complete with a gorgeous view of Glacier National Park—scenic lift rides and nearly 30 miles of biking trails.

406.862.2900

www.skiwhitefish.com

BIRDING TRAILS A U.S. Fish and Wildlife survey found that Montana leads the nation with the largest percentage of bird watchers. More than 260 species of birds have been recorded, with raptors such as the bald eagle, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, osprey and several species of hawks residing year-round.

Glacier National Park is perhaps the best place in the lower 48 states to see harlequin ducks. Check out Glacier Country's Bitterroot, Flathead and Missoula Trails at montanabirdingtrail.org.

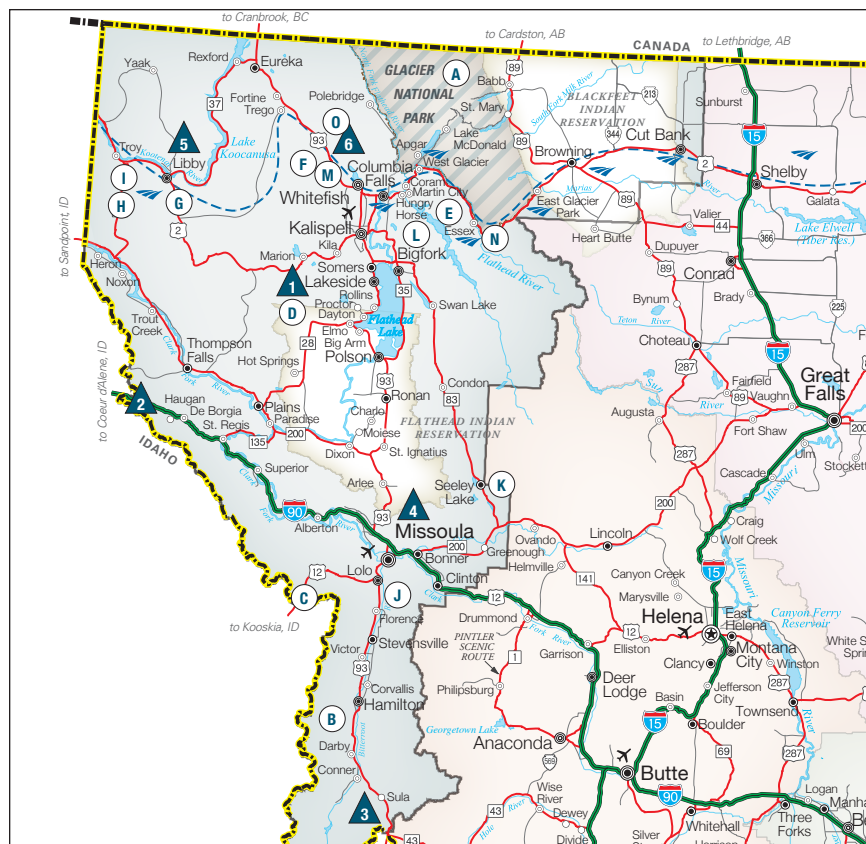
For world-class birding, bring your binoculars to the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge (fws.gov/refuge/lee_metcalf) along US 93 in the Bitterroot Valley. Or visit the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge (fws.gov/refuge/nine-pipe), on US 93 North, south of Ronan in the Mission Valley. The Goat Creek Wildlife Trail, at the north end of the scenic Swan Valley on MT 83, is a quiet place to check several birds off your list.

CAMPING Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of northwest Montana by spending a few nights under the stars. A variety of campsites are available—backcountry to full-service campgrounds and RV parks, including in Glacier National Park. Don't be afraid to try winter camping as well, but check access and dates of operation before venturing out. And, of course, pack appropriately for the weather, any time of year.

www.visitmt.com/camping

FISHING Western Montana has some of the most pristine, undisturbed waters that nature has to offer. Glacier Country's streams, rivers and lakes offer competitive fishing for the hard-core angler, as well as an abundance of easily accessible choices for the casual angler. Area hot

SKIING IN GLACIER COUNTRY



Downhill Skiing & Snowboarding

At elevations perfect for downhill skiing and boarding, Glacier Country gets hundreds of inches of snow. And it's the dry stuff. Combine all that fluffy snow with mild temperatures and you have an exciting, comfortable winter playground. Glacier Country features six well-rounded, full-service downhill ski and snowboard areas. Visit skimt.com.

- 1 **Blacktail Mountain, Lakeside**
406.844.0999
www.blacktailmountain.com
- 2 **Lookout Pass Ski Area**
Salt Lake, ID (MT/ID border)
208.744.1301, www.skilookout.com
- 3 **Lost Trail Powder Mountain, Conner**
406.821.3211, www.losttrail.com
- 4 **Montana Snowbowl, Missoula**
406.549.9777
www.montanasnorbowl.com
- 5 **Turner Mountain, Libby**
406.293.2468, www.skiturner.com
- 6 **Whitefish Mountain Resort, Whitefish**
406.862.2900, www.skiwhitefish.com

Cross-Country Skiing

Offering a healthy, heart-happy alternative to downhill skiing, cross-country ski trails are abundant throughout western Montana. Don't forget Glacier National Park for your winter experience on skinny skis or snowshoes. See trails listed at wintermt.com/xcski.

- A **Glacier National Park**
www.wintermt.com/xcski

Ski Trails in National Forests

- Bitterroot National Forest
406.363.7100
www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot
- B **Como Lake Recreation Area**
6 miles NW of Darby
406.821.4298 or 406.363.4428
- Clearwater National Forest
(MT/ID border), 208.942.3113
- C **Lolo Pass, 45 miles SW of Missoula**
208.942.3113
- Flathead National Forest
406.758.5200, www.fs.usda.gov/flathead
- D **Blacktail Mountain Nordic Trails**
8 miles W of Lakeside, 406.837.7500

- E **Glacier Wilderness Resort, 20 miles E of Hungry Horse, 406.888.5664**

- F **Round Meadows, 15 miles NW of Whitefish, 406.758.5204**

Kootenai National Forest
406.293.6211, www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai

- G **Bear Creek, 7 miles S of Libby**
406.293.7773

- H **Ross Creek Trail No. 400, 17 miles S of Troy, MT 56, 406.295.4693**

- I **South Flower, 4 miles SW of Libby**
406.293.7773

Lolo National Forest
406.329.3750, www.fs.usda.gov/lolo

- J **Pattee Canyon Ski Trail, 5.5 miles SE of Missoula, 406.329.3814**

- K **Seeley Lake Ski Trails, 1 mile NE of Seeley Lake, 406.677.2233**

Cross-Country Ski Centers/Trails

- L **Bigfork Community Nordic Center**
8 miles N of Bigfork, 406.837.0783
www.northshorenordic.org
- M **Glacier Nordic Center**
1200 US Hwy 93 West, Whitefish
www.glacienordicclub.com
- N **Essex Trail Complex, halfway between E. and W. Glacier entrances to GNP, Izaak Walton Inn, Essex, 406.888.5700**
www.izaakwaltoninn.com
- O **Stillwater Nordic**
8 miles N of Whitefish on Beaver Lake Road, 406.862.7004
www.stillwatermtnlodge.com

Backcountry Skiing

If you're looking for absolute solitude, we have the backcountry terrain of your dreams. With proper equipment and a bit of hiking you'll access peaks and gorges filled with powder. Other options into the backcountry include snowmobile 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.

SNOWMOBILING IN GLACIER COUNTRY

The playground here is loaded: cruise snow-covered logging roads on Forest Service land, rocket across untouched meadows or dive into untracked powder. Don't own your own sled? Area outfitters can rent you one of the latest low-emission models as well as clothing and helmets. Guides can show you the ropes and secret powder stashes, too.



Billowy powder in the Seeley-Swan Range

Popular Snowmobiling Areas:
Marias Pass Trail Complex with 45 miles of groomed and 35 miles of ungroomed trails between Cut Bank and Kalispell.

Flathead Valley communities of Columbia Falls, Whitefish, Olney, Kalispell and Bigfork boast over 200 miles of groomed trails and nearly 60,000 acres of usable terrain on U.S. Forest Service land.

Haugan, De Borgia and Saltese in the northwest corner of the state offer designated trails, open meadows and scenic views.

Kootenai Country provides breathtaking views of the Purcell Mountains.

Lolo Pass southwest of Missoula has 250 miles of groomed connecting trails in the Lolo and Clearwater National Forests.

Seeley Lake area is tucked between the Mission Mountains and the Swan Range in one of Montana's most popular year-round recreation areas.

Visit wintermt.com/snowmobiling for more information.

spots include the Blackfoot River—made famous by *A River Runs Through It*; the Clark Fork River, which runs through the heart of Missoula; the Middle Fork of the Flathead River with Glacier National Park as its backdrop; or the Kootenai River, a quieter part of the region. Stellar fishing guides and outfitters can help make your excursion even more enjoyable.

www.visitmt.com/fishing
www.foam-montana.org
www.montanaoutfitters.org

HIKING AND SNOWSHOEING With acres and acres of wilderness and unspoiled nature, take some time to explore the many trails in our state. No matter where you are, a hiking trail is just off the road or a short jaunt from town. For more adventure and backpacking opportunities, check out the longer and more rugged hikes. As always, be prepared for the weather and animal encounters before heading out.

www.visitmt.com/hiking
www.visitmt.com/snowshoeing

HOT SPRINGS Whether you are looking for a relaxing way to end the day or an invigorating morning kick-off, Glacier Country offers six natural hot springs, all fed from geothermal wonders. View a list of area hot springs at visitmt.com/hotsprings.

JEWEL BASIN HIKING AREA Hike and fish to your heart's content just north of Bigfork at the north end of the Swan Range in this specially designated hiking area that covers more than 15,000 acres and features 35 miles of diverse trails. Rocky peaks, alpine lakes, streams, meadows and wildflowers make this truly a "jewel basin."

406.387.3800
www.visitmt.com/jewelbasin

KERR DAM At 204 feet high, Kerr Dam is 54 feet higher than Niagara Falls. A 1,000-foot boardwalk takes you directly above the thundering falls, where you'll also take in an amazing canyon view. Bring a picnic, or reserve a whitewater rafting trip nearby. To get there, head west from Polson on 7th Avenue, which becomes Kerr Dam Road, and follow the signs. Don't forget the camera. Open all year, with tours available by appointment.

406.883.4450
www.visitmt.com/kerrdam

KOOTENAI FALLS SWINGING BRIDGE

The narrow bridge's ropes and trestles span the Kootenai River just below Kootenai Falls, near Libby, which was the setting for the action film *The River Wild*. A forest trail leads from the highway parking lot to the swinging bridge, winding through the trees and offering great river views along the way. It makes for an easy hike with a great reward at the end. Closed in the winter.

406.295.4693
www.visitmt.com/swingingbridge

MOTORCYCLE TOURS/ROUTES

Motorcycle riding in Montana provides the best of riding, including remoteness and solitude. No matter what region you are in, there are a variety of paved and unpaved roads to explore. For more information on routes, tours, rentals, motorcycle rallies and events, go to visitmt.com/motorcycletours.

ROSS CREEK CEDAR GROVE SCENIC AREA

Consisting of 500-year-old giant red cedars in a rain forest environment, this 100-acre scenic area is a favorite with visitors to the forests near Troy. The paved nature trail with informational signs and benches is an easy walk over mostly flat terrain. Closed in winter.

406.295.4693
www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai

ROUTE OF THE HIAWATHA TRAIL

The amazing Hiawatha Rail Trail is an inspiring 15-mile mountain bike trek cresting the Bitterroot Mountains, complete with spectacular views of alpine lakes and unbroken forests. With nine tunnels, including the 1.8-mile Taft Tunnel, and seven high trestles, the Route of the Hiawatha on the old Milwaukee road along Montana's western border at Lookout Pass on I-90 is one of the premier rail trails in the U.S. Open Memorial Day through September. Rentals are available at Lookout Pass.

208.744.1301
www.ridethehiawatha.com

SKI JORING If you're not ready to hitch yourself and your skis behind a racing stallion, rocket through an obstacle course and hang on for dear life at a ski joring event this winter, come watch instead—horse-powered ski joring might be even more thrilling as a spectator sport. Catch the action in late January, followed by the Whitefish Winter Carnival in February.



Packing into the Bob Marshall Wilderness

STATE PARKS Most of the state parks in Glacier Country are water-based recreation sites, so for those who like their fun with a little water, this is the region for you. Go to stateparks.mt.gov for information on area parks or to reserve a campsite, cabin, tepee or yurt at parks that offer overnight stays, or call 855.922.6768.

WINTER ADVENTURES When visiting in the winter months, don't spend your time fireside until the end of the day. There are a variety of winter activities that don't require a lift ticket. Try a motorless mode of exploring: hook up with a dogsled guide and hit the backcountry. If you want to stick a little closer to home, try ice skating at one of the local rinks or sledding on one of our many hills, or enjoy a sleigh ride through the forest.
www.wintermt.com

SCENIC & WILDLIFE

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS COMPLEX This wilderness complex totals a million-plus acres, runs for 60 miles along the Continental Divide and includes a huge, 22-mile-long escarpment called the Chinese Wall. It's a fantastic place to camp, view wildlife, hike, pick berries and more. One of the most completely preserved mountain ecosystems in the world, "The Bob" features rugged peaks, cascading waterfalls, shimmering streams,

a towering coniferous forest and big river valleys. The area contains varying elevations of up to 9,000 feet.
406.758.5200
www.visitmt.com/bobmarshall

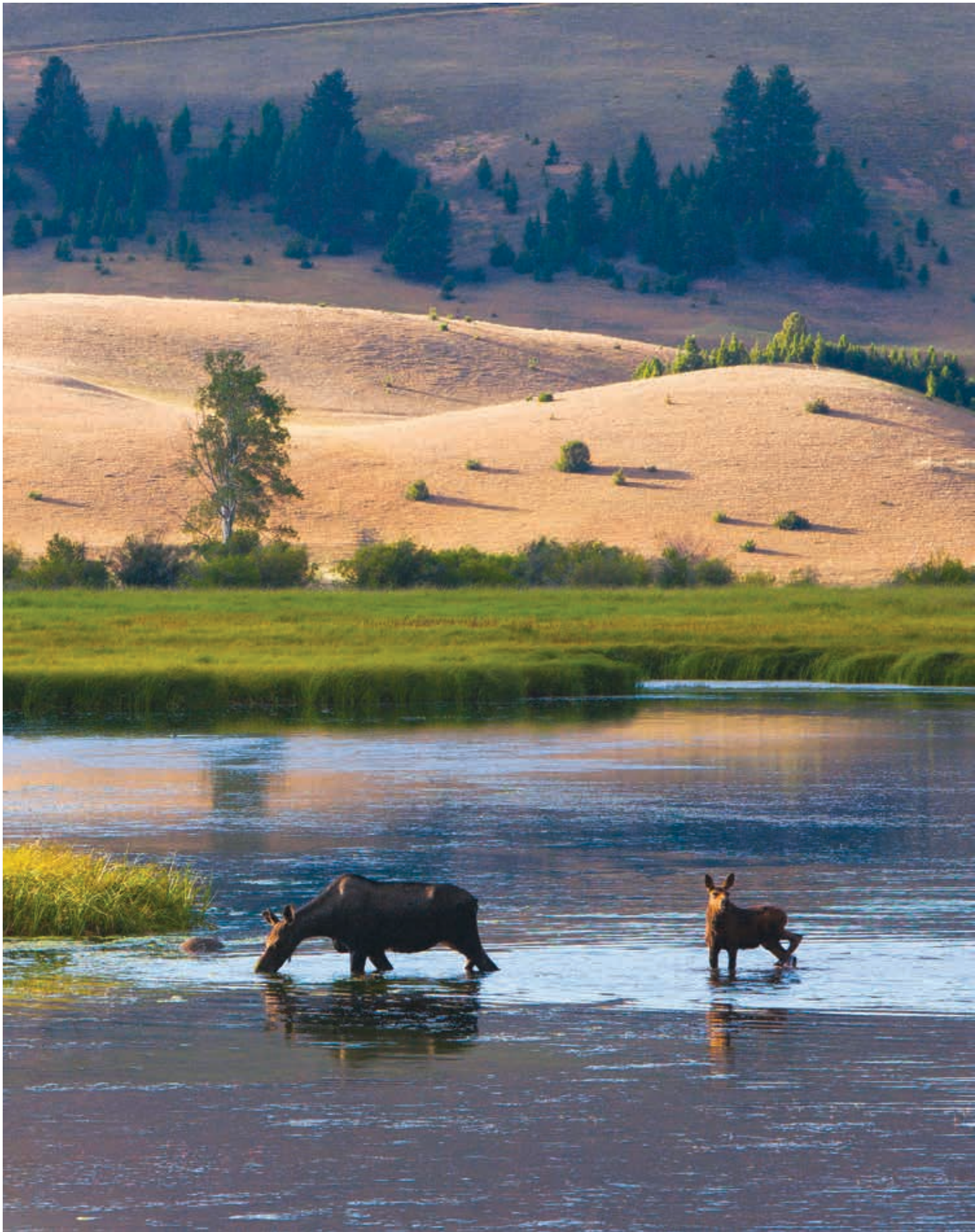
FLATHEAD NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER The South, Middle and North Forks of the Flathead River form one of the nation's longest Wild and Scenic River systems, encompassing more than 215 miles across breathtaking backcountry. Rafting, kayaking and fishing are all available.
406.387.3800
www.visitmt.com/flatheadriver

LEE METCALF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE Located in the Bitterroot Valley south of Missoula, the refuge is surrounded by the picturesque Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains and offers spectacular viewing opportunities of the landscape and wildlife. The refuge holds 240 species of birds, 40 species of mammals and 17 species of reptiles and amphibians. There are 2.5 miles of trails, including a quarter-mile paved path in the refuge's wildlife viewing area. These trails go through meadows and woodlands along the Bitterroot River. Open all year.
406.777.5552
www.fws.gov/refuge/lee_metcalf

MONTANA SCENIC LOOP Straddling the Continental Divide of the northern Rocky Mountains, the nearly 400-mile-long Montana Scenic Loop has it all: spectacular mountains, extensive wilderness, abundant wildlife, vast plains and charming communities. At the heart of the Montana Scenic Loop is the Bob Marshall Wilderness—flanked by the Great Bear Wilderness on the north and the Scapegoat Wilderness to the south. The loop comprises three regions and 15 vibrant communities, each with its own special personality. All along the loop you will find a variety of activities, including year-round fishing. In the summer you can hike and golf in addition to many other activities. In the winter, explore a little more of the area on cross-country skis, snowshoes or even on a snowmobile.

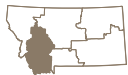
NINEPIPE AND PABLO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES Enjoy spectacular scenery and wildlife, including waterfowl species such as mallards, northern shovelers, gadwalls, redheads and ruddy ducks, at these over 2,000-acre refuges and breeding grounds for native birds, both located south of Polson, within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation. Open all year with some seasonal restrictions. Check the website or call for more information.
406.644.2211
www.fws.gov/refuge/nine-pipe
www.fws.gov/refuge/pablo

RATTLESNAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND WILDERNESS Located only eight minutes from downtown Missoula, the Rattlesnake Recreation Area offers hiking along creeks to mountain lakes or cross-country skiing through pine forests and parklands. Mountain biking, camping and fishing are available in designated areas. This premier urban wilderness blends the best of both wilderness and civilization.
406.329.3814
www.fs.usda.gov/lolo



SOUTHWEST MONTANA

www.southwestmt.com • 800.879.1159



Even when you're not cross-country skiing to ghost towns, checking out the Old Montana Prison or digging for sapphires, you'll stumble into history everywhere in Southwest Montana. It's in the ornamental details of Helena's West Side Mansion District, testament to boom-year prospectors who struck it rich (and in Reeder's Alley's one-room shanties, proof of those who didn't). History is plentiful in Butte's towering mining structures—homage to the "Richest Hill on Earth"—and in the Native American pictographs along the limestone cliffs at the Gates of the Mountains.

Southwest Montana's ample outdoor options don't skimp on history, either. Hikers at the Big Hole National Battlefield retrace the action on self-guided trails. In Anaconda, the Old Works Golf Course features antique processing works and black tailings piles discarded as early as 1884. Even quaint mom-and-pop ski hills, complete with home-grilled buffalo burgers and hot springs down the road evoke a bygone era.

This region doesn't stop at offering a window into the past—it invites visitors to try it out. Sampling old-fashioned candies and pasties (a miner's delicacy), taking in live plays at restored theaters and slumbering in historic hotels, travelers here tend to find themselves in a time gone by. Or has it?



Left: Another roadside attraction along the Pintler Veterans' Memorial Scenic Highway
Above: Historical Uptown Butte

AT A GLANCE

- + Around the end of December, Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park tour guides show off the caves the old-fashioned way—by candlelight. Generally the caverns are closed for the winter.
- + At the massive candy shop dubbed *The Sweet Palace* in Philipsburg, look upstairs for a tiny "chapel." The owner jokes it's where patrons can pray the calories don't turn into pounds.
- + More than a few generations of Butte miners passed through the 43 rooms of the *Dumas Brothel* (now a museum in Butte), which started serving clients in 1890 and finally closed in 1982 due to tax violations.
- + At the Old Montana Prison Complex in Deer Lodge (now a self-guided museum), convicts were forced to build their own barracks and grounds in the 1890s.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Montana's mild, pretty summers are a popular time to visit, making for wildflower-strewn hikes, pleasant horseback rides and perfect golfing weather. Historic towns like Virginia City and Philipsburg are popular summertime destinations, so make sure to reserve your accommodations early. While there might be more patrons at museums, historic sites and popular recreation spots, "touristy" in Montana is a very relative term, and most visitors find our definition of "crowded" charming. Nonetheless,

fall and spring often provide gorgeous weather and dramatically fewer tourists.

Winter here means gathering at Southwest Montana's less well-known (but no less terrain-packed) ski hills, zooming around on snowmobiles and schussing on cross-country skis (try Bannack Ghost Town for a unique ski trip). It also means bikinis—at hot springs ranging from historic to rustic to resort-y. Southwest Montana does receive ample snow in the winter, but roads and highways are generally plowed and safe.

HOW TO GET HERE

Both Butte and Helena host regional airports, and most drivers will come to the area via I-90 or I-15. Trucks ascending

Homestake Pass east of Butte on I-90, often slow down to make the climb or descent. Sit back and enjoy the scenery.

WHAT TO PACK

Comfort is the deciding factor in this region, usually dictating plenty of layers and comfortable walking or hiking boots. In the winter, bring extra layers and a weatherproof parka (here, Gore-Tex will be more readily accepted than Gucci). Expect to see (and go ahead and wear) sweatshirts, tennis shoes, ball caps and jeans even at nice establishments. And when we say jeans, we mean Wranglers, Carharts or Levis.

GHOST TOWN ETIQUETTE

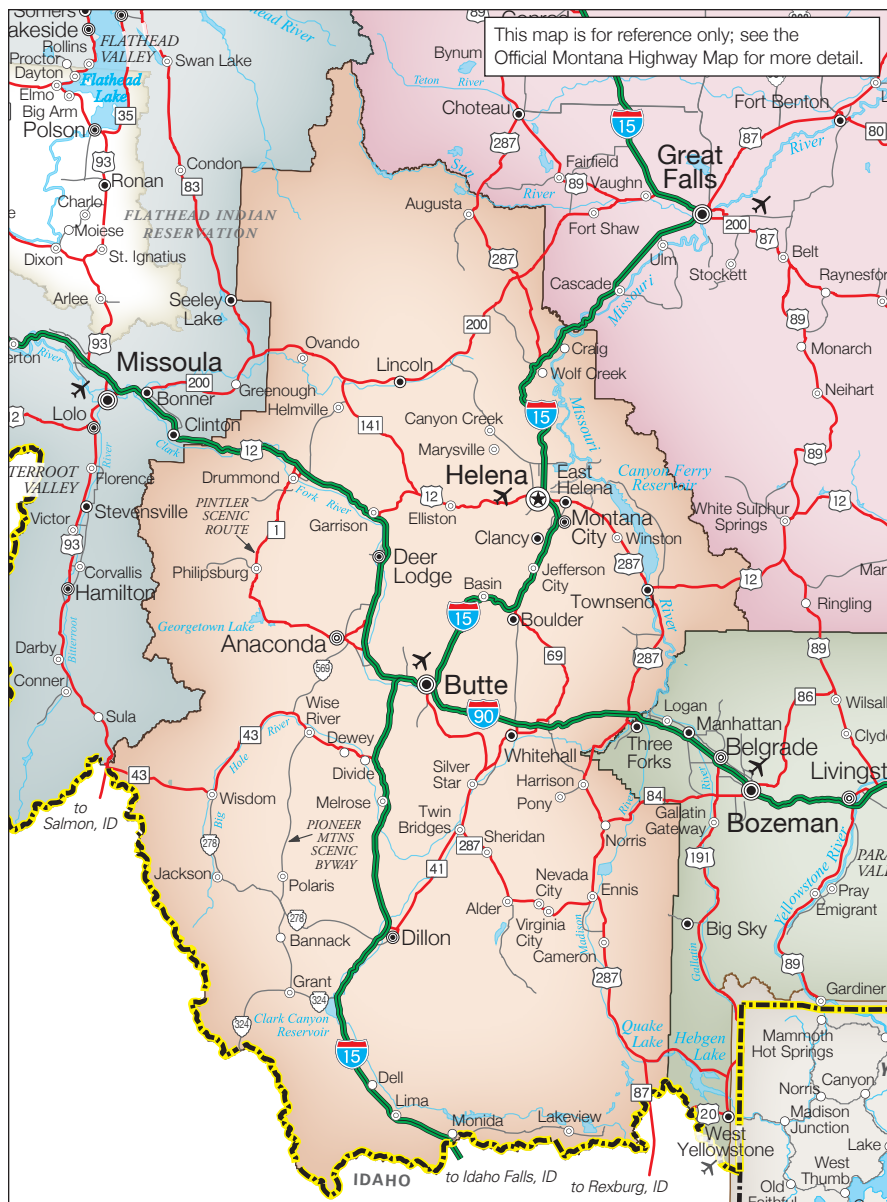
As well-preserved and accessible as Southwest Montana's ghost towns are, it's easy to forget that they are actually delicate antique structures. On self-guided tours, take care and help preserve these treasures. Look, but don't touch, and the towns might be around to impress the next century's visitors.

MINES

Hikes in this area will sometimes take you right up to unmarked (and sometimes unobstructed) open mineshafts. While it's highly unlikely you'd accidentally fall in while hiking, don't let children approach or explore mineshafts. Montana's mines are long abandoned and go on for miles—they're not a safe place to play.

FOOD

Health-foodies, your best bets are in Helena and Butte, where health-conscious bakeries, coffee shops and cafes have been around for a while. Elsewhere, dig into European-style bakeries, hearty steakhouses and home-style cafes. Epicureans with a historical leaning should sample Butte, where pork chop sandwiches are legendary and century-old cafes (and newcomers) serve up the city's signature dish and miner lunchpail staple: the pasty. (Courtesy of Welsh and Cornish miners, this buttery meat- and veggie-packed pastry is pronounced pass-tee, not pay-stee.)





Along the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway



Philipsburg's colorful Main Street

PLACES TO GO

COMMUNITIES

ANACONDA sprang up when the giant Anaconda Copper Mining Company of Butte needed a smelter for its vast amounts of copper ore. Smelting operations were suspended in 1980, but “The Stack” remains an important landmark and state park. Clearly visible from I-90, the smokestack stands 585 feet tall, one of the tallest freestanding masonry structures in the world. Anaconda is a winter gateway community for the Discovery Basin Ski Area and Mount Haggin Nordic Ski Area, while Georgetown Lake is a hot spot for snowmobiling and ice fishing. Stop and visit the Copper Village Museum and Art Center or the ornate Washoe Theater to learn about the city’s rich history. Golf enthusiasts should visit Old Works Golf Course and play Montana’s only Jack Nicklaus signature course—a truly challenging experience. **406.563.2400**
www.discoveranaconda.com

BUTTE Once known as the “Richest Hill on Earth,” Butte’s history is full of adventure with deep roots in its mining history, cultural diversity from immigrant workers and early days as a booming, precious-metal metropolis. Its colorful history can be seen in its preserved Victorian uptown business district and stately mansions on the National Historic Register. The Copper King Mansion,

with 32 rooms of exquisite antiques and architectural detail, is a must-see stop on your uptown tour. The Charles W. Clark Chateau Mansion features changing art exhibits, marvelous collections and elegant architecture. The Granite Mountain Mine Memorial offers visitors a stunning panoramic view of Butte and the nearby mountains including Our Lady of the Rockies, a 90-foot statue on the East Ridge overlooking the city. The Mineral Museum includes a fascinating geological collection that holds 1,500 specimens. The Berkeley Pit, Butte’s largest attraction, has a viewing stand that allows visitors to fully appreciate the size of this former truck-operated open-pit copper mine. Wander through Hell Roarin’ Gulch or tour the Orphan Girl Mine at the World Museum of Mining. Check out the audio tour at visitmt.com/audiotour. **406.723.3177**
www.buttecvb.com

DEER LODGE More museums and historical collections can be found here than in any other town in the Northwest. The Old Montana Prison opened its doors in 1871 and was in use until 1979. Self-guided tours lead visitors beyond the gray stone wall. The Montana Auto Museum is a unique museum with interpretive exhibits and over 150 antique cars on display. The Frontier Montana Museum contains the best display of cowboy collectibles between Cody, Wyoming and Calgary, Alberta. Memories of your youth will come alive when you step into Yesterdays

Playthings, where a collection of Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls are on display. Deer Lodge’s 1,500-acre Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site illustrates the development of the Northern Plains cattle industry from the 1850s to recent times. **406.846.2094**
www.powellcountymontana.com

DILLON and its surrounding communities carry on a centuries-old tradition of hospitality that began with the meeting of Lewis and Clark and the Shoshone Indians at Camp Fortunate. Today, the Beaverhead, Big Hole, Grasshopper, Horse Prairie, Centennial and Red Rock Valleys still offer much to see and do. The landscape is wide open and ringed with peaks over 10,000 feet high. The climate is cool and dry, and wildlife abounds. **406.683.5511**
www.beaverheadchamber.org

ENNIS is surrounded by three beautiful mountain ranges: the Madison Range, the Gravelly Range and the Tobacco Root Mountains. In addition to its majestic mountain views, Ennis also offers access to some of the finest fishing locations in the state, including the Madison River, which is renowned for its first-rate trout fishing. **406.682.4388**
www.ennischamber.com

STATE CAPITOL

Peek inside the richly adorned historic Capitol building in Helena to view lavish interiors and a gallery or two's worth of paintings, including a renowned piece by Charles M. Russell. In the massive rotunda, four circular paintings introduce you to quintessential notable Montanans—there's one of Chief Charlo, to represent American Indians; another of Jim Bridger, celebrating trappers and explorers; a third depicting a gold miner; and one more of a cowboy.



Capitol building in Helena

Outside, architecture buffs will note the Capitol's Greek Renaissance style, built from sandstone and granite and topped with a dome of Butte copper and a Liberty statue.

Self-guided tours are available daily, group tours are offered by reservation only, and guided tours are available May through September.

406.444.3695
www.visit-the-capitol.mt.gov



Inside the Capitol

HELENA An 1864 gold strike touched off a boom era that transformed Helena into the “Queen City of the Rockies” and Montana’s capital city, as seen by its 19th-century mansions, historic businesses and restored pioneer dwellings. The Last Chance Tour Train features informative, entertaining tours of the city that begin at the Montana Historical Society, complete with a lesson in Helena’s colorful past. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Archie Bray Foundation was established in 1951 and is located three miles from downtown Helena. It was formerly a 26-acre brickyard, and is now internationally recognized as a gathering place for emerging and established ceramic artists. Helena’s lively performing arts scene includes a wide variety of entertainment to enjoy. Live! at the Civic, in its 85th year, has monthly performances in Helena’s Civic Center, and the Helena Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1955, performs 4 to 6 times a year. Canyon Ferry Reservoir, just 20 miles east of Helena, offers year-round outdoor recreation. Helena offers world-renowned geo-caching and mountain biking opportunities.

406.442.4120
www.helenamt.com

LINCOLN is a gateway community for the Scapegoat Wilderness and provides access to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. It’s a town where the wildlife wander right down Main Street. The Continental Divide bisects this region and gives you the best on both sides: the Sun River Canyon on the east slope and the beautiful Blackfoot Valley on the west. Stop at the Lincoln Ranger Station to view the taxidermy display of a large 12-year-old male grizzly bear weighing 830 pounds and standing about 8 feet tall. Lincoln is a paradise for snowmobilers, with trails starting right in town. The Ponderosa Snow Warriors heated clubhouse is the hub of snowmobile races and events in the area, which offers 250 miles of groomed trails and limitless play areas.

406.362.4949
www.lincolnmontana.com

PHILIPSBURG Voted as one of the “Prettiest Painted Places in America,” Philipsburg is home to the state’s oldest operating school, jail and opera house, all part of a walking tour of remarkable architecture. Granite ghost town, sapphire and ruby mining, a silver mining museum and a grand candy store, The Sweet Palace, combined with some of the friendliest folks you have ever met, will make your visit complete. Discovery Ski Area is conveniently located nearby.

406.859.3388
www.philipsburgmt.com

VIRGINIA CITY/NEVADA CITY

It’s been over 150 years since gold was struck in Alder Gulch, in the very much alive Victorian ghost town of Virginia City located just 90 miles by road from Yellowstone National Park. It’s a true Montana gem set within an incredibly rich area of beauty, recreation and history. During the winter months, snowmobiling is permitted around town, and building tours can be arranged for groups. Within sledding distance of town is a trail system that opens into the Gravelly Range. Nevada City, a mile and a half away, offers more than 100 buildings, a museum, restaurant, gift shop, music hall, hotel, cabins, train rides and weekend living-history programs sure to put you into another era. Check out the audio tour at visitmt.com/audiotour.

406.843.5555
www.virginiacitychamber.com

NOTABLE SITES

BANNACK STATE PARK, near Dillon, is the best preserved of all Montana ghost towns. Bannack, Montana’s first territorial capital, was founded in 1862 after a group of prospectors struck gold on Grasshopper Creek. More than 50 buildings line Main Street with their historic log and frame structures recalling Montana’s formative years. Bannack Days features historical displays, activities and events and is held the third weekend in July each year. In the winter, enjoy ice skating at the rink complete with warming hut. The visitor center provides tours and is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day and on weekends in May and October; the park is open year-round. For more information on the park or for camping reservations, go to stateparks.mt.gov.

406.834.3413

BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

The Battle of the Big Hole on August 9 and 10, 1877, was a turning point of the Nez Perce War, a five-month war in which U.S. Army forces tried to place one-third of the Nez Perce tribe on a reservation. Self-guided tours take you to many points on the battlefield. The walks each take about an hour. Ranger-conducted programs are offered in the summer; introductory presentations and exhibits are available year-round. Ten miles west of Wisdom. Open all year.

406.689.3155
www.nps.gov/biho

CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR

Take the kids camping or boating at Canyon Ferry, which offers a variety of recreational opportunities including year-round fishing, sightseeing, picnicking, hiking, waterskiing, nature study and swimming. The reservoir is a popular winter destination for ice fishing and ice boating. Canyon Ferry is one of Montana's foremost recreation areas because of its proximity to Helena, Great Falls, Bozeman and Butte.

406.475.3921

www.usbr.gov/gp, search: Canyon Ferry

GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS Named by the Lewis and Clark Expedition, this stunning stretch of the Missouri River features towering rock formations and gorgeous canyons. Most visitors enjoy the beauty of the Gates of the Mountains from one of three tour boats. The 105-minute cruise starts at a marina just three miles off I-15 in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains near Helena. Aboard a comfortable open-air river boat (covered in case of rain), you'll glide through magnificent country that has not changed since the days of Lewis and Clark. Open Memorial Day weekend through mid-September.

406.458.5241

www.gatesofthemountains.com

GEORGETOWN LAKE is a popular recreation area for boating, fishing, camping and windsurfing. The 3,000-acre high-mountain lake is surrounded by the Flint Creek mountain range to the north and the Pintlers to the south. Popular fish species include kokanee salmon and rainbow trout. There are four public boat ramps. In winter the area offers snowmobiling, ice fishing, snowkiting and downhill and cross-country skiing.

406.859.3211

www.visitmt.com/georgetownlake

GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH The 1,500-acre Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, near Deer Lodge, illustrates the development of the Northern Plains cattle industry from the 1850s to recent times. This was the headquarters of one of the largest and best-known 19th-century range ranches in the country. Guided tours of the house, self-guided walks and exhibits are available. Open all year.

406.846.2070, ext. 250

www.nps.gov/grko

LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS STATE PARK, located between Three Forks and Whitehall, is Montana's first and best-known state park and features one of the largest known limestone caverns in the Northwest. Naturally air conditioned, these spectacular caves are lined with stalactites,



Big Hole National Battlefield near Wisdom

stalagmites, columns and helictites. The park is open year-round, and guided cavern tours are conducted daily between May 1 and September 30. The park has a visitor center, interpretive displays and evening programs presented during the summer months. The visitor center is open all year. For more information on the park or for camping reservations, go to stateparks.mt.gov.

406.287.3541

MADISON CANYON EARTHQUAKE AREA AND VISITOR CENTER

Get an eerie yet fascinating reminder of nature's violence just south of Ennis on US 287. In 1959, an earthquake slid half a mountain into a canyon, creating a giant dam and Quake Lake. The visitor center lies at the western end of the Madison Canyon Earthquake Area and overlooks Quake Lake, offering a view of the Madison slide. The center features interpretive programs about the 1959 earthquake and a working seismograph. Open during the summer months.

406.682.7620

www.visitmt.com/earthquakecntr

MONTANA AUTO MUSEUM AND OLD PRISON COMPLEX Take a drive through time at the Montana Auto Museum, part of the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation in Deer Lodge. View the transition from the carriage to the car and the effect that the automobile has had on our lives. You will see cars of the 1920s through the 1960s. In the Old Prison, you can visit the enclosed courtyard where

the convicts exercised, walk through their austere cell blocks and feel the chill of the maximum-security cells built by the convicts in the late 1800s. Open April to December and limited winter hours. Call for information.

406.846.3111

www.pcmf.org

OLD WORKS GOLF COURSE

in Anaconda is a Jack Nicklaus signature golf course. Rich in history, the site was the original location for Anaconda's first copper smelter. The uniqueness of the site, the Nicklaus design, the clubhouse facility and the friendly service make Old Works a premier daily-fee golf experience in the state and the Northwest.

406.563.5989

www.oldworks.org

TIZER BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM

Take a self-guided tour down garden paths to explore thousands of high-altitude plants, including annuals, roses, wildflowers, herbs, vegetables, perennials and bulbs in an amazing setting. This is an internationally accredited arboretum and an official test and demonstration garden for the Denver Botanic Garden and Colorado State University's "Plant Select" Program. Located near Jefferson City. Open May through September.

406.933.8789

www.tizergardens.com



Ghost town of Bannack State Park near Dillon



Bagpipe players at the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Butte

THINGS TO DO

EVENTS

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

BIG HOLE VALLEY WINTERFEST/SKI JORING – WISDOM, FEBRUARY

Come and enjoy our annual two-day ski joring event where horses, riders and skiers compete as a team. Competitors of all skill levels are invited. Those without partners will be matched up for the Saturday event. The race is run down Main Street in the middle of Wisdom, Montana. **406.689.3260**

RACE TO THE SKY SLED DOG RACE – HELENA, FEBRUARY

This 350-mile cross-country sled dog race starts near Helena. Send the teams off and follow their progress as they go through the checkpoints and back to the finish near Lincoln. All checkpoints are accessible by car, and spectators are encouraged to follow the race. **406.881.3647**

ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS – BUTTE, MARCH

Events include the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Banquet Shellelagh Shindig, crowning of St. Urho, bagpipes, lunch with the pipers and the St. Patrick's Day Parade. **406.723.3177**

LIVING-HISTORY PROGRAM NEVADA CITY OPEN AIR MUSEUM – NEVADA CITY, WEEKENDS MAY-SEPTEMBER

The outdoor Living History Museum in Nevada City consists of over 100 historic buildings and close to 70 living-history interpreters. Living-history weekends are held Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Experience the Old West in Nevada City. **406.843.5247, ext 206**

GOVERNOR'S CUP ROAD RACE – HELENA, JUNE

Montana's largest race ends with a fitness fair and arts and crafts fair. The event features Montana's finest handmade items, food booths, live entertainment and the race award ceremony. **406.437.7990**

ART IN THE PARK – ANACONDA, JULY

Art in Washoe Park is one of the best shows in southwest Montana, with 80 juried arts and crafts booths. Ethnic foods and professional entertainment is offered all three days. **406.563.2422**

BANNACK DAYS – BANNACK, JULY

Return to the early days in Montana's history with a celebration of mining and life in Montana's first territorial capital. Take part in a wagon ride, candle making, gold panning, Main Street gunfight, old-time dancing, pioneer craft demonstrations and lots of music and family fun. **406.834.3413**

FLINT CREEK VALLEY DAYS – PHILIPSBURG, JULY

Philipsburg celebrates its heritage with a children's parade on Friday; a parade, games and a street dance on Saturday; and a hot rod show and ice cream social on Sunday. **406.859.3388**

GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH DAYS – DEER LODGE, JULY

Grant-Kohrs Ranch presents this annual celebration of the cattleman's West, which includes roping, branding, chuck wagon cooking, blacksmithing, traditional cowboy music and poetry. Speakers and cultural demonstrators interpret the open-range cattle era at this historic working ranch preserved by the National Park Service. **406.846.2070**

MONTANA FOLK FESTIVAL – BUTTE, JULY

The Montana Folk Festival is a large, free outdoor event located partially within the fascinating Uptown Butte Historic District. A mix of open-air and tented sites provide a variety of performance venues ranging from intimate to amphitheater-size stages. **406.497.6464**

AN RI RA MONTANA IRISH FESTIVAL – BUTTE, AUGUST

The An Ri Ra Montana Irish Festival celebrates the Irish culture and heritage of Butte. This family-oriented event provides an excellent opportunity to learn the language and culture of the Irish people who came to Montana. Enjoy Montana and Irish authors, musicians and dancers. **406.498.3983**

COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF THE BIG HOLE – WISDOM,

AUGUST The Battle of the Big Hole was fought on August 9 and 10, 1877, between the U.S. military and the Nez Perce. Ceremonies, demonstrations, traditional Nez Perce music and park ranger presentations help visitors understand and learn about the battle. 406.689.3155

ENNIS ON THE MADISON FLY FISHING FESTIVAL – ENNIS,

SEPTEMBER A family-oriented festival on Main Street in Ennis celebrating all things fly fishing with celebrity speakers, seminars, casting instruction and competition, fly tying demos, exhibitors, live music and great food. The festival benefits the Madison River Foundation's mission to preserve and protect the Madison River. Visit Ennis on Labor Day weekend and "Tie One On!" 406.682.3148

LABOR DAY RODEO, CONCERT & PARADE – DILLON, SEPTEMBER

The Dillon Jaycees host this annual event over Labor Day weekend with rodeo action on Saturday and Sunday. The concert begins Sunday night followed by a parade on Monday morning. 406.683.5771

LINCOLN ROD RUN – LINCOLN,

SEPTEMBER Lincoln Rod Run is a great time for family and fun. This car show attracts over 200 entries; registration is held at Lambkins Restaurant and Bar and begins at 9 a.m. Trophies are given to cars in 20 different categories. The Saturday poker run starts at noon. 406.362.4271

GHOST WALKS – DILLON, OCTOBER

Bannack State Park's wild past comes alive at Ghost Walks. The ghosts of Henry Plummer, Chief Snag, Dutch John Wagner and others come to life in this spooky and entertaining Halloween event. Reservations required. 406.834.3413

HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT TOURS AT LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS – WHITEHALL, DECEMBER

Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park offers holiday candlelight tours in December, weather permitting. Nonrefundable tickets are available for purchase after Thanksgiving weekend. See the cave as the original discoverers did, by candlelight. 406.287.3541

CULTURE/HISTORY

BERKELEY PIT Over a mile wide and 1,800 feet deep, Butte's Berkeley Pit is an open-pit mine that was created in 1955 to answer the huge post-war demand for copper. Now, after producing one billion tons of copper, silver, gold and other useful metals, the exhausted pit is slowly filling with toxic water leached from abandoned mine shafts. Oddly, the pit has also spurred life: certain fungi and bacteria strains have specially adapted to the pit's toxic lake. These "extremophiles" are being studied for their ability to clean the lake and even fight cancer. Open March to November. 406.723.3177

www.visitmt.com/berkeleypit

EXPLORATIONWORKS, located in Helena, is an innovative, hands-on museum of science and culture, where learning is active, participatory and reciprocal. The programs and exhibits appeal to diverse audiences in an engaging discovery of the sciences, technology, social sciences, humanities, culture and everyday life. Open all year. 406.457.1800

www.explorationworks.org

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1865 to preserve Montana's heritage, the society houses a rich collection of art, artifacts, archives and photographs. Visit the museum to view work by famous cowboy artist Charles M. Russell as well as Native American culture and Montana history exhibits. Located across the street from the Capitol building in Helena. Open all year. 406.444.3695

www.montanahistoricalsociety.org

ORIGINAL GOVERNOR'S MANSION

The history of this Helena mansion is as much a history of the people who resided here as it is of a building. In 1913 the state of Montana acquired this handsome brick mansion as the first official governor's residence. Between 1913 and 1959, it was home to nine Montana governors and their families. Open all year, and only on Saturdays during the winter. 406.444.3695

www.montanahistoricalsociety.org

R.L. WINSTON ROD COMPANY SHOP AND MUSEUM

Since 1929, their goal has been simple: to make the best fly rods in the world. The museum, located in Twin Bridges, features historical displays and photos of the company. Open all year. 406.684.5674

www.winstonrods.com

ROCKING OUT

Rockhounds in Southwest Montana dig up a glittering haul of buried treasure—sapphires, crystals, garnets, amethysts, quartzes and yes, even gold. In most hot spots there's no need to feel guilty about swiping a few jewels—the supply is more or less inexhaustible. True, the abundance means you won't get rich selling your all-too-common find, but the thrill of the hunt and the sentimental value of cutting your discovery into a one-of-a-kind necklace or ring more than makes up for it.

Many Montana sites are open to the public, and we've listed a few here along with what you can find in each location, but we recommend you contact the local Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management office for other opportunities.



Raw sapphires

Anaconda Area - Scheelite, epidote, argillite and quartzite. 406.563.2400

Butte Area - Smokey quartz and amethyst.

Calvert Hill Mine (west of Wise River) - Epidote, aquamarine and garnets.

Crystal Park (north of Polaris) - Quartz crystal, amethyst, smokey, scepter, double terminated and Japanese Law Twin forms. 406.683.3900

Helena Area - Montana sapphires. 406.227.8989, www.sapphiremine.com

Lima Area - Tempered rocks, lava and fossils. 406.276.3535

Philipsburg Area - Manganese minerals and Montana sapphires. 800.525.0169, www.philipsburgmt.com

Ruby Reservoir - Calcite, opalite and garnets. 406.683.8000

Sheridan Area - White and banded calcite.

Virginia City Area - Gold. 406.843.5555 or 800.829.2969



Biking the Daisy Hill Trail on Mount Helena

ST. HELENA CATHEDRAL This cathedral, situated in the heart of Helena, is an outstanding example of Geometric Gothic architecture, patterned after the Votive Church of the Sacred Heart in Vienna, Austria. Stained-glass windows, white marble altars, statues carved of the purest Carrara marble and genuine gold leaf decorate the sanctuary. The magnificent lighting fixtures are of hand-forged bronze with a special lacquer finish. Outside, majestic twin spires rise 230 feet above the street. Open all year. Prearranged guided tours are available. **406.442.5825**
www.sthelenas.org

WORLD MUSEUM OF MINING in Butte is one of the few museums in the world located on an actual mine yard, the Orphan Girl Mine. With 50 exhibit buildings, countless artifacts and 66 primary exhibits in the mine yard, you can easily spend a couple of hours to an entire day lost in the unfolding story of Butte's mining heyday. Open April through October. **406.723.7211**
www.miningmuseum.org

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

BIKE TOURS/ROUTES Southwest Montana's quiet roads, scenic horizons and extensive trails make exploring Montana by two wheels a worthy proposition. Load up your panniers and wriggle into padded shorts for long hauls on two-lane back roads, or strap on your helmet and hydration pack to follow dirt ribbons through the mountains. Southwest Montana is home to part of the famous Great Divide Route for mountain bikers. If you prefer the camaraderie of riding with an entire

spandex-clad contingent, click in for organized events like RATPOD (Ride Around The Pioneers in One Day), which is famous for its roadside food including a pie stop at mile 107. For more information on routes and trails, go to visitmt.com/biking.

BIRDING Southwest Montana birding trails showcase one national wildlife refuge, two national historic sites, four wildlife management areas, two state parks, five campground/recreation areas and numerous tracts of Bureau of Land Management and national forest lands. Each area represents a unique combination of habitats, offering a wide variety of bird species. These lands provide important staging and nesting areas for habitat-dependent rarities. www.visitmt.com/birdwatching

FISHING Montana's trout streams are the kinds of places where you embrace crisp mornings and ease into lingering evenings. Visit some of the highest quality natural trout streams—Rock Creek, the Ruby, Big Hole and Madison—for some of the finest fly fishing around. In the winter, try your hand at ice fishing or just plain winter fishing. Ruby Reservoir, Clark Canyon Reservoir and Canyon Ferry Reservoir offer the best in the area. www.visitmt.com/fishing

GHOST TOWNS Montana is rich in history—places where you can reach out and touch the past, where history can be felt as you walk the boardwalks of ghost town streets or step inside dance halls or schoolrooms. Find a kindred spirit at one of Southwest Montana's 17 ghost towns. www.visitmt.com/ghosttowns

HIKING There is no better way to experience Southwest Montana than with a hike through the forest. Whether you are looking for an easy stroll or a rugged, strenuous mountain trek, we have the trail for you! If you are up for a backcountry backpacking adventure, that's available too—just be sure that you are properly prepared for the conditions. Dust off those hiking boots, strap on your pack and hit the trail—you'll be glad you did. Go to visitmt.com/hiking for a list of hiking trails in the area.

HOT SPRINGS One of the best natural features of Southwest Montana are hot springs. Native Americans bathed in the many hot springs for generations prior to the arrival of European settlers. Tribes considered many springs to be sacred ground. There are five hot springs facilities in Southwest Montana, and two serve food grown on the hot springs grounds. www.southwestmt.com/hotsprings

ICE BOATING/SNOWKITING

Georgetown Lake is an up and coming favorite spot for snowkiting. Half skiing, half paragliding, this adventure sport uses enormous kites to pull skiers and snowboarders across frozen lakes or boost them into the air on a downhill descent. In March you can watch the Georgetown Lake Open, featuring racing, freestyle competitions, demos and clinics for those interested in starting the sport. Canyon Ferry Reservoir is a hot spot for ice boating, a sport where a boat similar to a sailboat is fitted with skis or runners (skates) designed to run over ice. www.southwestmt.com/iceboating
www.southwestmt.com/snowkiting

MOTORCYCLE TOURS/ROUTES

Motorcycle riding in Montana provides the best of riding, including remoteness and solitude. No matter what region you are in, there are a variety of paved and unpaved roads to explore. For more information on routes, tours, rentals, motorcycle rallies and events, go to visitmt.com/motorcycletours.

RADON HEALTH MINES Since 1952, Boulder and Basin have been the home of Montana's radon health mines. Called "cave therapy," or speleotherapy, clients access underground excavations that were formerly mined for minerals such as uranium, gold, silver, copper and lead ore. Early reports of pain relief were so prevalent that these mines became a health destination, with extended-stay programs for immune system diseases and management of chronic pain.

Merry Widow— 406.225.3220
www.merrywidowmine.com

Free Enterprise – 406.225.3383
www.radonmine.com

Sunshine – 406.225.3670
www.sunshinehealthmine.com

Earth Angel – 406.225.3516
www.earthangelmine.com

RANCH VACATIONS How about vacationing in a world that feels light years away from your day-to-day routine? Let your current life disappear for a spell as you live out the Montana dude ranch experience. The best thing about a ranch vacation is you only need to bring yourself. All-inclusive vacations include meals, lodging and activities with a personalized touch. You'll be taken care of from morning to night.
www.visitmt.com/ranch

SNOWMOBILING One of Montana's better-kept secrets lies in the pristine mountains and valleys of Southwest Montana. Cold, dry powder snow comes early and stays late, ensuring great sledding. Enjoy scenic sledding routes near Polaris, Wisdom, Jackson, Georgetown Lake, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Helena, Lincoln, Virginia City/Ennis, Wise River, Elk Park and the ghost town of Garnet.
www.wintermt.com/snowmobiling

SCENIC & WILDLIFE

BEAR TRAP CANYON WILDERNESS

This 6,000-acre recreation area north of Ennis offers beautiful scenery and incredible whitewater rafting, including the class IV–V "Kitchen Sink" rapid. Hiking, nature study and fishing are other ways to enjoy the 1,500-foot-high cliffs that border this dramatic canyon. Hiking access is from the north end of the canyon and boat/rafting access is at the south end. Beware of rattlesnakes and poison ivy along the trail. Open all year.
406.683.8000
www.southwestmt.com/beartrap

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

This is the largest national forest in Montana, encompassing several mountain ranges throughout Southwest Montana. You'll find diverse wildlife habitat and fisheries, year-round outdoor recreation opportunities, the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Lewis & Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails and the Crystal Park mineral collecting area.
406.683.3900
www.fs.usda.gov/bdnf

BIG SHEEP CREEK BACK COUNTRY

BYWAY is located west of Dell, Montana, 24 miles north of the Montana-Idaho state

line. The 50-mile two-lane gravel road with a short stretch of one-lane dirt surface can be safely driven from May through early October. The byway provides opportunities for solitude and exploration. Driving time is about three hours, and there are no services available along the route, so plan accordingly. Fences are encountered along the way and users are asked to please shut the gate after passing through. Portions of the road are impassible when wet.
406.683.8000

PINTLER VETERANS' MEMORIAL

SCENIC HIGHWAY This 63-mile drive goes through Anaconda and Philipsburg—one of Montana's most historic towns—and by Georgetown Lake. The road travels through both conifer-clad mountains and sage-covered hills as it follows Flint Creek, and is a wonderful alternative to I-90 when traveling between Butte and Missoula. Special attractions include historic Anaconda, Georgetown Lake, Philipsburg, Granite ghost town, gem mining, fishing, skiing, camping, hiking, boating, biking and wildlife viewing. Open all year. Check out the audio tour at visitmt.com/audiotour.

PIONEER MOUNTAINS SCENIC

BYWAY Bring the video camera on this tour through the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, south of Wise River, where you can travel the length of the Pioneer Mountains. Granite peaks topping 10,000 feet in elevation are to the east, with gentler, forested terrain to the west. You'll view mountain meadows, lodgepole pine forests and broad willow bottoms. At Crystal Park, a unique area set aside for recreational mineral collecting, visitors can pause for a picnic and dig for quartz crystals. Stop at the interpretive sites along the byway for an interesting history of the Pioneer Mountains, and visit the ghost town of Coolidge along the way. In the winter enjoy cross-country skiing, downhill skiing and snowmobiling.
406.683.3900
www.fs.usda.gov/bdnf

RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Treat your eyes to what has often been called the most beautiful national wildlife refuge in the U.S. The rugged Centennial Mountains, rising more than 9,000 feet above the Centennial Valley wetlands, provide a dramatic backdrop for this extremely remote refuge east of Lima. The inherent solitude and ideal habitat has made this the perfect place for reviving declining populations of the majestic trumpeter swan. Open all year.
406.276.3536
www.fws.gov/redrocks

SKIING IN SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Downhill Skiing & Snowboarding

A visit to one of our ski areas in winter is a unique experience of what skiing used to be—uncrowded, friendly slopes. It's a laid-back experience with a variety of terrain for beginners and experts alike.
[Visit skimt.com](http://Visit.skimt.com).

Discovery Ski Area, Georgetown Lake
888.678.7669, www.skidiscovery.com

Great Divide Ski Area, Marysville
406.449.3746, www.skigd.com

Maverick Mountain, Polaris
406.834.3454, www.skimaverick.com

Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing

A beautiful and quiet sport, cross-country skiing is a great way to experience the splendor of a Montana winter. Many of our region's most beautiful areas are also blessed with abundant snowfall and offer hundreds of miles of groomed and ungroomed trails.
[Visit wintermt.com/xcski](http://Visit.wintermt.com/xcski).

Ski Trails in National Forests

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
406.683.3900

Chief Joseph Cross-Country Trails
28 miles W of Wisdom, 406.689.3243

Georgetown Lake, Discovery Ski Area
406.859.3211

Wade Lake Ski Trails, 40 miles S of Ennis,
406.682.4253

Helena National Forest
406.449.5201

MacDonald Pass, 15 miles W of Helena
406.449.5490

Cross-Country Ski Centers/Trails

Elkhorn Hot Springs
50 miles NW of Dillon
406.834.3434
www.elkhornhotsprings.com

Homestake Lodge
10 miles E of Butte off I-90
406.585.8052
www.homestakelodge.com

Mount Haggin Nordic Ski Area
Road to Wisdom, 15 miles S of Anaconda
406.533.7655
www.milehighnordic.org



CENTRAL MONTANA

www.centralmontana.com • 800.527.5348



When it comes to Central Montana, the question is, how far back in time would you like to go? To 1960s kitsch at the Sip'n Dip in Great Falls, a tiki bar with live performing mermaids? To Rockwellian winters, schussing the time-honored slopes of Montana's oldest ski area? Or back to painter Charlie Russell's frontier West, viewed from the windows of a dinner train? Here, you'll experience Fort Benton's days as a fur-trading outpost; Lewis and Clark's 1805–06 Montana expedition; and Bear Paw Battlefield, where Chief Joseph resigned to "fight no more forever."

This land of sunny wheat fields, snowy plains and rolling mountains can take you back to a time before human civilization, too, like Choteau's Cretaceous days as a hip dinosaur hangout. Or go back farther still, to geologic time, when sandstone rock formations slowly emerged along the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River, and the entire Rocky Mountain Front lifted into existence.

While Central Montana is home to 21st-century trappings like one of Montana's largest wind farms, even everyday interactions here are tinged with a sort of old-fashioned charm. Chatting with the guy at the next ice fishing hole, swapping field notes with fellow birders and running into skinny-skiers on the trails, you'll find folks warmly welcoming and unpretentious, much like the hotels, cafes, saloons and museums. In such a laid-back, unbustling place, it's easy to feel like you have all the time in the world...maybe because you do.



Left: Hiking Mission Canyon, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation

Above: Snow geese migration at Freezout Lake

AT A GLANCE

- + *White Sulphur Springs* gets its name from the natural hot springs in the heart of town. Historically, the springs were used by multiple Indian nations who regarded the area as a "valley of peace" to be shared by all.
- + *Cornflower-blue Yogo sapphires* hail from Yogo Gulch in the Little Belt Mountains (between Great Falls and Lewistown) and are prized worldwide.
- + The town of Ringling is named for John T. Ringling, one of the original seven brothers of the Ringling Brothers Circus. He financed bringing the railroad to Ringling.
- + Trek along the Montana Dinosaur Trail to see the first baby dinosaur bones found in North America at the Two Medicine Dinosaur Center in Bynum, and unearth mysteries at the Old Trail Museum in Choteau.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

BEST TIME TO VISIT

With Central Montana's uncrowded nature, any time is the best time to visit. That said, many claim that early fall and late spring are the best times to experience outdoor treats like hearing the elk bugle or watching the migration of tens of thousands of snow geese.

Winter brings a wealth of activities, from skiing on downhill slopes and well-maintained cross-country ski trails to cruising on an extensive network of backcountry snowmobile trails, and let's not forget the popular sport of ice fishing.

WHAT TO PACK

While there are plenty of beautiful 90 degree summer days in this area of Montana, the dry air makes for cool evenings, nights and early mornings.

(If you have a windbreaker, bring it.) Comfortable, understated, well-worn practical fashion is the norm, and the layered look is always in.

HOW TO GET HERE

Driving, you'll arrive on I-15 or one of the smaller highways. Take time to enjoy spectacular scenery, rolling hills and abundant wildlife. You can also fly into Great Falls International Airport or ride Amtrak's Empire Builder passenger train across Montana's Hi-Line with stops in Havre and Shelby. Public transportation in the region is limited; renting a car is strongly advised.

PASSPORT/PORT OF ENTRY

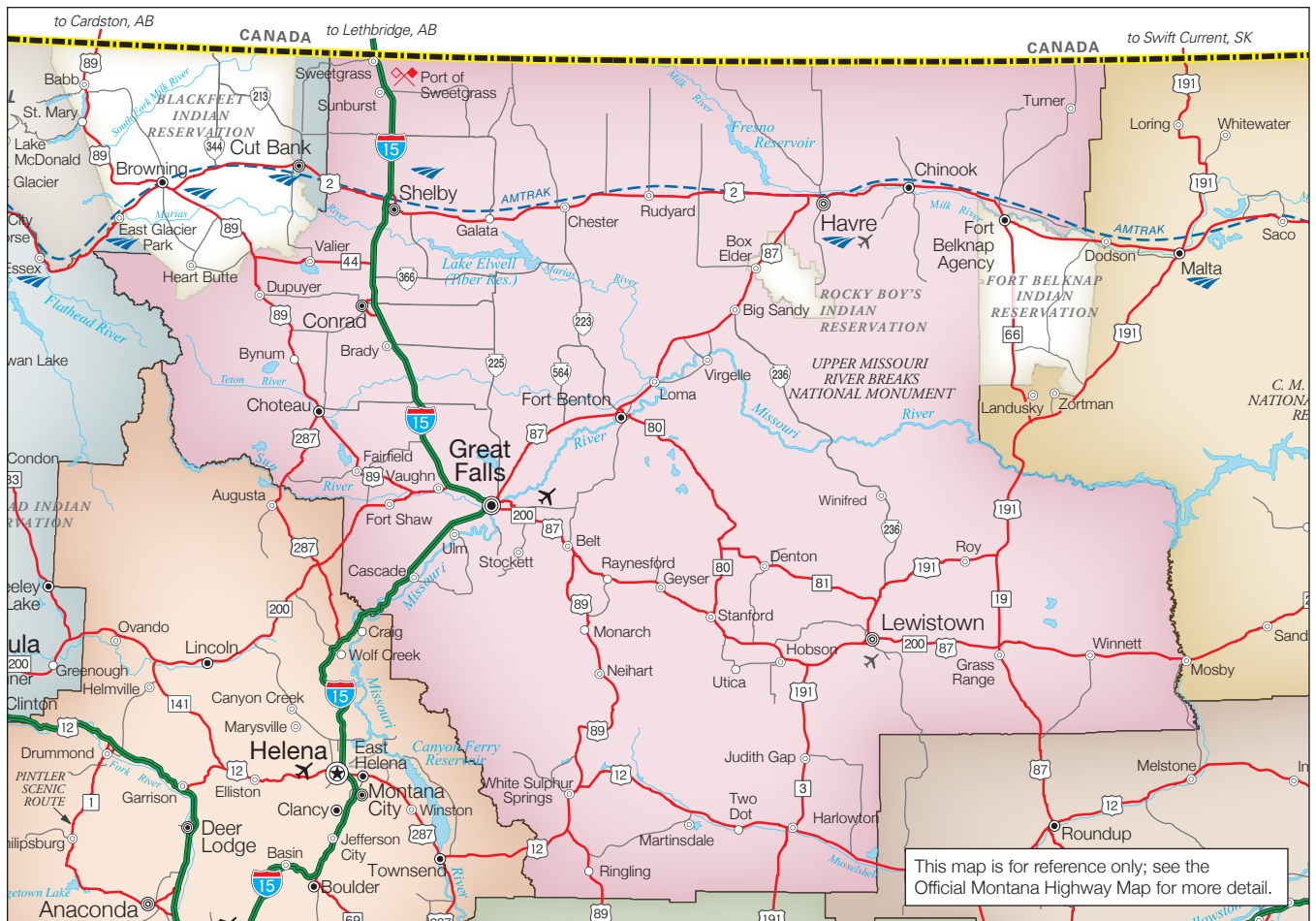
If you're entering the U.S. from Canada, you must report to the Customs and Immigration Services and present a passport. Sweetgrass has a 24-hour port of entry, and there are several smaller ports with limited hours. **406.335.9559**.

PHOTOGRAPHING TRIBAL CEREMONIES

Powwows and dances have deep religious significance and typically do not allow flash photography. Be sure to have permission before snapping photos at tribal ceremonies. For more information on proper etiquette while visiting the reservations and how to best enjoy your experience, contact tribal offices at visitmt.com/indiannations.

FOOD

Central Montana is cattle ranching country, and juicy burgers or steaks are menu favorites. Small-town cafes to gourmet restaurants offer the gamut from elegant to rustic. Save room for dessert via the new "pie trail." centralmontana.com/pietrail





Square Butte near Great Falls

PLACES TO GO

COMMUNITIES

CHOTEAU, located on Montana's Rocky Mountain Front, offers camping, swimming, shopping and golf right in town. Nearby activities include hiking, skiing, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting and dinosaur digging. Choteau is surrounded by outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities in the Lewis and Clark National Forest and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. The community has several taverns and restaurants, gift stores, clothing boutiques and art galleries. Bynum Reservoir and Eureka Lake are favorite local ice fishing spots. Teton Pass Resort, located 35 miles west of Choteau, offers 25 downhill runs, while the Teton Pass area has cross-country and snowmobile trails.
406.466.5316
www.choteaumontana.us

FORT BENTON was one of the most important early trading posts built along the Missouri River. Steamboats brought supplies upriver this far, but because of rapids, could go no farther. Cargo was unloaded here and taken by freight wagons to the gold camps at Helena, Virginia City and other places in western Montana. Today, Fort Benton is recognized as a National Historic Landmark because of the importance it played as the head of navigation on the Missouri River. It's also the gateway for exploration of the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River and the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.
406.622.3864
www.fortbenton.com

GREAT FALLS is Montana's third-largest city, known as the "Electric City" due to its numerous hydroelectric dams built on the Missouri River. The city sits among four large falls that were both a magnificent spectacle and a formidable barrier to early river travel. Grand vistas can be found in every direction; Great Falls is surrounded by mountains and buttes on three sides, as well as vast plains to the north. Nearby, Showdown Montana ski area, Silver Crest Winter Recreation Area, and Kings Hill Recreation Area provide exciting terrain for winter activities.

800.735.8535
www.genuinemontana.com

HARLOWTON is a convenient stop at the junction of US 12 and 191. Of special interest are the E-57B Electric Train Park and a pioneer bronze sculpture entitled *And They Called the Land Montana*. The Upper Musselshell Museum includes a general store, Indian artifacts, pioneer home and *Avaceratops lammersi* dinosaur display. Chief Joseph Park, off US 12, features camping, scenic walkways, a fishing pond and playground. The Judith Gap Wind Energy Center is located 12 miles north of Harlowton on US 191.

406.632.4694
www.harlowtonchamber.com

HAVRE is situated close to the Canadian border amid the wide panorama of the open plains. With daily Amtrak passenger rail service, it offers modern city conveniences in a remote setting, surrounded by vast and uncluttered plains. In the Bears Paw Mountains to the south is Beaver Creek Park. This 10,000-acre park, one of the largest county parks in the U.S., features rolling grasslands, wooded groves, rocky cliffs and rushing

streams. There are excellent year-round fishing opportunities here and also west of Havre off US 2 at Fresno Reservoir. Beaver Creek Park's scenic beauty attracts snowmobilers and cross-country skiers as well. If you're looking for some "steep-n-deep" fun, try nearby Bear Paw Ski Bowl, just 29 miles south of town. The Rocky Boy's and Fort Belknap Indian Reservations are nearby.

406.265.4383
www.havremt.com

LEWISTOWN is an agricultural community located at the geographic center of Montana. Although mostly rolling prairie, farms and ranches, the Lewistown area features two beautiful mountain ranges, the Snowy and Judith Mountains, where grand 100-mile vistas stretch out in all directions. Four different lakes around Lewistown offer ample year-round fishing spots. Try the Big Snowy Mountains near Crystal Lake south of town for great snowmobiling and the Green Pole and Rock Creek areas for excellent cross-country trails.

406.535.5436
www.lewistownchamber.com

SHELBY is 35 miles south of the Canadian border at the junction of US 2 and I-15. In the 1890s, Shelby was a trade center supplying cowboys and sheepherders. In 1921, oil was discovered north of town, and, for a while, the town grew by leaps and bounds. While in Shelby, visit the Marias Museum of History and Art for a look at the area's history, homesteading, a dinosaur collection and more. Marias Valley Golf Course and Williamson Park Campground offer outdoor recreation and camping. Deer, antelope, elk, foxes, golden eagles, grouse



The White Cliffs along the Missouri River

and the unique “sweet grass” can be seen in the nearby Sweet Grass Hills. North of town, Lake Shel-oole offers outdoor recreation and camping, and south of town is the Marias River, named after Meriwether Lewis’s cousin.

406.434.7184

www.shelbymtchamber.org

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS was named because of the white deposits around the hot springs that were discovered here. Located near the Smith River—a premier scenic and fishing area—camping, hiking and hunting opportunities are found here in abundance. The Showdown Montana ski area is just 30 miles north. After a day of fun, take a soak in the natural mineral pools at Spa Hot Springs.

406.547.2250

www.whitesulphurspringsmt.com

NOTABLE SITES

BEAR PAW BATTLEFIELD Just 16 miles south of Chinook, visitors can see the site of the last major Indian battle in the U.S. The Nez Perce Indians surrendered to the U.S. Army on October 5, 1877, after a 1,300-mile retreat. It was here that Chief Joseph spoke his famous words, “From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever.” The Blaine County Museum in Chinook offers a unique multimedia presentation, “40 Miles from Freedom,” that describes the battle. Open all year.

406.357.3130

www.nps.gov/nepe

C.M. RUSSELL MUSEUM COMPLEX

Take a look at the art and soul of the real West at this amazing Great Falls museum featuring Charlie Russell’s works in all types of media, personal items and artifacts. The museum also has outstanding pieces from his contemporaries. The complex includes Russell’s original log studio and his home. Open all year.

406.727.8787

www.cm russell.org

FORT BELKNAP INDIAN RESERVATION

is the fourth-largest Indian reservation in Montana, encompassing 675,147 acres of rolling plains. It is the homeland of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribes. They were traditionally known by their native name of A’aninin, which means “the White Clay People”; the largest tribe is now called Gros Ventre. Points of interest include Fort Belknap Community College, Fort Belknap Tourism Office and Information Center, Mission Canyon/Natural Bridge and St. Paul’s Mission Church.

406.353.2463

www.discoverfortbelknap.com

FREEZOUT LAKE WILDLIFE

MANAGEMENT AREA is an excellent wildlife viewing area for migratory birds. As many as 300,000 snow geese and 10,000 tundra swans gather and rest here on their spring and fall journeys. Year-round opportunities for viewing wildlife are available and include upland game birds and raptors in winter, waterfowl migrations

in spring and fall, and waterfowl and shorebirds in summer. Located west of Great Falls. Open all year.

406.467.2646

www.visitmt.com/freezeoutwma

PINE BUTTE SWAMP PRESERVE,

located west of Choteau, is the largest wetlands area along the Rocky Mountain Front. Noted for its diverse geography, from mountains to foothills and prairie, this huge wildlife preserve is home to more than 150 species of birds and 43 species of mammals. The preserve is managed by The Nature Conservancy, which also operates Pine Butte Guest Ranch, next to the preserve.

406.443.5526

www.nature.org/montana

ROCKY BOY’S INDIAN RESERVATION,

30 miles south of Havre, is home to the Chippewa Cree tribe and features many attractions, such as their annual August powwow and rodeo, annual Christmas powwow, Bear Paw Ski Bowl and Square Butte Trading Post for authentic arts and crafts.

406.395.5705

www.chippewacree.org

UPPER MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

includes an ecosystem that parallels the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River through north-central Montana. Much of the land in this area (375,000 acres) is public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. In the center of this

monument is the 149-mile-long Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River. The Upper Missouri begins at historic Fort Benton on US 87 and ends 149 miles east where the Fred Robinson Bridge on US 191 crosses the Missouri River. This remote location retains unspoiled, natural settings that form a backdrop for outstanding recreational and cultural opportunities. An interpretive center for the area is located in Fort Benton. Open all year.

406.538.1900 or 406.622.4000
www.visitmt.com/missouribreaks

THINGS TO DO

EVENTS

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

MONTANA PRCA PRO RODEO CIRCUIT FINALS – GREAT FALLS, JANUARY Held at the Montana ExpoPark in Great Falls, over 96 of Montana's best pro rodeo contestants travel to Great Falls to pit their wit and ability against the skill and heart of Montana's finest PRCA rodeo stock. Festivities include an auction Thursday before the rodeo and Saturday afternoon. The Miss Rodeo Montana coronation is on Sunday.
 406.727.8900

THE RUSSELL: AN EXHIBITION AND SALE TO BENEFIT THE C.M. RUSSELL MUSEUM – GREAT FALLS, MARCH
 The Wall Art Sale, Art in Action and live

auction are highlights of this three-day event to benefit the C.M. Russell Museum. Works from living legends and deceased artists make up this spectacular Western art show.

406.727.8787

ICE BREAKER ROAD RACE – GREAT FALLS, APRIL This race has been named one of the top 100 road races in the country by *Runner's World* magazine. Averaging over 3,500 participants, it is not only a fitness and competitive event, but also a social event for the community.
 406.771.1265

MANNEQUIN JUMPING – NEIHART, APRIL Come check out Showdown Montana's Mannequin Jump, the strangest ski jumping contest on the planet. Contestants build their own skiing mannequin jumpers and send them off the giant mannequin jump. The rest of us just watch and laugh.
 800.433.0022

ANNUAL LEWIS AND CLARK FESTIVAL – GREAT FALLS, JUNE
 This weekend of rediscovery is your opportunity to experience the incredible journey of Lewis and Clark. Included are reenactors in historical dress, demonstrations, tours of Lewis and Clark sites, children's activities, exhibits, float trips, a relay race, concert and more.
 406.452.5661

HUTTERITE COMMUNITIES

Follow the hand-painted "Fresh Vegetable" signs to locally grown products and a glance into utopian colony culture.



Farmers market in Great Falls

- + There are about 4,000 Hutterites living in roughly 40 self-sufficient colonies in Montana.
- + Hutterites follow the teachings of Jakob Hutter, a 16th-century Reformation Christian, and live in tiny agricultural colonies where hard work and modern farm methods are embraced.
- + The colonies produce and sell high-quality furniture, vegetables, soaps, clothes, preserves, eggs, pork, milk and butter. Most eggs in Montana come from chickens raised on Hutterite colonies.
- + Often a small hand-painted sign for fresh vegetables on the side of the road is your only signal to turn into a Hutterite colony.
- + In the colonies, you'll find a lot of "quaint"—meticulously weeded gardens and tidy simple dwellings. Married men wear beards, while women wear modest (if sometimes bright) dresses and head coverings.



Wylie and the Wild West performing at the Red Ants Pants Music Festival, White Sulphur Springs

THE OLD FORTS TRAIL

Once upon a frontier time, all roads led to Fort Benton (the "birthplace" of Montana); Fort Assiniboine served as Montana's biggest military outpost; and trappers, traders, bootleggers and American Indians traversed between both, along with the forts of the Canadian West.



Now, the original forts are mostly gone, but their replicas and the well-worn paths between them tell the tales of their important pasts. Following the Old Forts Trail, travelers experience the museums and artifacts of Forts Benton and Assiniboine in Montana, Forts Walsh, Battleford and Wood Mountain Post in Saskatchewan and Forts Whoop-up, MacLeod and Calgary in Alberta.

The journey along this international trail follows foothills and prairie routes trodden more than a century ago, retracing the flow of goods and people that helped lay the groundwork for the modern West.

www.oldfortstrail.com



Lewis and Clark Memorial in Fort Benton

FORT BENTON SUMMER CELEBRATION – FORT BENTON, JUNE Montana's "birthplace" community celebrates summer with a parade, arts and crafts on the levee, Missouri River Traders Market, historical tours, free entertainment, street dance, fishing derby and fireworks display on the levee. Also included is a fun walk and run. **406.622.2013 or 406.750.2918**

WHOOUP-DAYS AND RHUBARB FESTIVAL – CONRAD, JUNE

The Annual Whoop-Up Trail Days and Rhubarb Festival features a kids' carnival, Rodeo Calcutta, pancake breakfast, parade, fun run and lots of delicious treats. **406.271.7791**

C.M. RUSSELL STAMPEDE, BBQ, QUICK DRAW AND RODEO –

STANFORD, JULY Two days of western family entertainment comes from the heart of Central Montana at the Judith Basin County Fairgrounds in Stanford. On Saturday afternoon, enjoy the sounds of a jam session featuring local and regional music talent. A barbeque begins at 5 p.m. Quick draw action (featuring well-known artists) and then an auction of the art follows. The evening is capped off with a Calcutta auction for the Wild Cow milking teams. On Sunday, great PRCA rodeo action begins at 1:30 p.m. The Wild Cow milking contest is at the intermission of the rodeo. **406.566.2422**

MILK RIVER INDIAN DAYS – FORT BELKNAP, JULY Milk River Indian Days highlights spirited and colorfully clad dancers. A powwow features Native American dancers and drummers combining culture, dance and music for a spectacular display. **406.353.2452**

MONTANA STATE FAIR – GREAT FALLS, JULY Experience Montana's culture and history in the heart of Montana—Great Falls. Superstar entertainment, the Mighty Thomas Carnival, five nights of pro rodeo, 40 food vendors, livestock shows, stage acts, quilts, floral and cooking exhibits and more! **406.727.8900**

RED ANTS PANTS MUSIC FESTIVAL – WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, JULY Connect with good folks and dance your pants off! It's time to celebrate the hard-working side of Montana. The festival

offers a main stage, kids area, food and beer vendors, craft vendors and agricultural demonstrations. Camping is available. **406.547.3781**

ANNUAL MONTANA COWBOY POETRY GATHERING AND WESTERN MUSIC RENDEZVOUS – LEWISTOWN, AUGUST This four-day cultural event gives visitors the opportunity to experience a visual and oral history of the West and Central Montana. With hourly poetry readings and music sessions, this gathering is the second-oldest cowboy poetry gathering in the country. **406.538.4575**

ROCKY BOY'S ANNUAL POWWOW – BOX ELDER, AUGUST The powwow is an event of Indian heritage and tradition. Dance, regalia and drumming competitions are the featured events. Competitions last throughout the weekend with all ages participating. Exciting, excellent cultural demonstrations as well as ethnic and traditional food are offered. **406.395.4478**

HAVRE FESTIVAL DAYS – HAVRE, SEPTEMBER The Festival Days weekend opens with a 48-hour softball tournament. Saturday highlights include a community parade, craft and commercial show, local organizational events and activities. On Sunday participate in a fun run/walk for all ages or watch the annual soap box derby. **406.265.4383**

MONTANA BALE TRAIL – UTICA, SEPTEMBER This event, formerly called "What the Hay," started out as a good-natured spoof between two neighboring ranchers. Now a nationally recognized celebration, you can see more than 50 hay bale sculptures in fields between Hobson and Windham. **406.423.5453**

CULTURE/HISTORY

BAIR FAMILY MUSEUM Charles M. Bair came to Montana in 1883 as a conductor on the Northern Pacific Railroad and went into the ranching business in 1891. He made his fortune in the Alaska gold rush and went on to invest in mining, oil and real estate. Many of the antiques and works of art were purchased on his daughters' frequent trips to Europe. A trip to the Bair home allows you to step into the life of one of Montana's most

prosperous families. Located near Martinsdale. Open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day. Limited off-season hours. 406.572.3314
www.bairfamilymuseum.org

CASTLE MUSEUM “The Castle,” in White Sulphur Springs, is an imposing mansion built in 1892 by Bryon Roger Sherman, which is now the home of the Meagher County Museum. The Victorian landmark is made of hand-cut granite blocks hauled by oxen from the nearby Castle Mountains. The museum is complete with period furniture, mineral samples, clothing and artifacts from the region’s past. Open May 15 through September 15. 406.547.2324
www.visitmt.com/castlemuseum

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER This spectacular center in Great Falls features interactive exhibits that give you the opportunity to test your strength against canoe-carrying explorers, hear the languages used during the sometimes complicated translations between the explorers and Native Americans and much more. Open all year. 406.727.8733
www.visitmt.com/lewisclark

TWO MEDICINE DINOSAUR CENTER See the world’s largest full-size skeletal model of a *Seismosaurus halli* (earth-shaker lizard), a Guinness Book of World Records listing. Also featured are the first baby dinosaur bones found in North America. The center is famous for its public hands-on dinosaur research and education programs designed to allow participants to work beside actual research professionals and staff. All programs require advance registration. In Bynum. Open May through September. 406.469.2211
www.tmdinosaur.org

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

BUFFALO JUMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE in Havre is one of the best-preserved buffalo jumps and campsites in the plains area. On your tour you’ll view extensive in-place bison kill and campsite deposits excavated at various depths up to 20 feet below the surface. A one-hour guided walking tour is available all year, weather permitting. 406.265.6417

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING You’ll find well-maintained cross-country ski trails in



Giant Springs State Park near Great Falls

Central Montana. Silver Crest Ski Trail in the Kings Hill Winter Recreation Area near Neihart grooms over 19 km of trails for cross-country enthusiasts or snowshoers. Snowshoe rentals and naturalist-escorted snowshoe tours are available at Showdown Montana near the Kings Hill area. Teton Pass near Choteau also has trails for both activities. Beaver Creek Park near Havre, and Green Pole and Rock Creek southwest of Lewistown offer excellent cross-country trails. www.wintermt.com/xcski

CRYSTAL LAKE This beautiful lake is located south of Lewistown in the Big Snowy Mountains. A campground sits in a thick stand of spruce on the lake with 28 campsites that are large, secluded and widely spaced. The lake is well suited for canoeing or floating. The area also has a large network of hiking and snowmobile trails. 406.566.2292
www.visitmt.com/crystallake

DOWNHILL SKIING/SNOWBOARDING If you’re a skier or a boarder, you’ll be able to hit the slopes at three areas in Central Montana: Showdown Montana southeast of Great Falls, Teton Pass Resort west of Choteau and Bear Paw Ski Bowl near Havre. These areas are smaller, mom-and-pop hills, but they offer everything you need to have some great runs and a great time. Eagle Mount, in conjunction with Showdown Montana, 406.454.1449 or eaglemount.net, offers people with disabilities an adaptive ski program. www.skimt.com

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP STATE PARK See for yourself how Native Americans hunted for bison at this prehistoric bison kill site, just south

of Great Falls. For more than 600 years, Indians stampeded buffalo over the mile-long cliff. Today, the top of the jump gives you panoramic views of the Rocky Mountain Front and the Missouri River valley as well as the buttes and grasslands that characterize this Great Plains setting. The visitor center is open all year. 406.866.2217
stateparks.mt.gov

FISHING Central Montana has some fantastic fishing. Experience fly fishing in peaceful streams and rivers or cast a line in one of the area’s beautiful lakes. Some of the local favorites are the blue-ribbon stretch of the Missouri River between Craig and Great Falls, Bynum Reservoir (Choteau), Arod Lake (Conrad), Beaver Creek Park or Fresno Reservoir (Havre), Ackley Lake, Carter’s Pond, Hanson Creek Dam, East Fork Dam (Lewistown), Martinsdale Reservoir and Bair Reservoir (Martinsdale), Lake Elwell (Shelby/Chester) and Lake Frances (Valier).

GIANT SPRINGS STATE PARK Noted by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805, Giant Springs is one of the largest freshwater springs in the world and flows at a rate of 156 million gallons per day. This is also the site of the Roe River, once listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s shortest river. Visit the adjacent fish hatchery, walk along the River’s Edge Trail or visit the nearby Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. All of these attractions are located along a three-mile section of Giant Springs Road recently designated as a Montana State Scenic Byway. Open all year. 406.454.5840
stateparks.mt.gov



Showdown Montana

ICE BOATING is a sport where a boat, similar to a sailboat, is fitted with skis or runners (skates) designed to run over ice. Watch this winter sport at Freezout Lake near Fairfield, Lake Frances near Valier or Priest Butte Lake near Choteau.

MOTORCYCLE TOURS Central Montana offers some great motorcycle rides. If you want to follow history on your ride, try the Lewis and Clark, C.M. Russell, Last Battle or Cowboy routes. Some amazing geography and scenery can be seen on the Plains to Peaks, Centermark, Mountains to Wind Towers and Scenic Byway routes. If you just want to ride, check out the Big Loop and Figure 8 routes. All can be found at centralmontana.com/motorcycle_rides.

RANCH VACATIONS How about vacationing in a world that feels light years away from your day-to-day routine? Let your current life disappear for a spell as you live out the Montana ranch vacation experience. The best thing about a ranch vacation is you only need to bring yourself. All-inclusive vacations include meals, lodging and activities with a personalized touch. You'll be taken care of from morning to night.
www.visitmt.com/ranch

RIVER'S EDGE TRAIL Extending over 40 miles along the beautiful Missouri River in Great Falls, this trail offers spectacular views of Black Eagle Falls, Rainbow Falls, Crooked Falls and the Great Falls of the Missouri. The paved, wheelchair-accessible urban portions of the trail link many riverfront parks, boat launches, a waterslide

park, a skateboard park and native open spaces on both sides of the river. Open year-round during daylight hours.
406.788.3313
www.thetrail.org

SMITH RIVER STATE PARK Permits are required to float this 59-mile stretch of the Smith River from Camp Baker (put-in) to Eden Bridge (take-out). This popular section of the river is noted for its scenery and red-ribbon trout fishery. On average, floaters take four days for the float. A minimum of two nights and three full days should be planned for normal water levels. From June 10 through July 10, floaters are restricted to a four-night maximum stay on the river once they launch. Floating the Smith requires careful planning, preparation and, of course, as mentioned already, a permit. Northwest of White Sulphur Springs.
406.454.5840
stateparks.mt.gov

SNOWMOBILING Kings Hill Winter Recreation Area is one of Montana's most popular sports areas with trailheads to more than 200 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Other areas offering great trails are near the town of Belt, the South Fork Waldron northwest of Choteau, Teton Pass area west of Choteau, Beaver Creek Park near Havre, the Big Snowy Mountains near Lewistown and the Little Belt Trail southwest of Utica.
www.wintermt.com/snowmobiling

TIBER DAM-LAKE ELWELL Just east of Shelby is the Tiber Reservoir area. The lake provides excellent year-round

angling for walleye, northern pike, sauger, native trout, ling, perch and others. For boaters and swimmers the area boasts over 178 miles of shoreline, a marina and five well-maintained boat ramps located strategically around the lake. There are also numerous campground areas. Open all year.

406.456.3226

www.visitmt.com/tiberdam

SCENIC & WILDLIFE

BENTON LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE covers 12,383 acres on the western edge of the Great Plains, near Great Falls. The refuge supports a great variety of waterbirds with both nesting and migration habitat. Up to 100,000 ducks, 40,000 geese, 5,000 tundra swans, bald eagles and peregrines may be observed in migration. A nine-mile tour route is open to the public for wildlife observation. The refuge is open all year.

406.727.7400

www.fws.gov/refuge/benton_lake

CHARLIE RUSSELL CHEW CHOO

Experience a spectacular evening as you travel by train through the mountains and prairies of central Montana. This three-and-a-half-hour dinner train travels through rolling hills, ranch lands, a half-mile tunnel and over two trestles and offers excellent wildlife viewing opportunities as well. The journey begins 20 miles northwest of Lewistown. Around Christmas, the dinner train is transformed into the North Pole Adventure, which is a holiday journey for families, complete with elves serving hot cocoa and cookies.

406.535.5436

www.montanadinnertrain.com

C.M. RUSSELL AUTO TOUR This auto tour uses Charlie Russell's art to open a window to the Judith Basin area and its history. The basin truly fits the classic Montana description of high, wide and handsome. The auto tour is designated as the "Charles M. Russell Trail" and lies between Great Falls and Lewistown on US 87. Make sure to visit the C.M. Russell Museum located in Great Falls and the charming museums located in Stanford, Utica and Hobson. Open all year.

800.527.5348

www.visitmt.com/russellauto

KINGS HILL SCENIC BYWAY Start at White Sulphur Springs and follow US 89 north to its intersection with US 87. Gravel roads intersecting the scenic highway

lead to backcountry trailheads, lakes, abandoned mines and other interesting sites to explore.

800.527.5348

MISSOURI BREAKS NATIONAL BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY

There's plenty to see and do on this 81-mile stretch of road east of Winifred. Take the Lewis & Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails or a side trip to the free McClelland Ferry across the Missouri River that runs April through October. Byway is open all year.

406.538.1900

MONTANA DINOSAUR TRAIL Enjoy six stops of the Montana Dinosaur Trail while in Central Montana. Choteau and Bynum (US 89), Rudyard, Havre and Chinook (US 12) and Harlowton (junction of US 191 and US 12) offer significant paleontology displays, and some have "hands-on" field digs. Open all year.

www.mtdinotrail.org

MONTANA SCENIC LOOP This route covers nearly 400 miles of spectacular landscapes and offers travelers the opportunity to see one of the most intact mountainous ecosystems in the U.S. The route encompasses the Flathead, Lolo, Helena and Lewis and Clark National Forests and circles the largest expanse of wilderness in the lower 48 states. Glacier National Park borders the northern section of the loop, and travelers can drive along the west and east slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Recreation opportunities are unparalleled along this route, and there are many small towns offering a variety of services. Open all year.

SUN RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Sun River is one of Montana's most beautiful and scenic rivers. Beginning in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the river flows southeast to Great Falls where it meets the Missouri River. Not only will you see abundant wildlife, but you'll also enjoy great fishing for trout and mountain whitefish as well as excellent boating on Gibson Reservoir. Open May 15 through November 30.

406.454.5840

www.visitmt.com/sunriverwma

FOR THE BIRDS

Montana is full of bird brains—in fact, we have more bird watchers per capita than any other state. With its steep Rocky Mountain Front and miles of unbroken prairie, Central Montana provides ample habitat for hawks, geese, falcons, owls, sandpipers and other feathered fowl. While the chance to glimpse so many birds in one place is in itself remarkable, Montana's heartland also gives birders the chance to scratch a few "bucket-list birds" off their list. The calliope hummingbird, great grey owl, Clark's nutcracker and many other rarely glimpsed birds occasionally make one of their infrequent appearances here.

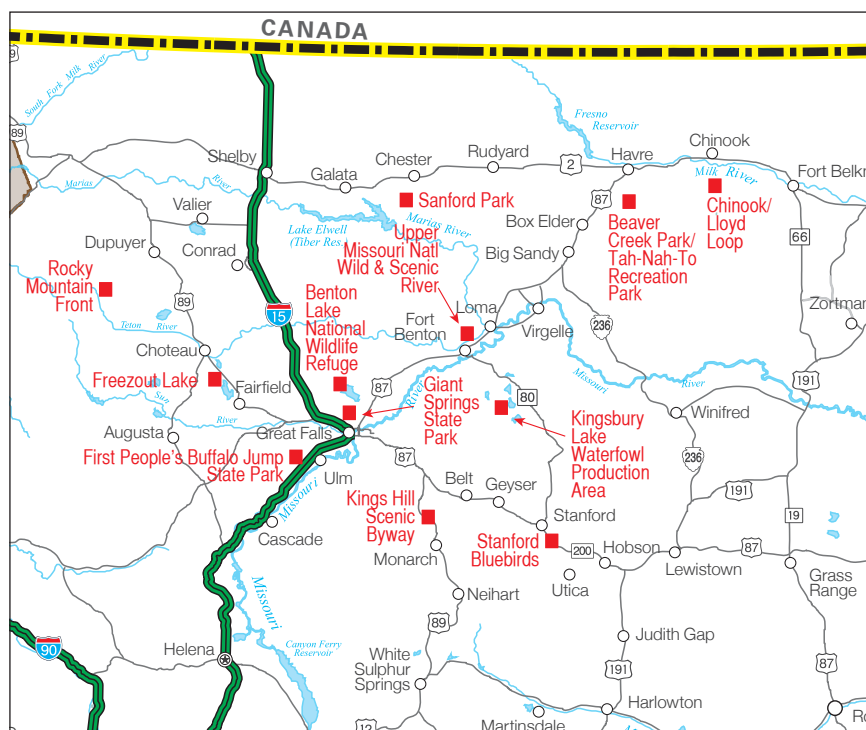


Dueling sandhill cranes

While birds can be spotted year-round, spring brings two treats for avian enthusiasts: the massive migrations of snow geese from Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area, and the colorful courtship dances of the sharp-tailed grouse at Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

In reality, almost all of Central Montana serves as a birder's paradise, but we've marked a few likely hot spots just to get you started.

For more information visit centralmontana.com/birding.





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.





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

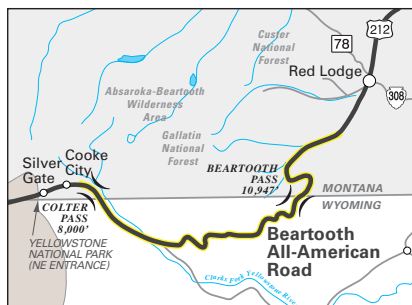
COLUMBUS This full-service community in the foothills of the Beartooth Range boasts the most scenic route to Yellowstone National Park via MT 78 and US 212 over the Beartooth All-American Road. Located at the confluence of the Stillwater and Yellowstone Rivers, Columbus offers plenty of outdoor recreation. 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.stillwatercountychamber.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.compastory.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!

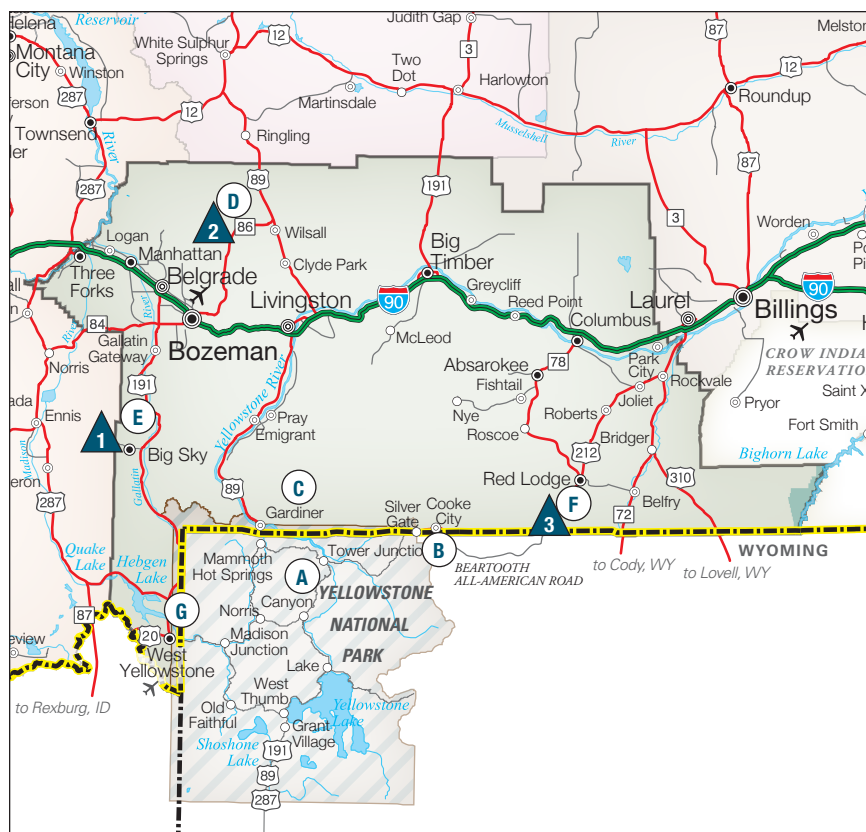
Camping is the perfect way to get back to nature, and Yellowstone Country is a camper's paradise for the novice and experienced camper alike. Whether you want to set up in luxury at an RV park or pitch a tent at the end of a mountain trail, we have the perfect spot for you. The stars in the night sky 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.bohart ranchxcski.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

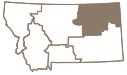


Horseback riding, Lone Mountain Ranch



MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

www.missouririver.visitmt.com · 800.653.1319



Missouri River Country might be the last chance in the Lower 48 to explore vast stretches of pristine landscape. Here, elk, deer and pronghorn antelope still graze the prairie, even outside the region's many wildlife preserves.

Rarely glimpsed birds flock here, sending birding geeks scrambling for their binoculars. Refugees from the modern world come here to escape blaring sirens and traffic jams, losing themselves to the seemingly endless great wide open.

Which isn't to say there's no one here. Tiny, outlying towns offer oases of homegrown hospitality as they work hard to preserve their history. From the biggest city, Sidney (population almost 6,000), to tiny Hinsdale (population 217), most towns maintain their own historical museums and host annual historical jubilees, ranging from fully costumed trapper rendezvous to frontier-themed celebrations. Thanks to the strong preservation mindset, you can still stay at the 1930s Fort Peck Hotel and take in live summer shows at the Fort Peck Summer Theatre.

Embrace all the elbow room, which affords unparalleled hunting and fishing year-round (especially at Fort Peck, a mecca for both ice fishing and warm-weather angling). Powwows and rodeos unfold under the Big Sky, while cattle drives, wagon trains and ranch stays captivate anyone who didn't grow up in 4-H. From its abundance of dinosaur fossils to its real-deal Western bars, northeast Montana remains wild, peaceful and unchanging.



Left: Wildflowers and the Milk River

Above: Pioneer Town

AT A GLANCE

- + Fort Union, near Bainville, was a center of peaceful economic and social exchange between Euro-Americans and the Plains Indians from 1828 to 1867.
- + Rolling Hills Winery, in Culbertson, is eastern Montana's first winery, crafting wines from locally grown fruits like chokecherries, raspberries and rhubarb instead of grapes.
- + Just north of Malta, one of the best-preserved (and also one of the only mummified) dinosaurs was discovered, a 77 million-year-old *Brachylophosaurus* nicknamed Leonardo.
- + Fort Peck Dam is the world's largest hydraulic earth-filled dam.
- + Just a few miles from the Canadian border, Scobey is home to Pioneer Town with 35 historical buildings.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

BEST TIME TO VISIT

The allure of summertime frontier festivals and hot dry weather is hard to beat, but some enthusiasts time their visit to northeast Montana based on the wildlife. In this part of the state, hunting counts as a season, bird watchers migrate here when the birds do, and anglers follow the hatches (and ice-ups). That said, some of the area's best draws (like antique-ing, museum hopping and scenic drives) are enticing any time of year.

Winters here aren't that snowy, but they can have cold temperatures. Fortunately, northeast Montana's museums and friendly communities offer a welcome diversion from the cold. Then again, most locals embrace a little frostiness—ice fishing is a major draw here.

HOW TO GET HERE

Hop a plane to Sidney, Wolf Point or Glasgow or ride the Amtrak Empire Builder to Malta, Glasgow or Wolf Point or cruise in on US 2 or MT 200. Take in the

enormous blue sky that covers vast reaches of plains, badlands and prairie wilderness. Gas stations may be hours apart, so watch your gauge and enjoy the view.

Also, it's time to perfect the common road courtesy known as the two-fingered wave. When you see approaching traffic, lift two fingers of your left hand off the steering wheel until the other vehicle has passed. The other driver will probably deliver the same low-key salute.

WHAT TO PACK

Bring your play clothes (including cold-weather garb) and nothing flashy. Consider rancher dress: tough comfy jeans, flannel shirts, ball caps and cowboy hats and work boots. Bring your own fishing and hunting gear if you like, but there are outfitters scattered here in this land famous for prime fishing and hunting.

GRAVEL ROADS NEAR FORT PECK & SURROUNDING AREAS

If you see a single raindrop on the back roads near Fort Peck, head back immediately. These roads tend to wash out easily and getting stuck is a real possibility.

PHOTOGRAPHING TRIBAL CEREMONIES

Powwows and dances have deep religious significance and typically do not allow flash photography. Be sure to have permission before snapping photos at tribal ceremonies. For more information on proper etiquette while visiting the reservations and how to best enjoy your experience, contact tribal offices at visitmt.com/indiannations.

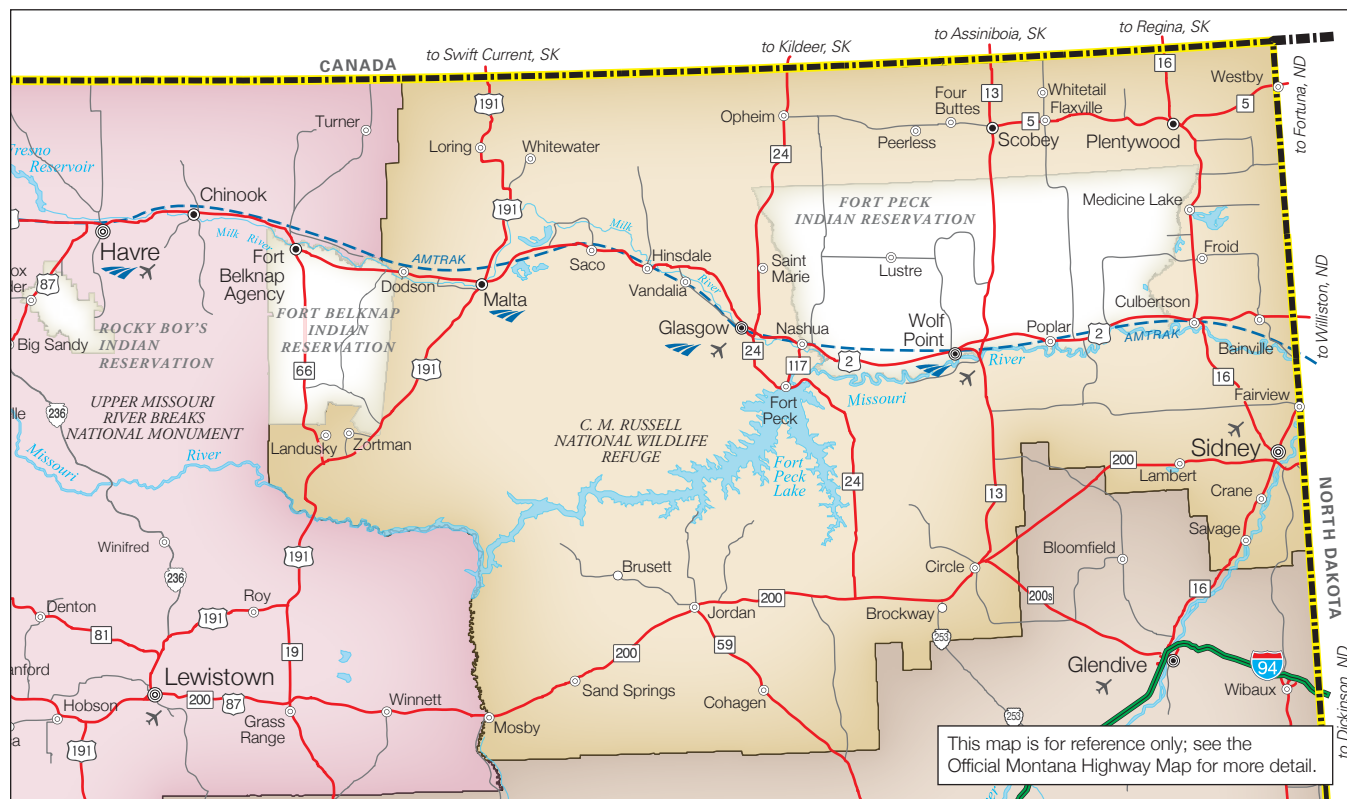
FOOD

In most of the little towns in northeast Montana, the local cafe or bar serves as restaurant and community meeting place. In many of these places you will not only get an amazing meal of steak, walleye or another local favorite, you will get a little bit of the local insight on where to go and what to do. Oh, and probably some amazing homemade pie to top it all off.

PLACES TO GO

COMMUNITIES

CIRCLE is located along the Big Sky Back Country Byway, which links the two major rivers in the state, the Yellowstone





Spring storm over Fort Peck Lake

and the Missouri. The town is very farm and ranch oriented. While in Circle visit the McCone County Museum, with thousands of interesting, historical items from the area. Its wildlife collection consists of over 200 birds and animals mounted and displayed in their natural settings. There are also eight concrete dinosaurs. An old schoolhouse, a church and a homestead house have been moved to the museum area. The old Northern Pacific Depot and an old caboose are also on the grounds. The museum is open May through September.

406.485.2741

www.circle-montana.com

CULBERTSON is one of the oldest towns in eastern Montana. It was founded in 1887 when Montana was still a territory. Visit the Culbertson Museum and Visitor Center for information on the area. It offers a great collection of artifacts and historical photographs.

406.787.5271

www.culbertsonmt.com

FAIRVIEW is divided by the Montana/ North Dakota border. Visit the nearby Fairview Bridge, a rare, vertical-lift bridge listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its past significance and unique engineering, and the Cartwright Train Tunnel. A developed walking trail goes over the bridge and the Yellowstone River.

406.742.5259

FORT PECK was planned and developed by government engineers as the headquarters for construction and operation of the huge Fort Peck Dam. The dam, built in the 1930s, is the largest hydraulic earth-filled dam in the world. The town offers big recreation and entertainment opportunities. Excellent fishing brings visitors to the lake year-round. A state-record walleye and world-record saugeye were caught here during the winter season. A scenic overlook just east of the dam on MT 24 offers views of Fort Peck Lake and interpretation of Lewis and Clark's journey through northeast Montana.

www.visitmt.com/fortpeck

GLASGOW was established in the late 1800s as a railroad town. It is now a regional shopping and trading hub and has the largest full-service motel in the region. The surrounding area is full of scenic rolling plains and open farmland. Roads from Glasgow lead to Fort Peck Lake through the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, home to bugling elk, herds of mule deer, red foxes, coyotes and songbirds.

406.228.2222

www.glasgowchamber.net

JORDAN is your entry to the most remote and beautiful mix of deep river canyons, badlands and prairie wilderness in the West. The most rugged of the terrain is part of the 1,100,000-acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge that

surrounds Fort Peck Lake in a 200-mile-long strip. Wildlife abounds out here. The terrain between Jordan and Fort Peck is famous among paleontologists for its fantastic fossil beds. In 1904, a *Tyrannosaurus rex* was discovered near Jordan in the Hell Creek Formation. A member of the Montana Dinosaur Trail, the Garfield County Museum has a full-size *Triceratops* cast from the original fossils excavated just north of Jordan.

406.557.6158

www.garfieldcounty.com

MALTA is home to ranchers, abundant wildlife and unlimited outdoor recreation. This town is one of the notable stops on the Montana Dinosaur Trail, with two excellent facilities—the Phillips County Museum, featuring a 33-foot-long skeleton of “Elvis” the *Brachylophosaurus*, and the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum and Field Station, displaying rare fossil fish, invertebrates, plants and a variety of dinosaur species. Nearby Nelson Reservoir is stocked with walleye, yellow perch and northern pike for excellent year-round fishing.

406.654.1776

www.maltachamber.com

PLENTYWOOD is the trading center for the people living in the extreme northeastern corner of the state. Visit the Sheridan County Museum, completed in 1968, where you'll find the historical flavor of Plentywood's and Sheridan County's early days. Thirty-one miles south of

FORT PECK RESERVOIR

Only the most senior anglers remember a time without man-made Fort Peck Lake (meaning before 1933), but most can't imagine Montana without the massive fishing mecca. The lake is Montana's largest body of water, swirling with over 50 different kinds of fish, including walleye, northern pike, paddlefish, sauger, lake trout, smallmouth bass and chinook salmon.



Boating on Fort Peck Lake

The lake's ragged shoreline gives anglers plenty of places to look—at 1,520 miles, Fort Peck Lake's shores are longer than the California coast. Beyond those shores, the Charles M. Russell (CMR) National Wildlife Refuge provides over one million acres of public land for fishing, hiking, hunting, camping, bird watching and other outdoor recreation.

Before you head out on the reservoir's dirt roads, check the weather—a simple dirt road can become an impassable bog when muddy.

406.526.3411

www.visitmt.com/fortpeckres

Plentywood lies picturesque Brush Lake State Park, which has a deep, clear lake with white, sandy beaches surrounded by grass fields and linear stands of spring wheat. A little farther south is the Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, where thousands of migrating waterfowl make their summer home.

406.765.8500

www.sheridancountychamber.org

SCOBEY, located 15 miles from the Canadian border, is a clean, peaceful and family-oriented place. This area has some of the best hunting in the U.S. Big game and bird hunters from all over the world flock to northeast Montana seeking white-tailed and mule deer, antelope, pheasants, grouse, ducks and geese.

406.487.2061

www.scobeymt.com

SIDNEY, nicknamed the "Sunrise City," is the largest town in northeast Montana. This agricultural community is situated on the banks of the Yellowstone River, a short distance from the North Dakota line, and is your base for roaming the southeastern sector of Missouri River Country. Sidney's MonDak Heritage Center (named for its location on the Montana/North Dakota border) features area history and includes an extensive street scene of the early 1900s.

406.433.1916

www.sidneymt.com

WOLF POINT is part of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. The same blend of tribal and non-tribal residents (about 50/50) exists today as did in the early 1900s. The Fort Peck Reservation is home to the Dakota-Lokota-Nakota (Sioux) and Dakota (Assiniboine) nations. Today Wolf Point is a trade hub for local farmers and ranchers and a center for the Sioux and Assiniboine. Montana's oldest pro rodeo, the Wild Horse Stampede, is held every July. Even before the term "rodeo" was coined, this was an event staged by American Indians for wild riding skills and celebration.

406.653.2012

www.wolfpointchamber.com

NOTABLE SITES

CHARLES M. RUSSELL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

You'll find bugling elk, herds of mule deer, bighorn sheep, red foxes and coyotes in this scenic refuge that stretches along the Missouri River. Songbirds, like the mountain bluebird and black-capped chickadee, are here in abundance as well. And bring your fishing pole. You'll find walleye, trout, salmon, pike and the flat-billed paddlefish, native to the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. Easiest access to the area is through the Pines Recreation Area, 30 miles southwest of Fort Peck. Accessibility is dependent upon weather and road conditions.

406.538.8706

www.fws.gov/refuge/charles_m_russell



Elk bugling at Slippery Ann Elk Viewing Area, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge



Fort Union Rendezvous at Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site



Fort Peck Interpretive Center, Fort Peck

DANIELS COUNTY MUSEUM AND PIONEER TOWN sits on 20 acres just west of Scobey and includes 35 buildings that have been developed or restored to depict turn-of-the-20th-century businesses and homes. The museum's purpose is to collect, preserve and display Daniels County history in all its forms.

406.487.5965

www.scobeymt.com/museum.html

FORT PECK FISH HATCHERY With hundreds of valves, miles of water pipes and panels of computer circuitry, this 22,000-square-foot facility will amaze your whole family. As the largest and most technically sophisticated hatchery in Montana, it features 64 rearing tanks and incubation capacity for up to 125 million walleye eggs and 500,000 chinook salmon eggs. Open all year.

406.526.3689

www.visitmt.com/fishhatchery

FORT PECK INDIAN RESERVATION

Learn about the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes at the Fort Peck Culture Center and Museum in Poplar. It features cultural exhibits and arts and crafts.

406.768.2300

www.fortpecktribes.org

FORT PECK INTERPRETIVE CENTER AND MUSEUM

Bring the whole family and enjoy interpretive programs, theater presentations and nature hikes, all covering a wide variety of topics, at this fascinating museum located immediately downstream of the immense Fort Peck

Dam and overlooking the Missouri River. The center features exhibits on wildlife of the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, paleontology (including a cast of the *Tyrannosaurus rex* known as Peck's Rex), Fort Peck Dam construction and homesteading. Open April through November.

406.526.3493

www.visitmt.com/ftpeckinterp

FORT PECK SUMMER THEATRE Built in 1934 as a temporary structure by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, this building is home to the Fort Peck Summer Theatre. In 1983 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Take note of the handcrafted light fixtures and the massive, hand-hewn beams along with the Arc movie projector originally used in the 1930s.

406.228.9216

www.fortpecktheatre.org

GREAT PLAINS DINOSAUR MUSEUM AND FIELD STATION

No trip through Montana is complete without a tour of the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum and Field Station in Malta, one of the stops on the Montana Dinosaur Trail. On display are spectacular dinosaur specimens, stunning invertebrates, fossil fish and rare fossil plants. The museum also offers lectures, educational programs and a unique gift store with a variety of special gifts and souvenirs for all ages. Open May through October.

406.654.5300

www.greatplainsdinosaurs.org

THINGS TO DO

EVENTS

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

MONDAK AG DAYS AND TRADE SHOW – SIDNEY, JANUARY

This two-day trade show has livestock judging, seminars, farm video tours and Ag in the Classroom displays, topped off by a banquet on Saturday night featuring popular entertainment.

406.433.1206

ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT – FORT PECK, FEBRUARY

Competition ice fishing in the Dredge Cuts Trout Pond at Fort Peck Lake! Top prize is \$2,000, with other cash and merchandise prizes. Any fish caught could be the winner, from northern pike to walleyes. Bring the whole family, dress warmly and expect to have a lot of fun. The holes are pre-drilled, so just bring a scoop, a bucket, your fishing equipment and whatever you need to spend three hours on the ice.

406.228.2222

SCHMECKFEST – LUSTRE, MARCH

The Lustre Christian High School hosts a German festival of tasting where cooks use authentic German recipes, making sure the food is the real deal. See table displays of model airplanes, quilts, leather crafts, dolls, pottery and more.

DINOSAUR DIGGING

Can you dig it?

Yes, you can. But make that a qualified yes, because you shouldn't head out on your own with a shovel and pick. For starters, it's unlikely you'll find anything. But more importantly, it's illegal to dig for fossils on public lands without a permit.

Fortunately, there are dig opportunities where you can actually become a part of unearthing important fossil finds, in the proper manner.

So if you want to dig for dinosaurs, ask at any of the Montana Dinosaur Trail facilities.

They'll provide information about dig opportunities in their area...but please note, there may be participation fees.

All Montana Dinosaur Trail members adhere to and support the current code of ethics established by the Society of Vertebrate

Paleontology, which prohibits the illegal collection and sale of paleontological resources.



Educational program at the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum and Field Station

*Great Plains Dinosaur Museum & Field Station, Malta
www.greatplainsdinosaurs.org*

*Phillips County Museum, Malta
www.phillipscountymuseum.org*

*Garfield County Museum, Jordan
www.garfieldcounty.com/our-museum.html*

*Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum, Fort Peck
www.visitmt.com/ftpeckinterp
www.mtdinotrail.org*

Don't miss the evening's silent auction and live auction.

406.392.5735

FORT PECK SUMMER THEATRE – FORT PECK, MAY-SEPTEMBER

The Fort Peck Summer Theatre provides live theater with a company of professional performers and technicians, along with a host of regional performers of all ages.

406.228.9216

FORT UNION RENDEZVOUS –

SIDNEY, JUNE Fort Union Trading Post comes alive with an encampment of traders, craftsmen and Native Americans that allows visitors a glimpse of history.

New experiences each year with demonstrations, speakers and storytellers.
701.572.9083

MONTANA DINOSAUR FESTIVAL –

MALTA, JUNE A wild weekend of fun that includes displays, dino presentations, kids' crafts, activities, games, food, a car show and the Phillips County Motor Sports Drag Races.

406.654.5300

PIONEER DAYS, DIRTY SHAME SHOW AND ANTIQUE SHOW – SCOBAY, JUNE

Take in a Thresherman's Breakfast then stroll down the boardwalks of Pioneer Town to explore more than 35 preserved buildings. Antique cars and equipment are on display all weekend. Enjoy entertainment at the Dirty Shame Saloon, featuring the Dirty Shame Belles, comedy skits and the Dixieland Band. Don't miss the antique car and tractor parade.

406.487.5965

RED BOTTOM CELEBRATION –

FRAZER, JUNE Red Bottom Celebration has been an annual powwow for over 100 years, celebrating native culture and traditions through dancing, food, crafts and fellowship with one another.

All members of the general public are welcome to participate or watch.

406.768.2300

MONTANA GOVERNOR'S CUP WALLEYE TOURNAMENT – FORT PECK, JULY

Anglers from all over Montana, 18 states and Canada gather at Fort Peck Lake to try for the \$15,000 first-place prize. Events include a fish fry, barbecue, Gals and Guys Tournament and youth fishing festival.

406.228.2222

SUNRISE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS –

SIDNEY, JULY Enjoy artists' and crafters' booths under colorful canopies, pottery demonstrations, a food fair, children's activities in the Kids Korner and live entertainment on the pavilion stage all day.

406.433.1916

WOLF POINT WILD HORSE

STAMPEDE – WOLF POINT, JULY

A three-day event including a PRCA-sanctioned rodeo that brings the best cowboys to town. There is a parade each day, along with a carnival, the Human Stampede Run/Walk, the world-famous wild horse race and more.

406.650.7142

NORTHEAST MONTANA THRESHING BEE AND ANTIQUE SHOW – CULBERTSON, SEPTEMBER

The Northeast Montana Threshing Bee and Antique Show is a two-day show held each year the fourth full weekend in September that features threshing bundles, sawing logs, a parade of old tractors and machinery, a small engine display, a shingle saw, a lumber planer, a flea market space, a car show and a free barbecue Saturday evening.

406.787.5265

CULTURE/HISTORY

DINOSAUR TRAIL

Montana's Dinosaur Trail in Missouri River Country is a mecca for dinosaur hunters—thanks to its fossil-rich formations and its unique dinosaur attractions. Explore museums with Montana dinosaur discoveries and visit field stations (fossil preparation labs). Highlights of the Montana Dinosaur Trail in this region include the Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum, Garfield County Museum, Phillips County Museum and the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum and Field Station.

www.mtdinotrail.org

FORT UNION TRADING POST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Missouri River's preeminent fur-trading post from the 1820s to the Civil War, Fort Union was a colorful mix of river boaters, fur traders, Plains Indian tribes and frontier capitalists. Bourgeois House, once the setting of elegant dinners for distinguished guests, is now a visitor center. Fort Union straddles the Montana-North Dakota border, east of Bainville. Open daily all year.

701.572.9083

www.nps.gov/fous



Fort Peck Summer Theatre



Red Bottom Celebration in Frazer

GARFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM

This museum in Jordan is a stop along the Montana Dinosaur Trail and features area history rich in fossils and homesteading. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day. 406.557.2517
www.visitmt.com/garfield

MONDAK HERITAGE CENTER MUSEUM

View all types of professionally produced art, ranging from contemporary to Western. A re-created 1890s homestead-era museum occupies the lower floor. This is one of the region's premier museums and art galleries, with the largest available exhibit space of any such combined facility in the area. The center hosts about 18 different shows every year, meaning you'll always find something new and interesting at the MonDak, located in Sidney. Open all year. 406.433.3500
www.mondakheritagecenter.org

PHILLIPS COUNTY MUSEUM is located in Malta. The museum was established to preserve the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Phillips County region. Historical exhibits include mining, Native Americans, dinosaurs, outlaws and farm/ranch/homestead items. The Phillips County Museum is one of the Montana Dinosaur Trail stops. Open all year. 406.654.1037
www.phillipscountymuseum.org

VALLEY COUNTY PIONEER MUSEUM

in Glasgow is home to a chronological history of the region from the age of dinosaurs to the present day, and includes one of the largest Assiniboine Indian material culture collections in the world. Open daily Memorial Day to Labor Day. Spring, fall and winter hours are limited. 406.228.8692
www.valleycountymuseum.com

ZORTMAN HISTORIC MINING TOWN

Gold established the community of Zortman. Many mines were sunk into the mountainsides, the most prosperous being the Ruby Gulch Mine in 1904. Today, Zortman has switched its role from a bustling and prosperous mining town to a quaint and nostalgic village. Visitors to this eastern Montana town can enjoy the nearby Little Rocky Mountains and the UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge within the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, 40 miles southeast of Zortman. 406.654.1776
www.visitmt.com/zortman

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

FISHING In Missouri River Country, you'll spend your time wetting your line, not spinning fish tales. Trolling for walleye at the celebrated Fort Peck Reservoir or trying your luck from the shores of the Missouri River will give you ample opportunity for great fish stories. Fort Peck

boasts over 1,500 miles of shoreline, and you'll find peace and quiet, accompanied by a few friends and plenty of walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, ling and chinook salmon. Nelson Reservoir, covering 4,500 acres about 17 miles from Malta, is also home to record-size walleye, yellow perch and northern pike. Visit both reservoirs in winter for premier ice fishing. The Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers offer excellent opportunities for catching paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon — prehistoric monsters that still live here today. For fishing regulation's information, contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 406.444.2535 or the Glasgow office at 406.228.3700.
www.fwp.mt.gov/fishing

HUNTING Antelope, white-tailed and mule deer, elk, turkeys and other game birds are all quarry for hunters in Missouri River Country. Pheasants and grouse are abundant. Sage hens and ducks are also hunted here, in addition to sharp-tailed and sage grouse and Hungarian partridge. Wild geese land by the thousands along the Missouri River in the fall, making this area a goose hunter's paradise. Medicine Lake is famous for the flocks of geese that land there. The wide-open spaces provide ideal hunting country, and the communities of Missouri River Country enthusiastically welcome hunters from near and far. Guest ranches and guided hunting trips are available. Remember, you must have permission to

DRIVING TOURS IN MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

Fort Peck Lake Drive

Follow a portion of giant Fort Peck Lake, which has more shoreline itself than the California coastline. Start at Fort Peck Dam, one of the world's largest dams, and head south on MT 24 to its junction with MT 200.

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

A 15-mile self-guided Auto Tour Route winds through a variety of wildlife habitats. Keep your binoculars and camera ready for views of pronghorns and Baird's sparrows, American avocets and black-necked stilts, yellow-headed blackbirds and muskrats. Stop by the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge headquarters for a brochure on the self-guided tour. Open all year.
406.654.2863 www.fws.gov/refuge/bowdoin

Medicine Lake National

Wildlife Refuge A 14-mile Wildlife Drive winds through prairie and wetland habitats, providing opportunities to view a wide array of wildlife typical of the northern Great Plains. A foot trail leads to a viewing platform equipped with all-season binoculars overlooking the white pelican nesting colony. Entrance to the Wildlife Drive is adjacent to the refuge headquarters and is open daily from dawn to dusk, all year.

406.789.2305 www.fws.gov/medicinelake

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

This is one of America's greatest wilderness regions. Some of the canyons are 1,000 feet deep and harbor elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, deer and prairie dog towns. More than 200 species of birds and 40 species of mammals have been identified on the refuge. The self-guided tour takes you out near Lewis and Clark's 1805 campsite and in the vicinity of the site of two historic frontier towns—Rocky Point and Carroll. Accessibility is dependent on weather and road conditions.

For maps and information call the CMR at 406.538.8706, ext. 221.
www.fws.gov/refuge/charles_m_russell

Leo B. Coleman Wildlife Exhibit

Off MT 117 is a loop drive around 230 acres that are home to bison, pronghorn antelope and mule deer.

hunt on private land. Maps of public land and access can be obtained from Bureau of Land Management area offices. A BLM map of the area you are in is essential in northeast Montana. Contact BLM, Malta, at 406.654.5100 or BLM, Glasgow, at 406.228.3750. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks offers a cooperative program between private landowners and FWP called Block Management, which helps landowners manage hunting activities and provides the public with free hunting access to private land, and sometimes to adjacent or isolated public lands. Block Management addresses fall hunting only—spring bear and turkey hunting access are typically not included in the program. For more information about hunting in Missouri River Country, contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 406.444.2535 or the Glasgow office at 406.228.3700.
www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting

MILK RIVER OBSERVATION POINT

East of Fort Peck on MT 24, just east of the spillway, a gravel road leads you to the bottom of a hill. Hike to the top and see for miles and miles. This is where Lewis and Clark sat and gazed down at the river below that looked "milky," and therefore was named the Milk River.
406.526.3411

NORTHEASTERN PLAINS BIRDING

TRAIL has some of Montana's best bird watching locations. The trail provides an up-close-and-personal look at the grasslands, badlands and wetlands of northeast Montana. The grasslands have remained relatively intact compared to much of the Great Plains, while the wind- and water-sculpted hills of the badlands provide a unique landscape for rock wrens, Say's Phoebe and ferruginous hawks. The wetland trail wanders through prairie potholes, home to Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrows and yellow rails. All of these areas provide important breeding and nesting habitats for a full range of species.

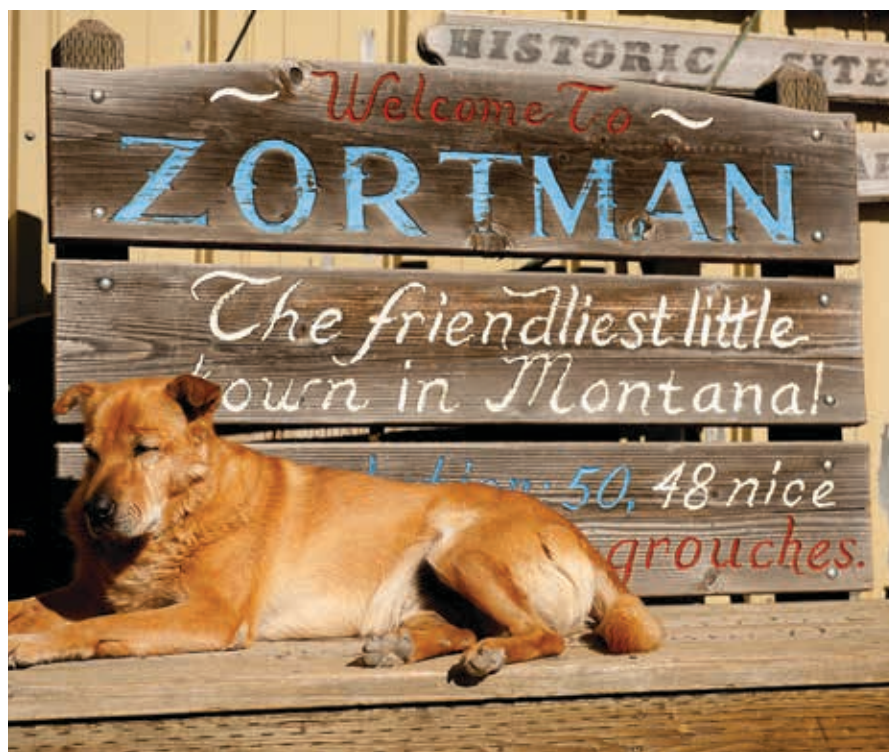
www.nemontanabirdingtrail.org

SLEIGH RIDES All those Christmas carols were right. You may not exactly remember the lyrics, but you always remember riding a sleigh through the woods, watching the winter dusk unfold to the tune of jingling sleigh bells. Catch a sleigh ride at the Sand Creek Clydesdales Ranch in Jordan.

406.557.2865

www.sandcreekclydesdales.net

SNOWSHOEING If you can walk, you can snowshoe. Montana's easiest-to-learn winter sport can take you up spectacular trails just about any place there's snow,



Lazy day in Zortman

with minimum equipment and a negligible learning curve. Missouri River Country's many wildlife refuges are a great place to start shoeing this winter.

TRAILS OF OUTLAWS The likes of Kid Curry, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, members of the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang (aka the Wild Bunch), Dutch Henry and others stormed a trail of devastation through eastern Montana. The Outlaw Trail, an intricate, loosely defined route of escape for turn-of-the-20th-century outlaws, wound through eastern Montana on its way from Canada to Mexico.
406.653.1319

SCENIC & WILDLIFE

AMERICAN PRAIRIE RESERVE is a growing wildlife reserve that provides abundant wildlife watching, outstanding scenery and a true sense of the wide open. Stunning vistas make a great backdrop for camping, hiking, hunting, biking, bird watching or a driving tour. South of Malta. Open all year.
877.273.1123
www.americanprairie.org

BIG SKY BACK COUNTRY BYWAY

Traveling through the Great Plains section of Montana, the Big Sky Back Country Byway traverses the vast expanses of land and sky that has earned Montana its nickname. With the Missouri River and Wolf Point at the byway's northern end, and the Yellowstone River and the town of Terry at the southern end, this 105-mile byway is a great place to fish, hunt, hike and sightsee.

406.233.2800

WILDLIFE VIEWING The driving tours listed on page 76 offer excellent wildlife viewing. In addition, hundreds of elk congregate in the Slippery Ann Wildlife Viewing Area on the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge each fall (September and October). This area is along an excellent 20-mile-long self-guided tour, which can be accessed from two points along US 191. The tour takes about two hours to complete.

800.653.1319

www.visitmt.com/watchablewildlife

PISCINE PURSUITS, ON ICE

What's more fun than luring reluctant fish up from under the ice? Having oodles of other similarly minded folks out there with you to clink cocoa cups with. Ice fishing tournaments attract winter anglers to swap tales, raise funds for worthy causes and win bragging rights (and major cash) with a grand prize. At tournaments with pre-drilling, you don't even have to cut your own hole. But you do have to bring your own fur (or faux fur) hat.



Ice fishing on Fort Peck Lake

For more information visit fwp.mt.gov, search "fishing contest" or call 800.653.1319.

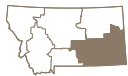


Hell Creek badlands



SOUTHEAST MONTANA

www.southeastmontana.com · 800.346.1876



Nowhere does cowboy culture and American Indian lore live on like it does in Southeast Montana. While this region is largely made up of ranch land and rural communities, Southeast Montana's spectacular badlands and rolling prairie play host to real-life cattle drives and rodeos, wild-horse stampedes and powwows. Southeast Montana is also a land of contrasts. It is home to Billings, the state's largest city. Though many Montanans enjoy visiting Billings for its "big city" cuisine and entertainment, out-of-staters will delight in its cowboyish charm—bolo ties on for big occasions, custom-made cowboy hats and one of the state's largest rodeos.

You don't need to be a local or even know about the history here to sense the chill of battle at the Little Bighorn Battlefield or feel the "big medicine" at Medicine Rocks State Park. You don't have to be a cowboy to thrill at the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale or marvel at the Big Horn County Museum. But to really soak up Southeast Montana, you may have to get a little dirty—and sometimes a little snowy. After all, some of the best draws here are hunting, angling (especially for prehistoric paddlefish), dinosaur fossil hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding and agate-hounding.

Explorers here have a perfect Hollywood-Western backdrop: the sheer 1,000-foot plunge into Bighorn Canyon, Pompeys Pillar (complete with William Clark's signature) and the surreal badlands formations at Makoshika State Park. Between cattle drives and dude ranches, snowshoeing trips and the Crow Fair and Rodeo, Southeast Montana is where the landscape, the history and the laid-back way of life join together to make a memorable Montana experience.



Left: Makoshika State Park near Glendive

Above: Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area near Fort Smith

AT A GLANCE

- + *The Jersey Lily is the only business still running in tiny Ingomar, located along US 12 between Forsyth and Roundup, but the bean soup is renowned around the state.*
- + *Near Billings, you'll find Pictograph Cave State Park, thought to be inhabited prehistorically for about 10,000 years. Excavations in the area have unearthed almost 30,000 Paleo-Indian artifacts.*
- + *Makoshika (as in Makoshika State Park) translates into "land of bad spirits" in Lakota. It's pronounced ma-KO-she-ka.*
- + *When Pierre Wibaux's father sent money to build a Catholic church, Wibaux set the Norman French immigrants to task building a fancy old-Europe-style church, St. Peter's, in the town of Wibaux.*
- + *85 percent of the Crow on the Crow Reservation speak Crow as their first language.*

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

BEST TIME TO VISIT

To experience a powwow or a cattle drive, you'll want to hit Southeast Montana in the summer. Fall is decidedly hunting season in these parts, and fly fishers happily fish on through the winter (and every other season). Hikers and mountain bikers can start exploring as soon as the snow melts in spring, on through the summer and into fall, when the weather is cool enough to keep sweatiness at bay. In the winter, cross-country skis and snowshoes turn the scenery into your playground, and if you want to get in some downhill turns, head to Red Lodge Mountain Resort, just an hour southwest of Billings.

HOW TO GET HERE

I-94 and I-90 constitute the main pipelines, with MT 59, US 12 and US 212 (also known as the Warrior Trail) branching off. Logan International Airport in Billings is the

state's largest and has direct flights from nine major U.S. cities year-round, with additional flights added for the summer months.

As you drive Southeast Montana's scenic byways, remember to give horseback riders on the road plenty of clearance, and drive around them very slowly. If you encounter a cattle drive crossing the road, wait for signals from the cattlemen that it's safe to move through.

WHAT TO PACK

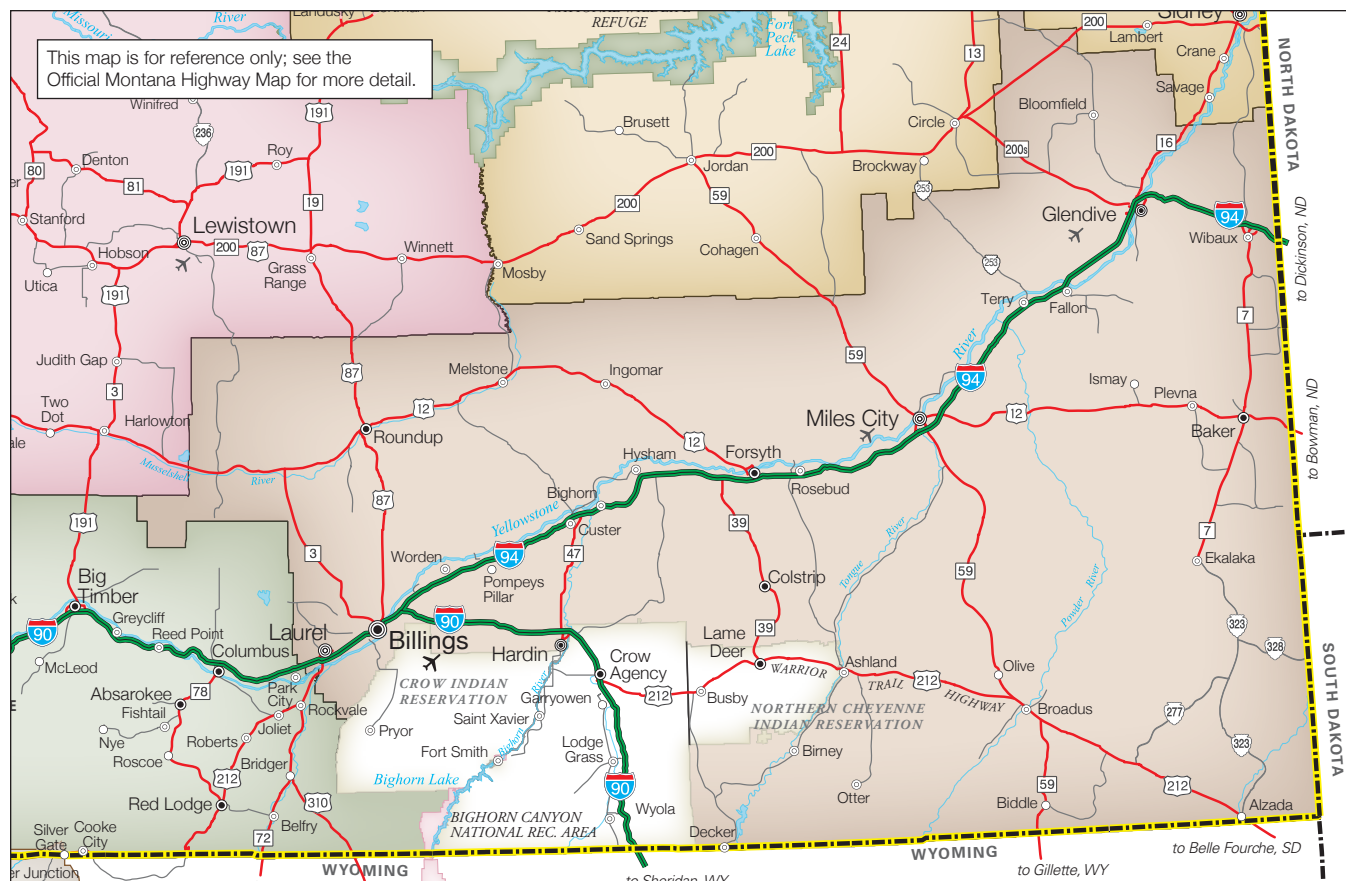
If you're heading to a cattle drive or working ranch, absolutely bring your cowboy boots! You'll soon discover just how functional they really are. For general tromping about, you'll want a good pair of tennis shoes or hiking boots and a few layers, especially a wind-resistant one. In the winter, gloves, hat, a warm parka and snow boots will most likely come in handy. Dress is casual here, and you'd be hard-pressed to tell a ranching baron from a farmhand on clothes alone. Blue jeans, sweatshirts and ball caps are the norm.

PHOTOGRAPHING TRIBAL CEREMONIES

Powwows and dances have deep religious significance and typically do not allow flash photography. Be sure to have permission before snapping photos at tribal ceremonies. For more information on proper etiquette while visiting the reservations and how to best enjoy your experience, contact tribal offices at visitmt.com/indiannations.

FOOD

Food runs the gamut in Southeast Montana, from Asian fusion picks in Billings to gourmet, locally grown fare found in unlikely little ranching towns like Broadus. Expect "homestyle prairie food"—beef steaks and potatoes. Soak up the town's character and meet friendly locals by figuring out where the locals eat—in many small towns, the best restaurant or longest-standing bar serves as an informal community gathering spot. Also, we know beer isn't food, but we would be remiss if we didn't encourage you to sample Southeast Montana's





Running along the rims in Billings

authentic microbrewed beer from one of Billings' many microbreweries, or from Beaver Creek Brewery in Wibaux, where the stout perfectly complements the homemade chocolate chip cookie included with every pint.

PLACES TO GO

COMMUNITIES

BAKER No matter which direction you look in Baker, you will see stretches of scenery painted with golden fields and sandstone, arched horizon to horizon with the big, beautiful, blue sky. Baker offers a variety of year-round activities including fishing and hunting for deer, pronghorn antelope, pheasants and turkeys. The town also features two community museums.

406.778.2266

www.bakermt.com

BILLINGS is "Montana's Trailhead." Many visitors to Southeast Montana enter the state via Billings' Logan International Airport, Montana's largest. Billings makes a perfect base camp for your excursions into Southeast Montana. If you want to experience big-city dining, lodging and shopping, all with the small-town friendliness you'd expect in a visit to Montana, Billings is your place.

406.245.4111

www.visitbillings.com

BROADUS is just west of the Powder River and has been described as the "Gateway and Crossroads" of Southeast Montana. The town has several museums showcasing the original county jail, antique cars, Native American artifacts, unique minerals, wildlife mounts, antique and commemorative guns and local art.

406.436.2778

www.visitmt.com/broadus

CROW RESERVATION The Crow (Apsáalooke) Tribe of Indians has a membership of approximately 12,000, 8,000 of whom reside on the Crow Indian Reservation. The town of Crow Agency is the tribal capital. The tribe calls itself Apsáalooke, which means "children of the large-beaked bird." White men later misinterpreted the word as "Crow." The Crow Indian Reservation is the largest of the state's eight recognized Indian reservations, encompassing approximately 2.3 million acres. Feel the pride and experience the traditions of the Apsáalooke people, and take a cultural tour through the Big Horn College at Crow Agency. The Apsáalooke Nation Tribal Tourism Department, **406.638.1800**, also offers specialized individual tours.

406.638.3700

www.crowtribe.com

EKALAKA is just south of Medicine Rocks State Park and is home to Carter County Museum—the first county museum in the state of Montana. The museum is one

of the stops on the Montana Dinosaur Trail and features some of the finest paleontological discoveries in the U.S. Chalk Buttes, Long Pines and Ekalaka Hills near town provide excellent camping and hunting for mule deer, white-tailed deer and wild turkeys.

406.775.8731

www.cartercountychamberofcommerce.com

GLEN DIVE is tucked between the badlands and the Yellowstone River, and is considered the hub city of the rich inland agricultural area of eastern Montana. Makoshika State Park, one of the most impressive badlands areas in America, borders the southern edge of Glendive. It has highly unusual rock formations and is a virtual warehouse of prehistoric fossils, mineral specimens and dinosaur bones.

406.377.7792

www.visitglendive.com

HARDIN is situated near the Bighorn River and along the edge of the Crow Indian Reservation. The town is surrounded by productive ranches and farms. The Big Horn County Historical Museum is located here and consists of 23 historic structures and several exhibit buildings. South of Hardin is the Little Bighorn Battlefield, where the Northern Plains Indians defeated Custer and the U.S. Cavalry.

406.665.1672

www.thehardinchamber.org

LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT

In 1876, this hallowed ground witnessed "Custer's Last Stand," as Lakota, Northern Cheyenne and Arapahoe warriors defeated Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and his entire battalion during the most prolific battle of the Great Sioux War of 1876.



Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

An interpretive trail walks visitors through the battle in key locations where it unfolded, while a museum brings history to life with actual weapons, uniforms and photographs.

Markers for the fallen from both sides dot the hillsides, and the neatly plotted Custer National Cemetery amasses the losses. In honor of fallen American Indians, the "Peace through Unity" memorial highlights quotes, drawings and other expressions from a Native American perspective. Open all year.

406.638.2621

www.nps.gov/libi

Apsaalooke Tours

Tours of the battlefield by Native American guides are offered on a daily schedule, five times per day, from June through Labor Day, on a 25-passenger bus with Apsaalooke Tours. Private, step-on tours are available by request.

406.638.3897

www.lbhc.edu

MILES CITY Steeped in history, Miles City remains a true Western town. Vast stretches of plains and badlands branch out in all directions. The Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers flow unblemished in long sections. Once the horse-trading and livestock center of the country, Miles City still lives the "West," whether it's in the 1950s-era main street, the authentically refurbished early 1900s saloon, the Bucking Horse Sale or museums and galleries that focus on range riders and Western artists who call Montana home.

406.234.2890

www.milescitychamber.com

NORTHERN CHEYENNE

RESERVATION The Northern Cheyenne are known in their native language as Notameomesehese, meaning "Northern Eaters." The reservation is approximately 445,000 acres in size with 99 percent tribal ownership. The tribe has approximately 10,050 enrolled tribal members with about 4,939 residing on the reservation. The tribal capital of the Northern Cheyenne is in the town of Lama Deer. See the Chief Two Moons Monument in Busby and learn about the Northern Cheyenne people.

406.477.6284

www.cheyennenation.com

ROUNDUP One of the many attractions in the Roundup area is the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum, which houses a coal tunnel, complete with wooden car, carbide lamps, lunch pails, displays, maps and photos. The Bull Mountains, south of Roundup, offer beautiful roadside geology and pine trees. North of town are oil wells, evidence of another rich mineral in the area. Eight miles north of Roundup is the Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge where commonly observed wildlife includes long-billed curlews, upland sandpipers, sage grouse, pronghorn antelope and a variety of raptors. The Musselshell River, noted for its fine trout and catfish, also offers plentiful spots for relaxing picnics along its lazy banks.

406.323.1966

TERRY is just northeast of Miles City. The town's main attraction is the Prairie County Museum and Evelyn Cameron Gallery. The museum displays early-settler artifacts, and the gallery showcases the incredible photographs taken by Evelyn Cameron in the 1800s. Terry also sits on the edge of the Terry Badlands. The Calypso Trail, an old bootlegging road, allows vehicles (high clearance recommended) to explore this beautiful area. The town offers many



Crow Fair in Crow Agency



Makoshika Dinosaur Museum, Glendive

services including the Kempton Hotel, known to be the haunt of friendly spirits and the oldest continuously operating hotel in Montana.

406.635.5598

www.visitterymontana.com

WIBAUX is a friendly, Western town with a colorful history and a charming historic district. A visitor information center provides an introduction to the area and its history. Beaver Creek, which flows through Wibaux, has produced some big fish, including walleye and northern pike in excess of 10 pounds. Catfish and bullheads can also be caught in the creek, while panfish and trout are found in many area farm ponds. A public pond with picnic area is located on the edge of the city limits on MT 7 South. A blend of badlands and rolling hills offers fine photography and hunting for mule deer, white-tailed deer and pronghorn antelope. Upland game birds also are plentiful in some parts of this area. Deer, wild turkeys, beavers and a wide variety of songbirds are frequently spotted, sometimes right in town!

406.796.2412

www.visitmt.com/wibaux

NOTABLE SITES

BIGHORN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA is a lesser-known treasure waiting to be discovered. It boasts breathtaking scenery, countless varieties of wildlife and abundant

recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, ice fishing, camping and hiking. There are two visitor centers and other developed facilities in Fort Smith, Montana, and near Lovell, Wyoming.

406.666.2412

www.nps.gov/bica

BIG HORN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM is located one mile east of Hardin, only 15 miles from the famous Little Bighorn Battlefield. The museum complex consists of 23 historic structures; several small exhibit buildings and a main exhibit building that feature a rotating exhibit; and offices, a visitor center and a gift shop. This 22-acre site, once a flourishing vegetable farm, was donated in 1979 to the Big Horn County Historical Society for a museum. The farmhouse and barn are part of the original farm site. The other historic buildings have been moved to the museum from various locations in Big Horn County. Additional exhibits include horse-drawn equipment, farm machinery, tractors and early-day automobiles. Open all year (historic buildings are closed October 1 through May 1).

406.665.1671

www.bighorncountymuseum.org

MAKOSHICA STATE PARK To the Sioux Indians, Makoshika (pronounced ma-KO-she-ka) meant "land of bad spirits." Today, as Montana's largest state park, the pine- and juniper-studded badlands formations



Exhibit at the Waterworks Art Museum, Miles City

near Glendive house the fossil remains of such dinosaurs as *Tyrannosaurus rex* and *Triceratops*. You'll find a visitor center at the park entrance with exhibits explaining the site's geologic, fossil and prehistoric stories. During the winter, Makoshika State Park is an excellent backdrop for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, conditions permitting. Open all year. For more information or camping reservations go to stateparks.mt.gov.

406.377.6256

POMPEYS PILLAR NATIONAL MONUMENT AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER, east of Billings, is the location of the only remaining physical evidence of Captain William Clark's return through the Yellowstone Valley. Walk along a boardwalk to see where Captain Clark carved his name in the sandstone pillar on July 25, 1806. The interpretive center features exhibits relating to Clark's exploration of the Yellowstone River route, along with exhibits on native culture, flora and fauna, the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the historical legacy of Pompeys Pillar. Open May through September.

406.875.2400

www.pompeyspillar.org

RANGE RIDERS MUSEUM, located in Miles City, consists of 11 buildings that house thousands of artifacts portraying authentic Great Plains pioneer life. The displays include photos of early-day settlers, saddles, antiquated cameras,



Rodeo romp at the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale

quilts, household utensils, guns, historic records, a homestead house, a one-room school, a frontier town with 11 shops, Indian artifacts and much, much more. It's the largest Western museum in the area. Open April through October. 406.232.6146 www.rangeridersmuseum.org

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND WIBAUX COUNTY MUSEUM COMPLEX The story of Pierre Wibaux (for whom the town and county are named) and his wife is told during the tour of the Wibaux Museum Complex. Enjoy the historical walking tour of the Wibaux Business District, St. Peter's Catholic Church, built in 1895, and Wibaux Park, a carefully crafted garden of cottonwood trees and flowers. Open May through September. 406.796.9969 www.visitmt.com/wibaux

Zoomontana and Botanical Gardens, located in Billings, is Montana's only zoo and one of the region's most popular attractions. A winding nature trail follows Canyon Creek for views of the native and exotic animals in their natural habitat. Kids love the Montana Homestead petting zoo set in a farm and ranch environment. Open all year. 406.652.8100 www.zoomontana.org

THINGS TO DO

EVENTS

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

ARTWALK – BILLINGS, FEBRUARY

The Artwalk is a community art event scheduled five times a year in downtown Billings. Galleries and businesses host free receptions for artisans from 5 to 9 p.m. Maps are available at each gallery. Free bus transportation also available. 406.259.6563

MILES CITY BUCKING HORSE SALE – MILES CITY, MAY

Besides excellent bronc and bareback riding, the Bucking Horse Sale offers bull riding, pari-mutuel horse racing, the Bucking Horse Sale Trade Exposition, concerts, dances, a parade and lots of area entertainment. 406.874.2825

BUZZARD DAY – GLENDALE, JUNE

Celebrate spring and the turkey vulture's return to Makoshika State Park on Buzzard Day. Activities include a pancake breakfast, nature walks, 5K and 10K Buzzard Runs, festival games and food. 406.377.6256

LITTLE BIGHORN DAYS – HARDIN, JUNE

Little Bighorn Days are four days of festivities commemorating the sights and sounds of the past, with legends that surround it woven throughout the various events. Dancers from around the world dress in period costumes to attend the 1876 Grand Ball. Dance lessons are offered the evening prior to the dance. Award-winning local quilters display their latest creations at the local library. Art exhibits are held in the JailHouse Gallery and Historic Train Depot. Take your children to the Big Horn County Historical Museum for hands-on fun featuring crafts of a bygone era! Come hungry—breakfast, lunch and dinner are served throughout the festival. 406.665.3577 or 406.665.1672

REAL BIRD CUSTER BATTLE REENACTMENT – GARRYOWEN, JUNE

This reenactment tells the story of Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn from a Native American perspective, based on stories handed down from those with firsthand knowledge of the battle and passed from generation to generation. This reenactment is located near Garryowen on the actual site of the battle on the weekend of its anniversary in June. 406.679.3825

CLARK DAYS – POMPEYS PILLAR, JULY This annual celebration is held over a weekend in mid-summer at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. Enjoy interpretive programs, guest speakers, demonstrations, games and a Native American cultural presentation. Free admission. Camping available Saturday night.
406.896.5235

DINO SHINDIG – EKALAKA, JULY Enjoy two days of intrigue and adventure with the Carter County Museum. Events include world-renowned paleontologist speakers, hands-on dinosaur activities for the whole family, field expeditions and a street dance.
406.775.6886

CROW FAIR AND RODEO – CROW AGENCY, AUGUST The annual Crow Fair celebration, also known as “The Teepee Capital of the World,” is one of the largest gatherings of the year for the Apsáalooke Nation and is considered the largest modern-day Native American encampment in the U.S. Many cultural activities take place throughout the days of this great celebration.
406.638.1800

MONTANAFair – BILLINGS, AUGUST MontanaFair is an agricultural celebration in the historic tradition of fairs. It is the region’s largest event. Enjoy exhibits, a rodeo, concerts, a carnival and stages around the grounds providing free entertainment.
406.256.2400

ASHLAND LABOR DAY POWWOW – ASHLAND, SEPTEMBER Located on US 212 between Ashland and the St. Labre Mission, this event includes drummers and dancers from many tribes. Giveaways, gourd dancing and hand games are part of the festivities.
406.784.2883

BILLINGS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CHORALE: THE NUTCRACKER BALLET – BILLINGS, NOVEMBER Delight in the Billings Symphony Orchestra’s annual live symphonic presentation of Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker*, and watch as this quintessential tale unfolds with beautiful costumes, elaborate sets and creative choreography.
406.252.3610

CHRISTMAS STROLL – MILES CITY, DECEMBER The Christmas Stroll in Miles City celebrates with horse-drawn wagon rides, hayrides and shopping along the streets of the city. There are assorted vendors on the street with everything from Scotch eggs to roasted chestnuts.
406.234.2890

CULTURE/HISTORY

CARTER COUNTY MUSEUM Founded in 1936, this is Montana’s first county museum. Located in Ekalaka, the museum houses some of the finest paleontological discoveries in the U.S., as well as numerous artifacts depicting the lives of Native Americans and the early settlers of Carter County. Among the paleontological treasures is a mounted skeleton of an *Anatotitan copei* (duck-billed hadrosaur), complete skulls of *Triceratops horridus* (three horns) and a *Nanotyrannus lancensis* (tiny tyrannosaur), all collected in the Cretaceous Hell Creek Formation. One of the 14 stops along the Montana Dinosaur Trail. Open all year.
406.775.6886
www.cartercountymuseum.org

CHIEF PLENTY COUPS STATE PARK You’ll be humbled to stand on land once owned by warrior-turned-pacifist Chief Plenty Coups, the last chief of the Crow tribe. The park, near Pryor, provides interpretation of Plenty Coups’ life and the Crow tribe’s history, as well as Plenty Coups’ home, store, tepee, modern museum and grounds for walking and picnicking. Open May 1 through September 30. Winter hours apply October 1 through April 30.
406.252.1289
www.stateparks.mt.gov

GLENDEIVE DINOSAUR AND FOSSIL MUSEUM features several full-size dinosaur and fossil exhibits plus a myriad of singular fossils, and is one of the largest dinosaur and fossil museums in the U.S. to present its fossils in the context of biblical creation. Exhibits continue to be added, so stop back and see what has changed. Open June through September, Tuesday through Saturday; April, May and October, Friday and Saturday.
406.377.3228
www.creationtruth.org

MAKOSHIKA DINOSAUR MUSEUM Located in a historic building in downtown Glendive and with the badlands as a

PADDLEFISHING

What makes 3,000 excited anglers flock to a short section of Yellowstone River shoreline and beat the water to a froth by flailing it with heavier-than-usual fishing gear? Paddlefish!



Illustration of paddlefish

During late May and June, a special breed of angler travels to a rocky stretch of the river near Glendive, at the Intake Diversion Dam. Here, they rig up their saltwater fishing gear and churn the coffee-colored water to catch the senior citizen of the Yellowstone—the paddlefish. Paddlefish are also caught in lesser numbers at the mouths of the Tongue and Powder Rivers and the Forsyth Diversion Dam.

Ask a local for the best fishing places and techniques for catching these prehistoric fish. No time to fish? Take home some Yellowstone Caviar for a unique taste of southeastern Montana, found at the Glendive Chamber of Commerce.

406.234.0900
www.fwp.mt.gov/fishing



Packaged Yellowstone Caviar

EVELYN CAMERON

To save her struggling horse ranch in 1894, Terry, Montana, homesteader Evelyn Cameron took up photography. While she was busy single-handedly running her ranch—milking cows, breaking colts and digging coal during her husband's frequent absences—Evelyn found time to teach herself glass-plate photography. Soon, she was traveling up to 30 miles in a day to photograph friends, strangers, weddings and wildlife.



Janet Williams and Evelyn Cameron, 1910
(photo courtesy of Cameron Gallery)

Inadvertently, Evelyn left behind a window into the past of the plains. Not only did her clear photos of sheepherders, railway workers and frontier women performing “men’s work” (like branding, plowing and roping) paint the picture of prairie life and plains women circa 1900, but her 35 journals gave it a voice.

Nowadays, Evelyn Cameron is honored in the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas, and in the Montana Historical Society in Helena, Montana. To see her photographs, drop by the Evelyn Cameron Gallery within the Prairie County Museum in Terry.

Cameron Gallery
406.635.4040

www.visiterrymontana.com

backdrop, Makoshika Dinosaur Museum is in the heart of dinosaur country and is one stop on the Montana Dinosaur Trail. Many of the dinosaurs displayed were found in the Hell Creek Formation as well as around the world. Open all year.

406.377.1637

www.makoshika.com

MOSS MANSION Step back into history with a one-hour guided tour of the Moss Mansion Historic House Museum in Billings. The tour captures turn-of-the-20th-century life as the Preston Boyd Moss family lived it. See the original draperies, fixtures, furniture, Persian carpets and artifacts displayed in the 1903 red sandstone structure. Designed by the architect of the original Waldorf Astoria and Plaza Hotels, the home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open all year.

406.256.5100

www.mossmansion.com

PRAIRIE COUNTY MUSEUM AND CAMERON GALLERY began in 1975 in the historic 1916 State Bank of Terry building and has grown into a complex that includes the original 1906 State Bank of Terry building, the only steam-heated outhouse this side of the Mississippi, a pioneer homestead, the Burlington Northern train depot, an old wooden red caboose and the famous Evelyn Cameron Gallery of photos. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day.

406.635.4040

www.visitmt.com/prairieco

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

BOATING BIGHORN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Boating, kayaking and canoeing are all excellent ways to enjoy the colors and scenic beauty of Bighorn Canyon. The Ok-A-Beh Marina near Fort Smith offers boaters a variety of amenities—gas, safety equipment, fishing and boating supplies, boat storage, food and drink and pontoon rentals. Hidden Treasure Charters out of Cody, Wyoming, offers a guided tour, and Horseshoe Bend Marina out of Lovell, Wyoming, at the south end of the canyon, rents paddleboats.

406.666.2412

www.nps.gov/bica/planyourvisit/boating.htm

CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL

FOREST Many recreation opportunities exist within the Ashland district of the Custer Gallatin National Forest, including

camping, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (dependent on snow accumulations). For a map of the area visit www.fs.usda.gov/custer. 406.255.1400

HUNTING AND FISHING Upland birds, antelope, deer and elk are some of the wild game in Southeast Montana. Perch, walleye, trout, catfish, sauger, ling, bass and sturgeon are some of the myriad species of fish you’ll find in the rivers, streams and reservoirs.

www.fwp.mt.gov

MEDICINE ROCKS STATE PARK

Medicine Rocks was a place of “big medicine,” where Indian hunting parties prepared themselves for the hunt. Weathering has given the soft sandstone rock formations a Swiss-cheese look, providing a unique landscape filled with meaning and serenity. You’ll enjoy photography, hiking, camping, snowshoeing (dependent on snow accumulations) and wildlife viewing in this remote and primitive site 14 miles north of Ekalaka. Open all year. For more information on the park or for camping reservations, go to stateparks.mt.gov. 406.234.0900

PICTOGRAPH CAVE STATE PARK

This park, located five miles from Billings, is home to the Pictograph, Middle and Ghost Caves complex. It features short, paved hiking trails to rock paintings (pictographs) and interpretive signs describing the paintings and archaeological efforts. A National Historic Landmark, this site was home to prehistoric hunters and, since 1937, has provided over 30,000 artifacts for study. A visitor center, reminiscent of its namesake cave, includes interpretive displays and an educational center. Open all year.

406.254.7342

www.stateparks.mt.gov

TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR STATE PARK

The 12-mile-long reservoir is situated among scenic red shale, juniper canyons and the open prairies of Southeast Montana. The park, six miles north of Decker, is a favorite of anglers, campers, boaters and water-sports enthusiasts. The reservoir boasts excellent fishing—two state-record fish have been pulled from its waters. Open all year. For more information on the park or for camping reservations, go to stateparks.mt.gov. 406.234.0900

SCENIC & WILDLIFE

BIG SKY BACK COUNTRY BYWAY

This 105-mile drive from Terry to Wolf Point takes you through rolling prairies of grasslands and farmland, past buttes and varying badlands landscapes. The entire route is paved, and there are interpretive kiosks along the way providing information about local history and byway highlights. Allow two to three hours for the drive and more if you stop to explore.

406.233.2800

CALYPSO TRAIL is a 5.5-mile primitive road that provides access to the erosion-carved sandstone and clays of the Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area. The road is primitive, and there are no services, but the views are captivating. High-clearance vehicles are recommended, and the road may be impassable when wet. Popular activities in the badlands include

hiking, bicycling, hunting, photography, birding, horseback riding and wildlife viewing. Vehicles, including 4-wheelers and mountain bikes, are not permitted to travel off-road. As you travel around the badlands, be aware of private land by knowing the boundaries of the wilderness study area.

406.233.2800

www.mt.blm.gov/mcfo

LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Corps of Discovery traveled more miles and set up more campsites in Montana than in any other state during the expedition. Spend some time following their route by way of the Lower Yellowstone Corridor, which runs from Sidney to Forsyth, and the Pompeys Pillar Corridor, which runs from Forsyth to Bozeman.

www.visitmt.com/lewisclarktrail

SOUTHEAST MONTANA BIRDING

TRAIL, formerly called the Custer Country Southeastern Montana Birding Trail, takes you throughout this entire region with 15 specific areas and trails, and opportunities to see many unique species and habitats. You may catch a glimpse of prairie falcons, burrowing owls, sage grouse and mountain blackbirds, just to name a few. A downloadable map and site details are available.

800.346.1876

www.visitmt.com/birdwatching



Moss Mansion in Billings



The bust of Chief Plenty Coups



TRAVELER SERVICES

www.visitmt.com/travelerservices • 800.847.4868

You're ready to come to Montana, but you're wondering—is there really a train there? Will the national parks be open? Are there buses to the ski hills? Use these Traveler Services to show up prepared, informed and practically passing for a local.

GETTING HERE

It's easiest to explore Montana by car, so if you aren't already driving here, make plans to rent a vehicle once you arrive. Fly into larger towns or roll in aboard Amtrak's Empire Builder (traversing the northern half of the state), then drive a rental from wherever you land. If you plan on hitting backroads and gravel, or even just iffy weather, upgrade to four-wheel-drive for more traction. A high-clearance vehicle is necessary only for a few limited remote destinations like well-off-the-beaten-path trailheads.

You can also tour the state via commercial bus lines, which travel to major cities and some smaller towns, or join private bus tours.

AIR TRAVEL Direct flights (some seasonal) are available from Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Denver, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Newark, Chicago, Portland and Atlanta. Go to visitmt.com/transportation/air_service for a list of airports and carriers.

RAIL TRAVEL Amtrak's Empire Builder runs across northern Montana from Wolf Point through Havre, Glacier National Park and on to Libby. Bonus: there's a glass-topped viewing car. www.amtrak.com

PASSPORT REQUIREMENT All persons traveling into the U.S. are required to present a passport or other valid travel document to enter or reenter the country. Visit cbp.gov for updated requirements.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Weather Reports

Western Montana 406.721.3939

Central Montana 406.453.5469

Northeast Montana 406.228.9625

Southeast Montana 406.652.1916

24-hour Road Conditions

Available Statewide 511

. www.mdt511.com

Emergency Phone Service

Available Statewide 911

Immigration/Customs . . . 406.335.9559

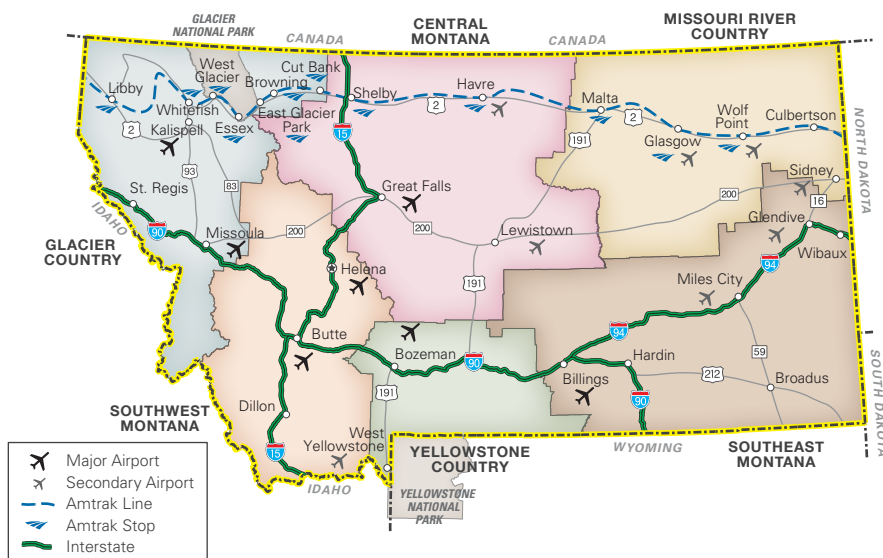
. or 406.895.2664

National Parks

Glacier National Park 406.888.7800

Yellowstone National Park . 307.344.7381

Visit visitmt.com/travelerservices for additional travel information.



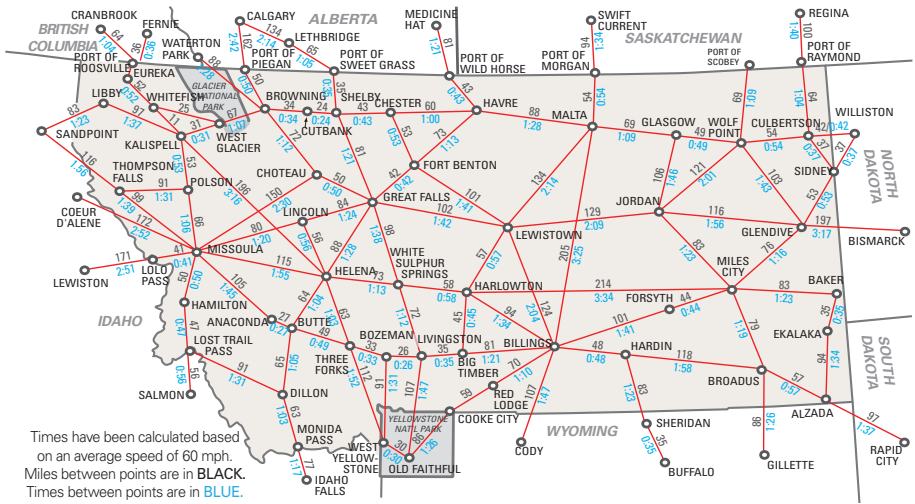
Left: Biking the Going-to-the-Sun Road in the spring

TRAVELING WITHIN MONTANA

DRIVING IN MONTANA Montana's highways are maintained year-round, and travel on the main roads shouldn't be a problem in good weather. However, be prepared for long distances, sparsely populated areas, variable road conditions, a few steep mountain passes, storms, occasional two-way traffic and the possibility of wildlife, livestock and farm equipment on the road.

Montana lives up to its huge reputation—the most direct route from east to west takes more than ten hours to drive. The trip from Glacier National Park's southernmost entrance to the northernmost entrance of Yellowstone takes a little over seven. To be a prepared traveler, always keep your gas tank more than half full and bring along water and some extra snacks, since distances between towns can be significant and services aren't always open.

Montana's dramatic topography, elevation extremes and northern climates can make for swift, unexpected changes in the weather, no matter what time of year.



Visitor information centers around the state provide road and weather information. Most Montanans keep a spare coat stashed in the car for weather surprises—even in the summer—just in case.

Speed limits are posted, but occasionally it's necessary to drive at reduced speed when road conditions such as snow, ice, heavy rain, fog or high winds require extra caution.

Beware the downside to Montana's frequent wildlife sightings—deer, antelope, moose, bison and other animals sometimes leap into the road

unpredictably. Be alert, especially near deer crossing signs and around dawn and dusk, when deer are most active. If you see any deer or elk at all, slow down and remember that others of the herd are likely nearby. Use your high beams when driving in darkness, unless oncoming cars prevent it.

VEHICLE RENTALS The majority of Montana travelers opt for the flexibility and freedom of driving. Various rental vehicles are available depending on your travel plans and companions. Find a listing of cities with car rentals at visitmt.com/carrentals.



Spring flowers on the Rocky Mountain Front

CONNECT WITH MONTANA



Moose near Fishercap Lake in Glacier National Park

Start dreaming up your Montana trip (or planning it on the fly).
Grab on and discover more online with your mobile phone or tablet.

FACEBOOK

There's no love button, so you'll have to settle for "liking" Montana.

www.facebook.com/visitmontana

TWITTER

While we're usually distracted by another kind of twitter (bird watching, anyone?) we keep our virtual tidbits updated, too.

www.twitter.com/visitmontana

INSTAGRAM

Follow us on Instagram for a constant stream of photos guaranteed to make you pine for your next Montana trip.

www.instagram.com/visitmontana

TUMBLR

Share your favorite #MontanaMoment to inspire others or browse the photo gallery to kick off your next adventure.

www.montanamoment.tumblr.com

VISITMT.COM

VisitMT.com is an encyclopedic, user-friendly resource for trip ideas and general wanderlust. Here, you'll find a wealth of varied information — motorcycle route ideas, a compilation of powwows, craft breweries and wineries, ghost town rundowns and just about anything else you can think of.

www.visitmt.com

MADE IN MONTANA

In Montana we think it is okay to be label conscious. While indulging in retail therapy, look for Made in Montana logos on product labels signifying them as authentic local wares.



If you can't shop here in person, try the next best thing—find Made in Montana goods online at MadeInMontanaUSA.com.

AROUND TOWN Most larger towns have at least basic bus services, and a few taxi and shuttle services are available near the major airports. For in-town, fair-weather commuting, consider renting a bike from a local outdoor store.

BUSES AND BUS TOURS If you'd rather view the scenery than watch the road, a variety of private operators offer bus tours, and Greyhound serves major cities and some small towns. Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park both offer bus tours (nps.gov/yell and nps.gov/glac), and Glacier shuttles visitors through the park (nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/shuttles.htm).

AIRPORT/SKI AREA SHUTTLES Airport shuttles whisk you from baggage claim to local lodging, and some ski resorts offer a daily shuttle from nearby towns.

+ Flathead-Glacier Transportation – Flathead/Glacier area
406.892.3390
www.glaciertransportation.com

+ Karst Stage – Big Sky, West Yellowstone, Chico Hot Springs, Gardiner, Mammoth Hot Springs
800.845.2778
www.karststage.com

+ Skyline Bus – Big Sky, Bozeman
406.995.6287
www.skylinebus.com

+ Snow Bus – Whitefish
406.253.9192
www.bigmtnccommercial.org

SNOWPLOW SAFETY When you encounter a snowplow, know what to do:

- + Plows travel slowly, usually 25 to 30 miles per hour, so if you are stuck behind one, you may be tempted to pass. Before you do, keep in mind that snowplow drivers may have a difficult time seeing you, especially if they are clearing the road in front of them. Which raises another point—would you rather drive a freshly plowed road or have to break the trail?
- + Never pass a plow on the right. Some snowplows are equipped with a “wing plow,” an 8-foot extension off the right side of the truck that can be difficult to see.
- + Plows aren't just removing snow. They also spread sand or deicer on the road. Leave enough room between the plow and your vehicle to avoid being sprayed.



Learning to snowplow

DIAL 511 FOR 24-HOUR REAL-TIME INFORMATION

- + Winter driving conditions
- + Weather forecasts
- + Construction updates
- + Road closures and major delays
- + Weight and speed limit restrictions
- + Speak with a live travel counselor
Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
(press 5 and follow prompt)
- + Alternate number **800.226.ROAD (7623)**
or **TTY 800.335.7592** or visit
mdt511.com

ASSISTANCE FOR TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES

For information about accessibility, contact the Montana Independent Living Project at **800.735.6457** or milp.us.

GEOLOGIC ROAD SIGNS While driving around the state, don't miss roadside geological markers/interpretive signs located at more than 50 locations. Each sign provides information on a geological or paleontological point of interest.
www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/geomarkers.shtml

THE OUTDOORS

NATIONAL PARKS

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK is open year-round, but the Going-to-the-Sun Road and many park services are only open from mid-May to mid-September, weather dependent. For more information on road plowing, trails, safety, weather conditions and park passes, visit nps.gov/glac.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK is open year-round; however, many of the park's roads close to vehicles (except over snow) in November and reopen in May. For more information on spring biking, major attractions, park fees and more, visit nps.gov/yell.

STATE PARKS

Visit Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov), then enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, boating and more and discover some of the greatest natural and cultural treasures on Earth. Book your campsite, cabin, tepee and yurt accommodations online at stateparks.mt.gov or by phone at **855.922.6768**. Reservations can be made nine months in advance of your intended stay and no later than two days prior to your arrival.

NATIONAL FORESTS

Montana is home to 16.8 million acres of publicly accessible national forests and grasslands—roughly the total land area of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts combined. “Forest” here takes a broad definition, ranging from the rugged mountaintops and steep, timbered canyons of western Montana to the badlands and prairies of eastern Montana.

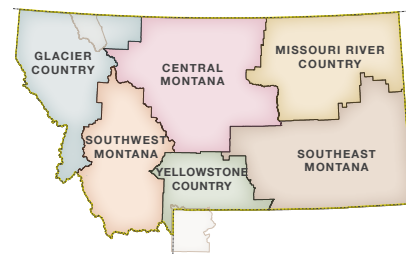
There are multiple ways to make the most of these protected lands, starting with 15 downhill ski areas operating with special-use permits on national forest land. Cross-country skiers have their pick of over 400 miles (644 km) of designated ski-touring trails, along with thousands of miles of ungroomed recreational territory, while snowmobilers can explore more than 2,500 miles of designated trails and endless backcountry. When the snow melts, the national forests give hikers, bikers, rock climbers, anglers and backpackers access to a lifetime (or more) worth of adventures.

You don't necessarily need a tent to stay overnight in the national forests; instead, try bunking in one of the Forest Service's rustic cabins or lookouts. Cabins are furnished with the bare basics (table, chairs, woodstove and bunks), but you'll need to bring your own bedding. For a Recreational Cabin and Lookout Directory, contact the individual national forest (see contact information below) or go to www.recreation.gov.

A Guide to Your Northern Region National Forests describes the national forests in Montana—pick one up from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northern Region, www.fs.usda.gov/r1, or the individual national forest.

- + Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
406.683.3900
www.fs.usda.gov/bdnf
- + Bitterroot National Forest
406.363.7100
www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot
- + Custer Gallatin National Forest
406.587.6701
406.522.2520 (recreation information)
www.fs.usda.gov/gallatin
www.fs.usda.gov/custer

REGIONS



Glacier Country
800.338.5072
www.glaciermt.com

Southwest Montana
800.879.1159
www.southwestmt.com

Central Montana
800.527.5348
www.centralmontana.com

Yellowstone Country
800.736.5276
www.visityellowstonecountry.com

Missouri River Country
800.653.1319
www.missouririver.visitmt.com

Southeast Montana
800.346.1876
www.southeastmontana.com

- + Flathead National Forest
406.758.5208
www.fs.usda.gov/flathead
- + Helena National Forest
406.449.5201
www.fs.usda.gov/helena
- + Kootenai National Forest
406.293.6211
www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai
- + Lewis & Clark National Forest
406.791.7700
www.fs.usda.gov/lcnf
- + Lolo National Forest
406.329.3750
www.fs.usda.gov/lolo

CLIMATE SUMMARY WWW.VISITMT.COM/CLIMATESUMMARY

City/Town	January Average Max Temperature (°F)	January Average Min Temperature (°F)	July Average Max Temperature (°F)	July Average Min Temperature (°F)	January Total Precipitation (in.)	July Total Precipitation (in.)	January Average Total Snowfall (in.)
Billings	33°	14°	86°	58°	.75	1.10	9.8
Bozeman	31°	12°	81°	51°	.88	1.36	12.7
Butte	30°	6°	80°	47°	.61	1.27	8.5
Fort Peck	25°	4°	87°	57°	.33	1.98	1.3
Great Falls	34°	14°	84°	55°	.60	1.47	7.7
Helena	30°	11°	83°	54°	.60	1.11	8.8
Kalispell	29°	14°	82°	50°	1.39	1.16	15.8
Miles City	27°	6°	89°	60°	.55	1.51	6.6
Missoula	30°	15°	84°	50°	1.16	.96	12.6
West Yellowstone	24°	0°	79°	40°	2.14	1.50	32.9
Whitefish	31°	16°	81°	50°	2.15	1.60	21.3

WINTER SAFETY

WIND CHILL With wind chill, winds make cold temperatures feel measurably colder. 30 degrees on a windy day is the virtual equivalent of a calm 15 degrees. Exposure to cold, biting air for long periods of time can put you at risk for frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia and other health complications. See Wind Chill Chart to the left.

HYPOTHERMIA Use a winter vacation in Montana as an excuse to update your wardrobe and invest in mittens and hats—all good prevention against the bane of winter outdoor activities: hypothermia. Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature drops to less than 95°F, bringing on uncontrollable shivering, slow speech, memory lapses, frequent stumbling, drowsiness and exhaustion.

If you suspect hypothermia in one of your travel companions (or yourself), retreat to warm shelter as soon as possible. Warm the person slowly, starting with the trunk and moving to arms and legs last, and seek immediate medical assistance. If possible, change the victim into dry clothing and wrap him or her in a blanket or sleeping bag. You can use your own body heat to help speed the warming process.

Never give a hypothermia victim caffeine or alcohol. Both can hasten the ill effects of cold body temperatures.

AVALANCHE SAFETY Before heading onto snowy slopes, make sure that you're well-educated about the conditions that cause avalanches and prepared to handle one if needed. Call the local avalanche center hotline, visit their websites (listed below), take an avalanche class, review the North American Public Avalanche Danger Scale at left and always carry the proper equipment. Understanding the basics of terrain, weather, snowpack and human factors that contribute to avalanches will help prevent needless tragedy in the backcountry.

For more information, contact the avalanche center in the area you plan to visit:

+ Gallatin National Forest
Avalanche Center
406.587.6984
www.mtavalanche.com



Wind Chill Chart



Frostbite Times

30 min 10 min 5 min

Effective 11/01/01

		Temperature (°F)																		
	Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	
Wind (mph)	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63	
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72	
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77	
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81	
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84	
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87	
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89	
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91	
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93	
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95	
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97	
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98		

www.noaa.gov

North American Public Avalanche Danger Scale

Avalanche danger is determined by the likelihood, size and distribution of avalanches.

Danger Level		Travel Advice	Likelihood of Avalanches	Avalanche Size and Distribution
5 Extreme		Avoid all avalanche terrain.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches certain.	Large to very large avalanches in many areas.
4 High		Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain <u>not</u> recommended.	Natural avalanches likely; human-triggered avalanches very likely.	Large avalanches in many areas; or very large avalanches in specific areas.
3 Considerable		Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route-finding and conservative decision-making essential.	Natural avalanches possible; human-triggered avalanches likely.	Small avalanches in many areas; or large avalanches in specific areas; or very large avalanches in isolated areas.
2 Moderate		Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern.	Natural avalanches unlikely; human-triggered avalanches possible.	Small avalanches in specific areas; or large avalanches in isolated areas.
1 Low		Generally safe avalanche conditions. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches unlikely.	Small avalanches in isolated areas or extreme terrain.

Safe backcountry travel requires training and experience. You control your own risk by choosing where, when and how you travel.

www.avalanche.org

+ Flathead Avalanche Center
Recorded Avalanche Advisory
406.257.8402
www.flatheadavalanche.org

+ West-Central Montana
Avalanche Center
800.281.1030 or 406.549.4488
www.missoulaavalanche.org

+ Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center
208.765.7323

All avalanche center websites and advisories can be accessed at the following two easily remembered URLs:
www.avalanche.org
www.csac.org

SUSTAINING MONTANA'S RESOURCES

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) administers Montana's state school trust lands, including state forests. The agency is responsible for the stewardship, sustainability and improvement of the resources and benefits derived from these lands for current and future generations.

Those who possess a Montana Wildlife Conservation License may hunt, fish and trap on legally accessible state lands; however, trappers must also acquire a

Special Recreational Use License from DNRC prior to trapping on state lands. For most all other types of non-commercial and non-concentrated recreational activities, sportsmen and women 12 and older must possess a State Land General Recreational Use License, which is available from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) license agents. Use of motorized vehicles, including use of snowmobiles on leased or licensed land, is restricted to public roads (subject to traffic laws/regulations) and on other roads that DNRC may designate open. On unleased or unlicensed land, snowmobile use is allowed in all areas unless prohibited by DNRC. Pamphlets that provide further information regarding the rules, regulations and restrictions governing these and other activities on state lands are available from FWP offices, license agents and DNRC offices.

+ Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601
406.444.2074
www.dnrc.mt.gov

+ Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
406.444.2535
www.fwp.mt.gov

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

With just three easy steps, you can do your part to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, like plants, mussels and parasites in Montana's waters.

1. INSPECT

After leaving a lake or stream, inspect your boat, engine, trailer, anchor, waders and other fishing and boating gear for mud, water and vegetation that could carry aquatic invasive species.

2. CLEAN

Completely remove all mud, water and vegetation you find. Boaters should use a pressurized power sprayer, found at most do-it-yourself car washes. The hot water helps kill organisms and the pressure removes mud and vegetation. No need to use soap or chemicals.

3. DRY

Aquatic invaders can survive only in water and wet areas. By drying your boating and fishing equipment thoroughly, you will kill most invasive species. The longer you can keep your boat, trailer, waders, wading boots and other equipment outside in the hot sun between fishing trips, the better.

Remember, it is unlawful to move live fish, aquatic invertebrates or plants from one body of water to another without authorization from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. It is also unlawful to release any live aquarium or bait fish.



A lazy afternoon fishing on the Yellowstone River

CHAMBERS AND CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAUS

www.visitmt.com/chambers • 800.847.4868



Welcome! Communities displaying the Montana Superhost sign support staffed visitor information centers, provide a wide variety of local and statewide tourism information and sponsor annual Montana Superhost training for businesses that serve visitors. Montana's Superhost communities will help make your trip to Montana an even more memorable one. Communities shown in **BROWN AND UNDERLINED** participated in Montana Superhost training this past year.



The Garden Wall Inn Bed and Breakfast, Whitefish

MONTANA CHAMBER 406.442.2405
PO Box 1730, Helena 59624
www.montanachamber.com

ANACONDA CHAMBER 406.563.2400
306 East Park Avenue, Anaconda 59711
www.discoveranaconda.com

BAKER CHAMBER 406.778.2266
PO Box 849, Baker 59313
www.bakermt.com

BELGRADE CHAMBER 406.388.1616
10 East Main Street, Belgrade 59714
www.belgradechamber.org

BIG SANDY CHAMBER 406.378.2418
PO Box 411, Big Sandy 59520
www.bigsandymt.org

BIG SKY CHAMBER/CVB 406.995.3000
55 Lone Mountain Trail, Big Sky 59716
www.bigskychamber.com

BIG TIMBER CHAMBER
(SWEET GRASS COUNTY). 406.932.5131
1350 Highway 10 West, Big Timber 59011
www.bigtimber.com

BIGFORK AREA CHAMBER 406.837.5888
8155 Montana Highway 35, Bigfork 59911
www.bigfork.org

BILLINGS AREA
CHAMBER/CVB 406.245.4111
815 South 27th Street, Billings 59101
www.visitbillings.com

BOULDER AREA CHAMBER . . . 406.465.2106
PO Box 278, Boulder 59632
www.bouldermtchamber.com

BOZEMAN CHAMBER/CVB . . . 406.586.5421
2000 Commerce Way, Bozeman 59715
www.bozemanchamber.com
www.bozemancvb.com

BROADUS CHAMBER
(POWDER RIVER) 406.436.2778
2 Scale Road, Broadus 59317

BROWNING AREA
CHAMBER 406.338.4015
380 1st Avenue Southwest, Browning 59417
www.browningchamber.com

BUTTE CHAMBER/CVB 800.735.6814
1000 George Street, Butte 59701
www.buttechamber.org
www.buttecvb.com

CHINOOK CHAMBER
85-1/2 2nd Street, Chinook 59523
www.chinookmontana.com

CHOTEAU CHAMBER 406.466.5316
815 Main Avenue North, Choteau 59422
www.choteaumontana.us

CIRCLE CHAMBER 406.485.4782
PO Box 321, Circle 59215
www.circle-montana.com

COLSTRIP CHAMBER 406.748.4822
400 Woodrose Street, Colstrip 59323
www.colstripchamber.com

**COLTER PASS/COOKE CITY/
SILVER GATE CHAMBER** 406.838.2495
PO Box 1071, Cooke City 59020
www.cookecitychamber.org

COLUMBIA FALLS AREA
CHAMBER 406.892.2072
233 13th Street East, Columbia Falls 59912
www.columbiafallschamber.org

COLUMBUS CHAMBER
(STILLWATER COUNTY) 406.322.4505
565 North 9th, Suite 1A, Columbus 59019
www.stillwatercountychamber.com

CONRAD AREA CHAMBER . . . 406.271.7791
7 Sixth Avenue Southwest, Conrad 59425
www.conradmt.com

CULBERTSON CHAMBER 406.787.6643
PO Box 639, Culbertson 59218
www.culbertsonmt.com

CUT BANK AREA CHAMBER . . 406.873.4041
725 East Main Street, Cut Bank 59427
www.cutbankchamber.com

DEER LODGE CHAMBER
(POWELL COUNTY) 406.846.2094
1109 Main Street, Deer Lodge 59722
www.powellcountymontana.com

DILLON CHAMBER
(BEAVERHEAD COUNTY) 406.683.5511
10 West Reeder Street, Dillon 59725
www.beaverheadchamber.org

EAST GLACIER PARK
CHAMBER 406.226.4403
909 Montana Highway 49 North
East Glacier Park 59434
www.eastglacierpark.info

EKALAKA CHAMBER
(CARTER COUNTY) 406.775.8731
PO Box 108, Ekalaka 59324
www.cartercountychamberofcommerce.com

ENNIS CHAMBER 406.682.4388
201 East Main Street, Ennis 59729
www.ennischamber.com

EUREKA AREA CHAMBER 406.889.4636
2 Dewey Avenue, Eureka 59917
www.welcome2eureka.com

EVERGREEN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE 406.885.1212
PO Box 5604, Kalispell 59903
www.evergreencocf.com

FAIRFIELD AREA CHAMBER. . . 406.467.2531
PO Box 776, Fairfield 59436

FAIRVIEW CHAMBER 406.742.5259
PO Box 374, Fairview 59221
www.midrivers.com/~fairview

FORSYTH AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE AND
AGRICULTURE. 406.347.5656
PO Box 448, Forsyth 59327
www.forsythmt.com

FORT BELKNAP
TOURISM OFFICE 406.353.2463
PO Box 552, Harlem 59526
www.ftbelknap.org

FORT BENTON CHAMBER . . . 406.622.3864
1421 Front Street, Fort Benton 59442
www.fortbentonchamber.org

GARDINER CHAMBER. 406.848.7971
222 Park Street, Gardiner 59030
www.gardinerchamber.com

GLASGOW AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND
AGRICULTURE 406.228.2222
23 Highway 2 East, Glasgow 59230
www.glasgowchamber.net

GLEN DIVE CHAMBER 406.377.5601
808 North Merrill, Glendive 59330
www.glendivechamber.com

GREAT FALLS AREA
CHAMBER. 406.761.4434
100 1st Avenue North, Great Falls 59401
www.greatfallschamber.org

GREAT FALLS CVB 800.735.8535
1106 9th Street South, Great Falls 59405
www.genuinemontana.com

HAMILTON CHAMBER
(BITTERROOT VALLEY) 406.363.2400
105 East Main Street, Hamilton 59840
www.bitterrootchamber.com

HARDIN AREA CHAMBER. . . . 406.665.1672
10 East Railway, Hardin 59034
www.thehardinchamber.org

HARLOWTON AREA
CHAMBER 406.632.4694
PO Box 694, Harlowton 59036
www.harlowtonchamber.com

HAVRE AREA CHAMBER. 406.265.4383
130 5th Avenue, Havre 59501
www.havremt.com

HELENA AREA CHAMBER/CVB
CHAMBER. 406.442.4120
CVB 406.447.1530
225 Cruse Avenue, Suite A, Helena 59601
www.helenachamber.com
www.helenamt.com

HOT SPRINGS CHAMBER. . . . 406.741.2662
PO Box 627, Hot Springs 59845
www.hotspringsmtchamber.org

HYSHAM CHAMBER. 406.342.5676
PO Box 63, Hysham 59038
www.hysham.org

JORDAN CHAMBER
(GARFIELD COUNTY) 406.557.6185
PO Box 370, Jordan 59337
www.garfieldcounty.com

JUDITH BASIN AREA
CHAMBER 406.566.2500
Box 5, Stanford 59479
www.judithbasinchamber.com

KALISPELL CHAMBER/CVB . . 406.758.2800
15 Depot Park, Kalispell 59901
www.discoverkalispell.com

LAKE SIDE-SOMERS
CHAMBER 406.844.3715
100 Bierney Creek Road, Lakeside 59922
www.lakesidesomers.org

LAUREL CHAMBER 406.628.8105
108 East Main Street, Laurel 59044
www.laurelmontana.org

LEWISTOWN AREA
CHAMBER. 406.535.5436
408 Northeast Main Street, Lewistown 59457
www.lewistownchamber.com

LIBBY AREA CHAMBER 406.293.4167
905 West 9th, Libby 59923
www.libbychamber.org

LIBERTY COUNTY
CHAMBER 406.759.4848
115 East Washington, Suite A, Chester 59522
www.libertycountyycc.com

LINCOLN VALLEY
CHAMBER 406.362.4949
PO Box 985, Lincoln 59639
www.lincolnmontana.com

LIVINGSTON AREA
CHAMBER 406.222.0850
303 East Park Street, Livingston 59047
www.livingston-chamber.com

MALTA CHAMBER 406.654.1776
10-1/2 South 4th Street East, Malta 59538
www.maltachamber.com

MANHATTAN AREA
CHAMBER 406.284.4162
105 South Broadway, Manhattan 59741
www.manhattanareachamber.com

MILES CITY AREA
CHAMBER/CVB 406.234.2890
511 Pleasant Street, Miles City 59301
www.milescitychamber.com

MISSOULA AREA CHAMBER. . 406.543.6623
825 East Front Street, Missoula 59802
www.missoulachamber.com

MISSOULA CVB. 406.532.3250
104 North Higgins Avenue, Missoula 59802
www.destinationmissoula.org

NORTHERN CHEYENNE
CHAMBER 406.477.6284
PO Box 128, Lame Deer 59043
www.cheyennenation.com

PHILIPSBURG CHAMBER . . . 406.859.3388
PO Box 661, Philipsburg 59858
www.philipsburgmt.com



Montana Whiskey, Belgrade



Above: Cooke City, a gateway to Yellowstone National Park **Right:** Crow-style tepee painting by Kevin Red Star

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A photograph of a herd of bison in a snowy forest. The bison are covered in snow, and the background is a dense forest of evergreen trees. The word "MONTANA" is written in white capital letters in the top right corner.

MONTANA

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