

BETWEEN THE PARKS

GLACIER ← → YELLOWSTONE

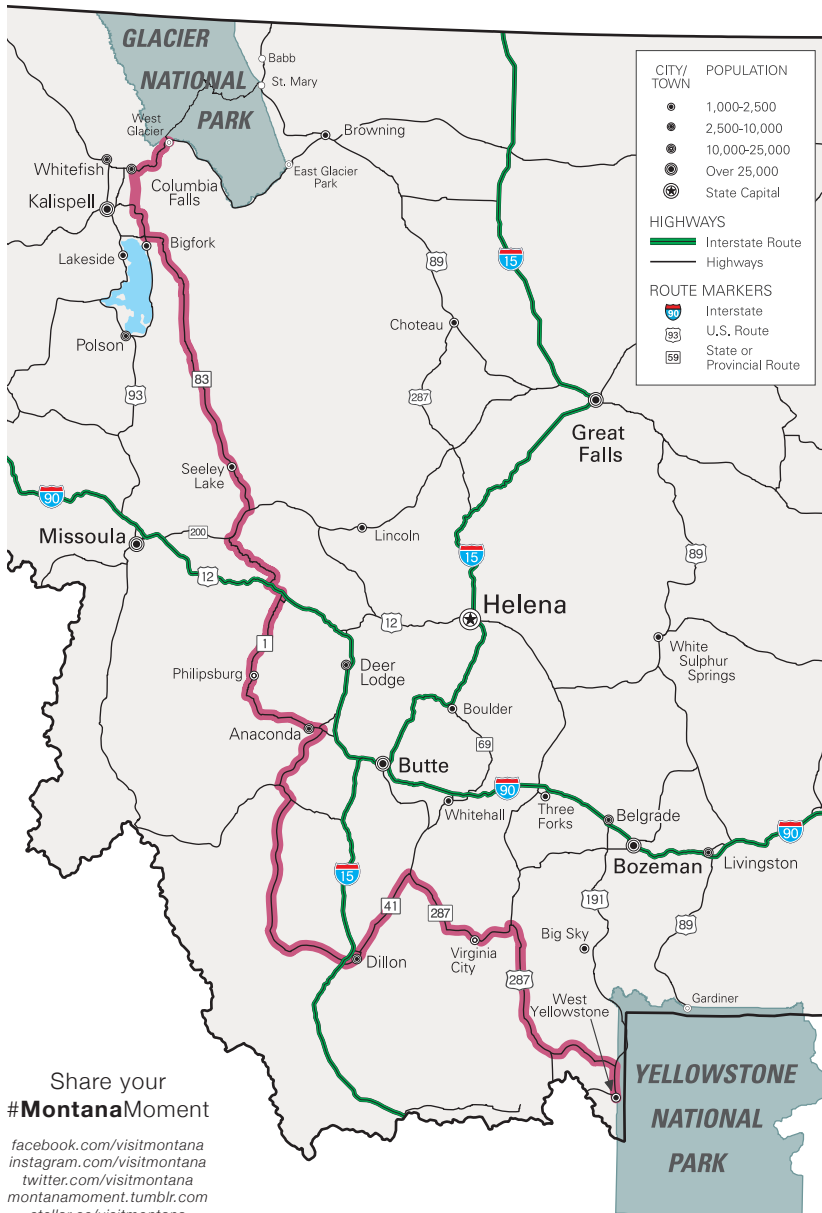
Explore two of Montana's national parks, plus everything in between! You can start your adventure at either park—Glacier or Yellowstone. For additional information and route details, go to www.visitmt.com/between-the-parks

Ghost Town Route

Start/end points: West Glacier, West Yellowstone
Time/distance: approx 8 hr 15 min, 457 miles

Directions: West Glacier > U.S. 2/MT-35/MT-83 > Seeley Lake > MT-83/MT-200/MT-141/Hwy 271/I-90/MT-1 > Philipsburg > MT-1/I-90/I-15 > Dillon > MT-41/MT-287 > Virginia City > U.S. 287/U.S. 191 > West Yellowstone

Highlights: Placid and Salmon Lakes, sapphire mining in Philipsburg, Crystal Park, Virginia City Historic District and Nevada City Living History



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Overview

Step back in time to the frontier days by exploring Montana's many ghost towns. On this five-day trip from Glacier National Park to Yellowstone National Park, wander through forgotten to get a taste of Montana's rich past

Day 1 Splash Around

From West Glacier, start your journey down MT-83. Stop in the charming town of Bigfork to catch some views of Flathead Lake. Continue south on MT-83 to enter the Seeley-Swan Valley created by the Mission and Swan Mountains. This valley has plenty of recreation on its many lakes including: Swan Lake, Holland Lake, Seeley Lake, Placid Lake, and Salmon Lake State Park. After a day on the lake, stop at your first ghost town, Garnet Ghost Town.

Day 2 Mining for Adventure

Take a day in Philipsburg for a little adventure. Mine for Montana sapphires. Grab some treats from the Sweet Palace. And stop at the Philipsburg Brewing Company. Near Philipsburg are two ghost towns: Granite and Gold Coin Mine and Mill.

Continue on the Anaconda to see a show at the art deco Washoe Theater. Continue down the highway for a stop at Fairmont Hot Springs, which boasts two indoor, two outdoor pools, and a wicked waterslide.

Day 3 Ghosting

Cruise down the Pioneer Mountain Scenic Byway. Stop at Coolidge Ghost Town. Make a stop at Crystal Park and search for quartz crystals on the decomposed granite. For another soak, stop at Elkhorn Hot Springs. In the winter, be sure to spend a whole day skiing at Maverick Mountain. Continue down the road for a stop at the historic Bannack State Park with over 60 preserved structures.

Day 4 Step Back in Time

Stop at Nevada City, a stagecoach stop in the 1860s. Continue just down the road to the vibrant Virginia City to experience what this ghost town was like during the gold rush. Attend the Brewery Follies or the Grand Victorian Balls during the summer months. To really get into the spirit, rent a costume and join in on the fun.

Day 5 Yellowstone

Continue on U.S. 287 to Cliff and Wade Lakes. Here, rent a canoe or kayak for a scenic paddle (rentals available from Wade Lake Resort). From there, continue on U.S. 287 toward West Yellowstone, your gateway to Yellowstone National Park. For a souvenir, stop at the historic Eagle Store.