



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

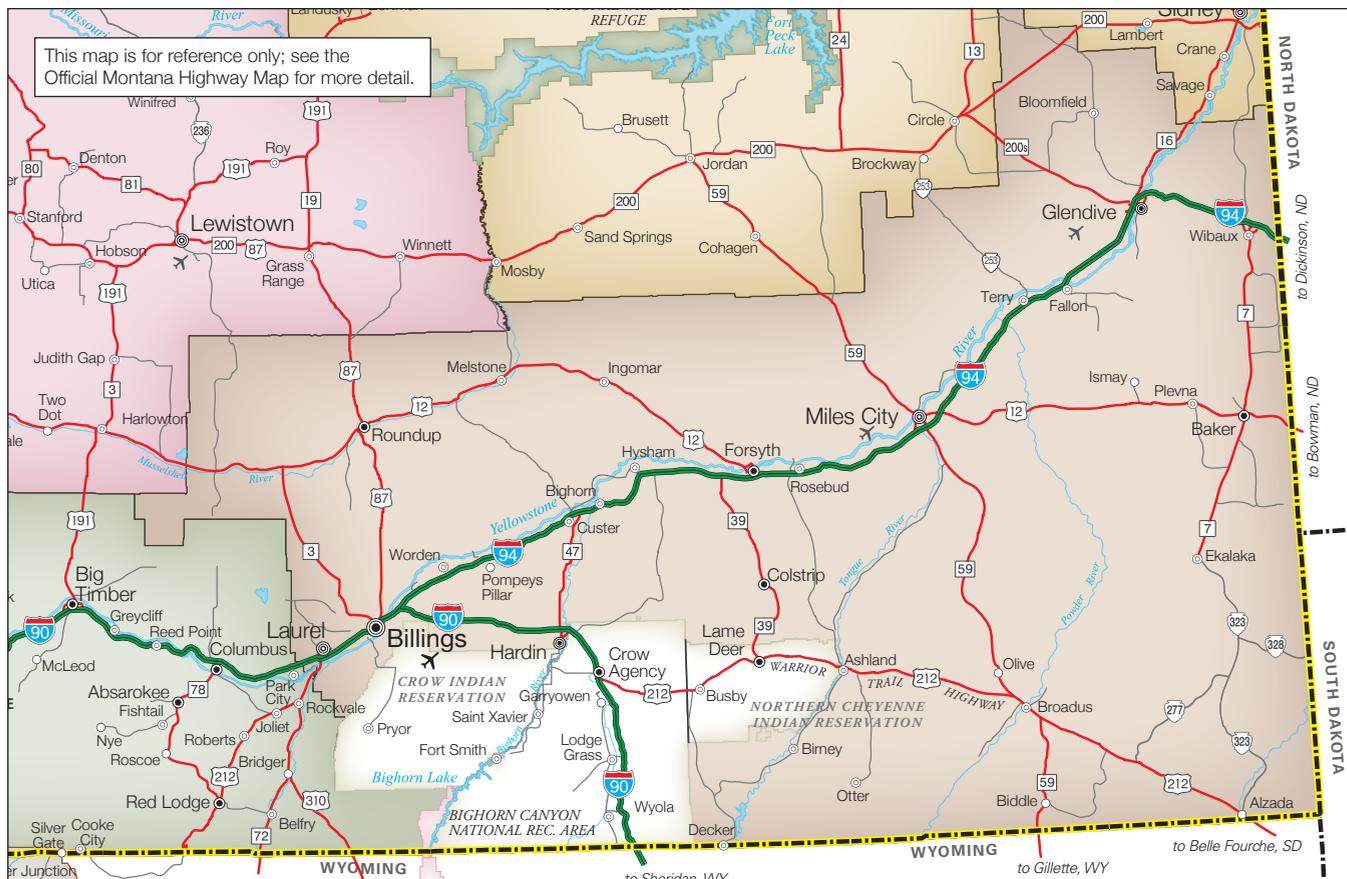
If you're heading to a cattle drive or working ranch, absolutely bring your cowboy boots! You'll soon discover just how functional they really are. For general tromping about, you'll want a good pair of tennis shoes or hiking boots and a few layers, especially a wind-resistant one. In the winter, gloves, 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 Lame 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



Exhibit at the Waterworks Art Museum, Miles City

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

MAKOSHIKA 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

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 – GLENDIVE, 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 Tepee 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

MAKOSHKA 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!

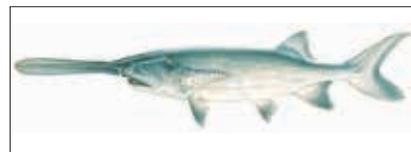


Illustration of paddlefish

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