In Montana, nobody tells kids to settle down. This is where they run free. Jump in a raft. Explore national parks and ghost towns. Cross mountain ranges. Spot moose, elk and bears. It’s all waiting for your family to discover.

Turn the page for experiences made only in Montana.
Kalispell is your gateway to Montana’s iconic natural wonders. In addition to hiking, biking and touring our great outdoors, this vibrant community offers endless opportunities to make lasting memories—rodeos, Main Street parades, interactive museums and so much more. Not a week goes by without some kind of festival, concert or event.

Kalispell’s cultural attractions and welcoming locals make adventure easy. Explore the fish raceways at Creston National Fish Hatchery, and then visit Lone Pine State Park for breathtaking views of the Flathead Valley and miles of trails. To fish, head to Pine Grove’s stocked pond, where the kids can have fun while they work on their angling.
KALISPELL

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DISCOVERKALISPELL.COM

WHITETWATER RAFTING
Multiple outfitters lead trips on the Blackfoot, Bitterroot and Clark Fork rivers. Flatwater tours cater to little ones; older kids will love the bouncier Class II, III and IV rapids.

REAL-LIFE ACTION HEROES
Tour the smokejumper base in Missoula to learn about the jump gear and aircraft used to fight wilderness forest fires.

A HIKE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
Head south of Missoula past a Lewis and Clark campsite at Travelers’ Rest State Park to Blodgett Canyon, an easy trail that passes soaring cliffs and a smokejumper memorial.

You keep saying that someday you want to cruise FLATHEAD LAKE, cycle MONTANA’S TRAILS and see GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. Make “someday” now!

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NO GEAR? NO PROBLEM!
The friendly Trail Head store in downtown Missoula rents everything you need, including tents, sleeping bags, coolers, fly rods and more. You can reserve gear online before you go.

200 SQUARE MILES IN ONE LAKE?
BELIEVE IT!
Go sailing, paddleboarding or plain old swimming at Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Great Lakes. The Flathead Lake Lodge dude ranch makes a great home base. In summer, be sure to stop at a roadside stand to try the local cherries.

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Go Directly to Jail!

Sample early 1900s life behind bars at the Old Montana Prison. Go behind the 24-foot-high sandstone walls to see stark maximum-security cells and a courtyard where convicts exercised.

Visit a Real Ghost Town

Head for Bannack State Park and try panning for gold near the site of the state’s first major discovery (in 1862). The town—Montana’s first territorial capital—is now deserted. Take a guided tour of the 60 abandoned log and frame structures during summer, or visit in October for ghost walks that bring stories of former residents to life.

Go 100 Feet Underground!

It doesn’t get much cooler than a helmet with a built-in light, right? Everybody gets to wear one on tours that venture into the Orphan Girl Mine (part of the World Museum of Mining) in this town that was once a copper-mining hot spot.

Rock Music

The craggy hills are alive at Ringing Rocks, where gently tapping the rocks with a hammer produces a chiming sound, thanks to their composition and arrangement. (Don’t bother taking one home. The rocks won’t ring anywhere else.)

Missoula

PICTURE YOURSELF HERE

Honored with a Playful City USA award, Missoula offers plenty to discover.

1. Ride on A Carousel for Missoula downtown, or play at Dragon Hollow Playground.
2. Explore science at the spectrUM Discovery Area, or bugs at the Missoula Insectarium.
3. Let imaginations run wild at the Children’s Museum.
4. Plunge down a slide or float on a lazy river at Splash Montana.
5. Devour local ice cream at Sweet Peaks or Big Dipper.

DESTINATIONMISSOULA.ORG

Missoula Area

Location Guide

Where’s a West that’s still wild?

That would be Butte, home to ghost towns, cowboy cookouts and tours that go deep.
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Cowboy for a Night
Set your sights on the Milky Way and cowboy life at Helena's Last Chance Ranch. A horse-drawn wagon drives you to a meal of prime rib and huckleberry cheesecake, followed by guitars under the stars.

NATURE WITHIN REACH
Helena strikes a balance between outdoor recreation and family-friendly attractions. Hike the town's vast trail system, which connects to downtown. Don't miss a ride on the Great Northern Carousel and its hand-carved Montana animals. Next door, find ExplorationWorks!, a science museum with hands-on exhibits for the whole family. Then head to the walking mall on Last Chance Gulch, packed with shopping, restaurants and an outdoor play area.

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ROPE A STEER AT GRANT-KOHRS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

HELena
HelenaMT.com

DeSTINATIONMISSOULA.ORG

PICTURE YOURSELF HERE

Help create a geyser, see a famous fossil stash and learn about dinosaurs at Bozeman’s Museum of the Rockies.

rock-it science

in the backyard of the world’s first national park, Bozeman beckons with hot attractions.

DRINKING HORSE MOUNTAIN TRAIL

3 WAYS TO Fly in Big Sky

1. At Big Sky Resort Zipline Tours, cruise up a chairlift and soak in views of Lone Mountain and Spanish Peak, then zoom down four speedy zips.
2. Take the Lone Peak Tram to the top of Big Sky Resort, the state’s highest scenic overlook.
3. Learn to ski at Big Sky, where 300 runs—several of them suited to beginners—cut through more than 5,800 skiable acres. (Lessons and rentals available.)

KID-FRIENDLY HIKE

Kid-friendly hikes

Take a swim in hot pools heated by Mother Nature. Popular dips include Bozeman Hot Springs, Norris Hot Springs, or Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa.

HELLO, HOT SPRINGS

WHAT’S IN YELLOWSTONE’S NEIGHBORHOOD?

IN THE BACKYARD OF THE WORLD’S FIRST NATIONAL PARK, Bozeman beckons with hot attractions.

A special offer for a hotel stay and adventurous activities in Bozeman.

DOUBLE-PARK YOUR VEHICLE

Go for maximum "epic" by hitting both Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks on the same vacation. The six-hour drive between them provides plenty of stellar stops like the Drinking Horse Mountain Trail near Bozeman.

ROCK-IT SCIENCE

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KID-FRIENDLY HIKES

Take a half-mile to see impressive Palisade Falls south of Bozeman. See wildflowers (and a few salamanders) at Grotto Falls, reached via an easy 1.3-mile path. At Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park, you can slide down a natural tunnel.

HELLO, HOT SPRINGS

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FIND YOUR NEW PLACE TO PLAY

Start your tour with wildlife watching at the park, then dine cowboy-style at a Western cookout. Horseback riding? We have that, too. Catch trout at Hebgen Lake, or fly fish a famous stream. Zipline at Yellowstone Aerial Adventures, or check out the locals at the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center. View classics at the Rod Run Car Show. And there’s plenty to do in winter, too, including cross-country skiing (50-plus kilometers of groomed trails), snowmobiling, the Snowmobile Expo and Races, and the Yellowstone Ski Festival. Plus, kids can try a new winter activity at Kids’N’Snow.

DESTINATIONYELLOWSTONE.COM

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DOUBLE-PARK YOUR VEHICLE

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WEST YELLOWSTONE

VENTURE LIKE A FAMOUS EXPLORER

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

PHOTOGRAPHS: (MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES, HIKERS, FALLS) RYAN DONNELL, (SNOWMOBILES) COURTESY OF WEST YELLOWSTONE CVB, (DINOSAUR) COURTESY OF MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

MISSOURIRIVER.VISITMT.COM

DESTINATIONYELLOWSTONE.COM
FISH TALES
At Giant Springs Fish Hatchery, toss food pellets into the water, and see trout and salmon swarm. Kids can peek into the tanks through an underwater viewing window.

FORTIFIED HISTORY
Stop at historic Old Fort Benton to see the frontier version of Target. You can browse bison robes, beads, guns and cloth that once filled this trading post. Numerous museums dot the town, including Homestead Village, with restored homes and businesses moved from abandoned homestead-era towns. Visit in late June during Summer Celebration for Wild West reenactments, a parade and food.

SPRINGS AND FALLS
Picnic by a bubbling spring (one of the world’s largest) and enjoy constant cool breezes at Giant Springs State Park. Check out Great Falls and Rainbow Falls, or take the swinging bridge near Ryan Dam for a cool view.

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3 REASONS TO Hit the River’s Edge Trail
1. A sweeping look at Great Falls, thanks to the free telescope at Warden Park Gazebo, plus direct access to downtown parks, restaurants and attractions.
2. Nearly 60 miles of trails along the Missouri River, including paved and off-road routes for hiking, cycling, skating and mountain biking.
3. Views of Missouri River canyons, five hydroelectric dams, reservoirs and waterfalls.

CENTRAL MONTANA
5 WAYS TO FALL IN LOVE
1. Splash in creeks, float the mighty Missouri River, or swim, paddle or boat in the lakes. Or enjoy a leisurely soak in natural mineral hot springs in White Sulphur Springs.
2. Explore the Corps of Discovery at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, or view the world’s longest dinosaur at Two Medicine Dinosaur Center.
3. Hike Ear Mountain Wildlife Management Area along the Rocky Mountain Front, or get your nature on at Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area.
4. Take in the awesome views along Great Falls’ River’s Edge Trail. Or see the power of water in action during a picnic on a river island near Ryan Dam.
5. Take in art shows, live music and theater, and cultural and community festivals around the area. In Central Montana, you’re sure to find an event to please everyone.

CENTRALMONTANA.COM/FAMILY
WHERE CAN WE FIND ART AND ADVENTURE?

CONNECT WITH Great Falls’ RELAXING SPRINGS AND RIVERS, FUN FRONTIER HISTORY, AND 60 MILES OF TRAILS.

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CENTRALMONTANA.COM/FAMILY
See a life-size model of a T. rex at animal-centric Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum. Kids can pose with a 700-pound Apatosaurus femur at Phillips County Museum, or learn about field and lab work at the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum and Field Station’s Junior Paleo program. Pick up a Montana Dinosaur Trail Prehistoric Passport at any of these museums and follow its map to other Dinosaur Trail stops.

At Pictograph Cave State Park, view 100-plus rock paintings left by early hunters. Hike through caves containing the paintings, some 2,000 years old.

Learn the ropes of ranch work at Elk River Outfitters, where guides take groups past Pryor Creek’s timbered, rolling hills and through the Yellowstone Valley.

Find rugged terrain and urban scenes along Rimrock Trail, a 4.5-mile hiking and biking route beginning at Zimmerman Park. Canyon rims and slickrock ledges line the route.

Pick up a Junior Ranger book at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument to help your kids absorb the game-changing battle here between Custer’s 7th Cavalry and the Sioux and Cheyenne people.

Voted Outside Magazine’s BEST TOWN OF 2016 Billings boasts amazing urban and outdoor recreation for all ages and thrill levels.
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Bike, Segway or hike Billings on more than 40 miles of trails throughout the city and along the Yellowstone River.

Rustic Western heritage, natural beauty, small-town charm and big-city attractions—Billings is the family-friendly place to begin your next adventure.

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Have an authentic Western experience with a horse-drawn wagon ride.

It’s all in Billings: Montana’s Trailhead, where the adventures are forever.

Voted Outside Magazine’s BEST TOWN OF 2016 Billings boasts amazing urban and outdoor recreation for all ages and thrill levels.
SOUTHEAST MONTANA

DINOSAURS ROAMED OUT HERE. YOU CAN, TOO!

Explore the land where dinosaurs once lived and where the mountains meet the prairie.

Discover the Montana Dinosaur Trail or try a fossil dig near Makoshika State Park. Sit in a replica of Lewis and Clark’s dugout canoes, or climb 202 steps to the top of Pompeys Pillar. For water fun, rent a pontoon boat and explore Bighorn Lake, or bring your own boat for boat-in camping. The adventure is yours to seek in the wide-open spaces of Southeast Montana.

SOUTHEASTMONTANA.COM

STATE PARKS

SEE THE CONFLUENCE OF THREE EPIC MONTANA RIVERS AT MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK.

INTO THE GREAT WIDE OPEN

Even among Montana’s 55 state parks, these two stand out with their lineup of Native American and Lewis and Clark lore.

At First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park, south of Great Falls, study how the native people hunted bison by driving them over cliffs. Hike a trail, engage with the interpretive center and spy on prairie dogs throughout the park. At Missouri Headwaters State Park in Three Forks, see the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers joining forces to create the 2,300-mile Missouri River. Sacajawea was captured here as a child and eventually returned to the area as a member of Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery.

STATEPARKS.MT.GOV