



FAMILY-STYLE ADVENTURES

REMEMBER THAT TRIP TO MONTANA?

Your kids will. They'll remember the sky.
The mountains. The waters. The wildlife. The history.
And how they shared it all with you.

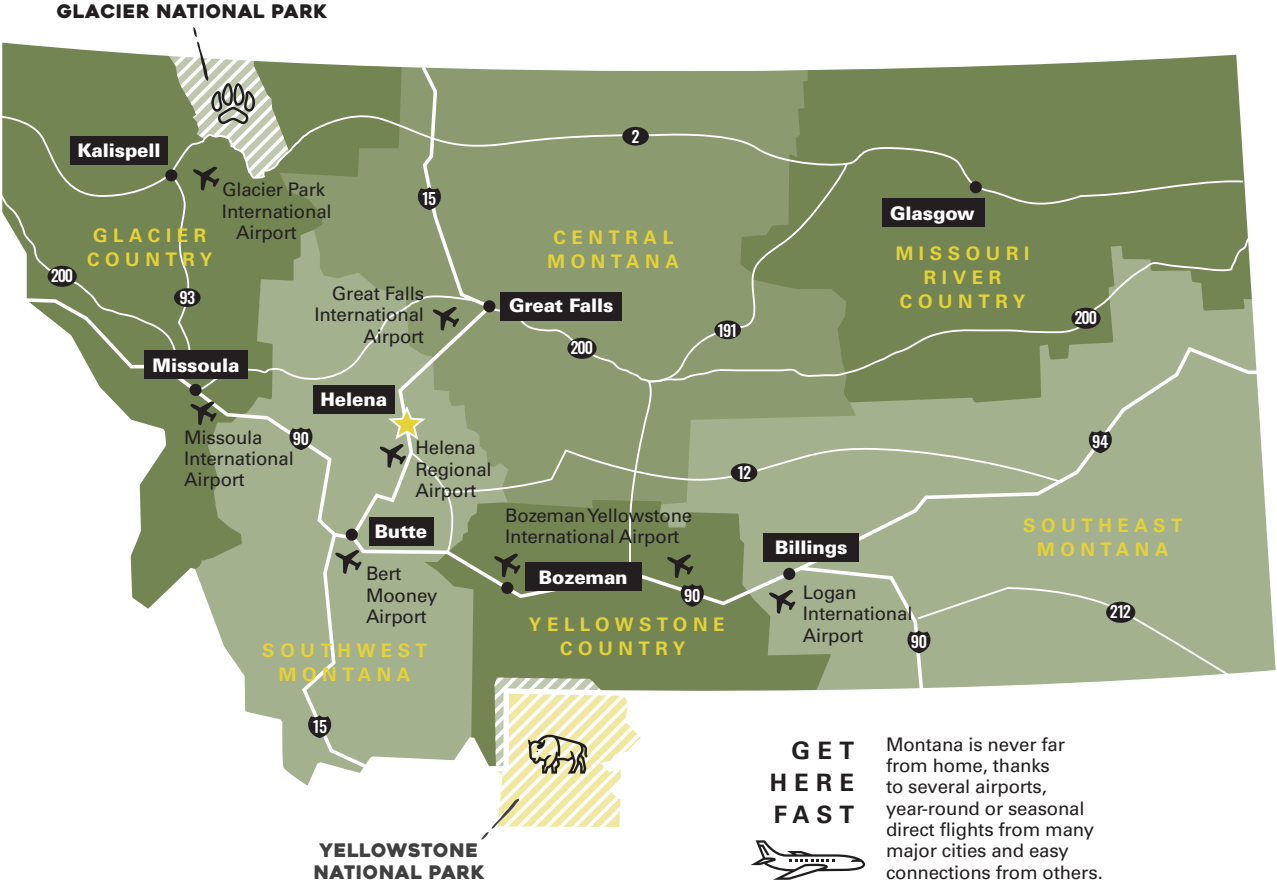
MONTANA

VISITMT.COM

Montana

EASY TO GET TO. HARD TO LEAVE.

Lewis and Clark took the adventurous route (the Missouri River) to Montana, but you can hop on a plane or the interstate. Pick an anchor town in one region of this big state (roughly 500 miles by 300 miles).



GET
HERE
FAST



Montana is never far from home, thanks to several airports, year-round or seasonal direct flights from many major cities and easy connections from others.

FUN
FACTS


HIGHEST POINT
Granite Peak
12,799 ft


LOWEST POINT
Kootenai River
1,804 ft


WORLD'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK
Yellowstone National Park


STATE NICKNAMES
Big Sky Country,
The Treasure State


SIZE
Montana has more than 147,000 square miles to explore.

Kalispell A MOUNTAIN MECCA

Just 45 minutes from Glacier National Park, Kalispell provides a dream base camp for epic alpine scenery, water adventures and winter bliss.

GLACIER
COUNTRY



FOR THE BEST WINTER VACATION EVER



Ride behind pups with Dog Sled Adventures in Olney, or hit the powder at Whitefish Mountain Resort in Whitefish or Blacktail Mountain Ski Area in Lakeside.



MAKE SOME WAVES

Flathead Lake, the state's largest body of water, provides prime paddling, even for first-timers. **Sea Me Paddle Kayaking** leads tours that match your family with the right water adventure. Want a more relaxed ride? **Pointer Scenic Cruises** in Bigfork launches boat trips to **Wild Horse Island State Park**, a primitive park in Flathead Lake. For an adrenaline boost, cruise the North or Middle Fork of the Flathead River with **Glacier Guides and Montana Raft**.

THE HUCKLEBERRY PATCH,
HUNGRY HORSE



KID-CENTRIC

Checklist

- ☒ Fuel up on muffins and java at **Ceres Bakery**.
- ☒ Shop **Imagination Station Toys** for creative playthings.
- ☒ Eat a slice of pie at **The Huckleberry Patch** in Hungry Horse.
- ☒ Explore pioneer swag at the **Museum at Central School**.

TRAIL OF THE
CEDARS, GLACIER
NATIONAL PARK



CHECK OUT THESE THREE
CAN'T-MISS ATTRACTIONS

at Glacier National Park:
Going-to-the-Sun Road, Trail of the Cedars and the Apikuni Falls Trail hike.

SEA ME PADDLE
KAYAKING,
FLATHEAD LAKE

Helena BIGGEST FAMILY ROOM EVER

Montana's capital captivates all ages with grand architecture, memorable rides and adventures among some of nature's greatest hits.



GO FREE-RANGE

Play follow-the-leader along the **Missouri River Canyon Trail** for up-close views of the storied waterway and stunning limestone cliffs. Or hop on an open-air train for a ride through Helena—and history. The **Last Chance Tour Train** rolls past the Mansion District's elegant homes and the Cathedral of St. Helena's soaring spires. Find classic toys and cool new ones at **Lasso the Moon Wonderful Toys**, where the name of the game is creativity and imagination.



DIG FOR TREASURE



Make like old prospectors and sift for precious stones at the **Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine and Gold Fever Rock Shop** in Helena. You may find blue-green sapphires.



MAN, CAVES!

It's really cool at **Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park** in Whitehall. Limestone caves chilled by "natural AC" show off stunning subterranean decor—stalactites, stalagmites, columns and helictites.



IN HELENA, SADDLE UP AT SUMMER STAR RANCH FOR A RIDE PAST "WHOA!"-INDUCING SCENERY. OR TAKE A HORSE-DRAWN WAGON TO DINNER AT LAST CHANCE RANCH.

3 WAYS TO Soak or Swim

- 1 Broadwater Hot Springs, Helena.** Surrounded by mountains and just ten minutes from downtown.
- 2 Boulder Hot Springs Inn and Spa, Boulder.** Anchored by a 100-year-old inn.
- 3 Elkhorn Hotsprings Resort, Polaris.** Open year-round, with snow fun at nearby Maverick Mountain.

BROADWATER HOT SPRINGS, HELENA



PHOTOGRAPHS: RYAN DONNELL

PHOTOGRAPH: VISIT HELENA



Hike the trails of **MOUNT HELENA**—more than a mile above sea level and 1,300 feet above the city. It's a great place to see both sunrise and sunset.

HELENA

HANDS-ON TERRITORY

Halfway between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, Helena extends a friendly wave and points out hands-on ways to have fun in the capital of Montana.

HELENAMT.COM

HERE'S A HIGH FIVE:

- 1 Tap to post pics.** With majestic mountains and wildlife, Helena fills your trip with photo ops. So keep your phone handy and create instant social media memories with #visithelenamt.
- 2 Lace up your boots.** Helena has miles and miles of trails. Your family hike can go from parks to meadows to rugged mountains—it's all up to you.
- 3 Hold the reins.** This roundup's all fun. Ride hand-carved Montana animals at the Great Northern Carousel.
- 4 Make science a snap.** ExplorationWorks! science museum keeps the formula fresh with hands-on exhibits that change quarterly. Outside, kids love the waterfall, stepping stones, supersized musical instruments and big puzzles.
- 5 Grab goodies.** The walking mall on Last Chance Gulch brims with places to shop, dine and otherwise indulge, plus there's an outdoor play area. And just try to resist the sweet treats at The Parrot Confectionery.

Bozeman YELLOWSTONE'S BACKYARD

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY



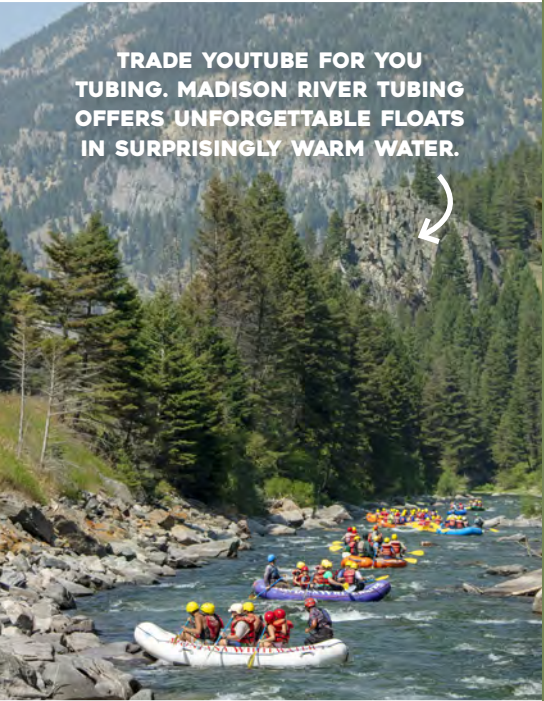
A jumping-off spot for the world's first national park, Bozeman beckons hikers, climbers, rafters and tubers to play and stay close to nature.

GET SOME HANG TIME

The high ropes course at Big Sky Resort, an hour south of Bozeman, dangles you 20–30 feet above the ground (safely harnessed and spotted by a guide). It's a great way to view Lone Mountain.



TRADE YOUTUBE FOR YOU TUBING. MADISON RIVER TUBING OFFERS UNFORGETTABLE FLOATS IN SURPRISINGLY WARM WATER.



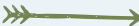
HIKES YOU'LL LIKE *Sweet Trail Mix*

- ✓ You can cover **Drinking Horse Mountain Trail**, right outside of town, in about an hour.
- ✓ **Fairy Lake Trail**, just over a mile, circles a lake in a forested bowl at the foot of Sacagawea Peak.
- ✓ The **M Trail**, a gift from Montana State University's class of 1918, lies just 4 miles outside Bozeman—look for the big white “M.”



DRINKING HORSE MOUNTAIN TRAIL, BOZEMAN

ROUGH IT (SORT OF)



Why families love the **Dreamcatcher Tipi Hotel's** boutique tepees:

- Near Yellowstone's north entrance
- Big enough to hold four people
- Memory-foam mattresses, heat, Wi-Fi
- Heated floors and privacy at bathhouse



DESTINATION MISSOULA

SET A PLAYDATE

The Playful City USA award-winning city promises serious fun for families.

Outdoor recess: Raft, bike or hike. Or take a field trip to Garnet Ghost Town.

Park and ride: Cool off in a water park or ride a carved pony at A Carousel for Missoula.

Do the floss: On Family Friendly Friday at the Top Hat, kids dance to live bands.

Wild ice cream: At Big Dipper or Sweet Peaks, try Mexican Chocolate, Honey Cinnamon or Huckleberry.

Kid science: Learn hands-on at the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium, or University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area.

DESTINATIONMISSOULA.ORG



BIG SKY

THRILL AND CHILL

The region is a natural amusement park with family-friendly ways to cut loose.

Wild rides: Just try to keep a straight face while whitewater rafting or ziplining.

Live tunes: Kick back with a free concert at Town Center Park on Thursday evenings.

Power park: Go to Big Sky Community Park in Meadow Village for hoops, climbing walls, a skateboard park, picnics and trails.

Kid-caliber hike: The easy Ousel Falls Trail rewards with a gorgeous waterfall.

Lake leisure: At Lake Levinsky, rent pedal boats, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards.

Fort-ified fun: Let the kids attack a 500-square-foot tree fort at Kircher Park along the South Fork of the Gallatin River.

VISITBIGSKY.COM



PHOTOGRAPHS: (ICE CREAM) DESTINATION MISSOULA, (RAFTING) VISIT BIG SKY

PHOTOGRAPHS: RYAN DONNELL

Great Falls THE HEART OF ADVENTURE

Along the Missouri River, Great Falls delivers the Montana you imagined: waters, wildlife and wilderness wrapped in a long coat of cowboy culture.



ROYAL ROUTE



The 71-mile **Kings Hill Scenic Byway** rules. It passes lakes and streams, trailheads, campgrounds, old mines and wildlife. It's also a gateway to snow sports, hot springs and museums for winter exploring.



156 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER FLOWS BY EACH DAY AT GIANT SPRINGS STATE PARK, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST FRESHWATER SPRINGS.



3 FOR THE SHOW

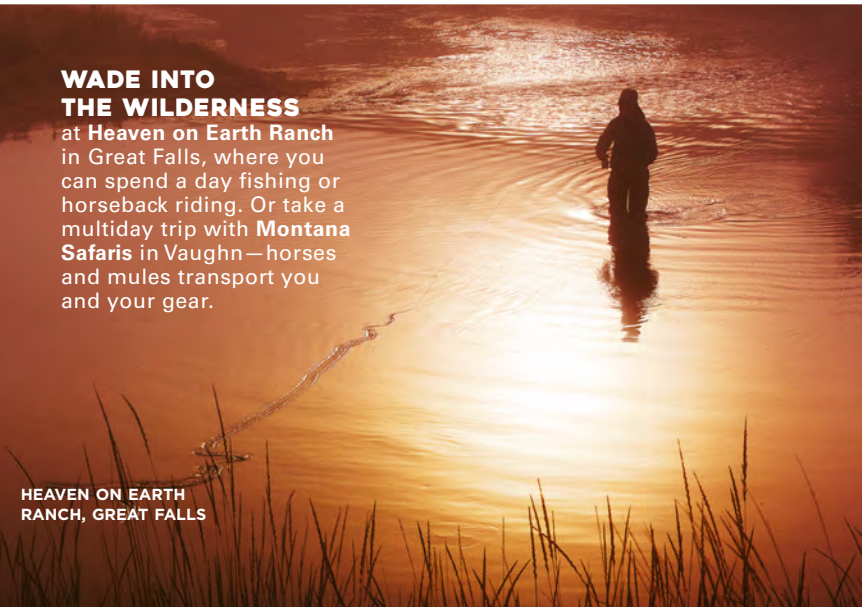
Trio of Traditions

- 1** Immerse yourself in state culture at the **Montana State Fair** (July 26–August 3). Soak in waves of concerts, carnival fun, food, livestock shows and crafts.
- 2** See nearly 100 of Montana's best rodeo cowboys take on the state's orneriest animals during the **Montana PRCA Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals** (January 10–12, 2020).
- 3** At the **Lewis and Clark Festival** (June 14–16), celebrate the explorers with live music and Native American dance, plus check out the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center.



WATCH THE BIRDIES

Keep an eye on the waterfowl and other wildlife that flock to “prairie potholes” (shallow wetlands) formed by ancient glaciers. **Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge** near Great Falls attracts 240 species of birds, as well as coyotes, badgers, porcupines, deer and pronghorn.



HEAVEN ON EARTH RANCH, GREAT FALLS

WADE INTO THE WILDERNESS at **Heaven on Earth Ranch** in Great Falls, where you can spend a day fishing or horseback riding. Or take a multiday trip with **Montana Safaris** in Vaughn—horses and mules transport you and your gear.

PHOTOGRAPHS: TODD KLASZY

WANTED: FUTURE SCIENTISTS

Missouri River Country seeks eager young scholars (and their families) to study nature in world-class settings. Travel required.

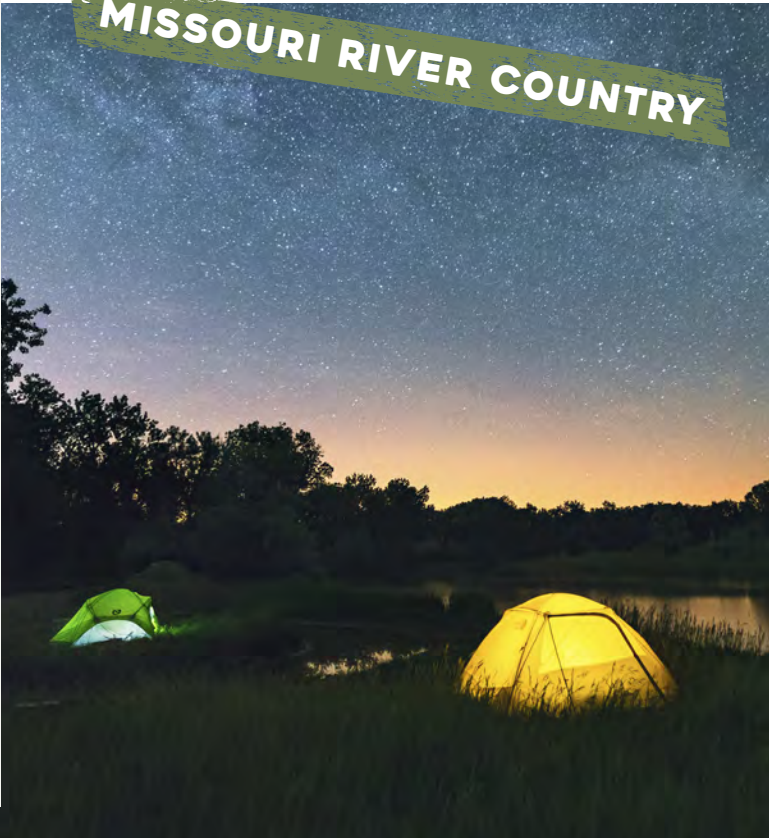
Job title: Aspiring astronomer
Experience: Camping with the stars
Where: Brush Lake State Park, Hell Creek State Park, Little Rocky Mountains, Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge

Job title: Paleontology prodigy
Experience: Discovering dinosaurs
Where: Fort Peck Interpretive Center, the Phillips County Museum, the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum, the Garfield County Museum

Job title: Budding biologist
Experience: Exploring the waters
Where: Fort Peck Lake, Missouri River

MISSOURIRIVERMT.COM

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY



PHOTOGRAPHS: (MISSOURI RIVER) ANDY AUSTIN, (HIKERS) CENTRAL MONTANA

CENTRAL MONTANA

EXPLORE THE CORE

In the middle of the state, natural beauty and vibrant culture amaze and delight.

Get outside and stay outside! In Great Falls, hop on the River's Edge Trail for views of canyons, waterfalls, mountains and prairies. **Kick back at the ranch.** Guest ranches cater to families. Triple J Wilderness Ranch offers a special horseback riding program for kids, plus family meals, campfires and stargazing. **Be creative.** Browse the Lewistown Art Center for Montana art and gifts, hit the Red Ants Pants Music Festival in White Sulphur Springs (kids get in free), and see a show at the century-old Orpheum Theatre in Conrad.

CENTRALMONTANA.COM/FAMILY

Billings A REAL EYE-OPENER

Even the food looks bigger in Billings, a city of large-scale landscapes perfect for adventurers. Feast your eyes and feed your soul.



MONTANA FUN ADVENTURES TOURS, BILLINGS

OFF-ROAD PERSPECTIVE

Jump in a jeep for a four-wheel-drive foray into the Rockies on **Montana Fun Adventures Tours**. Or dive deep into Native American customs at **Crow Fair** (Tepee Capital of the World).



RED LODGE, A SMALL TOWN ON THE WAY TO YELLOWSTONE, IS BIG ON OUTDOOR REC: WHITEWATER RAFTING, RELAXING FLOATS, TRAIL TREKS, WAGON RIDES AND SKIING.



WALK A DINOSAUR TRAIL

Or run it—you never know, right? **Makoshika State Park** holds the fossil remains of dinosaurs, plus a paleontology lab.



BUNK IN A Rustic Room

- ✓ **Kempton Hotel**, Terry. Built in 1902 and full of retro character—and some say ghosts. Famous guests include Teddy Roosevelt and Calamity Jane.
- ✓ **Dude Rancher Lodge**, Billings. Looks like an old frontier ranch house—knotty pine paneling, custom Western furniture and carpets stamped with ranch brands.
- ✓ **Beartooth Basin Bunkhouse**, Belfry. Rooms have rugged names like Cowboy Up, Riding ‘n’ Roping and Hold Yer Horses. You’re guaranteed a mountain or river view.

DINE DOWNTOWN
Heft a world-champion burger at retro-vibe fave, **The Burger Dive**. Try not to drool over the mega cinnamon rolls (14 ounces) at **Stella’s Kitchen and Bakery**. If the giant pretzel appetizer (large pizza size) at **Montana Brewing Company** doesn’t win over the kids, the nachos and the mac ‘n’ cheese will.



THE BURGER DIVE, BILLINGS

PHOTOGRAPHS: C2 PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHS: C2 PHOTOGRAPHY, (DINOSAUR DIG) JOANN HAMMOND

Glasgow NATURALLY INTRIGUING

A finger on a spinning globe gave this old railroad town its Scottish name. Enjoy the beauty of Fort Peck Lake and dig into well-preserved history.



3 GREAT ESCAPES Parks & Rec

- 1 **Hell Creek State Park** near Jordan feels like heaven for anglers, campers and boaters. It’s set on the Hell Creek Arm of Fort Peck Lake.
- 2 For wildlife watchers, it’s game on at **Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge**, about 60 miles southwest of Glasgow. Spot bugling elk, mule deer, red foxes and coyotes.
- 3 Revel in solitude. The **Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument** in Lewistown is a haven anchored by the 149-mile Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River.



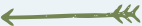
CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF NORTHEAST MONTANA, GLASGOW

MUSEUM MASH-UP

See a Western bar (with a bullet hole and slug intact) and a rare elk-hide tepee at the **Valley County Pioneer Museum** in Glasgow. The **Children’s Museum of Northeast Montana** offers younger kids hands-on learning in play settings like a post office, general store and tree house.



SCORE TREASURED MEMORIES



You can still pan for gold in **Zortman**, a historic mining town in the Little Rocky Mountains. Old miners’ shacks stand by modern buildings. Hit a scenery jackpot while hiking and camping.



FORT PECK INTERPRETIVE CENTER AND MUSEUM, FORT PECK

DINO-NAMIC DUO

Peck’s Rex, a life-size model of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* found nearby, greets you inside **Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum** in Fort Peck. At **Great Plains Dinosaur Museum and Field Station** in Malta, spy rare fossils of hulking dinosaurs, delicate plants and ancient sea creatures.



GREAT PLAINS DINOSAUR MUSEUM AND FIELD STATION, MALTA

BILLINGS

ULTIMATE TRAILHEAD

Attention, pioneer families: Billings not only rewards you with easy access to Yellowstone National Park (via the Beartooth Highway), but also gifts you the inspiring Rimrocks, Pompeys Pillar and paths to adventure that start right outside your hotel room. The city's proximity to unspoiled nature assures that your Big Sky Country experiences include down-to-earth folks, restful places to stay, memorable meals, refreshing beverages and big helpings of Western heritage. Plus, you'll have opportunities to see native animals like grizzly bears, river otters and eastern gray wolves—at ZooMontana, the only attraction of its kind in the Northern Rockies.

VISITBILLINGS.COM/PARENTS

CONNECT WITH NATURE

- Set off on more than 40 miles of hiking and biking trails around Billings and along the Yellowstone River, including one just for craft beer-lovers—the Billings Brew Trail.
- Even if you're not a history buff, a gorgeous overlook makes it worth a trip to the new Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site. The landmark honors one of Montana's most notable frontiersmen.
- Nature spots abound in Billings, including Pictograph Cave State Park. A short trail (less than a mile) takes you through a series of caverns marked by Native American art. Turn the journey into a scavenger hunt with kids.

TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

It's one of America's most beautiful drives—the Beartooth Highway, a 68-mile route leading right into the northeast entrance of Yellowstone National Park. Rising almost 3,000 feet of elevation in 12 miles, it's one of the world's highest roads, with post-worthy photo ops at every turn.

APPRECIATE ART

Check out contemporary and historic art of the Rocky Mountain West at the Yellowstone Art Museum. And browse the collection of artifacts and exhibits at The Western Heritage Center, showcasing the stories of life in the Yellowstone River Valley.

LIVE IT UP DOWNTOWN

With award-winning burgers and James Beard-nominated chefs, Billings shows its restaurant chops. Here's a must-try menu:

- Locally grown flavors at The Fieldhouse
- Ice cream at Big Dipper
- Refined pub grub at Last Chance Pub and Cider Mill

PHOTOGRAPHS: CHUCK HANEY, (FACING PAGE) VISIT BILLINGS

Indian Country RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE

Experience the varied languages, culture and histories of native tribes in Montana. Ancient traditions carried on today enrich the state’s diverse cultural heritage.



SEE NATIVE ART AND ARTIFACTS



Study paintings, sculptures and photography created by Northern Plains peoples at the Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning. Exhibits display tribal clothing, weapons and household items.



MILK RIVER INDIAN DAYS, FORT BELKNAP

POWWOW CELEBRATION

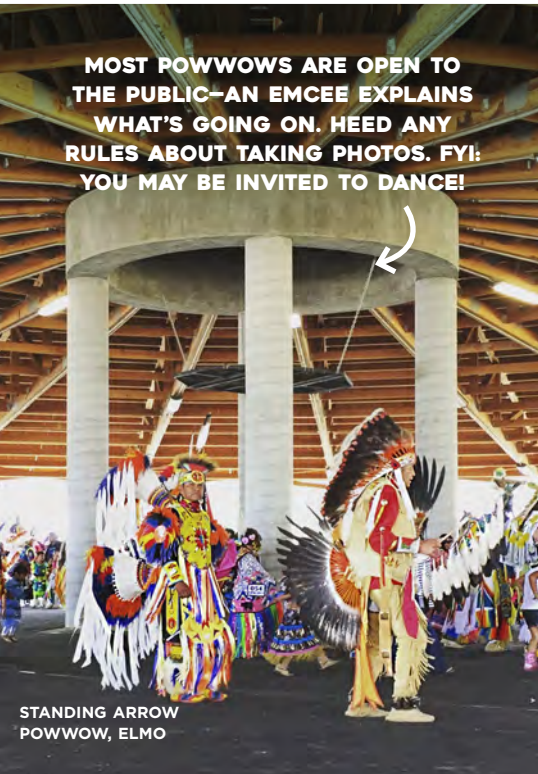
Come to North American Indian Days (July 11–14) in Browning for drumming and dancing, a parade, fun run and rodeo. The Rocky Boy’s Annual Powwow (August) in Rocky Boy’s features cultural demonstrations as well as ethnic and traditional food. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes hold the People’s Center Celebration and Pow-wow (August 17) in Pablo. The Fort Belknap Indian Community, home to the Nakoda and Aaniiih nations, hosts Milk River Indian Days (July 19–21) and a Veterans Day powwow (December 21–22).



INDIAN BATTLE TOURS

VIEW TRIBAL CULTURE THROUGH Expert Eyes

- 1 On Blackfeet Cultural History Tours, a native guide rides along in your vehicle to explain historic tribal sites.
- 2 The Battle of the Little Bighorn (aka Custer’s Last Stand) comes to life via a Crow guide on Indian Battle Tours.
- 3 Montana Journeys offers small-group tours led by native Montanan anthropologists and archaeologists.



MOST POWWOWS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC—AN EMCEE EXPLAINS WHAT’S GOING ON. HEED ANY RULES ABOUT TAKING PHOTOS. FYI: YOU MAY BE INVITED TO DANCE!

STANDING ARROW POWWOW, ELMO

PHOTOGRAPHS: MONTANA OFFICE OF TOURISM AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SOUTHEAST MONTANA

BEAUTY AND BEASTS

Parents fall in love with the scenery; kids get googly-eyed over creatures.

Head to Makoshika State Park in Glendive for rugged badlands and dinosaur fossils. The visitors center’s exhibits tell tales as old as time, while trails beckon hikers and cyclists. Follow the Montana Dinosaur Trail to Makoshika Visitors Center, Frontier Gateway Museum and Carter County Museum. Marvel at life-sized replicas of dinos and take part in fossil digs. Prefer live creatures? ZooMontana in Billings, the state’s only zoo and botanical park, spotlights native Montana critters.

[SOUTHEASTMONTANA.COM](https://southeastmontana.com)



STATE PARKS

BANNACK, THE FRIENDLY GHOST TOWN

The Old West echoes in deserted streets and empty buildings.

The site of Montana’s first big gold strike, once-booming Bannack, left behind more than 60 log-and-frame structures. Start your tour of Bannack State Park at the visitors center. During Bannack Days (July 20–21), watch demos of pioneer skills, try your hand at panning for gold or making candles, take retro rides and move to old-time music. You may even see a gunfight or stagecoach robbery. During Living History weekend (September 19–22), interpreters depict 1860s life at sites like a mining camp, blacksmith shop, general store, school, saloon, boarding house, butcher shop and church.

[STATEPARKS.MT.GOV](https://stateparks.mt.gov)

PHOTOGRAPHS: (SOUTHEAST MONTANA) CHUCK HANEY (BANNACK STATE PARK) ERIC SCHMIDT

VISIT MONTANA

LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE

Now that you've
gotten a bird's-eye
view of Montana, go to
VISITMT.COM/PARENTS
to swoop down
for details and updates
on regions, events and
attractions.

From general inspiration to specific trip ideas,
VISITMT.COM is your source for places to go and things
to do in Big Sky Country. With a wealth of information
on the national parks, Native American nations,
outdoor activities, history, culture and more,
there is something for every adventurer.

TRAVEL RESOURCES

[VISITMT.COM/plan-your-trip.html](https://visitmt.com/plan-your-trip.html)

Road conditions (available statewide):
511 or [MDT511.com](https://mdt511.com)

Travel Info Mobile App: [MDT.MT.GOV/TRAVINFO](https://mdt.mt.gov/travinfo)

National Parks:

Glacier National Park 406.888.7800

Yellowstone National Park 307.344.7381

MONTANA

[VISITMT.COM](https://visitmt.com)

#MONTANAMOMENT   