

# MONTANA

EXPLORE INDIAN COUNTRY



Scenic. Sacred. Stories.





Horse in Southeast Montana.  
Front cover: Tipi on the Crow Indian Reservation.

### Table of Contents

#### Road Trips

Warrior Trail Highway.....5  
 Peaks and Valleys.....6  
 Sleeping Buffalo Trail.....7

#### Reservations

Blackfeet.....9  
 Crow.....10  
 Flathead.....11  
 Fort Belknap.....12  
 Fort Peck.....13  
 Little Shell Tribe.....14  
 Northern Cheyenne.....15  
 Rocky Boy's.....16

#### Culture and Tradition

Buffalo.....17  
 Arts and Crafts.....18  
 Powwow Etiquette.....19

#### Plan Your Trip

Events.....20  
 Trip Planning Resources.....22

# WELCOME TO INDIAN COUNTRY

## Welcome

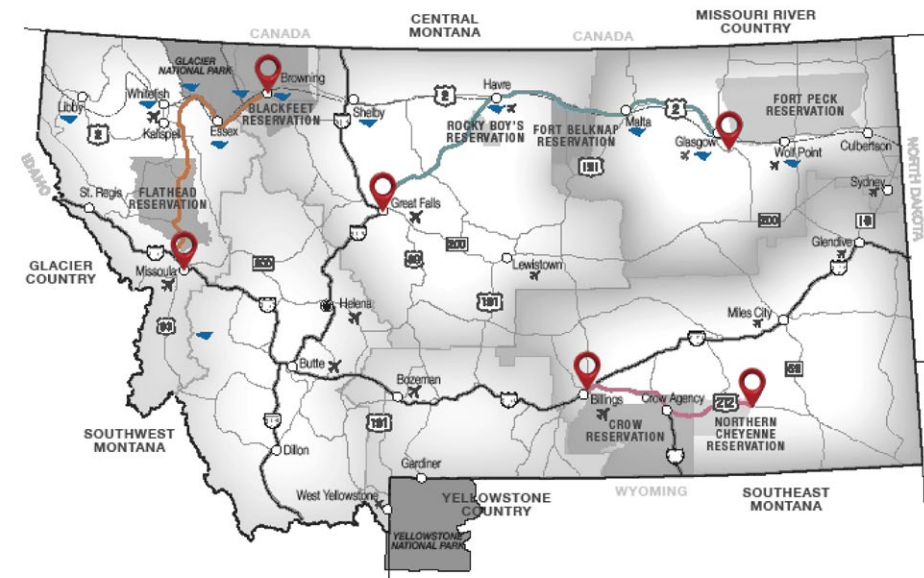
A northwestern state of breathtaking mountain ranges and rolling prairie lands, scattered with colorful wildflowers and golden wheat fields, and set with scenic backdrops of bright blue skies, Montana is a dream destination for unforgettable experiences and outdoor fun.

Home to seven Indian reservations and the state recognized Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians, there is a total of twelve tribal nations in Montana. The seven federally recognized tribal nations have tribal sovereignty, which means they have the authority to govern themselves, with some limitations. These tribal homelands have miles and miles of unspoiled landscapes with sweeping views and hidden treasures waiting to be discovered. We encourage you to explore unique sights, buy local authentic arts and crafts, taste Native American cuisine and experience the splendor and beauty of the tribal nations across Montana.

## Traditional Societies

We invite you to create a new vision of Native Americans, and open yourself up to the rich and time-honored cultures behind the traditions and customs that have been passed down from generation to generation. Indigenous people are taught that tribal elders carry wisdom in their minds and culture in their hearts. Different ceremonies hold various meaning, from the spiritual sundance to the celebratory powwow. Everything in nature is sacred in Native American culture, and tribal people show the utmost honor and respect for all living creatures.

Come see for yourself all that the Native American culture has to offer. Go beyond the cinematic version seen on television and in movies, and feed your soul by experiencing the many tribal communities, diverse cultures and history of this vast, unspoiled land. Your experience is made easier by following one, or all, of our customized road trips created to guide you through the heart of the eight federally recognized Indian nations. These trips highlight what is remarkable within each of the seven tribal reservations, including tribally owned eateries, gift shops, outfitters and other tribal tourism businesses.



#### Road Trips

- Warrior Trail Highway
- Peaks and Valleys
- Sleeping Buffalo Trail

- Airport
- Amtrak Station





# WARRIOR TRAIL HIGHWAY ROAD TRIP #1

This history-packed trip starts in Billings and travels across Southeast Montana to showcase some of the best Native American warrior history of the Great Plains. Hear tales of tribal war chiefs, see historic battlefields and explore ancient indigenous art. Travel this route to learn more about the culture and history of the **Crow** and **Northern Cheyenne** tribes.

### Decipher History

Stop at the **Four Dances Natural Area** for a scenic nature hike overlooking the Yellowstone River. Farther down the road, stop to walk the short trails of **Pictograph Cave State Park** and witness the unique pictographs left by ancient storytellers from hundreds of years ago. Learn about the fascinating life of the last traditional **Crow** war chief at **Chief Plenty Coups State Park** near Pryor.

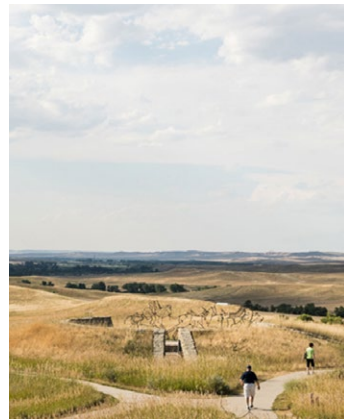
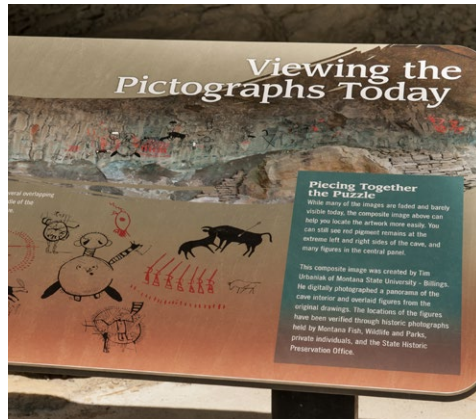
### Native Guided Tours

History is captured within the walls of the **Custer Battlefield Museum** on the **Crow** Reservation. Travel into history on a guided tour of the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument with **Apsaalooke Tours** in Crow Agency. From your vehicle, receive a personal step-on tour with **Indian Battle Tours**. Watch history come alive at the **Real Bird's Reenactment of the Battle of the Little Bighorn** held annually in June. Extend your stay in Crow Agency and spend the night in a luxury teepee with the **Apsaalooke Glamping Company**. If you want a day on the water, rent a pontoon boat from **Ok-A-Beh Marina** and explore the **Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area**.

### Take Home Treasures

Stop by **Wellknown Buffalo Coffee House** for a refreshing drink or meet the friendly staff at the **Custer Battlefield Trading Post and Café** for an appetizing bison burger or authentic Indian taco. Browse the gift shop to find a stunning array of floral-designed beaded jewelry, brightly decorated textiles or handcrafted beaded leather moccasins. Gather supplies for your own arts and crafts or shop at the **Medicine Turtle** and **River Crow Trading Posts** to bring home authentic **Crow** design artwork, signature **Crow** floral medallion necklaces or a brightly colored star quilt. In the summer months, stop by the Saturday **Apsaalooke Community Market** for authentic artwork and beaded jewelry decorated with the unique **Crow** hourglass design. Then, grab lunch from one of the many food vendors who incorporate locally grown fruits and vegetables into authentic native cuisine.

Below left: Pictograph Cave State Park.  
Below right: Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument



### On the Plains

Explore **Rosebud Battlefield State Park** located just south of Busby or visit the **Chief Two Moons Monument**, created in honor of a **Northern Cheyenne** chief who participated in the Battle of the Little Bighorn and was a model for the famous buffalo nickel. Continue driving to the **Tongue River Reservoir State Park** for a modern frontier camping adventure complete with a camp store and panoramic lake views. Drive to Ashland and explore **St. Labre Mission and Cheyenne Museum** to learn about the connection between the mission and **Northern Cheyenne**. Shop **Lame Deer Trading Post** for travel essentials, then buy gifts of wild plum jelly, herbal-infused beauty products or beaded jewelry incorporating the symmetrical morning star design, made by local **Northern Cheyenne** crafters at the **Warrior Trail Jewelry and Gifts**, and visit neighboring shops in the **Cheyenne Commerce Center**.



## PEAKS AND VALLEYS ROAD TRIP #2

This scenic drive is one that will amaze and excite your senses. Start in Missoula, located at the junction of five mountain valleys: Clark Fork Valley to the west, Flathead Valley to the north, Blackfoot Valley to the northeast, Deer Lodge Valley to the east and Bitterroot Valley to the south. Travel through western Montana's Glacier Country and explore the history, culture and tradition of the **Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes** and the **Blackfeet Tribe**.

### Modern History

Modern technology meets history class at the **Payne Family Native American Center** in Missoula, where visitors can learn of the star lore of Native American cultures in a planetarium. Find all things huckleberry at the **Huckleberry Patch Alpine Grill and Gift Shop** in Arlee. View wildlife on the **National Bison Range** on the **Flathead Reservation**, then stop to view the sturdy brickwork and spectacular wall murals of the historic **St. Ignatius Mission** built in the early 1890s. Grab your camera, go birding or take a leisurely walk through the **Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge**.

### Dawn to Dusk

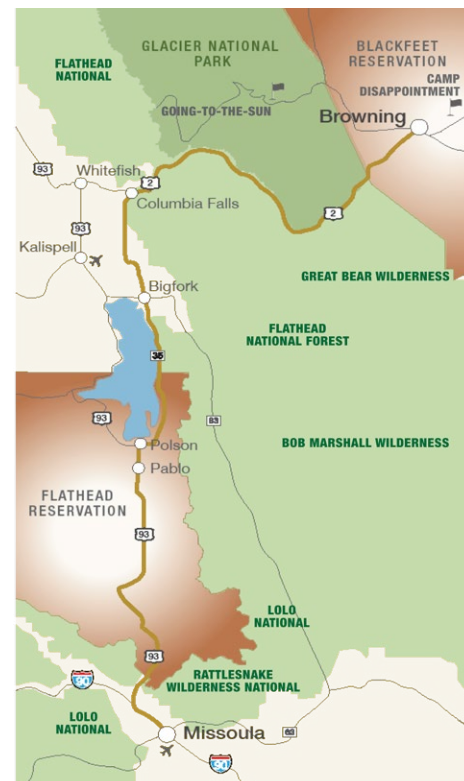
Spend time in the Three Chiefs Cultural Center and shop the shelves of beadwork, paintings, photos and jewelry in the gift shop. Visit the breathtaking **Seli's Ksanka Qlispe'**, formerly known as **Kerr Dam**, in Polson, open year-round from dawn until dusk. Stay at **KwaTaqNuk Resort and Casino** on Flathead Lake, the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River, or reserve a cabin at **Big Arm Resort RV Park**. With an abundance of amenities including showers, laundry facilities and full hookup RV locations, you won't be disappointed.

### Saddle Up

Tour the **Flathead Reservation** with **Montana Journeys**, a tour company with **Salish and Kootenai** guides trained in both anthropology and archaeology. Saddle up to explore the area on horseback or take a boat trip to check out **Wild Horse Island State Park** on Flathead Lake. Take an interpretive tour with **Sun Tours** within Glacier National Park, known by local tribal people as the Backbone of the World. This Native American-owned tour company is headquartered in East Glacier Park. Its knowledgeable **Blackfeet** guides excite visitors with tales about the **Blackfeet Tribe's** historical and cultural connection to the local area and national park.



Above: Blackfeet Fancy Dancer.



### Great Outdoors

Spend an evening sleeping in a teepee under a starry sky at the **Lodgepole Gallery and Tipi Village** in Browning or pick a camp spot in any one of the tribal-operated campgrounds of the **Blackfeet Tribe**: **Buffalo Calf Campground**, **Chewing Black Bones Campground**, **Duck Lake Campground**, **Red Eagle Campground** and **Sleeping Wolf Campground**. While driving, watch for the **Blackfeet Nation Bison Reserve** to view free-roaming buffalo in their natural habitat.

### Experience the Local Life

While in Browning, take a swim in the pool at the **Glacier Peaks Hotel**, peek into the **Glacier Peaks Casino**, then enjoy a huckleberry chicken dinner at the **Jackpot Restaurant** or grab a buffalo burger and milkshake at **Nation's Burger Station**. Buy a ribbon skirt showcasing the style of **Blackfeet** seamstresses or shop the shelves of brilliant material at the local quilt store and gift shop, **Native Life**. Explore and shop at **Faught's Blackfeet Trading Post** for beaded earrings, bracelets and moccasins decorated in the **Blackfeet** floral and geometric designs. Learn more history of the **Blackfeet Tribe** at the **Museum of the Plains Indian**.

## SLEEPING BUFFALO TRAIL ROAD TRIP #3

Start in Great Falls in Central Montana to visit and learn more about the lives and culture of the **Little Shell**, **Rocky Boy's**, **Fort Belknap** and **Fort Peck** tribes. If you love being on the open road, this is the perfect route for you. Leave your stress behind to cruise the rolling plains and marvel at the colorful mosaic of beauty between your destinations.

### Exciting Sightings

Tell your friends you saw the largest buffalo jump in North America after you visit the **First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park** near Ulm. This buffalo jump site is also a ceremony site used by the **Little Shell Tribe**. Visit the **Charles M. Russell Museum** to admire tribal life and history in the artwork of Charlie Russell. Drive to Fort Benton to visit the **Museum of the Northern Great Plains** and discover the remarkable history of the Plains tribes, the original buffalo herds of the Great Plains and the tribal history of the local area. Get out your fishing rod and venture into nature with **Blackfeet Outfitters** for an adventure on the Missouri River.

Along the way, make a quick stop at **Prairie Brew Coffee** in Box Elder for some amazing homemade pastries and delicious coffee. Just up the highway, take a break to enjoy **Rocky Boy's Northern Winz Hotel and Casino** and grab a delicious meal at the **Starlight Steakhouse and Café** before getting back on the trail.

### Hit the Highway

In Havre, visit the site of the **Wahkpa Chu'gn Buffalo Jump** and take a one-hour guided tour of the remains of a buffalo corral structure, stone boiling pits used by indigenous hunters over 200 years ago. Get up close to the 2,000-pound **Cory Holmes Bison Sculpture** made of telegraph wire located in the town square in downtown Havre. Before leaving town, get your grub on at **Boxcars Restaurant and Bar** for an appetizing burger or sandwich on the patio.

### Buffalo Sightings

On the **Fort Belknap Reservation**, put on your walking shoes for a guided tour of the **Fort Belknap Buffalo Reserve** to view 500 buffalo or see the petroglyphs and teepee rings found near the Snake Butte rock wall. Don't leave **Fort Belknap** without getting lunch at the **Smoke House Grille**, grabbing a coffee at the **Sacred Grounds Coffee Shop** or stopping by the **Fort Belknap Casino**.

Near Saco, experience the spiritual power of the **Sleeping Buffalo Rock and Monument** and read about the fascinating history behind its location and link to Native American ancestors. Explore the Fort Peck Tribe buffalo herd. While visiting Poplar, check out the lunch special at **Frostees Eats & Treats** or dine at the **Buckhorn Bar & Café** on prime rib Friday. Drive down the street to explore and shop the **Dakota Trading Post** to buy a beaded necklace, earring and bracelet set or maybe a painting, all handcrafted by local artists and crafters.

Bottom left: First People's Buffalo Jump State Park.

Bottom right: Milk River Indian Days.







## BLACKFEET

**Oki**  
*Greetings*

The 1.5 million-acre **Blackfoot Reservation**, in northcentral Montana, is bordered by Canada to the north and Glacier National Park to the west. The reservation was established by treaty in 1855.

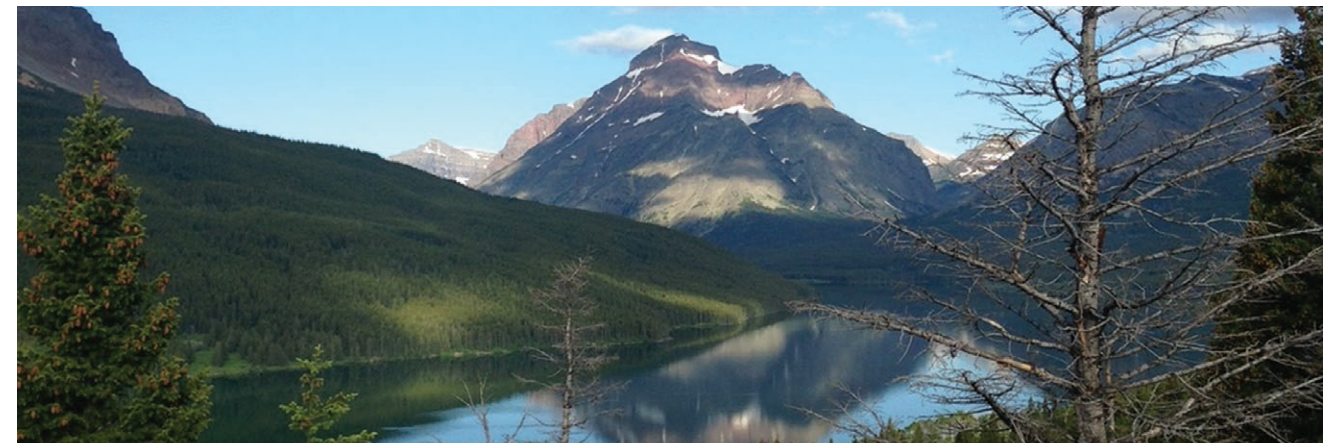
The Blackfoot Reservation is home to the **Blackfoot** (Niisitapi), who are a part of what is known as the Blackfoot Confederacy, which is made up of four separate bands: North Piegan, South Piegan, Blood and Siksika.

*Take in tradition at the annual North American Indian Days. This celebration is held annually, the second week of July.*

*Top: Sculptures at the entrance to the Blackfoot Reservation at East Glacier.  
Below: Views from Looking Glass Road in East Glacier.*

### Did you know...

The Blackfoot people have a spiritual and cultural connection to Glacier National Park and consider the vast Rocky Mountain range the Backbone of the World.





# CROW

## Kah'ee

### Greetings

The 2.2 million-acre Crow Reservation, in southeastern Montana, is bordered by Wyoming and just south of Billings, Montana. The reservation was established by treaties in 1851 and 1868.

Crow Nation is home to the Crow (Apsaalooke) people.

Be a part of one of the biggest powwows in the country, the Crow Fair and Rodeo. This event is held annually, the third weekend of August.

#### Did you know...

Termed "Crow Country," the Bighorn Canyon is a sacred place for the Crow people, with over 120,000 acres of diverse ecosystems, wildlife, hiking trails and water activities.

Above right: Young boy at Crow Fair and Rodeo.  
Bottom left: Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.  
Bottom right: Custer Battlefield Trading Post.



Left: Mission Reservoir reflecting the peaks of the Mission Mountains.  
Right: View of the Mission Mountains outside Ronan.



# FLATHEAD

## Xest sxlxalt (Salish) / Ki'su'k Kyukyit (Kootenai)

### Greetings

The 1.3 million-acre Flathead Reservation, in northwest Montana, is located between the cities of Missoula and Kalispell and has landmass in four Montana counties. The reservation was established by treaty in 1855.

The Flathead Reservation is home to the Salish (Squelixw - Bitterroot/Pend d'Oreille) and Kootenai ('aqtsmaknik) people.

Step into history at the Arlee 4th of July Celebration. This annual gathering is held July 4th weekend.

#### Did you know...

Situated on the Flathead Reservation, Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River, offering fishing, boating and tour activities.



## FORT BELKNAP

# Hą (Nakoda) / Wahei (Aaniiih)

Greetings

The 652,000-acre Fort Belknap Reservation, is in northcentral Montana. The reservation was established by treaty in 1888.

Fort Belknap Reservation is home to both the **Assiniboine** (Nakoda) and the **Gros Ventre** (Aaniiih) people.

*Treat the senses to dances and drums at the Milk River Indian Days. This annual event is held the fourth weekend of July.*

*Below left: Powwow dancer at Milk River Indian Days.  
Below top right: Mission Canyon near Hays.  
Bottom right: Rodeo at Milk River Indian Days.*

### Did you know...

Nestled in the Bears Paw Mountains is the Mission Canyon, where a natural limestone bridge can be found, formed from hundreds of years of erosion and soaring 60 feet above the ground.

## FORT PECK

# Tanyán Yahipí (Nakoda/Dakota)

Greetings

The 2.1 million-acre Fort Peck Reservation is in northeastern Montana, approximately 50 miles south of the Canadian border, with its southern perimeter defined by the Missouri River. The reservation was established by presidential order in 1871.

Fort Peck Reservation is home to the **Assiniboine** (Nakoda) and **Sioux** (Dakota) people.

*Discover native culture at the Poplar Indian Days celebration. This annual event is held the first weekend of September.*

*Below left: Camping at the Pines Campground near Fort Peck.  
Bottom left: The Milk River near Tampico.  
Below right: Fort Peck Lake.*

### Did you know...

The Fort Peck Reservation has a compilation of creeks across several miles that, when identified on a map, form the shape of a buffalo.







## LITTLE SHELL TRIBE

# Boozhoo

Greetings

The Little Shell Tribe of the Chippewa Indians gained federal recognition on December 20, 2019.

The Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians tribal headquarters is in Great Falls and is the epicenter of the Little Shell tribal programs.

In the mid-1800s, the tribe was in the Red River-Pembina North Dakota region. After the 1892 renegotiation of the Treaty of 1863, many of the Me'tis, including the band of Chippewa under Little Shell, were left without a land base or reservation and eventually resettled throughout Montana.

*Experience the importance of honor at the Little Shell Elders and Veterans Traditional Powwow, held the second weekend of August.*

### Did you know...

The Little Shell Tribe is the only state-recognized tribe in Montana. Its language is a unique blend of Chippewa native tongue, French, Cree and a little English.



Top: Sunrise over the Missouri River near Cascade.

Lower left: Black Eagle Dam in Great Falls.

Lower right: Native American display Little Shell Visitors Center.

## NORTHERN CHEYENNE

# Haahe

Greetings

The 450,000-acre Northern Cheyenne Reservation is in southeastern Montana, neighbored on the west by the Crow Reservation and on the east by the Tongue River. The reservation was established by presidential order in 1884.

Northern Cheyenne Reservation is home to the Northern Cheyenne (Tsétséhestáhesé and Só'taeo'o) people.

*Attend the Northern Cheyenne 4th of July Powwow, the largest on the reservation. This annual celebration is held the week of the July 4th holiday.*

### Did you know...

Slowly migrating westward, the Cheyenne people moved from their traditional homelands around the Great Lakes, and along the way their ancestors learned to farm.



Top: Powwow dancers at Victory Days.

Middle: Victory days on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

Bottom: Family hiking at Rosebud Battlefield State Park.



## ROCKY BOY'S

# Tansi

### Greetings

**The 108,000-acre Rocky Boy's Reservation in northcentral Montana is about 40 miles from the Canadian border, within the Bears Paw Mountains. The reservation was established by congressional statute in 1916.**

The Rocky Boy's Reservation is home to both the Chippewa (Ojibwe) and Cree (Nehiyaw) people, who have combined to become, and refer to themselves as, the Chippewa Cree Tribe.

*Come together with people of all ages at the Rocky Boy's Powwow. This annual event is held the first weekend of August.*

#### Did you know...

Rocky Boy's Reservation was named after Ah-se-ne-win, or Chief Stone Man. Rocky Boy's evolved from a misinterpretation of the Chippewa Cree language.

Top: Drawing of a white buffalo on the Rocky Boy's Reservation.  
Middle: Bear Paw Mountains.  
Bottom: Grass Dancer at Rocky Boy's Powwow.



# THE BUFFALO

In 2016, the buffalo was officially named the national mammal of the United States for its representation of unity, resilience and importance to Native Americans. To this day, the buffalo remains an important animal to tribes across the United States. The symbolism may vary slightly from tribe to tribe; however, tribal people still hold an important spiritual connection to the buffalo.

Historically, the buffalo has always been a part of indigenous cultural practices and religious ceremonies. The animal has long provided food, shelter and weapons for the survival of tribal families and their traditional way of life. The history of the United States government and the buffalo has not always been one of preservation, but through recent conservation efforts and changes in federal legislation, the buffalo has become a protected and honored animal, ensuring that the ancestors of the ancient herds will continue to live in national parks, on public land, on ranches and on tribal reservations for future generations to enjoy.

Native Americans have coexisted with the buffalo since time immemorial and are considered the first conservationists of the ancient buffalo herds that roamed across the North American continent. Today, their efforts continue as tribes work to preserve the region's buffalo herds. Many tribes have large buffalo reserves for the management and operation of both commercial and traditional herds. Montana is a great place to learn more about the history and conservation of the buffalo.

#### Bison or Buffalo?

Native Americans use the word buffalo when referring to the American bison. This is most likely because, in most indigenous languages, the word for the animal translates to bull, although the European scientific name for bison is bovidae. When visiting with indigenous people, expect to hear the word buffalo in reference to this impressive ancient mammal.

#### Pishkun

A pishkun, or buffalo jump, is a natural cliff or steep drop-off used in ancient hunting practices by tribal people. This method of hunting allowed the hunters to gather and kill large numbers of buffalo at one time. Visit an ancient pishkun to learn more about the historical and cultural importance of the buffalo to the first inhabitants of this continent. There are several preserved and protected pishkun sites open to the public, with guided tours and daily presentations to explain the hunting and gathering styles of the Native Americans of Montana.





# ARTS AND CRAFTS

## Native American Arts and Crafts

Native Americans appreciate the beauty and splendor of the world around them. This appreciation is illustrated in the artwork and intricate designs that adorn their clothing, jewelry, homes and everyday items. Tribal artists use design and color to represent the connection between them and their environment. Design elements vary from tribe to tribe.

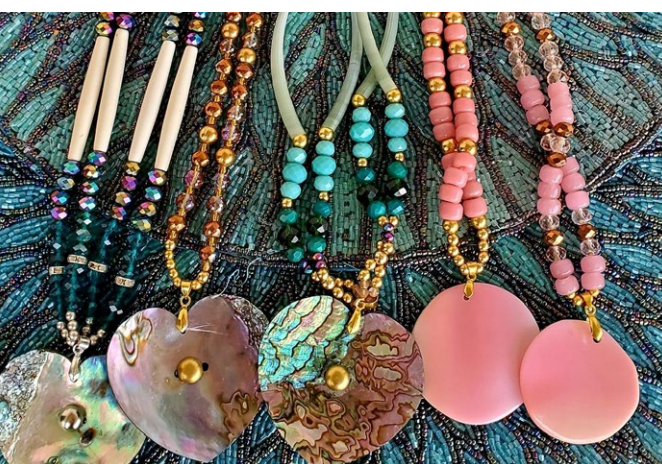
Beadwork is a time-honored skill, and items that are hand beaded are usually custom designed by a specific beadwork artist. Glass beadwork is the art of looming, stringing beads together or sewing them onto fabric to create designs. This artwork has been perfected since Native Americans first had contact with Europeans and could trade or barter for glass beads. Prior to using glass beads, items were adorned with various materials, such as porcupine quills, shells, bones and even the ivory teeth of certain animals.

Indigenous crafts are available in many different materials and designs. While you travel, look for colorful quilts, sturdy custom leatherwork, beaded jewelry, clothing, weavings, woodwork or even a stunning painting. Many hours go into the making of these items, and the designs can be very intricate and complex.



## Native American Made in Montana

Look for authentic Native American arts and crafts as you visit the reservations and tribal communities. Keep an eye out for items marked with the Native American Made in Montana emblem, a seal that certifies the item was made by a member of a tribe in Montana. Watch for businesses across Indian Country that offer classes where you can learn and make your own handmade souvenir. Local crafters and artists sell their handmade crafts at farmers markets, powwows, celebrations, art exhibits, museums, local gift shops and other locations. There will be plenty of opportunities to purchase keepsakes and original Native American-made gifts for everyone as you visit each of the reservation communities.



Top and top middle: Authentic Native American beadwork.  
Bottom middle: Native American Made in Montana jewelry.  
Bottom: Beaded moccasins.

# POWWOW ETIQUETTE

Each year, tribes across Montana host annual family-friendly powwows that are open to the public. Historically, powwows have been a time for neighboring bands of the same tribal groups to come together to reconnect, participate in ceremonies and celebrate. During these events, the powwow grounds fill with hundreds of dancers, their family members, invited guests and visitors from across the United States.

At a powwow, you will experience traditional dancing, singing and drumming, traditional games and sporting events. There are carnivals, parades, exhibits, arts and crafts and special ceremonies. During the event, be prepared that start times may fluctuate. While waiting for the grand entry of dancers to kick off the powwow, take a walk around the dance arbor, taste authentic Native American food from local vendors or buy handcrafted souvenirs from local artists.

When watching, feel free to take photos throughout most of the activities, but try not to use flashes that might distract the dancers. There will be times when it is considered inappropriate to take video or photographs, so always use caution and be respectful. There are customs you should be familiar with when visiting a tribal nation or attending a tribally hosted event. Indigenous people revere their elders and veterans, and you may hear songs or prayers conducted in honor of them. Please feel free to show your respect by standing and removing your hat during these special moments. During an event or celebration, it is customary for tribal people to offer food and drink or even a small gift to a visitor, so do not be shy to accept, as it is considered polite to do so.

## Regalia and Dancing

You will witness different types of dance and Native American regalia at a powwow. **Traditional** dance is often identified as an intertribal, straight dance or round dance, and visitors are generally welcomed, so join the dancing and the fun! **Contest** dance is a series of competitions for dancers to display their skills and athleticism in a certain dance style or category. Just like any competition, prizes are awarded for the top contenders, and applauding your favorite dancer is appreciated. **Ceremonial** dance is a time of sharing culture and tradition for a specific celebration or occasion. You may witness an honor dance, a naming ceremony or a give-away ceremony. Show your respect and remove any headgear and stand when appropriate while observing or experiencing these ceremonies with your Montana tribal neighbors.

Some dance styles are specific to a region or tribe and can vary depending on origination or meaning. During the grand entry of the dancers, spectators can see lines of cloth shawls in every shade of color adorning the **fancy shawl dancers'** entrance into the arena, and hear the bells ring from the feet of the **chicken dancers** embellished with pheasant feathers as the powwow begins. Visitors can watch the shake of the vibrant bustles on the backs of the male **fancy dancers**, or see the breeze blow into the long fringes of the **grass dancers'** regalia made of yarn, leather or ribbons, as the drum beat rolls over the event. As the singing and drumming continue, watch as the **traditional dancers'** buckskin and eagle feathers move rhythmically, and listen to the jingles of the **jingle dress dancers'** sound in the air!



Top left: Dancers at the Crow Fair on the Crow Indian Reservation.  
Top right: Rocky Boy Powwow.  
Above left: Young girl parading at the Crow Fair.  
Above right: North American Indian Days on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.



# ANNUAL EVENTS BY TRIBE

Plan to attend one of the many annual powwows across Montana to celebrate the culture and traditions of Native Americans in Montana.

## Blackfeet

**North American Indian Days** – Second week of July

**Heart Butte Celebration** – First weekend of September

## Crow Nation

**Crow Native Days** – Third weekend of June

**Crow Fair and Rodeo** – Third weekend of August

## Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

**Arlee 4th of July Celebration** – Fourth of July

**Standing Arrow Powwow** – Third weekend of July

## Fort Belknap Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes

**Wasay Wakpa Wachi Powwow** – Third weekend of July

**Milk River Indian Days** – Fourth weekend of July

**Hays Community Powwow** – Second weekend of August

**Chief Joseph Powwow** – First weekend of October

**Fort Belknap Veterans Powwow** – Second weekend of November

## Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes

**Red Bottom Celebration** – Third weekend of June

**Badlands Celebration** – Fourth weekend of June

**Wadopana Celebration** – First weekend of August

**Turns Around Celebration** – Third weekend of August

**Fort Kipp Celebration** – Fourth weekend of August

**Poplar Indian Days** – First weekend of September

## Little Shell Tribe

**Little Shell Elders and Veterans Traditional Powwow** –

Second weekend of August

## Northern Cheyenne

**Memorial Day Powwow** – Fourth weekend of May

**White River Days Celebration** – Fourth weekend of June

**4th of July Powwow** – Fourth of July

**Ashland Labor Day Powwow** – First weekend of September

## Chippewa Cree Tribe

**Rocky Boy's Powwow** – First weekend of August

*Below left:* Indian Relay Race action at North American Indian Days in Browning.  
*Below right:* Powwow dancer.





# TRIP PLANNING RESOURCES

## Plan Your Trip

VISITMT.COM | #MONTANAMOMENT

 /VISITMONTANA

 @VISITMONTANA

 @VISITMONTANA

 @VISITMONTANA

## Historical Markers and Language Signs

Watch for language signs on the **Blackfeet**, **Crow** and **Fort Belknap Reservations** that depict the language terms for culturally significant areas, or the signs found on the roadways of the **Flathead Reservation** that give the native words for local areas, rivers, bridges and more.

## Tribal Nations

[www.tribalnations.mt.gov](http://www.tribalnations.mt.gov)

## Tribal Headquarters

Blackfeet Nation 406.338.7521

Chippewa Cree Tribe 406.395.5705

Crow Nation 406.679.1568

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes 406.675.2700

Fort Belknap Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes 406.353.2205

Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes 406.768.2300

Little Shell Chippewa Tribe 406.315.2400

Northern Cheyenne Tribe 406.477.6284

Tribal permits are required when recreating on all reservations. Purchase a tribal permit from a local area vendor or contact the applicable tribal headquarters for more information.

## Weather

[www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/weather/weather.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/weather/weather.shtml)

## Prohibited

Both tribal and federal law prohibit tampering or removing archaeological items from reservations.



Stoney Indian Pass in Glacier National Park.  
Back cover: Powwow Dancer.





---

# MONTANA

VISITMT.COM

Montana Department of Commerce

1-800-847-4868

301 S. Park Ave

Helena, MT 59620