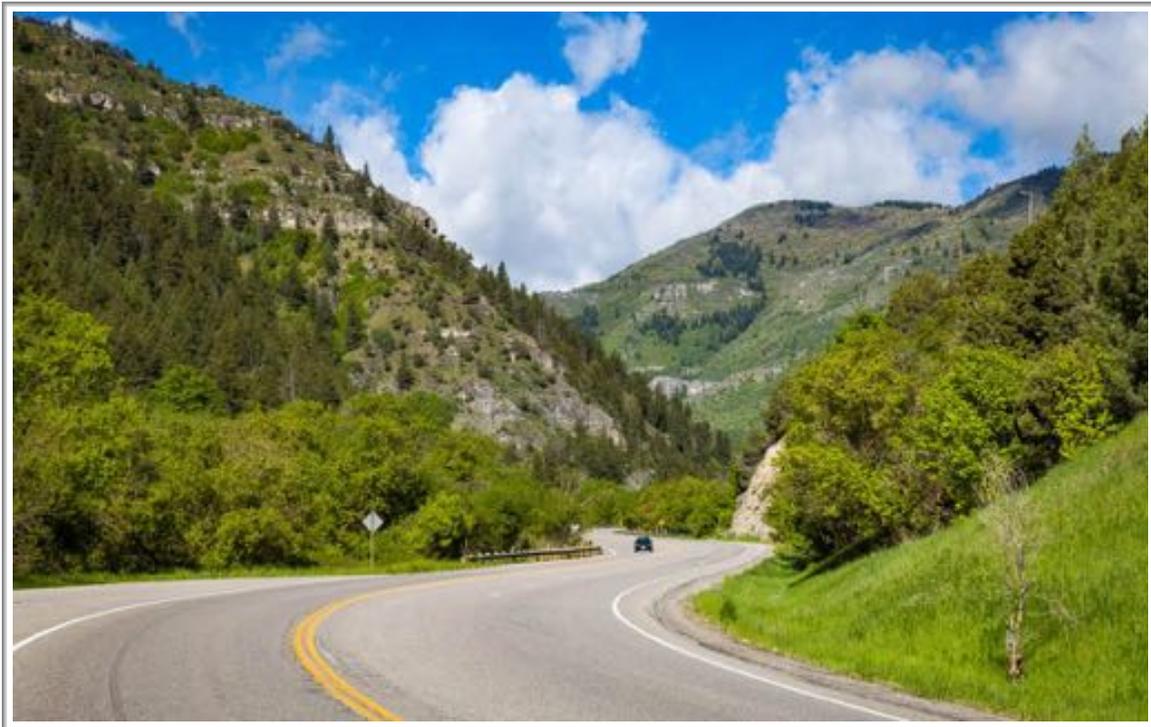


Kings Hill Scenic Byway

Montana's Million Dollar Land

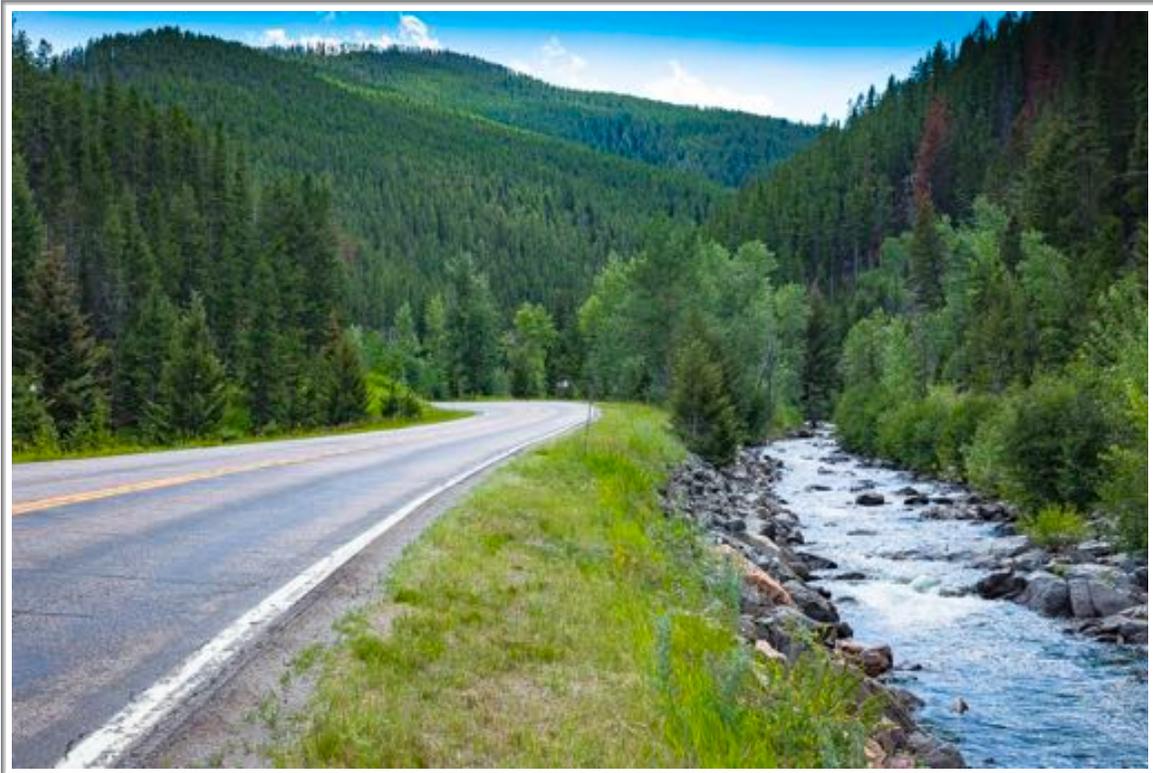


3 Days/2 Nights

Gateway City: Great Falls, Montana



Climbing over Kings Hill Pass at 7,500 feet, spectacular mountain views splay out in all directions. From there, the Kings Hill Scenic Byway winds its way through pristine high country with lakes, streams, limestone canyons, and other rocky beauties emerging along the way. It was once not like this. The region's mountains rendered millions upon millions of dollars of silver, gold, gemstones, coal, and minerals, leaving behind old mines, villages, ghost towns and vestiges of life when mining was king. Much of the Byway, stretching 71 miles on US Highway 89, overlaps with the Montana Mining Trail. In many places it is nestled in the lush Lewis and Clark National Forest, which (hard to believe when you see it today) included all or part of six mining districts, lands that ultimately produced the equivalent of \$221,418,905 of minerals in today's prices. Railroads chugged through majestic canyons to get to thriving boom towns while the ore held out. Neihart, which produced over \$3 million in sapphires, is now surrounded by the remnants of 7,380 mines dotting the mountainside, some with ghost towns. Nearby Monarch is still barely a town while Hughesville and Albright are ghost towns and the railroad along Belt Creek is now part of the 8-mile stretch incorporated in Sluice Boxes State Park. White Sulphur Springs, once a hotbed of mining is now better known for the hot springs to soak, refresh and renew in the middle of the forest, which now, carefully managed, is once again lush and green.



Touring the Byway

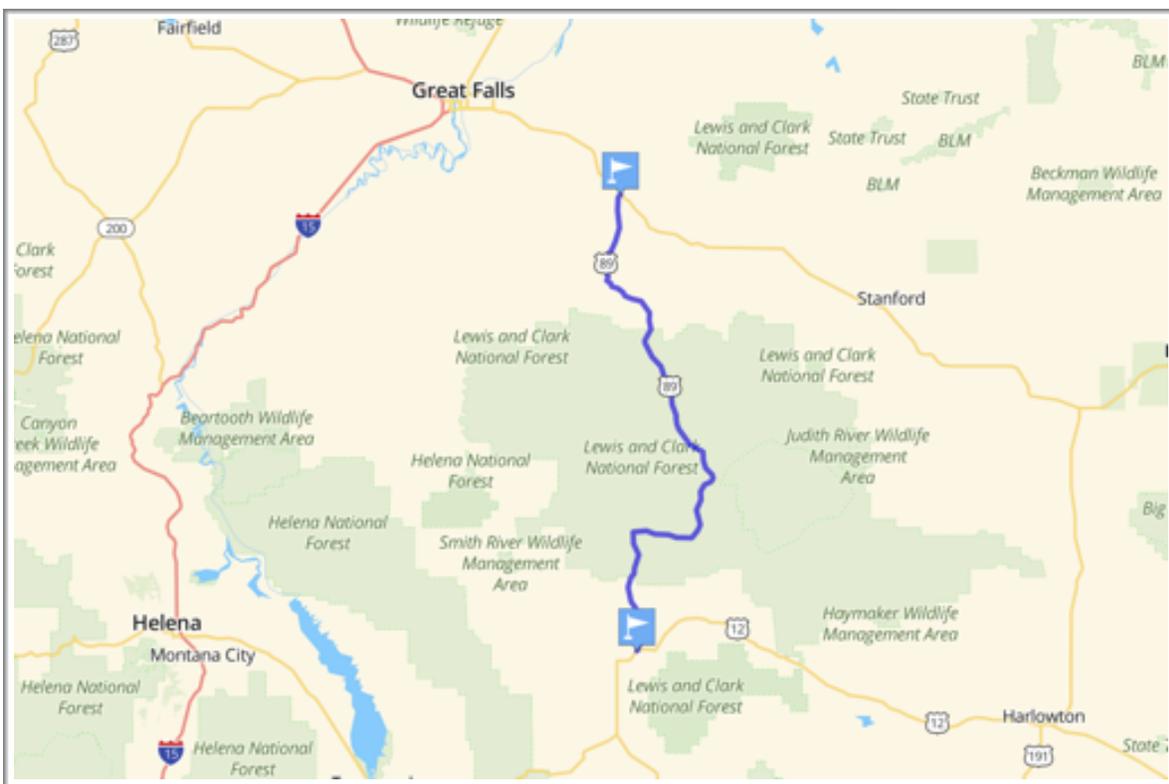
We recommend starting your journey in Great Falls where you take one or more of the historic walking tours. If riding is your preference, you can take the Historic Trolley Tour. While in Great Falls you can visit the C.M. Russell Museum, Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, the History Museum, and the Gibson Mansion while staying at the Historic Hotel Arvon.

From there, you'll be on your way to Belt, with views of both the Highwood and Little Belt Mountains. Visit the Sluice Boxes State Park along Belt Creek in Belt Creek Canyon before heading to the old mining town of Neihart about 25 minutes south, which like so many mining camps, had its ups and downs when silver went bust. South of Neihart, you'll travel over Kings Hill Pass where you have the option to stay at King Hills Cabin, a historic rustic log cabin, perched right at the pass, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. After a stop in White Sulphur Springs and a visit to the Meagher County Museum Castle and Carriage House, you can experience a refreshing soak in the hot springs. From there, you have two options.

One option is to loop back to Great Falls on the Smith River Region Backcountry Drive, which takes you through some of the least visited parts of Montana. Only 33 miles of the 92 mile Scenic Drive are paved, but passenger cars will not have any problem traveling this road in dry summer conditions. If you choose this option, you will be on the Barn Quilts Route as you leave White Sulphur Springs, pass the Smith River Valley Historical Marker 7 ½ miles south of Main Street, and can visit Fort Logan which was built to protect the Fort Benton to Helena freight road as well as area miners and settlers. There are remains of the fort, including an adobe storehouse, two officers' quarter buildings, and the original blockhouse.

A second option is to leave White Sulphur Springs and head south to Bozeman. Once again, you will be on the Barn Quilt Trail as you leave town. You can take the historic walking tour upon arriving in Bozeman and visit the Museum of the Rockies, a Smithsonian Affiliate, Earth's Treasures and Fossils, and the Gallatin History Museum.

Whichever you choose, we wish you safe passage if you're traveling another Montana Scenic Drive, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



DAY ONE



Great Falls

Lewis and Clark could hear the “great falls” of the Missouri River more than seven miles away. The river was so treacherous it took the expedition nearly a month to portage around the falls, celebrating July 4th in the new territory. When Paris Gibson arrived in 1882, he created a plan for the town for railroad magnate James Hill, who provided financial backing, believing that the city would be a great connection point for the region’s railroads. Gibson made sure the streets were laid out in a precise, straight pattern, set aside 886 acres for city parks, and had trees planted on every street and boulevard. Today, you can still enjoy the results of his thoughtful planning for the city.

Great Falls Historic Tours

When you reach Great Falls, get to know the city on one or more of the historic walking tours available or take the trolley around town.

- **Central Business Historic District Walking Tour:** Features the architecture of 25 buildings and the stories behind them, plus engage in the Great Falls Buffalo Hunt with 26 life sized colorfully painted buffalos sprinkled about downtown. Tour starts at 300 First Avenue South.
- **Historic Residential Walking Tour:** Features the grandest neighborhood in Great Falls with stately Queen Annes, sprawling Colonial Revivals, Tudor, Second Empire, Arts and Crafts, and Prairie style residences constructed during the 1890s boom – intended to be as stylish, elegant, and majestic, as mansions back East. Tour begins at 212 Fourth Avenue North.
- **River’s Edge History Walking Tour:** Features 16 points of interest including Encounter with a Grizzly Bear by Captain Meriwether Lewis, a 2500-year old Native American archaeological site, and the dawn of water powered electricity. Tour begins at the Meriwether Lewis and the Grizzly Bear statue.
- **Historic Railroad District Walking Tour:** Reflects the development of Great Falls into central Montana’s trade, service, and cultural center during three major construction periods. Tour begins at Great Falls Civic Center.

Historic Trolley Tour: As an alternative to walking, discover the magic, history, and beauty of Great Falls, Montana on the historic trolley that takes you past local landmarks and attractions.

1400 First Avenue North, Great Falls, MT 59405, 406-868-2913, Adults \$20

C. M. Russell Museum

Voted Montana’s best museum, it holds the most complete collection of Charlie Russell’s art, plus his studio and the Russell home. ,

400 13th Street North, Great Falls MT 59401, 406-727-8787, W-M 10AM-5PM

Adults \$14

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art

The magnificent Romanesque Revival 1896 structure that houses this museum was the Great Falls High School. Collections here hold 800+ pieces of Northwest regional contemporary art, American Indian contemporary art, and American self-taught art. Over 230 sculptures created from cottonwood branches and found objects by self-taught artist Lee Steen are on display. 1400 First Avenue North, Great Fall, MT 59401, 406-727-8255 M, W, Th, F 10AM-5PM, Tu 10AM-9PM, Sat Noon to 5PM.

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center features exhibits on the explorers' route through Giant Springs State Park. It also hosts North America's most extensive display detailing the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Stand in awe of the museum's 2-story diorama centerpiece. 4201 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405, 406-727-8733, W-Sun 9AM-5PM, Free



The History Museum

Housed in the 1929 International Harvester building known as Machinery Row, the museum focuses on preserving the folk heritage of the North Central Montana region.

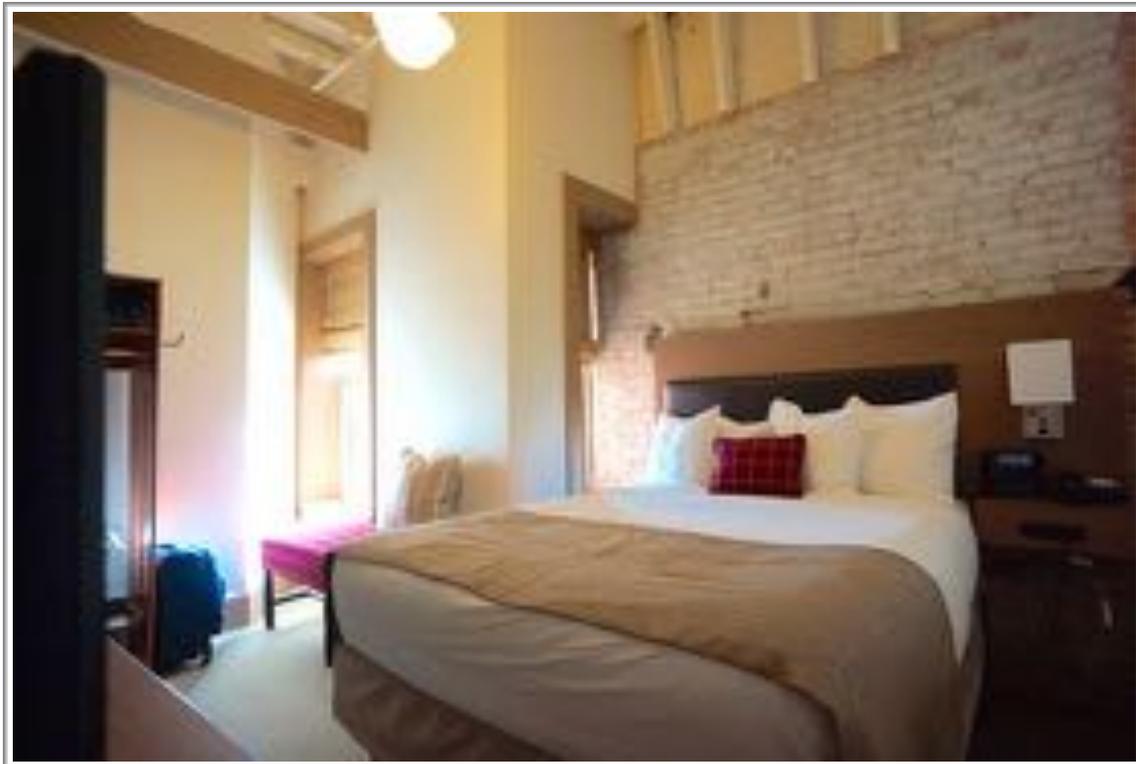
422 2nd Street South, Great Falls, MT 59401, 406-452-3462, Tu-F and second Sat. Noon-5PM, Free



Gibson Mansion

The home of Paris Gibson, founder of Great Falls, was one of the first constructed on Millionaire's Row in 1890. It had been cut up into a 9-plex apartment building that was in deplorable condition with numerous additions and changes, when the present owner decided to restore it back to its original stately grandeur. The restoration earned a Historic Preservation Award and was the subject of a Travel Channel episode, *Dead Files*, that sought evidence of a haunting or paranormal spirit who is believed to be in residence.

400 Fourth Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59401



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Historic Hotel Arvon 118 First Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59401, 406-952-1101 The original "Celtic Cowboy" Robert Vaughn opened a Livery/Freight Transfer station, Teamster Boarding House, and Vegetable and Fruit market all under one roof in 1890. By 2010, it was vacant and slated for the wrecking ball. The Jennings Family completely transformed the structure into the Celtic Cowboy Pub and Restaurant, the Darkhorse Hall and Wine Club, and the Hotel Arvon.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Roadhouse Diner 613 15th Street North, Great Falls, MT 59401, 406-788-8839

Not your everyday diner!

Celtic Cowboy Pub and Restaurant in the Avron Hotel Brew pub, dining, breakfast, lunch, dinner, brunch and late night

Mackenzie River Pizza Company 500 River Drive, Great Falls, MT 59401, 406-761-0085
American and Italian

Destination Distinctive Retail

Candy Masterpiece 120 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59401, 406-727-5955

Don Hanson Studio Pottery 406-870-2363, by appointment only

The Farmer's Daughter Fibers 320 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 406-890-8809

Dragonfly Dry Goods 504 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59401, 406-454-2263

Hoglund's Western Wear 306 First Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59401, 406-452-6911

The Popcorn Colonel 900 Ninth Street South #2, Great Falls, MT 59401, 406-727-5676

DAY TWO

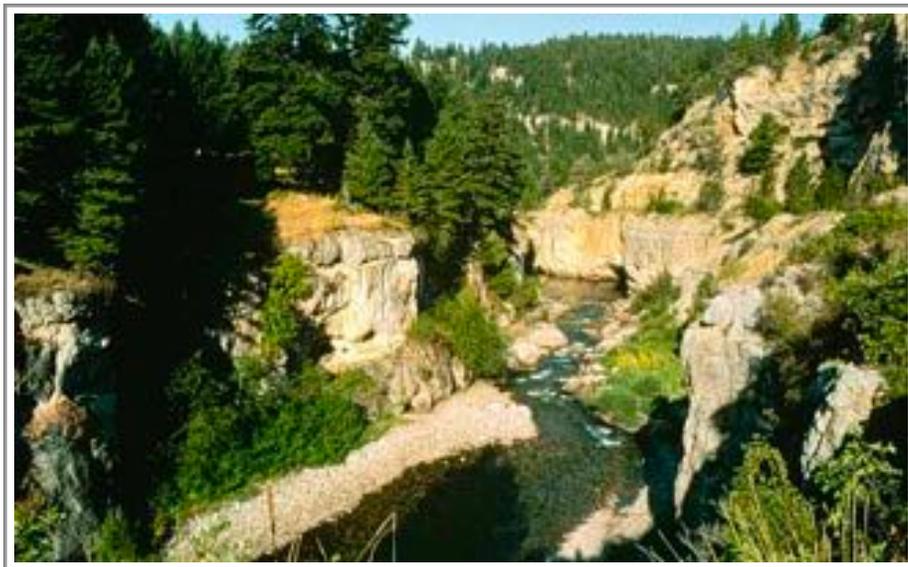
Belt

Belt came about when coal deposits were discovered along Belt Creek in 1870 that attracted workers from all over the United States and the world. In 1885, founder John Castner and his wife, Mattie, one of Montana's earliest African-American businesswomen, established a stage station and hotel. By the early 1900s, it had grown into a jumble of wooden false-front mining town buildings. Eventually, they gave way to stone and brick, which lacked architectural ornamentation but gave the appearance of a prosperous and stable community referred to as "Little Pittsburgh," "Coal Banks," and "Black Diamond City."

Belt Museum

Housed in the original 1895 jail, the Belt Museum still has a historic jail cell, surrounded by exhibits and records of the area's gold mines.

37 Castner Street, Belt, MT 59412, 406-277-3574



Sluice Boxes State Park

Just a short distance off the C. M. Russell Auto Tour route, this park preserves eight miles of Belt Creek Canyon with actual mining sites. The preserve on Belt Creek includes a railroad and historic cabins.

38 Evans Riceville Road, Belt, MT 59412, 406-454-5840. \$8 per vehicle

Neihart

Neihart, founded on rich silver deposits, ultimately became one of Montana's longest silver producers, with more than 50 mines that produced over \$15 million in silver and other minerals between 1881 and 1945. Yet the town's longevity did not depend on silver mining. It was zinc used by the military through World War II that kept the town alive and the railroad operating until 1945.

Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

Much of Kings Hill Scenic Byway meanders through the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest which encompasses approximately 2,846,606 acres, 10 mountain ranges, and portions of 17 counties. The forest includes all or part of six mining districts: Cascade County-Montana, Sand Coulee, Meagher County-Castle Mountain, Musselshell, and the Judith Basin County-Barker.

Porphyry Peak Lookout Tower

This fire tower, which offers spectacular views of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, is manned from June until September.

Kings Hill Pass

Between Neihart and White Sulphur Springs, you'll be traveling over Kings Hill Pass at 7,393 feet.

King Hill Cabin

If you want to pause your trip at this point, the Kings Hill cabin is perched right at the pass. There is electricity, a refrigerator, microwave, range, and a wood stove for heating. The kitchen is furnished, and a vault toilet is located outside for year-round use, but there is no running water. If you choose to stay, bring plenty of water, cleaning supplies, food, bedding, towels, toilet paper, warm clothing, matches, garbage bags, flashlights, and all other basic camping items. The cabin and toilet must be completely clean and the wood box filled upon departure. Pack out all food and trash. 406-547-3361



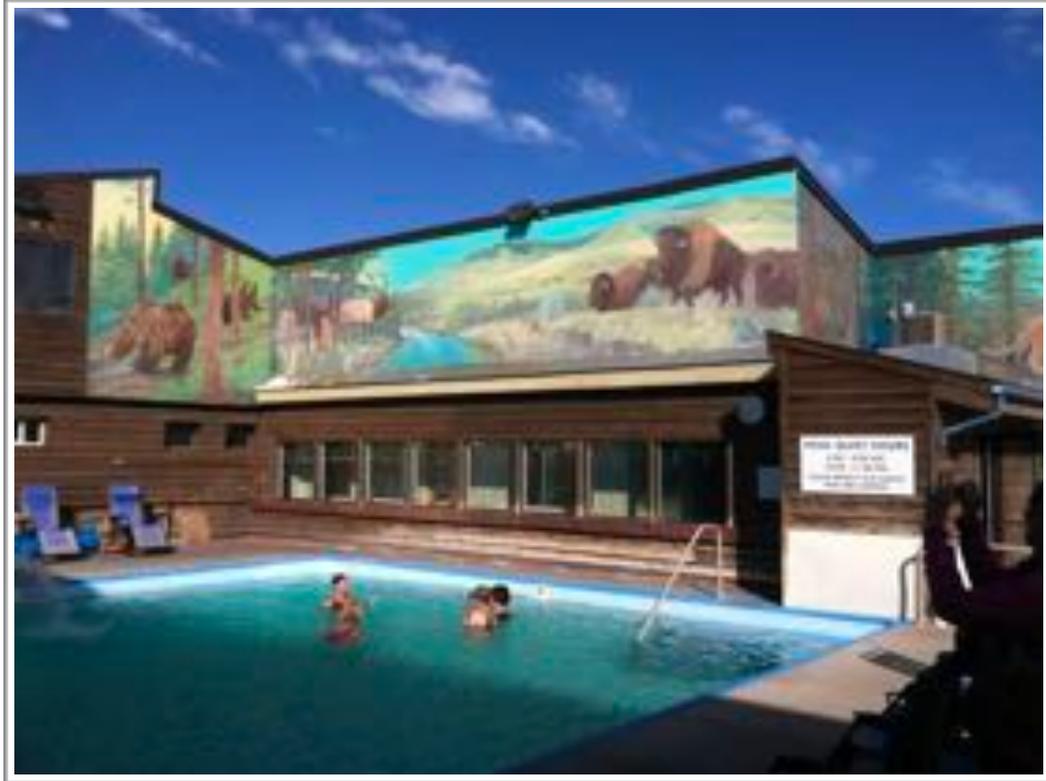
White Sulphur Springs

Typical of the many thermal springs in Montana, White Sulphur hot springs were discovered in 1866 by a prospector. Today, you can enjoy the mineralized hot springs and "the Castle" mansion.

Meagher County Museum at The Castle and Carriage House

The museum is housed in a historic 1890 granite mansion, constructed with blocks hauled by oxen from the nearby Castle Mountains. It has 12 rooms, hardwood floors covered with Belgian and Oriental rugs, washbowls and stands of Italian marble, and crystal and brass light fixtures. Rooms are furnished with period furniture, mineral samples, clothing, and artifacts from the region's past. The property includes a carriage house, wagons, a stagecoach, a bank, and school. 310 1/2 Second Avenue NE, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645, 406-547-2324 Memorial Day-Labor Day, 10AM-5PM, last tour begins at 4:30PM.





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Spa Hot Springs Hotel, 202 West Main Street, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645, 406-547-3366 Enjoy a relaxing soak in these world famous hot springs where the water has often been compared to the famous German spa, Baden-Baden. A high concentration of sulphur, with magnesium and lithium, make these the cleanest hot springs in use. Pumped from a 35-foot well, the 130-degree water circulates throughout the hotel complex, losing about 8 to 10 degrees in the process. After its circuitous route through a plumber's nightmare, the water is pumped into the 30-foot by 35-foot outdoor pool, cooled to 98 degrees, and a smaller, hotter indoor pool, kept at 103 degrees. The indoor plunge is kept around 105 degrees. After a soak, you can relax in one of the 24 newer poolside rooms, furnished with king or queen pillow top mattresses, microwaves, refrigerators, 40" flat screen televisions, and leather rocker-recliner chairs.

Destination Distinctive Dining

The Jawbone 11 East Main Street, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645, 406-544-7643
American steakhouse with unique cuisine selections, fusion, vegetarian, and vegan.

Branding Iron Café 307 Third Avenue, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645, 406-547-3894

DAY THREE



Bozeman

For years prior to the arrival of Europeans, the Bannock, Blackfeet, Crow, Bitterroot Salish, Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai, Nez Perce and Shoshone tribes lived together in an area the Blackfeet called “Many Come Together Country.” The discovery of gold in the early 1860’s brought in thousands of miners after John Bozeman led immigrants to the gold fields early in the 1860s, on a series of old Indian trails that soon became known as the Bozeman Trail. Thousands of miners followed, while some prospectors decided to forego the mines and instead established farms and ranches. The Northern Pacific Railroad reached Bozeman in 1883 and 10 years later, the Montana College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts was established.

Historic Walking Tours of Bozeman

Bozeman's Historic Main Street Walking Tour is a leisurely stroll down Main Street past Art Deco, Italianate, and Mission Revival architecture punctuated with neon signs. Bozeman's Historic Neighborhood Walking Tour includes everything from farmhouses to Victorian mansions with most of the structures characterized as builders' tradition. 29 meticulously maintained, restored structures are on the National Register of Historic Places. Main Street Tour: 317 West Main Street, Neighborhood Tour, 121 South Willson

Museum of the Rockies

Smithsonian Affiliate, Museum of the Rockies, is recognized as one of the world's finest research and history museums, renowned for displaying an extensive collection of dinosaur fossils including a complete T. rex. Changing exhibits feature geologic topics from around the world, complemented with permanent indoor and outdoor regional history exhibits, planetarium shows, educational programs, insightful lectures, and a museum store.

600 West Kagy Boulevard, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-994-2551



Earth's Treasures Fossil and Mineral Museum Gallery

Earth's Treasures features Montana fossils captured in amber or stone, including fish, dino poop, eggs, leaves, and pinecones, along with cool stuff for serious collectors including crystals, minerals, framed leaves, rock tumblers, metal detectors, gold pans, books, butterfly wing jewelry, and Yogo Sapphires.

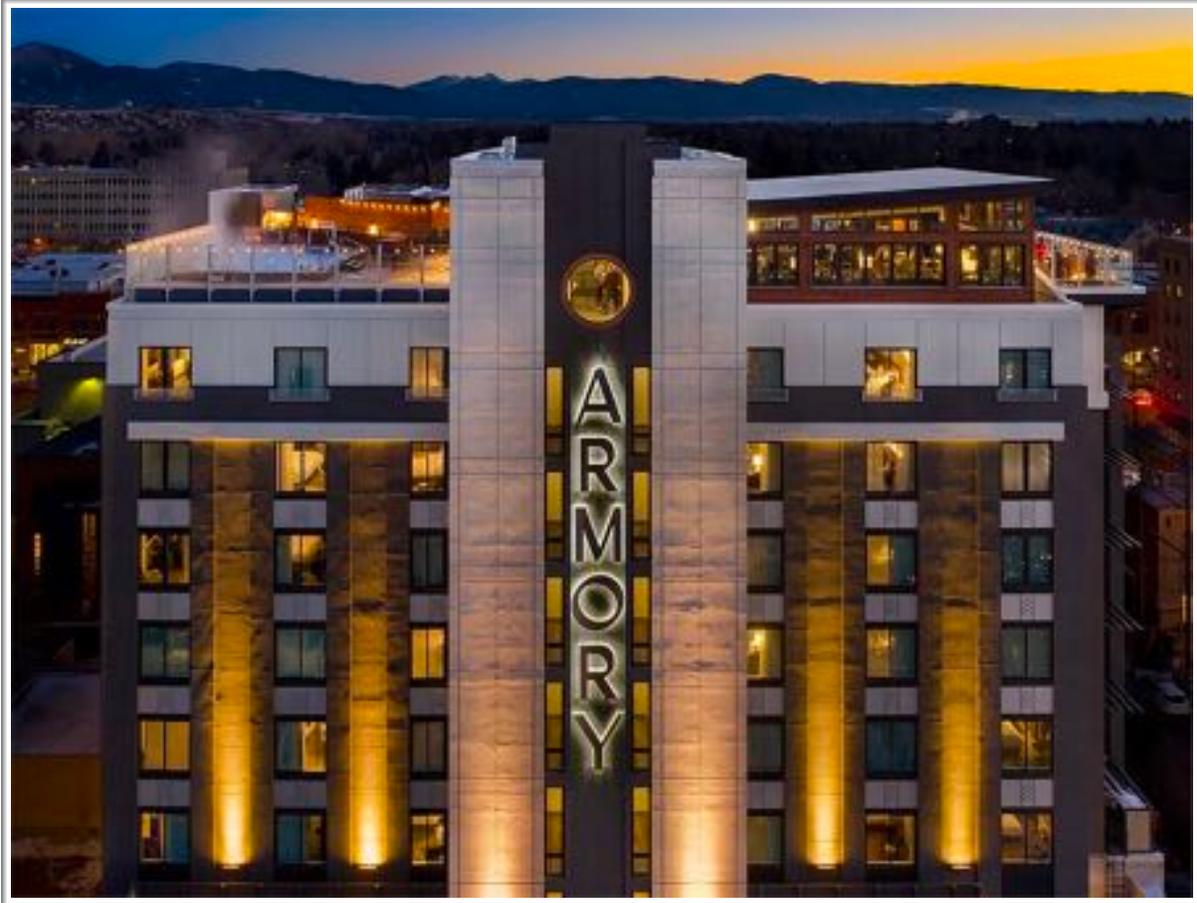
25 North Willson Street, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-586-3451

Gallatin History Museum

Located in the 1911 jail with original cells and gallows, Gallatin County's heritage is illustrated in the Gallatin Agricultural Heritage Room, a model of old Fort Ellis, the infamous Big Horn Gun, a music room from an Olde Time Theater, and an authentic 1870's log cabin. The research center has a photo archive with over 20,000 images.

317 West Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-522-8122, Tu-Sat 11AM-4PM, Adults \$7.50





Destination Distinctive Accommodation

Armory Hotel, 24 West Mendenhall Street, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-551-7700

Located in the landmark Armory Building, this historic hotel in the heart of Bozeman seamlessly merges the past and present in 4-star quality. Enjoy signature amenities, mountain views, the night sky from the rooftops.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Jam! 25 West Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-585-1761 Yummy goodies, great presentations.

South 9th Street Bistro 721 South Ninth Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-404-1244 French and American cuisine.

Montana Ale Works 611 East Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-587-7700

Bison, meatloaf, pot stickers, and more, combined with good brews.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Altitude Gallery 134 East Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-582-4472

Artist's Gallery 111 South Grand Street, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-587-2127

Montana Silversmiths, 14 West Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-404-1080