



# MONTANA

## AUTUMN 2023 UPDATES

### LODGING UPDATES

#### NEW & UNIQUE LODGING

**Under Canvas North Yellowstone - Paradise Valley** is Montana's third Under Canvas, with more than a mile of pristine Yellowstone River-front access for its upscale canvas tents. Each offers activities, private bathrooms and evenings around the firepit under starry skies.

**The Wren** in downtown Missoula, sister property to The Lark in Bozeman, has a local feel with unique touches at a central location ideal for any adventure.

**Jim Bridger Explorer Cabins** in Gardiner are just minutes from Yellowstone's North Entrance. Each cabin offers a raised balcony, kitchenette and shared firepit. A Delaware North property.

**The Montage** in Big Sky is an ultra-luxury enclave with guest rooms and residences, slopeside ski access, golf, pool, bowling alley, spa and restaurants.

**AC Hotel Bozeman** has a tech-centric modern design, 143 rooms, fitness center, and rooftop bar and lounge. Located in downtown Bozeman. A Marriott property.

**Clydesdale Outpost** offers two-bedroom compact luxury timber cabins overlooking this boutique Clydesdale guest ranch. Offers VIP experiences with horses and horseback, carriage and sleigh rides. Whitefish area.

**Clark Farm Silos** sits on third-generation farmland outside Kalispell. These unique structures offer gorgeous views, a loft bedroom, kitchenettes, private bathrooms and a fire pit. Book on Airbnb.

**Gibson Hotel** is a new 44-room boutique hotel in central Great Falls. Ascend/Choice property. Opened in summer 2023.

**The green o** is the adult-only sister property to The Resort at Paws Up. Offering 12 secluded homes in the forest, with access to the many activities offered at Paws Up.

#### COMING SOON!

Opening winter 2024/25: **The One & Only Moonlight Basin** in Big Sky. The FIRST One & Only Resort in the U.S. It will include a lodge with 73 rooms and suites, detached villas, ski lodge and chenet spa, and will be connected by gondola to Big Sky's world-class skiing.

#### RANCH UPDATES

**Circle Bar Guest Ranch** near Hobson offers a family dude ranch vacation on a historic ranch dating back to the 1800s.

**Hidden Hollow Hideaway Cattle & Guest Ranch** is a small family-run ranch near Helena with three guest cabins surrounded by pristine mountains and abundant wildlife. All-inclusive week-long stays.

#### WHERE TO STAY:

[Ranches](#) | [Campgrounds](#)



## 2024 EVENTS

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**Montana Folk Festival** is one of the largest free music events in the northwestern U.S. Held in Butte in July, multiple stages offer a variety of traditional and ethnic performers.

A great way to enjoy local art is by attending community **Art Walks**, usually held on Friday evenings once a month. Browse galleries in Red Lodge, Livingston, Billings and Butte.

Montana's many rodeos are held in large and small towns throughout the summer. Some standouts are **Livingston's Roundup**, **Wolf Point's Wild Horse Stampede** and **Dillon's Rodeo**.

Enjoy music under the stars and among the pines all summer long at **Pine Creek Lodge** near Livingston.

### UPCOMING!

Celebrate the **150th Anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn - 2026**. New Visitor Center and facilities at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument open in 2026.

A person with a backpack stands on the edge of a layered rock cliff, looking out over a vast, flat landscape under a dramatic sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the scene. The foreground shows some green shrubs and rocks.

## NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCES

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Montana has 12 Indian tribes living on seven reservations across the state, each with different cultures, histories and traditions. [Here are some tips to help visitors to Indian Country.](#)

Each tribe holds a powwow during the summer. The public is welcome to attend and enjoy these vibrant traditional celebrations. **North American Indian Days** and **Crow Fair** are popular.

**Sun Tours** offers Blackfoot-led interpretive tours of Glacier National Park's Going-to-the-Sun Road and the surrounding Blackfoot Reservation.

**Iron Shield Creative** offers indigenous storytelling and tribal cultural hike workshops focusing on

indigenous songs, stories and dances; plant medicine; sacred sites and tribal preservation; ceremonial protocol; and traditional knowledge. Locations on the Blackfoot Reservation.

Visit a traditional buffalo cliff jump, used by native tribes hundreds of years ago to efficiently kill large numbers of bison for food, tools and clothing. **First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park** has a visitor center with exhibits about Plains Indians and bison culture, hiking trails and overlooks across the vast northern plains. **Madison Buffalo Jump State Park**, near Bozeman, was used by native people as recently as 200 years ago.

[Read more about Montana's Indian Country here.](#)

## NATIONAL PARKS

### GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Explore the Going-to-the-Sun Road on a **Red Bus Tour** or in your own car. Discover glacier-carved valleys, glistening lakes, waterfalls and scenic trails. Take a guided hike with **Glacier Guides** or stay in **Glacier Guides Lodge** in West Glacier. In addition to in-park lodging, there are many lodging options in nearby Kalispell, Columbia Falls and Whitefish.

### YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Three of the park's five entrances are located in Montana – the North, West and Northeast Entrances at **Gardiner**, **West Yellowstone** and **Cooke City/Silver Gate**. Offering easy access to Yellowstone's wonders, these gateway communities have an array of activities all their own, including horseback riding, rafting, hiking, fishing, Western cookouts, wildlife guides and winter activities.

## TRAILS TO EXPLORE

**Montana's Trail to the Stars** spans eastern Montana and will ultimately include 40 locations, all ideal for stargazing. Montana has some of the darkest skies and brightest stars!

**The Southeast Montana Burger Trail** is a foodie experience created from local favorites. Small-town eateries offer unique craftsmanship and local humor. Try the "Big Ass Blue Cat Burger" in Huntley or the "If You Wanna Be My Cowboy Burger" in Ekalaka. Downloadable map available.

Central Montana's **Pie Trail** includes 20 locations to enjoy fresh local pies like peanut butter cream, mudslide and huckleberry.

**Montana's Dino Trail** encompasses 14 locations that each offer a glimpse of dinosaur discoveries in Montana, plus opportunities to dig for dinosaur fossils. Follow the trail and learn why so many significant dinosaur discoveries have been made in Montana.

**The MonDak Motorcycle Loop** includes small towns, picturesque landscapes and wide-open roads made for motorcycle cruising. Locations in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota encourage your free-spirited adventure.

**Glacier National Park** is a hiker's paradise, with over 700 miles of trails to explore. [Hike734.com](https://www.hike734.com) is the ultimate planning resource with valuable information about trail distances, elevations and conditions. Check current trail conditions at any GNP Ranger Station. Park roads, trails and campground updates are now available via text, or [find them online](#).



# UNIQUELY MONTANA ADVENTURES

**Swan Mountain Llama Trekking** offers llama treks in Swan Valley, the Flathead National Forest and near Glacier in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

**Sage Lodge Llama Treks** offers llama day treks in Paradise Valley, north of Yellowstone.

**Yellowstone Wood Boat Tours** has luxury guided floats on custom wooden drift boats along the upper Yellowstone River near Livingston.

**Yellowstone River Adventures** offers Yellowstone River jetboat tours near Glendive. Tours focus on wildlife watching, agate or petrified wood hunting, historical learning or simply sightseeing.

Pan for gold at **Bannack State Park**, the best-preserved ghost town in Montana; mine for sapphires in **Philipsburg**; or take an **underground copper mine tour** in Butte.

Try a **Western Cookout** at Parade Rest Guest Ranch near West Yellowstone, 320 Guest Ranch in Big Sky, or Flying Pig Adventure Company in Gardiner.

**Glacier Guides** offers rental and guided e-bike tours in Glacier National Park or in the West Glacier area. **Glacier Outfitters** at West Glacier and **Sky-Echo** in Coram rent e-bikes for Glacier.

**River City Brews Rafting Tours** in Missoula will load your favorite local beer on board and take you on a scenic guided flat-water trip on the Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers.

Kayak or paddleboard with **Sea Me Paddle Tours**. Paddle to Wildhorse Island or to numerous scenic bays along shore of Flathead Lake. Kayak and SUP rentals.

**Gates of the Mountains Boat Tours** offers two-hour narrated cruises through the wilderness area explored by the Lewis & Clark Expedition along the Missouri River. Easily accessible from Helena.

See Yellowstone's bears, wolves and other native animals with a knowledgeable wildlife guide from Montana. **Yellowstone Safari Company** offers tours from Gardiner, Big Sky and Bozeman.

Other outdoor adventure ideas are [here](#).

Ideas for unforgettable road trips are [here](#).

## DARK SKIES

No matter where you are in Montana, you are pretty much guaranteed to see incredible night skies.

**Glacier National Park** was designated the world's first transboundary International Dark Sky Park (along with Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada).

**Medicine Rocks State Park** is a certified International Dark Sky Sanctuary by the International Dark Sky Association.

**Montana Learning Center** offers summer public stargazing programs along the banks of Canyon Ferry Lake near Helena.



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