

Western Montana's Glacier Country



Central Montana



Best of Both Worlds

In the northwest corner of the state, outdoor adventure and in-town exploration meet. Here you'll find ample opportunities to head into the backcountry or to experience the local character of 75+ welcoming communities — or both. There's outdoor recreation to be had year-round in the region's mountains, valleys, lakes and rivers, and after you've spent a day hiking, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, snowmobiling or snowshoeing, mountain towns await with arts and culture, history, entertainment and hospitality.



Don't Miss

- Flathead Lake: The largest natural freshwater lake in the West.
- The Bison Range: Spot bison from scenic drives in this conservation area.
- Traveler's Rest State Park: Historically significant site of Native peoples and Lewis and Clark.
- Kootenai Falls Swinging Bridge and Ross Creek Cedars: Scenic bridge and old-growth cedar grove.
- Museum of the Plains Indian: Artifacts of Northern Plains tribal nations.

Heart of the Big Sky

History-rich Central Montana may be known figuratively as the heart of the big sky, but the region does lay claim to the actual geographic center of Montana — a marker in Lewistown notes the exact spot. Two Indian reservations are located in the region as are sites of indigenous history that date back thousands of years. Much of the early history of Montana as it's known today happened in this part of the state, too, and travelers can visit an array of historical sites in the wide-open prairie, mountain and river breaks landscapes and communities of Central Montana.



Don't Miss

- Old Fort Benton: Historic site from the area's fur trade days.
- Charles M. Russell Museum: The art and life of Montana's "cowboy artist."
- Havre Beneath the Streets: An underground tour of Havre history.
- Giant Springs State Park: Cascading springs in Great Falls.
- Blaine County Museum: Native, dinosaur and pioneer history in Choteau.

Remote and Remarkable

Montana's Missouri River Country encompasses the vast northeast corner of the state, where the storied Missouri River cuts through the Great Plains. In this remote, wild and expansive region, travelers will find both river breaks formations and badlands, as well as enticing ways to spend time outside — wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, stargazing and even digging for dinosaur fossils. On the Fort Peck Reservation and in the 25+ communities in the region, visitors can experience local culture and history at museums and events held throughout the year.



Don't Miss

- Fort Peck Interpretive Center: Area history from dinosaurs to dam building.
- Fort Peck Theatre: Summer productions in a 1930 theater.
- Fairview Lift Bridge: The bridge turned walking trail.
- Great Plains Dinosaur Museum: Fascinating fossils and dig opportunities.
- Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge: Wildlife watching, photography and hunting experiences.

Plan Your Trip

Montana is a special place, one with endless opportunities to experience something new. With over 94 million acres to consider, and more off-the-beaten-path places than most can conquer in a lifetime, these free tools are to help you lose yourself in Montana's wide-open landscapes:

Web

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 state and national parks, outdoor activities, history, culture and more, there is something for every adventurer.

Social Media

Get inspired by real Montana travelers just like you by following Visit Montana's social channels. Be sure to check out #MONTANAMOMENT and tag your own Montana photos.



State Parks

Montana offers some of the greatest natural and cultural treasures on Earth. From stunning scenery and glittering waters to geologic wonders and cultural history, Montana State Parks offers something for everyone. Find more details at [stateparks.mt.gov](#).

Glacier National Park

Open year-round, Glacier National Park offers access to pristine nature. Depending on weather, the famous Going-to-the-Sun Road and other park services are available mid-May to mid-September. For more information on road plowing, trails, safety, weather conditions and park passes, call [406-888-7800](#) or visit [nps.gov/glac](#).

Yellowstone National Park

Discover America's first national park year-round, with opportunities to explore year round. Most, though not all, park roads close to vehicles mid-November to mid-May. For more information on spring biking, park passes, safety and major attractions, call [307-344-7381](#) or visit [nps.gov/yell](#).

MDT 511 TRAVEL INFO APP

Access roadway information with the Montana Department of Transportation travel mobile app. Search for MDT 511 Travel Info or download at [mdt.mt.gov/travelinfo](#).



A State Apart

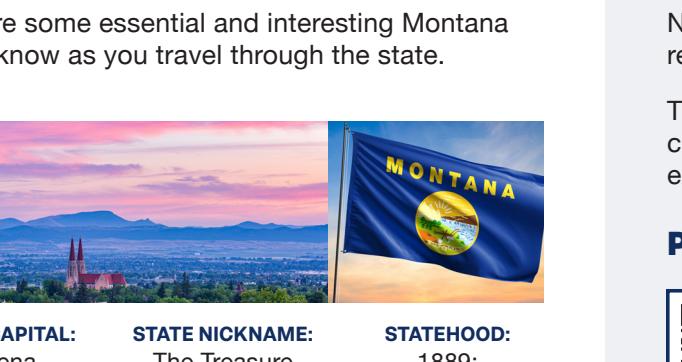
Montana. Our state is known the world over for its big sky, its mountain terrain and the iconic wilderness and wildlife of Glacier and Yellowstone national parks. Montana is all of that — and proudly so — but it's also so much more.

Within our 147,040 square miles are grand landscapes that shift from forested mountains in the west to rolling prairie in the center of the state to sweeping high plains and otherworldly badlands in the east. Throughout are wildflower-filled meadows, hot springs, crystal-clear lakes, rivers and streams, and millions of acres of public lands that provide unparalleled access to the outdoors and a staggering variety of opportunities for recreation. The cities, small towns, rural communities and tribal lands that Montanans call home are places to discover local history, culture and character — and to surely get a friendly nod or two.

The state's 56 counties are divided into seven tourism regions, each with unique places and experiences to discover. The 70,000 miles of open road marked on this map will lead you to and through them. So buckle up and go — Montana awaits.

[VisitMT.com](#)

Fast Facts



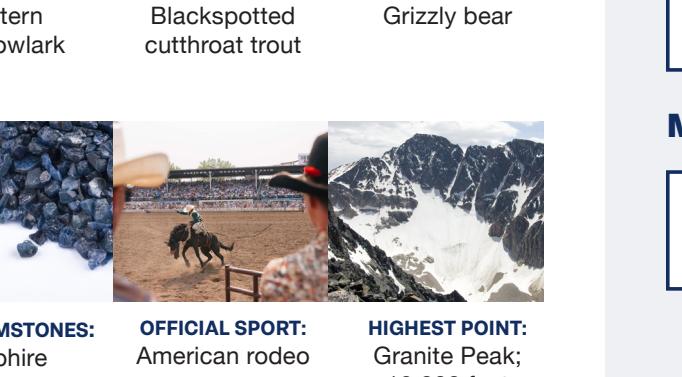
STATE CAPITAL: Helena STATE NICKNAME: The Treasure State STATEHOOD: 1889; 41st state



STATE FLOWER: Bitterroot STATE FRUIT: Huckleberry STATE TREE: Ponderosa pine



STATE BIRD: Western meadowlark STATE FISH: Blackspotted cutthroat trout STATE MAMMAL: Grizzly bear



STATE GEMSTONES: Sapphire and agate OFFICIAL SPORT: American rodeo HIGHEST POINT: Granite Peak; 12,008 feet

Trails

Not all of Montana's trails are for the outdoor recreational activities you might expect.

The themed trails below appeal to culinary, historical, cosmic and cultural interests and offer unique ways to explore sites across the state.

Pie a la Road: Central Montana's Pie Trail

Flaky crust and delicious fillings are never too far away in Central Montana, as the 18 stops on this sweet trail can attest. Our tip: Try the huckleberry pie when you come across it.

Southeast Montana Burger Trail

Experience mouthwatering burgers that are local favorites at the small-town eateries featured on this trail, where true Montana flavor meets local hospitality.

The Montana Dinosaur Trail

Visitors to the 14 museums on this statewide trail, established in 2000, can experience Montana's rich dinosaur history up close — from viewing fossils on display to observing on-site dino digs.

Montana's Trail to the Stars

Discover 45+ ideal spots for stargazing across Eastern Montana, and come nightfall, look up to see stars, planets, the Milky Way and even the northern lights!

Montana Bookstore Trail

Fun fact: Montana has more independent bookstores per capita than any other state. The shops on this trail not only sell books but are gathering spaces for their communities, making them great places to take in local character.



Governor's Message

Montana leaves a mark

Whether you've lived here your whole life or you're just passing through, you know pretty quickly — Montana leaves a mark.

It's not just the mountains or the rivers or the sky that goes on forever. It's the people. The way a trail established in 2000 shows up when it matters. The way a town shows up when it matters. The way the land makes you slow down and pay attention.

If you're visiting, we're glad you made the trip. If you're local, thanks for keeping this place what it is.

Wherever the road takes you next — travel well. And don't be a stranger.

Gov. Greg Gianforte and First Lady Susan Gianforte

Greg *Susan*

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Southwest Montana



Montana's Yellowstone Country



Gold Rushes and Copper Kings

With 22 mountain ranges, blue-ribbon rivers and streams, hot springs and rich history, this region stretches from the Idaho border northward to encompass Helena, the state capital. Dig into Southwest Montana's mining past with visits to gold rush towns turned ghost towns, the ornate mansions of Montana's copper kings still standing in Butte and the living history museums of Nevada City and Virginia City. You can even try your hand at gem mining before driving a scenic byway, hitting a hiking trail, fly fishing a winding river, skiing or soaking under the stars in a hot spring.



Don't Miss

- Bannack State Park: Historic mountain town preserved ghost town.
- Butte-Anaconda Historic District: Thousands of historic buildings in these two communities.
- Virginia City and Nevada City: Neighboring towns whose ornate mansions of Montana's copper kings still stand in Butte and the living history museums of Nevada City and Virginia City.
- Leavenworth Caverns State Park: Tours of highly decorated limestone caverns.
- Montana State Capital Complex: History at the capital and the Montana Historical Society.

More Than the Park

The renowned wildness of Yellowstone National Park spills north beyond park boundaries into the five counties that make up this region. Year round, travelers here enjoy a wealth of recreational opportunities amidst the stunning beauty of mountain ranges, valleys, lakes and rivers, including fly fishing, rafting, horseback riding and skiing. The small businesses, museums and lively events in the region's communities — which range from a city like Bozeman to a small town like Fishtail — are where folks will experience local history, flavors and character.

Don't Miss

- Highway 89 Paradise Valley: Scenic valley north of Yellowstone National Park.
- The Shane Center: African American history center in Livingston.
- Hebgen Lake: Water recreation outside of West Yellowstone.
- Natural Bridge Falls: Natural waterfall with hiking and picnic area.
- Missouri Headwaters State Park: Where three rivers meet to form the Missouri River.

Southeast Montana



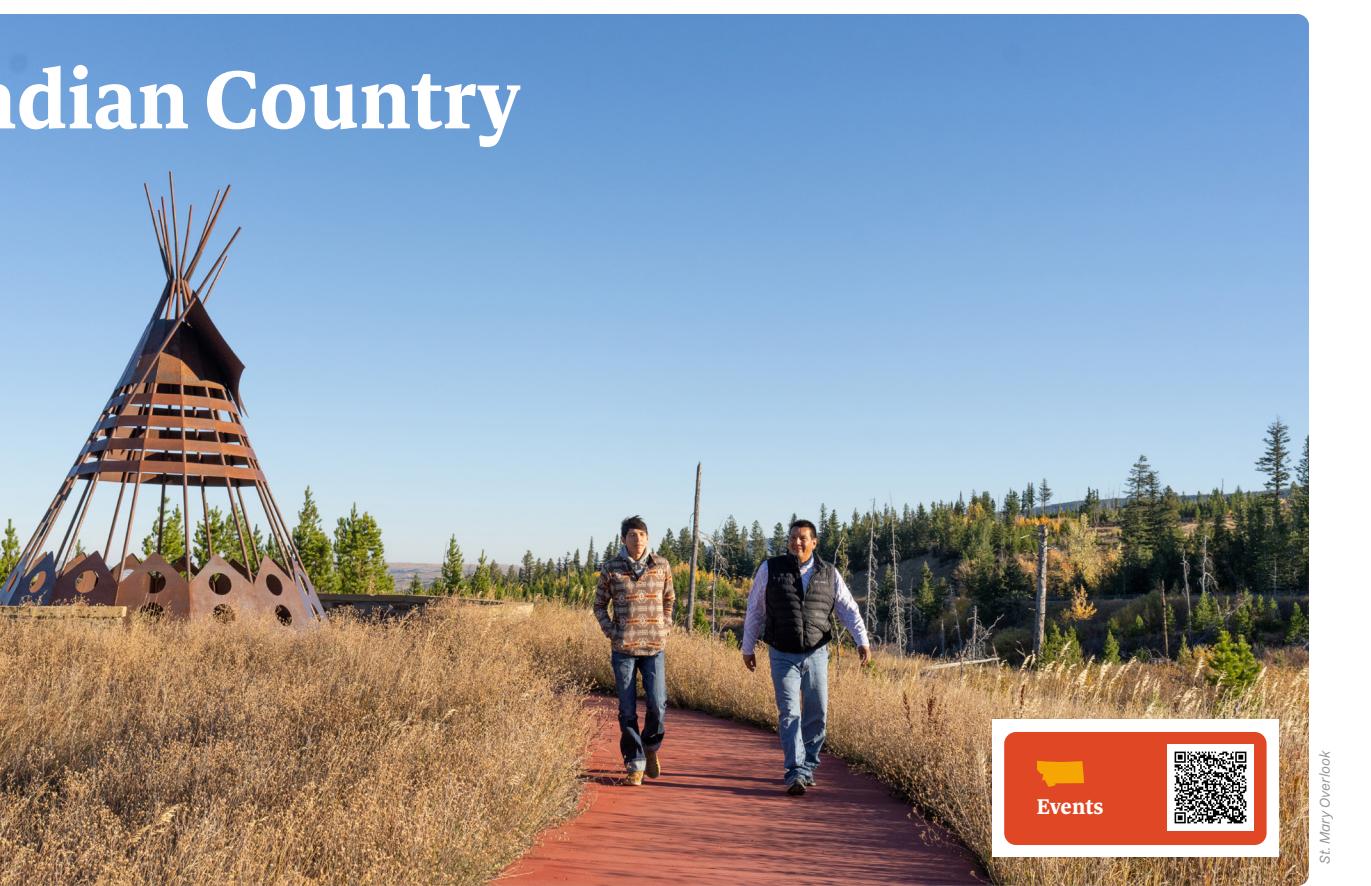
Otherworldly West

Dive into the wide open of Southeast Montana and be rewarded with incredible terrain, fascinating history and chances to experience both indigenous and Western traditions. Dramatic landscapes like the badlands in the east or the ruggedly beautiful Bighorn Canyon in the south await, as do museums, state parks and national monuments that highlight dinosaur, Native American, military and homesteading history. Tribal gatherings, historical reenactments, rodeos and horse and cattle auctions are unforgettable ways to experience the region's vibrant culture.

Don't Miss

- Malintaika State Park: Outdoor recreation among badlands formations.
- Range Riders Museum: Eastern Montana history in Miles City.
- Carter County Museum: History and natural history in Miles City.
- Prairie County Museum and Evelyn Cameron Gallery: Museum complex in Terry.
- Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument: Historic battlefield and interpretive exhibits.

Indian Country



Sacred Lands, Enduring Culture

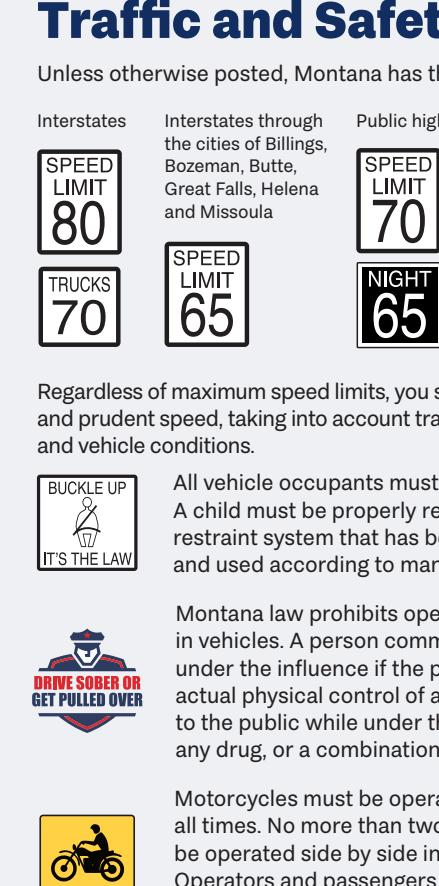
Indian Country is a distinct tourism region with sites spread throughout the state. It comprises 12 federally recognized tribal nations and seven reservations, including the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians headquartered in Great Falls. These sovereign tribal nations keep their traditions alive in both the wild landscapes and communities of their homelands. Respectful travelers are welcome to visit and experience the beauty, history and culture of the Native American tribes in Montana.

Tips for a Respectful Visit

Respect: Tribal permits are required when recreating on reservations and tribal lands. Traditional activities may also require a permit. Permits can be purchased from local tea vendors or by contacting the applicable tribal headquarters for more information. Once on site, respect any posted signs.

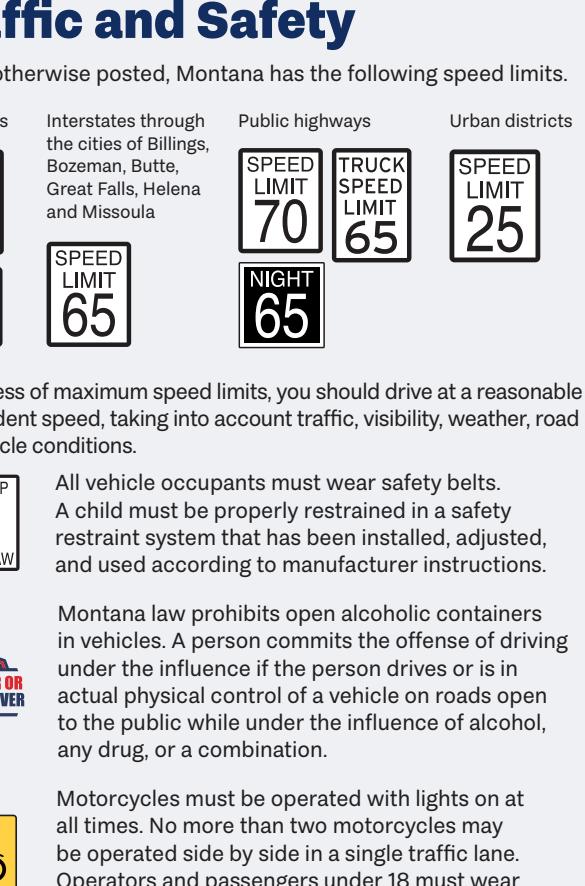
Historic sites: Battlefields and other sites that mark significant indigenous history or culture should be treated with respect. It's appropriate to take photos when it's safe to do so, such as during a powwow or powwow ceremony. However, there may be special songs, dances or ceremonies to honor tribal members where it is customary to stand, remove headgear and refrain from taking photos.

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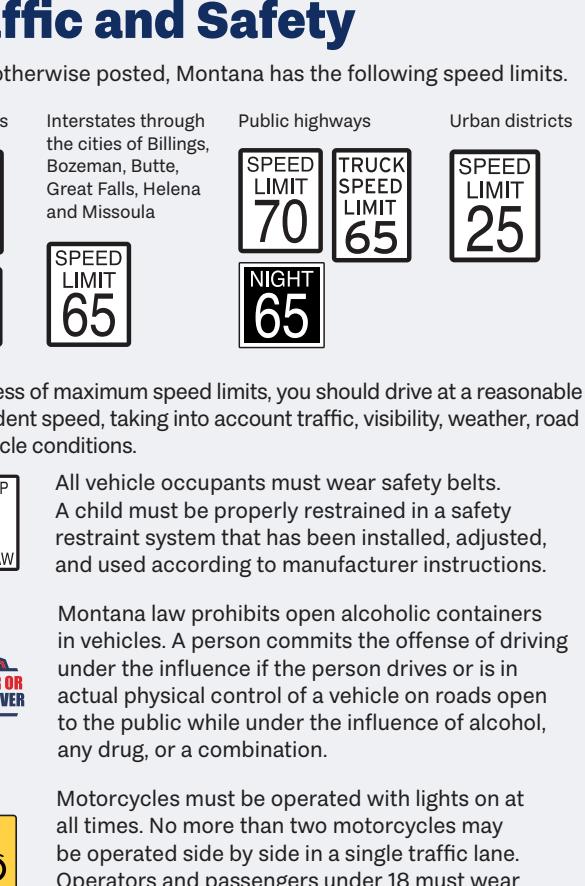


Events

Motorcycle Safety
Protect Yourself
Wear a DOT-compliant helmet.
Be Visible
Wear reflective gear.
Use turn signal when changing lanes or turning.
Wear high-visibility gear.
Use Headlight
It's the law.



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