

Free Time Activities – Things to Do in the Cody Area

Chief Joseph Scenic Byway/Beartooth Highway Loop - Heralded as one of the most scenic drives in the United States, the Beartooth Highway, a National Scenic Byways All-American Road, features breathtaking views of the Absaroka and Beartooth Mountains, and open high alpine plateaus dotted with countless glacial lakes, forested valleys, waterfalls and wildlife. The Beartooth Highway was called "the most beautiful drive in America," by late CBS correspondent Charles Kuralt.



Travel to the Beartooth Highway via the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway which will provide a panorama of soaring heights, plunging canyons, vast valleys, and plateaus, plus will take you across the Sunlight Creek Bridge, the highest bridge in Wyoming. Surrounded by the Custer, Gallatin, and Shoshone National Forests, and abutting Yellowstone National Park, the Beartooth Highway runs parallel to the million-plus acre Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Visitors have the rare opportunity to experience pristine, untouched alpine landscapes, lush forests, and alpine tundra in the space of a few miles. It is one of the highest and most rugged areas in the lower 48 states, with 20 peaks reaching over 12,000 feet in elevation. The Road itself is the highest elevation highway in Wyoming (10,947 feet) and Montana (10,350 feet), and is the highest elevation highway in the Northern Rockies.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area/Bighorn Mountains -

<http://www.nps.gov/BICA/> - Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area features a landscape of sheer cliffs towering 1,000 feet above a ribbon of blue water, world class fishing and a place where wild horses run free. The Visitor Center is just outside Lovell, WY. The Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range is the first designated wild horse range in the US – take a drive along Wyoming Highway 37 and you may spy some of these elusive horses. Follow Highway 14A toward Burgess Junction to the turn-off to the Medicine Wheel, a mysterious 74 foot stone circle with 28 spokes, which is believed to have had religious or astronomical implications to an ancient Indian tribe.

Golf – Olive Glenn Country Club in Cody – Open to the public – Phone 307-587-5551. Note - there is a tournament being played at this course September 6-8, so you would probably not be able to play golf on these days. Alternate courses – Powell Municipal Golf Course – 307-754-7259 or Red Lodge Mountain Resort Golf Course – 406-446-3344.

Horseback Riding – Numerous entities offer trail rides, ranging from 1-2 hour trips to all day trips. Nearby horseback outfitting businesses include the Rand Creek Ranch – 307-587-3200 - <http://www.randcreekranch.com>; Bill Cody Ranch – 307-587-2097 - <http://www.billcodyranch.com>; or Cedar Mountain Trail Rides – 307-527-4966.



Wild Horses – The plains east of Cody are home to a herd of roughly 120 wild mustangs, living in the Bureau of Land Management’s McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Herd Management Area. The horses are descendants of Spanish horses, but may have ties to the horses from Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show. Red Canyon Wild Mustang Tours leads guided tours for \$29 per adult. Phone – 307-587-6988. As an alternative, we can give you directions and you can take a “self-discovery” trip into the McCullough Peaks on your own.

Fishing/Fly Fishing – Cody is at the center of more than 2500 miles of blue ribbon trout streams and rivers. If that is not enough, there is also an abundance of lakes to enjoy. Most are within a relatively short driving distance from Cody which gives one the chance to view wildlife as well as take in the spectacular scenery. Yellowstone Cutthroat, Rainbows, Browns and Brook trout reside in these clear, cold waters. The average size of the trout is 16 inches providing plenty of rod bending, reel singing action for the beginner or advanced angler. For more fishing information or guided trips, contact Tim Wade’s North Fork Anglers – 307-527-7274 - <http://www.northforkanglers.com>. We talked to these folks and they expect to be busy in September, so don’t wait if you want to book a guided trip.

White Water Rafting – Water in the west has been high this spring and summer, so rafting should still be excellent in September. Several Cody companies offer white water raft trips, ranging from two hour trips to all day trips. Trips depart via shuttle bus to the Shoshone River from downtown Cody. Tour companies include Red Canyon River Trips – 307-587-6988; Wyoming River Trips – 307-587-6661 - <http://www.wyomingrivertrips.com>; and River Runners – 307-527-7238 - <http://www.riverrunnersofwyoming.com>.



Old Trail Town - <http://www.oldtrailtown.org> - Old Trail Town is an eclectic collection of historic buildings representing an old Wyoming town created with frontier structures dating from 1879 to 1900. Included in the collection are the Hole in the Wall Cabin used by Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid and the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang; Curley’s Cabin, occupied by the Indian scout to General Custer in the Battle of the Little Big Horn; and the River Saloon which was frequented by cowboys, outlaws and gold miners. Old Trail Town is located where Buffalo Bill and his associates surveyed the town site for Cody in 1895. The Trail Town Cemetery is the final resting place of Jeremiah “Liver Eat’n” Johnson and other colorful hard-living characters of the Old West. Cost - Adult: \$8; Seniors: \$7. Open daily, 8 am - 7 pm, May through September. 1831 Demaris Drive.

Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center – <http://www.bbdvc.com> - Situated about 295 feet above the Shoshone River, the Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center affords a breath-taking view of the rugged canyon below. Dating to 1905, the Buffalo Bill Dam was designed as the tallest dam in the world. Drilling to find bedrock for the Dam foundation began in the spring of 1904 and the last bucket of concrete was poured on Jan. 15, 1910. 82,900 cubic yards of concrete were used to build the Dam. Final cost of the Dam was \$929,658.

Wild Sheep Foundation – <http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org>
- The mission of the Wild Sheep Foundation is to enhance wild sheep populations, promote professional wildlife management, educate the public about wild sheep and the conservation benefits of hunting, encourage fair chase hunting, and protect sportsmen's rights - while keeping administrative costs to a minimum. The Wild Sheep Foundation Headquarters and Visitor Center is open to the public and is located at 720 Allen Avenue.



Tecumseh Trading Post and Old West Miniature Village – The Old West lives on at the village through thousands of 54 millimeter (2.5 inch) high figures that trace the history of Wyoming and Montana from the 1600's to the late 1890's. The indoor village is at 140 West Yellowstone Avenue. Admission is free. Phone – 307-587-5362.

Heart Mountain Relocation Center – <http://www.heartmountain.org/> – At the height of World War II in 1942, 120,000 Japanese-American citizens were removed from their West coast homes and placed in 10 internment camps around the country. The Heart Mountain Relocation Center was the third largest community in Wyoming at one time, housing more than 10,000 residents. The Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center serves as a national center for education, policy and research in collaboration with the Japanese American National Museum, universities and other site preservation organizations. The Center is located on Road 19, off of Highway 14, between Cody and Powell.

Paul Stock Aquatic and Recreation Center – Included are a swimming pool complex and a recreation center. The 43,480 square foot aquatic center features a leisure pool, water slide, hot tub, lap pool, diving area, therapy pool, and steam room. Adjoining the pool complex is a 27,757 square foot rec center featuring three basketball courts, two racquetball courses, a suspended running/walking track, and an exercise area with workout equipment. Non-resident passes are \$10/day. Phone – 307-587-0400.

Wyoming State Veterans Memorial Park – The Park, located along US 14-16-20 near the Yellowstone Regional Airport in east Cody, includes monuments to Wyoming veterans lost in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Walk around and read the words on the memorials or sit for a few minutes and reflect – and remember and thank those who died to preserve our freedom. Located on US Highway 14-16-20 at the east edge of Cody.

Yellowstone Quilt Festival – <http://www.yellowstonequiltfest.info> - September 9, 10, and 11, 2011 – Cody Auditorium on Beck Avenue. Admission - \$3.00.



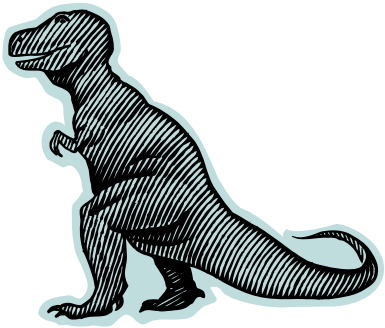
Shopping – Cody's quaint downtown offers several blocks of art galleries, interesting and eclectic shops, and a variety of eateries. Many of the structures housing the shops are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Also, just a block from the Ponderosa Campground is the Sierra Trading Post outlet store. Check it all out.

Juniper Wine Shop and Tasting Room – <http://www.junipershop.com> - When all else fails, or you run out of things to do, check out the Juniper Wine Shop and Tasting Room. Sample dozens of wines, whiskeys, and other premium spirits in the tasting room for a nominal fee. Located at 30 Pearson Avenue. Open Monday –Saturday, 11:00 am-6:00 pm. Phone – 307-587-4472.



Hot Springs State Park, Thermopolis, WY - Thermopolis is renowned as home to the world’s largest mineral hot springs. In Hot Springs State Park, water flows from mineral hot springs, over 18,000 gallons every 24 hours at a constant temperature of 135 degrees Fahrenheit over colorful terraces along Big Horn River. The park has a free Bath House where water is maintained at 104 degrees for therapeutic bathing. Bath House hours are: Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5:30 p.m. Phone – 307-864-2176.

Wyoming Dinosaur Center, Thermopolis, WY - <http://www.wyodino.org> - Step through the doors of The Wyoming Dinosaur Center and you are transported into a world where rulers of the earth were not men but creatures that would think modern elephants were a



snack. Though they may be extinct, the massive bones of dinosaurs remain to educate and thrill us. The Museum has over 30 mounted dinosaurs, a modern preparation laboratory, and hundred of displays and dioramas. Among the featured displays in the Hall of Dinosaurs are two Velociraptor specimens, shown hunting the early horned dinosaur, Protoceratops. The “walk through time” displays are arranged from earliest life forms to dinosaurs and mammals. Hours – Daily, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Admission - \$10 for Museum; \$12.50 for Dig Site Tours. 110 Carter

Ranch Road, Thermopolis, WY. Phone – 307-864-2997 or 800-455-3466

Legend Rock Petroglyph Site, Thermopolis, WY - Hundreds of Native American drawings adorn the cliff face known as Legend Rock, approximately 30 miles northwest of Thermopolis. The area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the State of Wyoming. The petroglyphs were created over thousands of years at the base of very tall cliffs, and several different cultures are responsible for their creation. Hopi, Zuni and Peruvian petroglyph styles have all been identified at Legend Rock. No fee is charged, but to protect these cultural treasures, access is controlled. Visit the Hot Springs State Park office in Thermopolis for a gate key and access information.