

Bighorn Scenic Byway

Crest the Bighorn Mountains



3 Days/2 Nights

Gateway City: Sheridan, Wyoming



You're here for the scenery, the dramatic natural beauty and high in the sky roads, and you can expect a lot. On the Bighorn Scenic Byway, one of three routes over the Bighorn Mountains, you'll discover very tight canyons full of sharp corners, sharp jutting rock walls soaring to the sky, hundreds of miles of foothills spreading out at your feet and massive tilting rocks showing only their tips, with their roots reaching deep into the Big Horn Basin. This 47-mile Scenic Byway begins just outside of Sheridan, traveling over the mountain crest to Greybull. Visitors rave about the mountain switchbacks, amazing views, spectacular canyons and waterfalls, saying "take this drive, even if it means going out of your way." The official boundary of the byway 6.5 miles west of Dayton is marked with a scenic overlook with spectacular views and Fallen City, a field of Madison limestone blocks that toppled onto the rocks below. After Burgess Junction, where US 14 splits from US14A, you reach 9,033 feet atop Granite Pass. A bit further on, Shell Falls dives 120 feet into the gorge below, followed by nearby Shell Canyon, filled with sharp, twisting corners, drop-offs and gorgeous rock formations. Plan to take the drive slowly and enjoy every bit of the unfolding scenery along the way. Watch for coyotes, deer and elk. And, you may even spot one of the elusive mountain lions who roam these parts.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Sheridan, where you can tour the Museum at the Bighorns, Trail End State Historic Site and the Don King Museum, before spending the night at a fully restored flour mill.

On Day Two, you'll be heading out to the Byway, starting at the Connor Battlefield State Historic Site, before traveling to Dayton, with a stop at the Hans Kleiber Studio Museum. Once on the Byway, you'll pass the Sand Turn Interpretive Site and Antelope Bear Mountain Recreation Area. From there, it's a short drive to Shell Falls. You'll pass through Shell Canyon, before reaching the town of Shell. From there, take a short side trip off the Byway to see the Red Gulch Dinosaur Track Site. And then, it's on to Greybull for a stay at the Historic Greybull Hotel.

On Day Three, explore the Greybull Museum, the Bighorn Basin Geoscience Center and the Museum of Flight and Aerial Firefighting. From there, we wish you safe passage if you're traveling another Wyoming Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.

DAY ONE



Sheridan

Expansive western history right out of the movies, dramatic mountain vistas, new world comforts, and wide-open spaces define this city named after Union Civil War General Philip Sheridan. Founded in 1882 after a series of clashes with Native Americans, the arrival of the railroad in 1892 and the discovery of coal stimulated growth. In that era, the town's social activity centered around the bars, pool halls and brothels where outlaws made history. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody made the Sheridan Inn his headquarters for tryouts for his Wild West show. Set against the magnificent backdrop of the Bighorn Mountains, Sheridan now offers modern hospitality with old west vibes. In fact, *True West Magazine* ranked Sheridan as the number one Top Western Town. The downtown's historic buildings have been rebuilt and repurposed to house galleries, boutiques, shops, restaurants, and more.

Museum at the Bighorns

The Museum at the Bighorns makes a priority of promoting a greater understanding of the American West and exploring history through the ears and eyes of the men and women who settled Sheridan County. Exhibits feature the hearty ranchers, railroaders, miners, and soldiers, all of whom arrived from around the world to settle in the shadow of the Bighorn Mountains.

850 Sibley Circle, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-675-1150, T-Sat May-Aug
9AM-5PM, Sept-Oct 1PM-5PM, Adult \$6



Trail End State Historic Site

This 1908 Flemish Revival style historic home was built by Wyoming cattleman, banker, governor, and U.S. Senator, John B. Kendrick. Trail End elegantly displays different aspects of Wyoming's rich and colorful history in authentically furnished rooms surrounded by finely manicured lawns.

Clarendon Avenue, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-674-4589, April-May/Sept-Dec 1PM-4PM, June-Aug 9AM-6PM, Adults \$8



Don King Museum

Explore the Old West in photos, saddles, Native American artifacts, original art, chaps, saddles, antlers and a myriad of other items in a remarkable collection.

184 North Main Street, Sheridan, WY 82801 800-44-8919 M-Sat 8AM-5PM Free



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

The Mill Inn 2161 Coffeen Avenue, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-672-6401 This historic property, once the Sheridan Flouring Mills, milling flour in the in the early 1890s, has been transformed into a Bed and Breakfast.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Pony Bar & Grill 3 South Gould Street, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-674-7000 Informal restaurant serving classic American fare, with seasonal outdoor seating.

Wyoming's Rib & Chop House 847 North Main Street, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-673-4700 Chophouse serving aged steaks, seafood, slow-cooked ribs and beer in a relaxed, casual setting.

Silver Spur Café 832 North Main Street, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-763-2474, Great local place for large breakfasts and hearty lunches.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Mercantile & Co 39 South Main Street, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-620-2917 A gift shop with a local, trendy vibe.

Crazy Woman Trading Co 134 North Main Street, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-672-3939 Clothing, gifts, home decor, Wyoming made products, and more.

High Mountain Mercantile 130 North Main Street, Sheridan, WY, 82801, 307-675-1055 Western clothing, boots, and hats, Western housewares and home décor, rusty signs made in the U.S.A., an exclusive blend of coffee roasted in Sheridan, and much more.

DAY TWO

Connor Battlefield State Historic Site

Now a quiet outdoor area, in summer 1865, General Connor led a column of troops from Fort Laramie into northern Wyoming to take an Arapahoe village and force the residents to flee. The Native Americans had anticipated the attack and were already packing to leave. As they moved out, they fought a desperate rear guard action.

County Road 67, Ranchester, WY





Dayton

Founded in 1882, fertile land and abundant water attracted many ranchers and farmers to the area. Timber harvested in the surrounding mountains was hewn into railroad ties and floated to Dayton via a wooden flume. This very progressive community elected Wyoming's first female mayor, Susan Wissler, in 1911 and during World War II saw the community protected by an all-woman volunteer fire department. Wyoming's first rodeo was held here in the 1890s.

Hans Kleiber Studio Museum

This rustic cabin studio is dedicated to the legacy of German-born artist Hans Kleiber, known as the “Etcher Laureate of the Big Horns,” and poet, naturalist, Forest Ranger, and a self-taught intaglio (etching) printmaker. Many of his works featuring the outdoors are on display in the museum as well as displayed in many other galleries. He received the Silver Medal from The Printmakers Society and was given a special showing at the Smithsonian National Museum in Washington, DC.

605 Main Street, Dayton, WY, 82836, 307-751-8216, W-F 10AM-6PM, Free



Big Horn Scenic Byway

The Big Horn Scenic Byway begins 6.5 miles west of Dayton. You'll first be passing the Amsden Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area, at the edge of the Bighorn National Forest. From there, the Byway parallels the Tongue River, which runs through Tongue River Canyon. At Burgess Junction, US 14A, Medicine Wheel Passage, another Wyoming Scenic Byway, splits from US 14, and proceeds west. You'll cross Granite Pass at 9,033 feet and pass by Elk Peak at 11,050 feet. Before you reach Shell, you'll want to stop at Shell Falls and then you'll be passing through Shell Canyon. At Shell, turn south to drive to the Medicine Lodge Archeological Area and the Red Gulch Dinosaur Track Site.



Burgess Junction and Bighorn National Forest Visitor Center

Enjoy a self-guided trail, exhibits, information, and beautiful scenic views.
US-14, Dayton, WY, 82836, 307-674-2600, Memorial Day–Labor Day

Amsden Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area

Part of the Bighorn National Cloud Peak Wilderness Area which US Highway 14 passes through, the 4,100 acre Amsden Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area provides a protected range for elk and mule deer, especially in winter where food can be provided for the herds that coming down from the hills.

Follow Signs on US 14



Sand Turn Interpretive Site

Spectacular views of the Tongue River Basin.

US 14, Sheridan, WY 82801, 307-674-2600

Shell Falls

Over the past million years, Shell Creek has incised a deep chasm through the sedimentary stone and ancient granite, while dropping 120 feet at 3,600 gallons per second. The thundering falls follow fractures in the resistant granite. There is also a visitor center with an interpretive trail. Guided walks are available on Saturdays and Sundays as well as programs on paleontology, botany, and special Junior Ranger activities.



Shell Creek Canyon

This remote canyon is named for the shell fossils found in the sedimentary canyon walls. It offers amazing views of Shell Creek and the surrounding mountains and cliffs. Roadside markers help showcase the unique geological formations in this area, with places dating back over 2 billion years.



Red Gulch Dinosaur Track Site

Featuring hundreds of dinosaur tracks, this assemblage of fossil dinosaur footprints was discovered in 1997. It is the largest site in Wyoming and one of only a few worldwide from the Middle Jurassic Period (160 million to 180 million years old). The site features a boardwalk, interpretive signs, picnic tables, benches, and trails. Travel approximately eight miles east of Greybull WY on US Highway 14 to the Red Gulch/Alkali National Back Country Byway turnoff. Head south on that Byway approximately five miles, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-347-5100





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

The Historic Hotel Greybull 600 Greybull Avenue, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-202-0329

This 1916 hotel has been lovingly restored to its previous grandeur to offer up true western hospitality.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Speakeasy Steakhouse 600 Greybull Avenue, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-202-0329 Featuring special recipe prime rib, ribeye steaks, seafood, pasta, and homemade desserts.

The Tippy Cow 540 1st Avenue South, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-765-2007 Daily American specials in a friendly western atmosphere.

Lisa's Western Cuisine & Spirits 200 Greybull Avenue, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-765-4765 Authentic Western and Southwestern Cuisine in a great setting near the Greybull River.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Big Horn Antiques and Gifts 1336 North 6th Street, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-765-2023 Take a stroll down memory lane as you browse antiques, gifts, and one-of-a-kind items.

Crazy Woman Trading Post, 529 Greybull Avenue, Greybull, WY 82426, 307-765-2916

Wyoming Scene, 513 Greybull Avenue, Greybull, WY 82426, 307-622-034



Greybull

Greybull takes its name from a local Native American legend that claimed a very revered great albino buffalo once roamed the area, which they considered a sign from the Great Spirit. Native American arrowheads, fossils and semiprecious stones can be found around town. The Greybull Visitor Center has a host of information about the area and beyond, so don't hesitate to ask for information or recommendations.

521 Greybull Avenue, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-765-2100, M-F 9AM-4PM

Greybull Museum

This museum houses war memorabilia, Native American artifacts, antique dishes, cookware, fossils, photos and large ammonite fossils, which date from the Mesozoic era when the Greybull area was under a large inland sea.

325 Greybull Avenue, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-765-2444, M, W, F 1PM-4PM,
Free

Bighorn Basin Geoscience Center

Dedicated to the display of the northern Bighorn Basin's natural resources, The center includes the Museum of Ancient Life displaying fossils in their appropriate geologic context and reproductions in the context of the environment that was prevalent in the timeframe the animals existed. The museum also features a 40-foot mural depicting the landscape, flora and fauna of the Bighorn Basin 150 million years ago, enhanced with a display of actual fallen trees, rocks and plantings. Be sure to watch the movie about the first dig in the Basin and touch a few fossils.

534 Greybull Avenue, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-765-2259, M-F 10AM-4PM Free



Museum of Flight and Aerial Firefighting

Preserving the history of Aerial Firefighting, the museum displays many types of aircraft and fire-retardant drop systems have been utilized to combat forest fires since the late 1920s. Suggested Donation \$3

2534 Hiller Lane, Greybull, WY, 82426, 307-765-2100, mid-May to Oct
M-Sat 9AM-5PM

