

# Wyoming's Beartooth Highway

*Dramatic All American Road*



3 Days/2 Nights

Gateway City: Cody, Wyoming



Some call this dramatic drive “America’s most beautiful highway.” Famed traveler and writer Charles Kuralt thought the rugged landscapes in northern Wyoming trumped all other scenic routes. We believe you’ll agree this is a very special road, as you climb your way to Beartooth Pass, which at the crest has a perfectly formed glacially rendered shape which the Crow Tribe thought looked just like a bear’s tooth. Nearby, the whole mountainside resembles a full set of teeth. As you ascend over 5,000 feet through the mountainous terrain, you’ll pass hundreds of glacial lakes, waterfalls, vivid wildflowers and over 20 peaks that reach skyward over 12,000 feet. Expect hairpin turns as you travel into the clouds that most often shroud the pass. Breathtaking views of the Beartooth Mountains accompany you along the whole route. The terrain up on this mountain is so rugged that only Native Americans had traversed this pass until General Philip Sheridan took the route in 1882. The road built in 1936 with tight switchbacks to get up and down the canyon walls, was considered an engineering marvel. Since the Beartooth Highway is located in both Wyoming and Montana, the route you’ll take to reach the Beartooth includes the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway and other scenic roads as you loop up to Red Lodge, MT and back to Cody.



### **Touring the Byway**

We recommend starting your journey in Cody, a rugged mountain town in the heart of the American West. Hear the incredible stories of the town at the Cody Heritage Museum and Buffalo Bill Center of the West, learn about the pioneers who pursued Western expansion at the Historic Cody Mural and Museum, before spending the evening at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel.

On Day Two, drive the 46 thrilling miles on the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway. Twist and turn your way on WY-296 stopping at scenic overlooks, ultimately reaching an elevation over 8,000 feet at Dead Indian Pass, and defying gravity as you cross Wyoming's highest bridge, Sunlight Creek Bridge. At the intersection of WY-296 and US 212, you'll turn north on the Beartooth Highway, headed for Red Lodge.

In Red Lodge you can explore the town on a historic walking tour, the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary and the Carbon County Historical Society and Museum, before settling in at The Pollard, the most historic hotel in Montana.

On Day Three, back in Cody, you can take your time exploring Old Trail Town and the downtown shopping district, before enjoying the Cody Nite Rodeo, the only nightly performing rodeo in the United States.

From here, we wish you safe passage if you're traveling another Wyoming Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.

When you travel the Beartooth, be sure to remember that the high alpine climate can cause severe weather conditions any month of the year. Summer temperatures range from the 70s to below freezing during sudden snowstorms. Pack warm jackets, hats and boots if you plan to hike. The road is normally plowed by Memorial Day, but closures are common through June due to spring snowstorms.



## DAY ONE



### **Cody**

As he explored the region in the 1870s as an Army scout, William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody was so impressed with the grand scenery surrounding Yellowstone National Park, that, after taking his Wild West Show all over the world, he returned to start the town in 1896. Several streets in the historic downtown are still named after other investors and founders; Beck, Alger, Rumsey, Bleistein and Salsbury. The construction of a dam on the Shoshone River brought federal money pouring in, spurring Cody to grow and prosper even before oil was discovered in the Oregon Basin in 1912. By the time Cody passed in 1917, his namesake town, deemed the “Rodeo Capital of the World,” was well on its way.

## **Buffalo Bill Center of the West**

Often referred to as the “Smithsonian of the West,” the Buffalo Bill Center of the West weaves together stories of the Yellowstone region and the American West in five different museums. Immerse yourself in the geology and natural environment of the region at the Draper Natural History Museum. Get to know William F. Cody in the Buffalo Bill Museum. Experience the traditions, values and culture of regional Native Americans at the Plains Indian Museum and enjoy artists’ depictions of the West at the Whitney Western Art Museum. The Cody Firearms Museum houses more than 4,000 firearms used in the American West.

720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-4771, Summer hours: May 1-Sept 15 Daily, 8AM-6PM, Sept 16-Oct31 Daily 8AM-5PM, Nov1-30 Daily 10AM-5PM, Dec 1-Feb 28, Th-Sun 10AM-5PM, Mar 1-Apr 30, Daily 10AM-5PM Adults \$22 (Tickets good for 2 consecutive days)



## **Cody Heritage Museum**

Exhibits feature founders William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, George Beck, Nate Salsbury, H.M. Gerrans, George Bleistein and Bronson Rumsey, ranching and agricultural history, early Cody businesses, the oil, gas, and railroad industries and cowboy history. The Heritage Garden surrounding the historic De Maris House is a living exhibit of native plants, pollinator plants, wildflowers, grasses and a bronze sculpture which memorializes the original pioneers who built the town.

1092 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-586-4272, Tu-Sat 10AM-4PM & Sun 12PM-4PM

## **The Historic Cody Mural and Museum**

Experience an awe-inspiring mural painted by a renowned artist illustrating Mormon pioneers in the region, complemented with items they used as they settled Wyoming’s rugged Big Horn Basin.

1719 Wyoming Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-3290, Memorial Day through the last Friday of September M-Sat 9AM-7PM, Free





### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**The Irma Hotel**, 1192 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-4221

Opened in 1902, the Irma has been a symbol of neighborliness and good cheer for over 100 years. As they say, everyone from Colonel Cody to princes and potentates, Indian chiefs and cowboys “came as they were” to the Irma. You can too.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Trailhead Bar and Grill Wood Fired Pizza**, 1326 Beck Avenue, Cody, WY 82414, 307-578-8510

**Proud Cut Saloon** 1227 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-527-6905 Buffalo burgers and traditional American classics with a full bar.

**Irma Hotel Restaurant** 1192 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-4221

Famous for its Prime Rib, the hotel also has a full menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and daily summer buffet. The famous cherry back bar was a gift from British Queen Victoria to Buffalo Bill Cody.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**By Western Hands**, 1007 12th Street, Cody, WY 82414, 307-586-1755 Preserving Western heritage and design through celebrating past and present artisans.

**Timmer Gallery** 1371 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 586-604-6314 Art studio and gallery featuring contemporary landscapes and unique gifts by artist Brian Timmer.

**Cowtown Candy Company** 1323 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-8212 Delectable treats, popcorn and fudge.

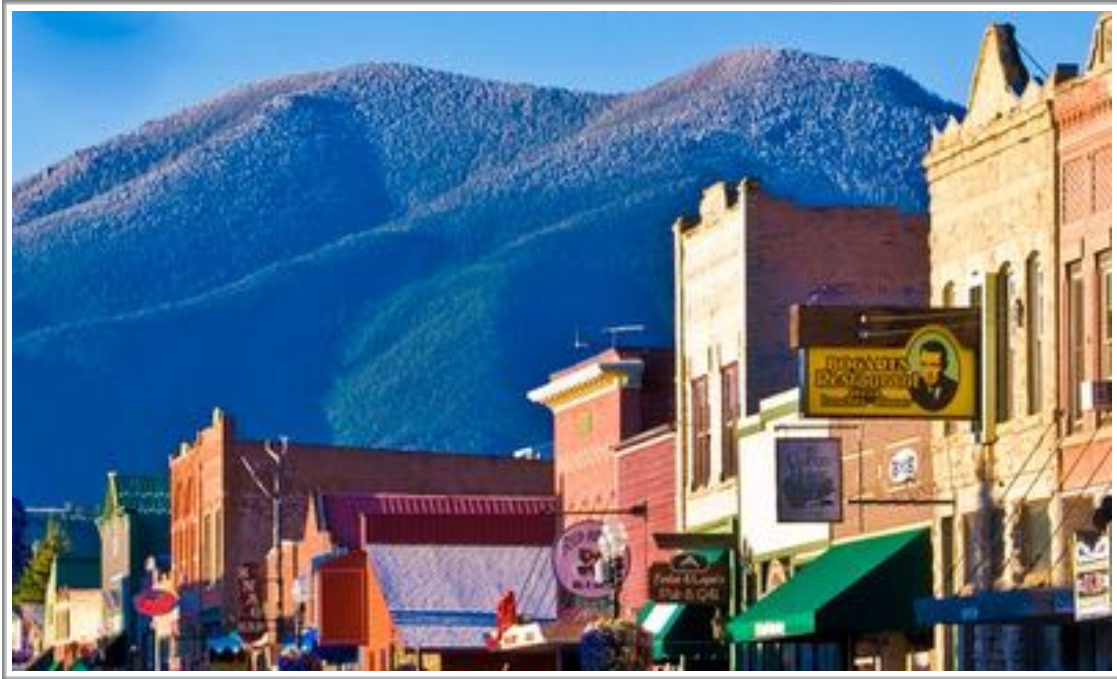


## DAY TWO

### **Chief Joseph Scenic Byway**

This morning you'll be off to drive the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway, which connects Cody with the Beartooth Highway, closely following the path taken by the Nez Perce as they fled the US Cavalry in 1877. Several interpretive signs along the route tell more of the story. Along with learning the story of the route, you'll be driving through Shoshone National Forest for most of the route, enjoying spectacular vistas, beautiful scenery and mountains at every twist and turn. Distant views of the Beartooth Mountains are complemented with views of the Beartooth Plateau and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. Unlike the Beartooth, the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway is not a high-elevation drive. It does cross Dead Indian Pass at 8,048 feet, but for the most part passes through a series of open valleys, surrounded with tall, forested mountains. Be sure to stop at the scenic pullout at Mile 1.2, Dead Indian Summit Overlook at Mile 13.3, and the Sunlight Bridge at Mile 23.





## **Red Lodge**

When you arrive in Red Lodge, don't be surprised to see cowboys, mountain men or Native Americans on the streets. You're in the authentic American West. Like so many other western towns, Red Lodge was built on mining. The downtown and surrounding streets, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are populated with homes and buildings constructed during the coal-mining boom between 1893 and 1910. The Rocky Fork Coal Company opened the area's first mine in 1887 and by 1891, more than 400 Finns, Scots, Irish, Italians, Slavs and Scandinavians arrived to work the East Side Mine, digging an average of 100 tons of coal a day. By 1896, the vibrant town of Red Lodge was teeming with action, filled with strong-willed folks and twenty saloons. By 1910, Carbon County led Montana in coal production and by 1911, Red Lodge boasted a population of 5,000 souls. In the old days, they used to say Red Lodge had a saloon on every corner. Today, you'll discover some of those saloons housing art galleries, gift shops, and more, while still retaining their historic character.

## **Historic Walking Tour of Red Lodge**

Beginning at the Civic Center, the walking tour takes you through Red Lodge Commercial Historic District with buildings including the Carbon County Courthouse, the Carbon County Hospital and Sanitarium, Historic Roman Theater and the Iris Theater, as well as surrounding residential areas.

Tour begins at 215 14<sup>th</sup> Street



## **Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary**

As bison and other animals in Yellowstone National Park age and need care, they are moved to the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary, along with gray and red wolves, porcupines, owls, black bears and more. Take the 60-90 minute guided tour to learn more about the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the species represented at the sanctuary, and how the animals arrive here.

615 Second Street East, Red Lodge, MT 59068, W-M, 10AM-4PM, Adults \$10

### **Carbon County Art Guild and Depot Gallery**

After the Burlington Northern Railroad donated the 1889 classic Craftsman style Red Lodge depot to the Art Guild, enterprising citizens created an art location featuring the work of regional artists from south central Montana and northern Wyoming.

11 Eighth Street West, Red Lodge, MT, 59068, 406-446-1370, Th-Sat Noon-4PM

### **Carbon County Historical Society and Museum**

When originally constructed in 1909, the Labor Temple Building housed the Kaleva Co-Operative Mercantile on the first floor, with the second devoted to union offices, a public library, and reading room, plus the “Workers Club.” The third floor had lodging rooms and showers as well as the finest dance hall in Red Lodge. It served the area’s miners until 1920. The Historical Society restored the facility to feature historic exhibits about Carbon County plus a shop with Old West books and gifts. The newest exhibit tells the backstory of the Beartooth Scenic Highway from inception through the construction of the most remarkable highway in America.

224 Broadway Avenue North, Red Lodge, MT 59068, 406-446-3667, Tu-Sat 10AM-4PM, June 1-Labor Day, Adults \$7





### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**The Pollard** 2 Broadway Avenue North, Red Lodge, MT 59068, 406-446-0001

Red Lodge's first hotel quickly gained fame as a gathering place for the rich and famous including William Jennings Bryan, Copper Kings William and Marcus Daly, Buffalo Bill Cody, who spent many evenings swapping tales with local old timers and Calamity Jane who would occasionally interrupt the quiet of the hotel.

Destination Distinctive Dining

**Carbon County Steakhouse** 121 Broadway Avenue South, Red Lodge, MT 59068,

406-446-4025 Traditional steakhouse fare plus seafood, coupled with a deep wine list, is served in an upscale cowboy-themed setting.

**PREROGATIVE Kitchen** 104 Broadway Avenue South, Red Lodge, MT 59068,

406-445-3232 Serving a rotating a la carte chalkboard menu dedicated to ecofriendly and community conscious cuisine.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Candy Emporium** 7 Broadway Avenue North, Red Lodge, MT 59068, 406-44-1119

Nostalgic old-time candies, handmade delights, and huckleberry originals.

**Babcock & Miles** 105 12<sup>th</sup> Street West, Red Lodge, MT, 50968, 406-446-1796

A food lover's paradise filled with the best espresso, wine, craft beer, gourmet ingredients, cheese, chocolates, charcuterie, ready to go sandwiches, snacks, spices, and more.

**Coleman Gallery and Studio** 223 South Broadway Avenue, Red Lodge 50968,

406-446-1228 Featuring award winning nature and portrait photography.

**Beartooth Gallery and Fine Art** 110 South Broadway Avenue, Red Lodge, MT, 50968,

406-446-1292 Representing an impressive collection of painters, sculptors, glass blowers, potters, and furniture makers.

## DAY THREE

### **Old Trail Town**

Explore a rare collection of ghost-town relics, authentic buildings, and historic furnishing in this reconstructed frontier town where Cody started. Original cabins used by outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and a Wyoming saloon frequented by Cassidy's "Hole-in-the-Wall Gang" were moved to the site, along with the cabin of "Curley," a Crow scout who helped guided Custer and the U.S. 7th Cavalry to the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. Several pioneer graves on the property include mountain man John Johnson, portrayed by Robert Redford in "Jeremiah Johnson."

1831 Demaris Drive, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-5302, May 15th-Sept 1st M-Sun  
8AM-6PM, Adults \$10



## **Downtown Cody Historic Shopping District**

As you browse through the local shops in downtown Cody, stroll through the Downtown Cody Historic District along Sheridan Avenue, where the sandstone buildings constructed of locally quarried materials lend the district a distinctive western character. Most of the one or two-story structures date from between 1900 and 1930, built after Cody was incorporated in 1901. Although relatively free of ornamentation, iron fronts, large iron cornices with brackets, and clerestory windows are evident on some buildings. You'll find a variety of shops in downtown Cody, especially those with western flair: Custom Cowboy Shop, Wayne's Boot Shop, Wayne's Boot Shop, Wild West Emporium, High Country Emporium, along with a great representation of arts and antiques including Von Morisse Gallery, Big Horn Galleries, Simpson Gallagher Gallery, Treasured Memories and the Watchful Raven Antiques.



## **Cody Nite Rodeo**

Started in 1938, the Cody Nite Rodeo is the longest running rodeo and the only nightly rodeo June-August in the world. Gates open at 7PM, with the action kicking off at 8PM. All seats are general admission within two sections, but purchase of tickets in advance is recommended.

519 West Yellowstone Avenue, Cody, WY. 82414, 307-587-5155

