

MONTANA



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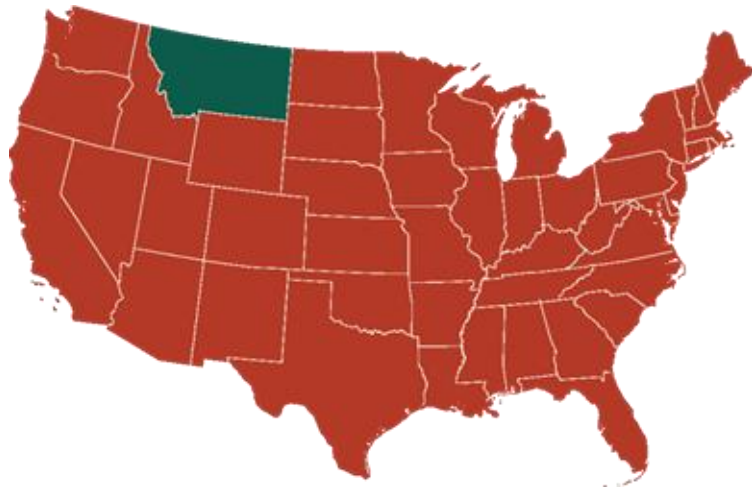


Montana is known for wide-open landscapes, mountains, wildlife and Glacier and Yellowstone national parks, but it also offers opportunities to experience Indigenous cultures, Western traditions, history and Montana's unique character and way of life — evident in the friendly people and one-of-a-kind stories rooted here.





Lay of the Land



Location

Montana straddles the Northern Rockies and the northern Great Plains and shares borders with Canada, Idaho, Wyoming and North and South Dakota.

Size

At 147,040 square miles (or 380,832 square kilometers), Montana is the fourth-largest state in the country, but the population is just over 1 million people.



Great Outdoors





Diversity of Terrain

Montana's wide-open landscapes feature a variety of terrain:

- Forested mountains, rolling plains and captivating badlands
- Beautiful, storied rivers and lakes, including the Missouri River, the Yellowstone River, Flathead Lake and Fort Peck Lake
- Hot springs that draw Montanans and visitors alike to soak in mineral-rich waters





Public Lands

Montana boasts millions of acres of public lands that make up more than 30% of its landmass:

- Two national parks: [Glacier National Park](#) and [Yellowstone National Park](#)
- 56 state parks
- Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands
- [National Historic Landmarks](#), including battlefields and ghost towns





Year-Round Recreation

Spending time outdoors is a way of life in Montana, and there are great opportunities to get outside all year:

- Hiking, camping, biking, rock climbing, off-roading, horseback riding, water recreation, fishing and hunting in warm season
- Skiing and snowboarding, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, ice skating and ice fishing in winter



Montana History and Culture





Indigenous Cultural Experiences

Visitors will find many ways to engage with the Native American cultures present in Montana:

- Museums, cultural centers and historical sites
- Celebrations and events like powwows, makers markets and Indian relay races
- Native-guided experiences





Dinosaurs

For more than 100 years, Montana has been a hot spot of dinosaur discoveries and its rich prehistoric past can be explored across the state:

- 14 museums on the [Montana Dinosaur Trail](#) with fossils of dinosaurs uncovered in Montana
- Opportunities to take part in dinosaur digs





History

The Lewis and Clark Expedition

The Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled through Montana in 1805 and 1806 as it mapped the country from St. Louis, Missouri, to the Pacific Ocean. Learn more at:

- The [Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center](#) in Great Falls
- [Montana sites](#) along the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail





History

Mining

The discovery of gold and silver in the mid-1800s spurred a rush of people coming to Montana and led to development of the mining industry. Learn more at:

- The [World Museum of Mining](#) and exhibits at town and county museums
- Ghost towns
- Gold panning and gem mining experiences





Western Culture and Local Character

Montana is rural, and small towns are where visitors can interact with the quiet but friendly locals and experience events that brim with Montana character and traditions:

- Rodeos
- Fairs
- Local festivals and celebrations spotlighting art, music, heritage and seasons



A collage of food items including a burger, fries, and pizza on a wooden tray. The background shows a wooden tray with a burger, fries, and a pizza. The text "Food and Drink" is centered in a white box.

Food and Drink





Food and Drink

Montana is an agricultural state, with a long tradition of farming and ranching. There's an abundance of fresh, local foods, and Montanans take pride in crafting unforgettable culinary experiences with high-quality ingredients.

Dining options range from award-nominated restaurants to down-home, local diners. Look for signature Montana foods — steak, bison, elk, huckleberries and Flathead cherries — on restaurant menus and Montana craft beverages at breweries, distilleries and cideries.





Experiences

In Montana, a meal can be more than the food and drink — it can be an event:

- Cowboy cookouts and chuckwagon dinners
- [Charlie Russell Chew Choo Dinner Train](#)
- Food, beer and wine festivals





Food Trails

[Southeast Montana Burger Trail](#)

Features small-town eateries serving up mouthwatering burgers that are local favorites

[Central Montana Pie Trail](#)

Spotlights the flaky crust and delicious fillings of pies served at 18 different restaurants, cafes and diners in Central Montana



Accommodations





Accommodations

From charmingly rustic cabins to modern mountain lodges, historic hotels to luxury resorts, and scenic campgrounds to dude ranches, Montana offers diverse accommodations to welcome any traveler:

- Hotels and motels
- Vacation rentals
- Treehouses
- Hot springs resorts
- Guest ranches
- Yurts



Where To Go

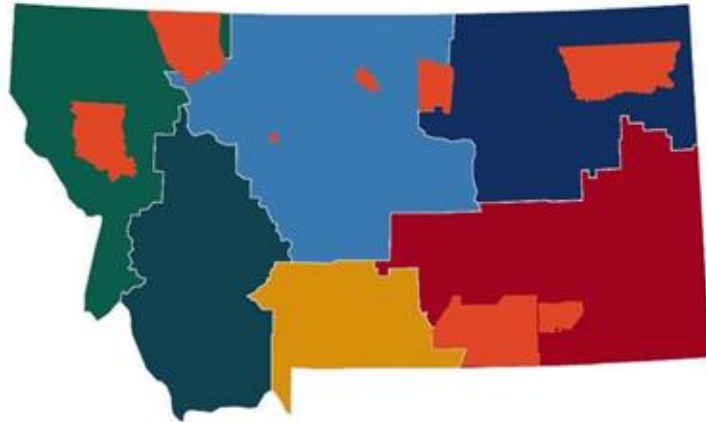




Where To Go

Montana is divided into seven tourism regions, each with unique places and experiences to discover:

- [Indian Country](#)
- [Western Montana's Glacier Country](#)
- [Southwest Montana](#)
- [Central Montana](#)
- [Montana's Yellowstone Country](#)
- [Missouri River Country](#)
- [Southeast Montana](#)



When To Go





When To Go

Montana has four unique seasons, each with its charms.





When To Go

Spring

- Wildflowers
- Baby wildlife
- Rivers rushing with snowmelt

Pack: sun protection, sturdy shoes for hiking, midweight layers, rain jacket





When To Go

Summer

- Light until almost 10 p.m.
- Warm-weather recreation: hiking, camping and days on the water
- Rodeos, fairs and festivals
- Bustling farmers markets

Pack: sun protection, sturdy shoes for hiking, bathing suit, light layers





When To Go

Fall

- Colorful foliage, including larches that turn gold
- Seasonal festivals
- Fishing
- Football

Pack: sun protection, sturdy shoes for hiking, midweight layers and jacket





When To Go

Winter

- Snowsports
- Hot springs
- Holiday events

Pack: warm boots, hat and gloves, wool layers, winter jacket or coat, bathing suit



Getting Here and Getting Around





Getting Here and Getting Around

Air Travel

Book direct flights to Montana from Seattle, Salt Lake City, Denver and Minneapolis, and from other major U.S. cities.





Getting Here and Getting Around

Vehicle Rentals

Driving provides the greatest flexibility when it comes to exploring parks, historical sites, towns and lesser-visited places around the state. Note that certain documentation will likely be needed to rent a vehicle.

Train Travel

[Amtrak's Empire Builder](#) route travels through northern Montana landscapes, skirts Glacier National Park and stops in 12 small towns, each with sights and history to explore.

Travel Inspiration and Planning Resources





Travel Inspiration and Planning Resources

VisitMT.com

Montana stories, trip inspiration and downloadable guides



Contact

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