

Black Hills Scenic Byway

Explore Paha Sapa - Hills that are Black



4 Days/3 Nights

Gateway City: Gillette, Wyoming



Although the Blacks Hills were the first area of Wyoming to be explored, in many ways they were also the last. Joseph and Francois Verendrye, French-Canadian explorers, visited portions of Montana and northeastern Wyoming as early as 1743, but it wasn't until the railroad arrived that the area became home to more than a few trappers and stockmen. To these early venturers, the Black Hills seem to rise out of nowhere, peeking their heads out of the vast expanse of the Great Plains. Covered in millions of acres of evergreen trees, the hills appear very dark from a distance, hence the name black; a stark contrast to the serene, open grasslands that spread before you. The beauty belies the 1.8 billion year old volcanic activity, and an untold amounts of wind and rain that gave the Hills their signature angles and tilts. Very important in the lives of Native Americans in the area, the Sioux and Cheyenne believe the Black Hills were the axis mundi, or sacred center of the world, and the Lakota assigned the name, "Pahá Sápa," or "hills that are black." You can enjoy this incredible landscape on the Black Hills Scenic Byway, 46 stunning miles of panoramic vistas that serve as the western gateway to the Black Hills National Forest. Curve through fantastic rock formations and over tumbling streams as bighorn sheep, American bison, and three-toed woodpeckers pop out from behind the Ponderosa pines.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Gillette, a historic ranching town with a true Western vibe. Learn the story of the Powder River Basin through thousands of artifacts at the Campbell County Rockpile Museum, step back in time and tour two vintage towns at the Frontier Relics & Auto Museum, before spending your first evening relaxing in a charming lodge.

On Day Two, stop in the tiny town of Moorcroft to visit the West Texas Trail Museum, which pays homage to the great cattle migrations of the late 19th century that moved millions of livestock from Texas to northern states and territories. Then head north on WY-14 and WY-24 to visit Devil's Tower, for one of the greatest monoliths in the country. The sacred Native American site was the first location in the United States to earn a National Monument designation. Your accommodations for the night are in a rustic mountain resort.

Explore Sundance on Day Three, the town that gave us the famous 1800's criminal and Butch Cassidy pal, Harry Longabaugh and his nickname, the Sundance Kid. Take a spectator's seat at his trial at the Crook County Museum and Art, and visit the Vore Buffalo Jump, a significant Plains Indian archaeological site. Then, head south on WY-585 to enjoy the Black Hills Scenic Byway, a picturesque road winding through the western edge of the Black Hills National Forest.

On Day Four, visit Newcastle's Anna Miller Museum to view the oldest remaining building from the Black Hills Gold Rush. As you make your way back to Gillette, pause at the Red Onion Museum, which tells the story of the pioneer life of women in northeast Wyoming.

From there, we wish you a safe passage if you're continuing your journey on another Wyoming Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



DAY ONE



Gillette

Originally named Donkey Town, and later Rocky Pile, Gillette eventually became Gillette when the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad came to town in 1891. Today, it is known as the energy capital of the country, providing almost 35% of the nation's coal, and also delivering a significant amount of oil and natural gas. Be sure to explore the historic downtown.

Campbell County Rockpile Museum

You have to give these folks credit for a totally unique museum name, which displays fossils, Native American items, weapons, wagons, a homestead shack, ranch blacksmith shop, two rural schoolhouses, a caboose, boxcar, windmill, and horse-drawn farm equipment.

900 West 2nd Street, Gillette, WY, 82716, 307-682-5723, M-Sat 9AM-5PM, Adults \$10



Frontier Relics & Auto Museum

Room after room, floor to ceiling are filled with exhibits of classic cars, neon signs, porcelain signs, gas pumps, and oil and gas memorabilia. Enjoy a Drive-In theater playing old movies and commercials and a soda fountain/pharmacy where you can enjoy ice cream, pinball machines, and classic music.

205 South Ross Avenue, Gillette, WY, 82716, 307-686-5667



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Arbuckle Lodge 1400 South Garner Lake Road, Gillette, WY, 82718, 307-685-6363 Be greeted in a three-story lobby featuring a stone fireplace where Buster, the Buffalo, has a place of honor, before enjoying the setting sun and fresh air.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Dickey's Barbecue Pit 804 East 2nd Street, Gillette, WY, 82716, 307-686-8698 BBQ chain featuring house-smoked meats, stuffed baked potatoes, and classic sides.

Ranch and Roost 101 South Warren Avenue, Gillette, WY, 82716, 307-257-2198 Try the freshest burger of locally sourced beef ground fresh every day, chicken sandwiches from hand breaded free-range chicken, and hand cut French fries.

Stagecoach 501 South Douglas Highway, Gillette, WY, 82716, 307-680-2209 Breakfast, plus burgers, fries, chicken, and salads,

Destination Distinctive Retail

Magpie Designs 219 South Gillette Avenue, Gillette, WY, 82716, 307-682-2124 An eclectic store selling home decor, unique gifts, and one-of-a-kind wares from local artisans.

DAY TWO

Moorcroft

Located in the heart of Wyoming's best ranch land, Moorcroft was one of the largest livestock shipping points along the C.B. and Q. Railway during the 1890's. Now it serves the coal and oil industries as well. Incorporated in 1906, the exact meaning of Moorcroft is unknown but popular theories suggest it was named in after Alexander Moorcroft, an early settler who built a cabin in the Black Hills

West Texas Trail Museum

Rated by True West magazine as one of the top six cowboy, cattle and ranching museums in the United States in 2016, the West Texas Trail Museum holds one of the largest authentic collections of artifacts from the West Texas Trail cattle drive era, including saddles, weapons, gear, and items used in everyday life by the cattle drovers, plus mercantile, medical, farm, commercial items, and personal items, clothing, tools, toys, and more from pioneers in the area.

100 East Weston Street, Moorcroft, WY, 82721, 307-756-9300, M-F 9AM-5PM,
Free



Destination Distinctive Dining

Devils Tower View 476 WY-24, Devils Tower, WY, 82714 Affordable restaurant offering mouthwatering buffalo burgers with a side of spectacular views of Devils Tower.

Devils Tower National Monument

Standing tall above the Belle Fourche River at 867 feet, this butte of igneous rock, was proclaimed by President Theodore Roosevelt the nation's first national monument. Considered sacred by Northern Plains Indians, Devils Tower today preserves the Native American traditions through educational programs. You can enjoy a 1.3-mile hike around the base to learn about its natural and cultural history, theories about how it was formed, and the connections modern tribes maintain with the site today. The 1935, Civilian Conservation Corps Visitor Center, houses the Devils Tower Natural History Association bookstore.

WY-110, Devils Tower, WY, 82714, 307-467-5283x635, Open 24 Hours, Day Pass \$25 per vehicle, Bookstore hours Memorial Day-Labor Day, W-Sat 9AM-4PM





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Bearlodge Mountain Resort 1615 East Cleveland Street, Sundance, WY, 82729, 307-703-0131 All Cabins have private bathrooms, kitchenettes, cable TV, WiFi, A/C, heat, a patio and a true Wyoming hideaway feel.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Wild West Espresso North 3rd Street, Sundance, WY, 82729 Coffee, food, and gifts.

Uncle Louie's 203 East Cleveland Street, Sundance, WY, 82729, 307-283-3620 A nostalgic diner, coupled with amazing fresh foods of all types.

Longhorn Saloon + Grill 214 East Main Street, Sundance, WY, 82729, 307-283-3644 A family-friendly establishment which offers great food and cold drinks.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Bruce Speidel Gallery 203 East Main Street, Sundance, WY, 82729, 307-290-2089 Featuring the wildlife and scenery paintings of the renowned local artist.

DAY THREE



Sundance

Even though the town was named after the Sun Dance ceremony performed by several Native American tribes, it's best known as the home of Harry Longabaugh, an outlaw member of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch. After his release from the town jail in 1888, for stealing a horse from a local rancher, he acquired the moniker, "The Sundance Kid." Harry was played by Robert Redford in the award-winning film "Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid." Today's scenery evokes images of the movie, depicting the rowdy bunch as they swept across the county on the longest stretch of train and bank robberies in Old West history.

Crook County Museum and Art

Located in the historic Old Stoney School Building, over 7000 artifacts on display showcase a wide spectrum of the area's heritage. You can take a seat in a spectator chair at the "Sundance Kid" trial, savor an impressive gun collection, and tour the gallery which includes four dioramas featuring Devils Tower, Custer Expedition, Vore Buffalo Jump, and first Experimental Nuclear Power Plant.

120 North 4th Street, Sundance, WY, 82729, 307-283-3666, June-August M- Sat
8AM-4PM



Vore Buffalo Jump National Historic Site

One of the most important archaeological sites of the Late-Prehistoric Plains Indians, this natural sinkhole was used by ancient tribes to corral bison into pits to cut them up for meat. Archeological digs begun in the 1970s uncovered about 10 tones of bones and projectile points at a depth of 15 feet. It is estimated the pit still contains the remains of 20,000 buffalo. A small interpretive center provides more information.

369 Old U.S. 14, Sundance, WY, 82729, 307-266-9530, June 1-August 22
8AM-6PM, Adults \$9





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

The Pines Country Inn 248 East Wentworth Street, Newcastle, WY, 82701, 307-746-4334

Enjoy a quiet retreat at a family owned Inn with quaint rooms and a secluded location.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Hi-16 Drive In Restaurant 2951 West Main Street, Newcastle, WY, 82701, 307-746-9446

This rustic café is known for its great service.

Isabella's 12 South Sumner Avenue, Newcastle, WY, 82701, 307-746-3500 Locally owned

Isabella's is located in one of the original historic buildings transformed into a restaurant.

Wayback Burgers 1220 Washington Boulevard, Newcastle, WY, 82701, 307-746-9464 Made-to-order burgers and milkshakes.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Sagebrush Market 205 West Main Street Downstairs, Newcastle, WY, 82701, 307-351-0730 A

variety of unique gift items, located in another historic Newcastle building.

DAY FOUR



Newcastle

Beginning as a product of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, early on, Newcastle built a wild reputation as cowboys, miners, and railroad workers were entertained by 14 saloons, numerous dance halls, prostitutes, and gambling.

However, once the railroad established a headquarters here, a large multi-purpose structure was constructed serve as a community hall, schoolhouse, and church to bring some stability. BNSF Railroad still has a headquarters right on Main Street, two nearby coal mines are still operational and visitors can enjoy a walking tour of the downtown historic district featuring several buildings from its days as a Wild West town.

Anna Miller Museum

The 1933 Wyoming Army National Guard Cavalry Stable is now home to the Weston County Historical Society Museum, named after the daughter of a pioneer family, and widow of Sheriff Billy Miller, who was killed at the last Indian battle in this area. Anna Cecelia McMoran Miller was also Newcastle's first librarian, schoolteacher, and school superintendent. The complex includes the Green Mountain School complete with a wood burning stove, school desks, maps, blackboards, and more used by the pioneer students, along with a homesteader's house, and the Jenney Stockade cabin, the oldest existing building of the Black Hills gold rush.

401 Delaware Avenue, Newcastle, WY, 82701, 307-746-4188, M-F 8AM-4PM
Closed 12PM-1PM for lunch



Upton

Scant information is known about early Upton because the town's newspaper offices burned, but we do know that it was called Irontown or Iron City. Historians believe the settlement started as a small supply town for cowboys, ranchers, and newly arrived homesteaders. The town had a livery stable, a dry-goods store and a restaurant housed in a tent. Early ranchers sustained a cattle industry until the late 1880s when many switched to sheep. A sampling of Irontown's buildings can be toured at "Old Town," located at the original town site, with other historic buildings that have been moved there.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Remy's Diner 1019 US-16, Upton, WY, 82730, 307-468-2266 Serving breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, surrounded by fun and varied moose décor.

Red Onion Museum

Walter K. "Jarbo" Poulson opened the "Red Onion Saloon," in town before Prohibition which he later moved to a barn at "Red Onion Ranch." The community chose the name Red Onion for the museum which tells the story of life in Wyoming for pioneer women and the great lengths they went to in order to care for their families

729 Birch Street, Upton, WY, 307-468-2672, M-F 8AM-4PM Closed 12-1PM for lunch

