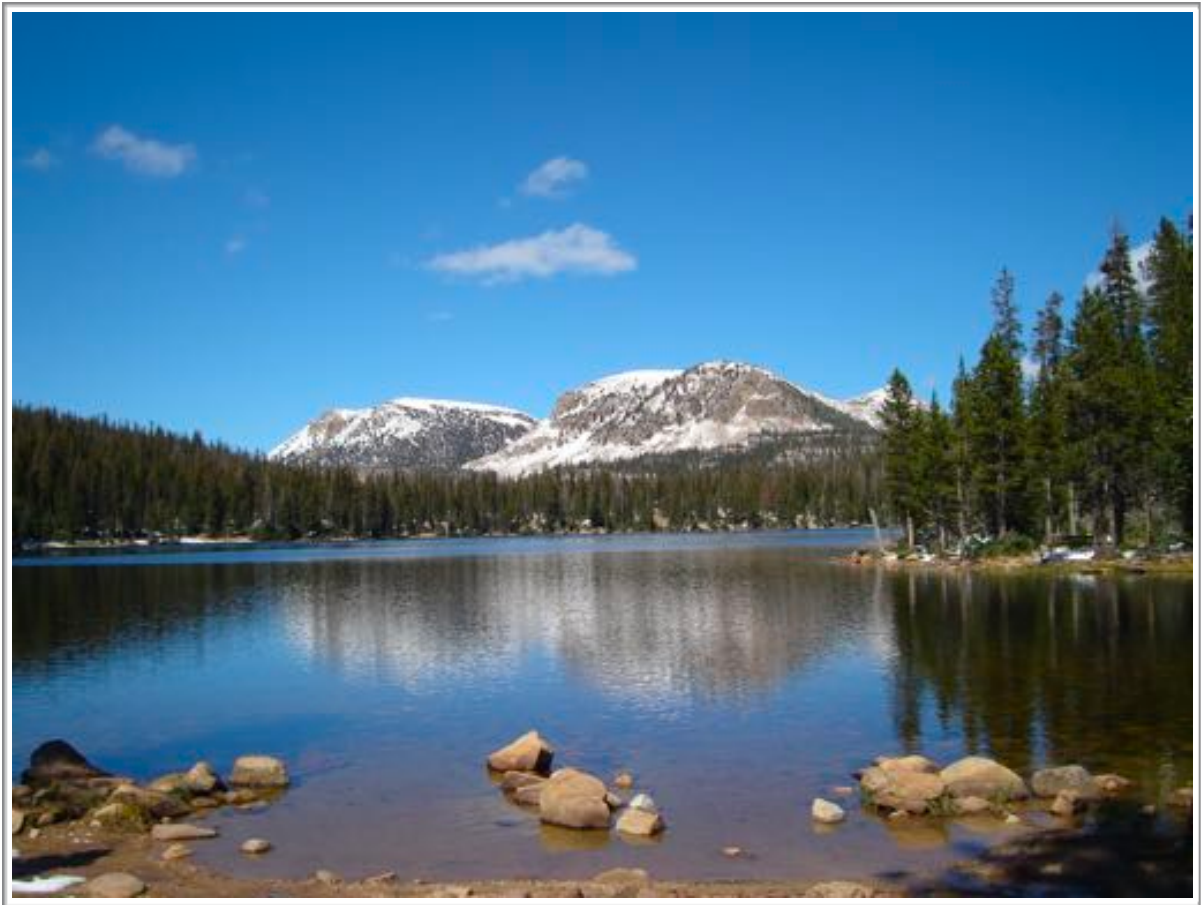


Mirror Lake Scenic Byway

Jewel High in the Mountains



4 Days/3 Nights

Gateway City: Evanston, Wyoming



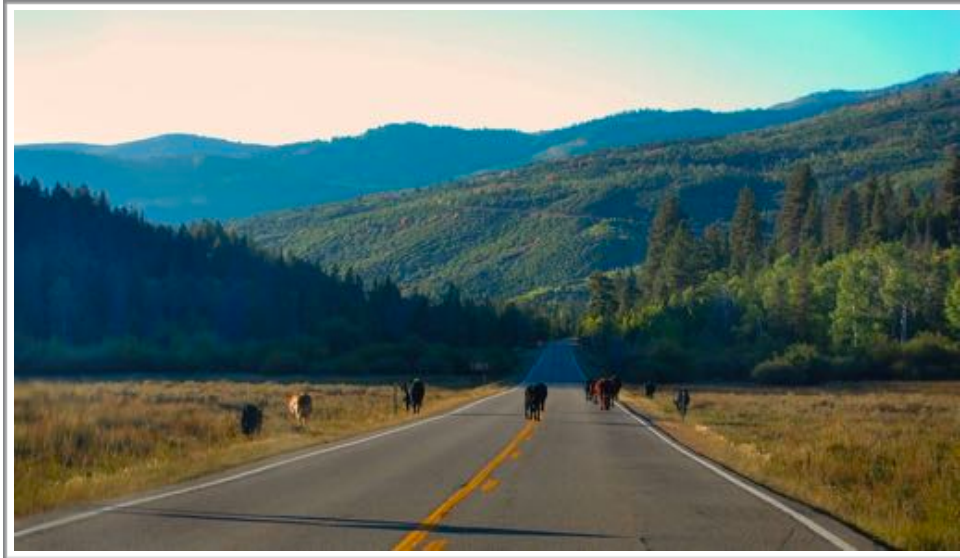
Named after the largest of a necklace of sparkling lakes sprinkled along a road high in the treetops, the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway winds through the Uinta Mountains on Highway 150. For a good part of the way, you're also following the Bear River, through the thick Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Occasionally, the view gives way to a space cleared for ranching, some of which have been prospering here for more than a century. The views from Bald Mountain Pass are breathtaking, spanning endless miles of forests and ridge lines. At some times of the year, the Byway is the commuting route of those headed for Evanston. When the colors change in autumn, the road becomes one of America's favorite mountain drives. During the harsh Wyoming winter, the road is closed, only to open when the snow melts. When traveling through this gorgeous scenery, your eyes bounce from view to view. Keep an eye out for deer and other wildlife that can be very plentiful out here in nature. You'll want to travel the route slowly, stopping at the falls, overlooks, and viewpoints, plus take the hike around Mirror Lake. After that, the lakes just keep coming: Trial Lake, Lost Lake, Long Lake, Washington Lake, Island Lake and Duck Lake, before the route reaches the mountain ranching town of Kamas, UT.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Evanston, where you can explore the town on a Historic Walking Tour, before touring the Uinta Museum and the Historic Railroad Roundhouse and Railyards, the last intact roundhouse on the Union Pacific line. Spend the night in one of the downtown hotels.

After a night's rest, on Day Two, it's off to Bear River State Park, following the Bear River Parkway from downtown Evanston, to begin your journey on the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway. After you cross the point where the Mormon Trail crossed Highway 150, you'll pass Bear River City, Bear Town Interpretive Site, the Sulphur Creek Reservoir and the Hilliard Interpretive Site. The Bear River Lodge is approximately 30 miles further. In the afternoon you can choose from hiking, (there are hundreds of miles of trails surrounding the Lodge), fishing, swimming, hunting, or an ATV rental. There are also fire pits, a general store and a restaurant, in addition to your overnight cabin.



On Day Three, it's time to continue on the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway, where you'll pass the Bear River Ranger Station and Ruth Lake, before reaching Mirror Lake. You'll want to take the 1.5-mile trail around the lake to enjoy the scenic beauty. Nearby, discover the Hayden Peak Overlook, before crossing the summit of Bald Mountain at 11,943 feet. From there, Lost Lake gives rise to the Provo River, Duck Lake gives rise to the North Fork Provo River and the other beautiful lakes appear. Be sure to stop at the Provo River Falls Overlook. From there, it's a short drive to Kamas and the end of the Byway. Spend the night in Park City, UT.

On Day Four, it's time to visit the Park City Museum before looping back to Evanston. From there, we wish you safe passage if you are traveling another Wyoming Scenic Byway in the area, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



DAY ONE



Evanston

Evanston was founded in 1868, when the Transcontinental Railroad began construction. It was considered such an important part of the town, that when the streets were laid out, they were oriented toward the railroad tracks instead of compass points. The first establishment in town was created when early entrepreneur Harvey Booth opened a saloon and restaurant in a tent. Construction of the railroad machine shop and stone roundhouse gave Evanston a sense of permanence. Ultimately, Evanston became a major stop on the Lincoln Highway, the first coast to coast road in the United States (today's Bear Drive). An oil boom and recent drilling for natural gas have revitalized the area's economy.

Historic Walking Tour

Enjoy a walking tour through downtown Evanston that includes more than 35 structures, some dating from the earliest days of town. The first stop on the tour, the 1906 Carnegie Library Building, is the current home of the Uinta County Museum. The building was the first in Historic Depot Square, now also comprised of the Union Pacific Depot and Plaza, Wing Family Chinese Gazebo and Garden, the Joss House Museum, the Beeman-Cashin Building, Columbo Hall railroad building, Martin Park, and the heritage gazebo. The site also contains basketball courts, a water fountain, public restrooms, a Lincoln Highway marker, a statue of “Albert the Bison,” a tribute to those lost on September 11, 2001, and an English phone booth. The in-town portion of the walking tour ends at the Historic Roundhouse and Railyards.



Uinta County Museum

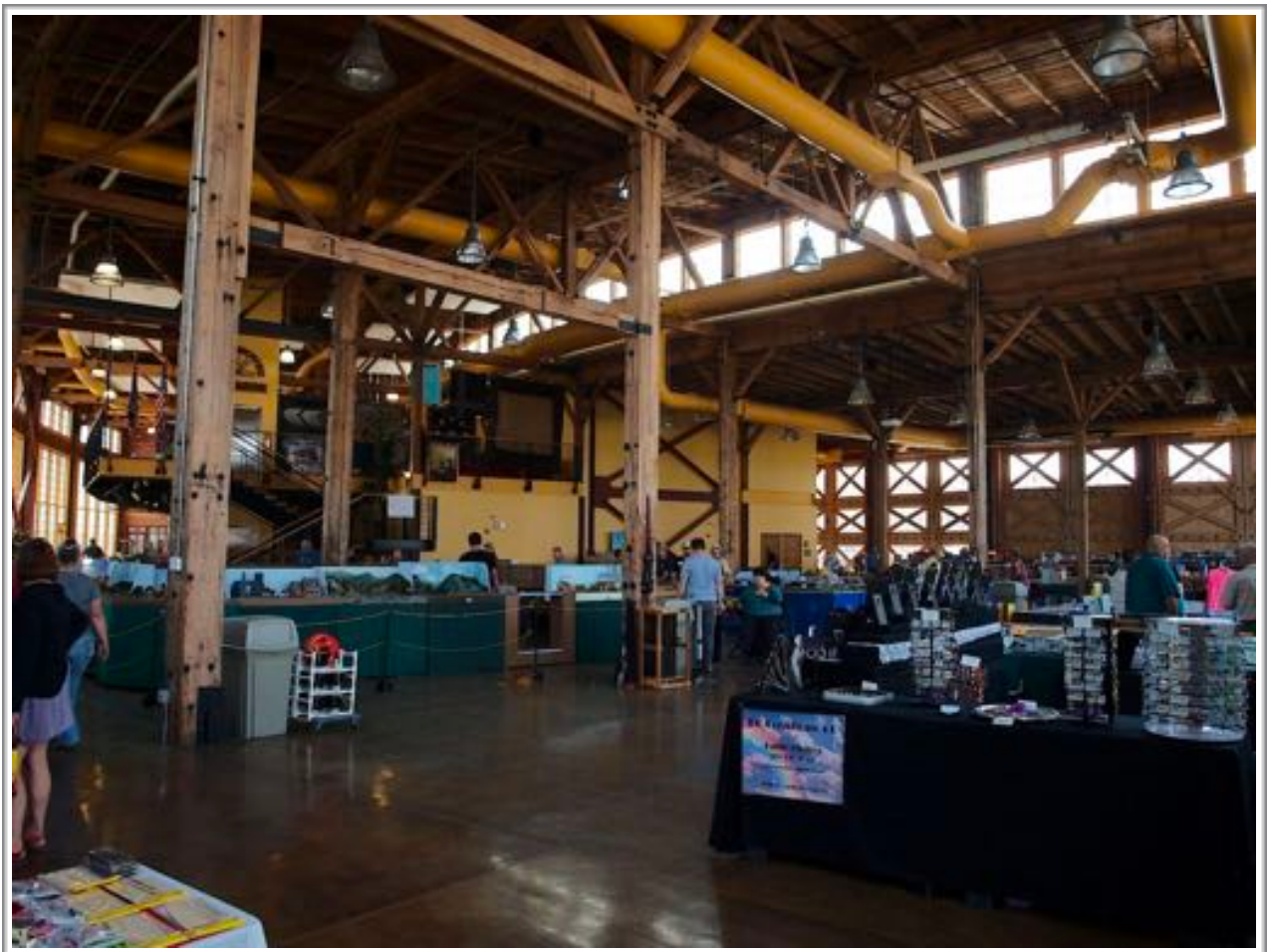
Located in the 1906 Classic Revival Carnegie building, the museum holds nearly 5,000 artifacts, photographs and archival records, with about 20% on exhibit at any given time. Explore the heritage of the region in Trails, Rails, Ranches and Rigs and learn how the Lincoln Highway impacted the local landscape when it came through in 1913.

1020 Front Street, Evanston, WY, 82930, 307-789-8248, M-F 9AM-5PM Sat 10AM-4PM

Historic Roundhouse and Railyards

Here you can tour one of the last intact roundhouses in the Union Pacific Railroad Line. Constructed in 1912, the city adopted the structure and renovated it as a public use facility while keeping much of the historic character. The original Machine Shop still stands across the Plaza. The turntable, used to change the direction of train engines in the Roundhouse, is still operational. The still outfitted machine shop, a superintendent's office and washroom, and a renovated visitor center which was previously the Oil House, make up the rest of the complex.

1440/1500 Main Street, Evanston, WY





Destination Distinctive Accommodation

Best Western Dunmar Inn 1601 Harrison Dr, Evanston, WY, 82930, 307-789-3770 A full-service hotel featuring an on-site restaurant, lounge and friendly service.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Main Street Deli 1025 Main Street, Evanston, WY 82920 307-789-1599 Sandwiches, soups, salads and baked potatoes.

Bon Rico Steakhouse 925 Front Street, Evanston, WY 82920 307-789-1713 Homestyle freshly prepared dinners.

Jody's Diner 260 Bear River Drive, Evanston, WY, 82930, 307-789-8550 American comfort foods dished up in a retro diner.

Dang Good Smokehouse & Bar-B-Que 161 Bear River Drive, Evanston, WY, 82930, 307-679-1003 Offering smoked brisket, pulled pork, chicken, and ribs, all rubbed with Dang Good rub.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Wild Things Treasures and Gifts 927 Main Street #100, Evanston, WY, 82930, 307-466-3007 Steampunk, BOHO, Tattoo Art, rendezvous, and very unique gifts and home décor.

DAY TWO

Bear River Parkway

The Bear River Parkway follows the route of the original Lincoln Highway through downtown Evanston.

Bear River State Park and Visitor Center

Before exploring the park, stop first at the Visitor Center which showcases Wyoming's impressive array of wildlife. Once in the park, you'll discover a small herd of bison and elk, along with several miles of trails.

601 Bear River Drive, Evanston, WY, 82930, 307-789-6547, May 1-September 30, M-Sun 8AM-10PM, \$7 per day, per vehicle



Mirror Lake Scenic Byway

At this point, you'll be starting your journey on the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway. After you cross the point where the Mormon Trail crossed this route, look out for Bear River City, Bear Town Interpretive Site, Sulphur Creek Reservoir and the Hilliard Interpretive Site, which tell the story of the road.



Bear River Lodge, Mile Market 49, Highway 150, Kamas, UT 84036,
801-798-1008

The location of both an afternoon full of activities, dinner and your accommodations for the evening, the Bear River Lodge is a family-owned facility established in 1997. Accommodations choices in the cabins range from studio and one bedrooms to seven bedroom family cabins. There is a restaurant on site. Activities include hiking, fishing, hunting, swimming, ATV rentals, fire pits, a general store and more. Even though the mailing address of the lodge is Kamas, UT, the actual facility is much closer to Evanston.

DAY THREE

Mirror Lake Scenic Byway

This morning, you'll be back on the Byway, on your way to Kamas. Traveling through more than 450,000 acres of pristine wilderness, bookended by two National Forests, you may want to take a picnic lunch from the General Store at the Lodge, to enjoy somewhere along the beautiful route.

Beyond Bear River Lodge, you'll discover the Bear River Ranger Station, and pass Hayden Peak, before you reach Ruth Lake and then Mirror Lake. The 1.5-mile trail takes you all the way around Mirror Lake. Be sure to pull off at the Hayden Peak Overlook, before crossing the Bald Mountain Pass. Look to the west, to see more than 20 lakes in the regions around the Provo and Weber Rivers. Look to the east for a spectacular view of the Byway you have been traveling. Hike up Bald Mountain where the view improves which each step up. Allow about four hours for the entire round trip so you have plenty of time at the summit to enjoy the view. Stop again at the Bald Mountain Overlook for views that go on forever. And then, enjoy the series of beautiful lakes before you reach Kamas, UT. You won't be alone on the drive, there are plenty of elk, moose and bighorn sheep up here in the Uinta Mountains.



Kamas

This mountain ranching town has about 2,000 people. Large tracts of open space add to the ranching mentality that has carried over from earlier years.



Samak Smoke House and Country Store

This local must stop has dry goods and supplies, plus whatever else you may need for your trip.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Hotel Park City. 2001 Park Avenue, Park City, UT 84060, 435-940-5000.

Classic lodge hotel with a multitude of amenities.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Five5eds 1600 Snow Creek Drive, Park City, UT 84060, 435-901-8242 Best breakfast, vegan and vegetarian options.

Twisted Fern, 1300 Snow Creek Drive, Park City, UT 84060, 435-731-8238. Gourmet dining,

Drafts Burger Bar, 3000 Canyon Resort Drive, Park City, UT 84060, 435-655-2270

Draft and craft brews, burgers and sides.

DAY FOUR

Park City

Few know that this very famous mountain resort began as a hardscrabble mining town. Silver was discovered here in 1868 by soldiers from Salt Lake City traveling through Big Cottonwood Canyon. By the 1870s, the Transcontinental Railroad was bringing in hundreds of hopeful miners. Ultimately, George Hearst, father of William Randolph Hearst of newspaper fame, bought the Ontario Mine for \$30,000, an investment that made him over \$50 million over the life of the mine.

Park City Museum

Learn the stories of Park City in exhibits ranging from a Kimball stagecoach, Mega Mines and Days of Ore, The Dungeon: Park City's Territorial Jail, Muckers and Millionaires and the skier subway. The original 1885 building was destroyed in 1898 when a fire raged down the street, leaving only the front facade, partial side walls and the Territorial Jail standing. Rebuilding began immediately resulting in the structure you see today. When the Museum expanded, over 6,000 square feet was added to the back of the historic structure.

528 Main Street, Park City UT, 84060, 435-658-9612, Daily 10AM-5PM,
Adults \$15

