

## **FOLLOW THE STORY**

TRACE HISTORY IN SOUTHEAST MONTANA



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### PRESERVING THE PAST MUSEUMS, VISITOR CENTERS + HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

### **1** RANGE RIDERS MUSEUM

435 Interstate 94 Business • Miles City, MT 59301
Gain a glimpse of the Old West at this museum-turnedheritage center, with an eclectic assortment of farm
tools, historic photographs, an impressive barbed wire
display and one of the nation's premier arrowhead
collections, plus an entire building dedicated to the
weaponry of one donor—including some pre-revolution
pieces. rangeridersmuseum.com



## 2 BIG HORN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER

1163 3rd St. E. • Hardin, MT 59034
Vintage photographs and artifacts are housed throughout 24 historic structures; four exhibit buildings and the main building, which features a large gallery, offices, visitor center, and a gift shop. Discover Fort Custer on the Bighorn, Plains Indians, Will James and Yellowtail's tipi. bighorncountymuseum.org

### 3 WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER

2822 Montana Ave. • Billings, MT 59101
Telling the stories of the people of the Yellowstone River Valley and the Northern Plains, this center focuses on a deeper understanding of the region and appreciation of its inhabitants. With permanent and traveling exhibits, oral histories, presentations and walking tours, the 1901 former Parmly Billings Memorial Library Building remains a regional treasure. ywhc.org

#### 4 MOSS MANSION

914 Division St. • Billings, MT 59101
Tour turn-of-the-century life as the prominent Moss family lived it. The mansion graced the silver screen in films like Return of the Lonesome Dove. View original draperies, furniture, fixtures, Persian carpets and artifacts displayed in the red sandstone structure that—along with the Moss family—greatly influenced the culture of Billings. mossmansion.com

#### 5 HUNTLEY PROJECT MUSEUM OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE

770 Railroad Highway • Huntley, MT 59037
Witness the reclamation project that changed the history of the region. The museum emphasizes the homesteading era from the late 1800s through the early 1900s, including the technology and history of irrigated agriculture in the northern Great Plains. Enjoy a custom tour across the amazing grounds dominated by century-old cottonwood trees. huntleyprojectmuseum.com

#### 6 CARTER COUNTY MUSEUM

306 N. Main St. • Ekalaka, MT 59324
Offering a history that spans 80 million years, the Carter County Museum—a member of the Montana Dinosaur Trail—was Montana's first county museum and the first in the state to display dinosaurs. Exhibits range from a mounted skeleton of an Anatotitan copei, to 11,000-year-old arrowheads, to a two-headed calf.



## 7 POWDER RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND MAC'S MUSEUM

102 W. Wilson St.. • Broadus, MT 59317
At Powder River discover Plains Indians' artifacts, old guns and ammunition, pre-1900 buggies, vintage autos, rebuilt engines and farm implements. You'll also find prized battlefield artifacts from the Reynolds Campaign in 1876—a forerunner of Custer's Last Stand. visitmt.com/listings/general/museum/powder-river-historical-museum-and-mac-s-museum.html

#### **8** FRONTIER GATEWAY MUSEUM

201 State St. • Glendive, MT 59330

A member of the Montana Dinosaur Trail, the Frontier Gateway Museum offers a walk way back in time with a full-size Stegoceras replica, plus an impressive collection of historic structures, vintage photographs and books, fossils, medieval armor and turn-of-thecentury gowns. frontiergatewaymuseum.org

### 9 O'FALLON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

723 S. Main St. • Baker, MT 59313

Here you'll find Montana's largest steer (at 3,980 pounds), a featured attraction in the museum's main building, which was the original county jailhouse. A tar paper homestead house illustrates pioneer life, and the Duffield and Lambert homes display everyday items from the early 1900s. Take a walk back in time at the trading post, barber shop, dress shop and parlor. falloncounty.net/museum/museum.html

## 10 MUSSELSHELL COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

524 First St. W. • Roundup, MT 59072
Experience life as it was in the Old West—the days of coal mines, cowboys and cattle drives. Tour an original log cabin built by English lords for their early cattle operation, plus an old barber shop and general store. Also, on display, a 1932 Pietenpol airplane built from a kit with a Model A Ford engine. mvhm.us

#### 11 PRAIRIE COUNTY MUSEUM AND EVELYN CAMERON GALLERY 101 Logan Ave. • Terry, MT 59349 EVELYN CAMERON HERITAGE 212 Laundre Ave. • Terry, MT 59349

Terry is a town with several historical options. With an emphasis on open-range cattle, this museum gives an accurate account of ranching and the local economy during the turn of the century. Evelyn Cameron was a photographic pioneer at a time when women were restricted to homemaking and child rearing. View her images of life on the prairie, which starkly demonstrate her deep understanding of both remedial photographic techniques and the settlers who made Southeast Montana their home.

## visitterrymt.com/evelyn-cameron evelyncameron.org (open by appointment)

## 1335 Main St. • Forsyth, MT 59327

Get a glimpse into everyday life during the turn of the century. The Rosebud County Pioneer Museum houses a large steam engine and collections from the founding families of Forsyth and Rosebud counties. You'll find vintage clothing, a barbed wire display and various farm implements. rosebudcountymt.gov/departments/museum/

#### 13 TREASURE COUNTY 89ERS MUSEUM

325 Elliott Ave. • Hysham, MT 59038
Local history is preserved here, including a fossil and dinosaur collection, relics from the Indian Wars, a rope used to hang outlaws, and an old drug store building. Discover the history of the Crow people, Lewis and Clark and astronaut Frank Borman—the mission commander for the Apollo 8 flight around the moon. visitmt.com/listings/general/museum/treasure-county-89-ers-museum.html

#### **14** PIERRE WIBAUX MUSEUM

112 Orgain Ave. • Wibaux, MT 59353

Enjoy the historic walking tour of the Wibaux Business District, Old St. Peter's Catholic Church and the Pierre Wibaux Statue. Wibaux was the world's largest cattle rancher in the late 1800s, who had his French gardener craft a meticulous garden oasis of vibrant flora and a grotto crafted of agate, petrified wood and lava. The grounds provide a perfect picnic spot. visitmt.com/listings/general/museum/wibaux-museum.html

#### 15 YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MUSEUM

1950 Airport Terminal Circle • Billings, MT 59105
The "Museum on the Rims" offers an unrivaled view of Billings plus a stunning array of cultural artifacts and rare memorabilia from the pioneer days into the mid 20th century. This treasure trove includes a vast collection of weaponry from the days of Calamity Jane and Jesse James, pioneer wagons and stunning tribal beadwork. ycmhistory.org

## 16 SCHOOLHOUSE HISTORY & ART CENTER (SHAC)

400 Woodrose St. • Colstrip, MT 59323
Learn the story of Colstrip area mining and ranching from the 1920s to today. Marrying history with art is the common goal, as demonstrated by permanent and rotating exhibits with this 1924-era schoolhouse as the perfect canvas. colstripshac.org

### 17 ST. LABRE INDIAN SCHOOL MUSEUM

1000 Tongue River Road • Ashland, MT 59003

If walls could talk, the corridors of St. Labre Indian School would tell tale after tale. History class may not have been stimulating for everyone, but the photographs that line the interior of this centurial institution will inspire you to ask questions, listen to answers and ponder human exploration from a new perspective. stlabre.org/about-us/museum

## 18 CUSTER BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM

I-90, Exit 514 • Garryowen, MT 59031
Located on the former site of Sitting Bull's camp prior to the Battle of Little Bighorn, the Custer Battlefield Museum's collection includes artifacts, beadwork, photographs, paintings, rare books and manuscripts. The Tomb of the United States Unknown Soldier is maintained here and is one of only three that are federally recognized in the U.S. custermuseum.org



#### TRAIL TO THE LITTLE BIGHORN

Southeast Montana was the epicenter of many battles in which the Plains Indians fought to preserve their way of life. The Trail to the Little Bighorn includes a series of 19 roadside markers with narratives that tell the story of the days leading up to and shortly after the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Download or request a detailed map from southeastmontana.com/history.

## THE WARRIOR TRAIL

Montana Highway 212, known to many as the Belle Fourche cutoff from the Rapid City area to Billings, Montana is known as the Warrior Trail because of the numerous battles fought in the region including the Battle of the Rosebud, Reynold Fight, Battle of Powder River and Battle of the Little Bighorn. As you travel this two-lane highway, study the landscape and imagine the many challenges the soldiers and warriors faced over the years of fighting.

### A LANDSCAPE OF HISTORICAL TREASURES

NATIONAL MONUMENTS + STATE PARKS

The real story of a place is in the inhabitants who shaped it, and our treasured lands have many tales to tell.

## 19 LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT

Interstate 90 Frontage Road • Crow Agency, MT 59022
Studied perhaps more than any other battle on U.S. soil, the Battle of the Little Bighorn stands as the Plains Indians' greatest victory over U.S. military forces. Drive the 4.5-mile tour road and along the way listen to the cell phone audio narrative of the battle story. Open year-round; seasonal hours. nps.gov/libi/index.htm

#### **20** POMPEYS PILLAR NATIONAL MONUMENT

30.99 U.S. Highway 312 • Worden, MT 59088
Rising nearly 200 feet high along the banks of the
Yellowstone River, Capt. William Clark, of the esteemed
Corps of Discovery, carved his name in this rock pillar on
July 25, 1806. But he was not the first, nor the last, to utilize
this "communication tower" over the past centuries. Open
seasonally. nps.gov/nr/travel/lewisandclark/pom.htm

## 21 WOLF MOUNTAINS BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT

Approximately 4 miles southwest of Birney MT, under private ownership of the Quarter Circle U Ranch
The last major battle of the Great Sioux War—The Battle of Wolf Mountains—was fought in this Tongue River Valley location. The landscape remains mostly unchanged from the time of the battle. A rifle pit can be seen among the towering rock walls. visitmt.com/listings/general/battlefield/wolf-mountain-battlefield.html

## 22 REYNOLD BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT

28 miles southwest of Broadus, MT on the Powder River down County Road 391 towards Moorhead Road
One of several skirmishes leading up to the Battle of the Little Bighorn, this fight lasted only five hours. Col. Joseph L. Reynold's column encounters a Cheyenne camp and attacked, thinking the warriors were Sioux. While there was no clear winner, the warriors escaped and joined Crazy Horse and his people near what is now Ekalaka. visitmt. com/listings/general/battlefield/reynolds-battlefield.html

## 23 CANYON CREEK BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT

On Buffalo Trail Road 8 miles north of Laurel, MT This walk-through display tells the history of the Canyon Creek Battle between the Nez Perce, led by Chief Joseph, and the U.S. Cavalry, led by Colonel Samuel Sturgis. At the Buffalo Trail Road pullout you'll find a pavilion, a stone monument, a bronze plaque and several interpretive panels. nps.gov/nepe/planyourvisit/visit-canyon-creek.htm

#### 24 ROSEBUD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK (\*)

45.22031 / -106.97590 • Busby, MT 59016
Also known as the "Place Where the Girl Saved Her
Brother," one of the largest of the Indian War battles
took place here, just days before the Battle of the Little
Bighorn. The site is preserved with paths to the Kobold
Buffalo Jump and to the top of Crook's Hill. Get the Native
American perspective from Conical Hill and trek to
undeveloped Van Vliets Ridge, with stunning views of the
battle site and the Bighorn Mountains.
stateparks.mt.gov/rosebud-battlefield

### 25 CHIEF PLENTY COUPS STATE PARK ①

1 Edgar Pryor Road • Pryor, MT 59066
One of the last great Crow Chiefs, Plenty Coups, left his

reservation homestead to the people of Montana. Situated within the Crow Indian Reservation, this day-use state park and National Historic Landmark includes his preserved log home, sacred spring, farmstead and interpretive visitor cente. stateparks.mt.gov/chief-plenty-coups

### 26 PICTOGRAPH CAVE STATE PARK (3)

3401 Coburn Road • Billings, MT 59101
With pictographs dating back to when Cleopatra was on the throne and the Roman Legions sacked Carthage, this archeological, historical and cultural site demonstrates the importance of understanding communication over the centuries. Weather conditions dictate the amount and details of the pictographs that are visible daily. stateparks. mt.gov/pictograph-cave

### **27** MEDICINE ROCKS STATE PARK **(\*)**

1141 Highway 7 • Ekalaka, MT 59324

Mystery is part of the allure at this eastern Montana state park of "big medicine," where sandstone spires of windworn, haunting hoodoos rise up out of the sacred ground.

park of "big medicine;" where sandstone spires of windworn, haunting hoodoos rise up out of the sacred ground. These revered pillars reflect amazing tones of yellow, orange and red during a sunrise or sunset, and centuries of nearly 15,000 inscriptions echo stories that challenge time. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. stateparks.mt.gov/medicine-rocks

#### 28 YELLOWSTONE KELLY INTERPRETIVE SITE

Swords Rimrock Park • Billings, MT 59105
Trace the adventures of Luther Sage "Yellowstone" Kelly, a young frontier hero who answered the call of the Wild West. His friends and confidants included the likes of William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody and President Teddy Roosevelt. Today a monument on Billings' Heritage Trail System honors Kelly's fascinating story.

### \*Many Southeast Montana museums are free with some asking a nominal fee or donation. Check websites for hours—many open seasonally and by advanced appointment

#### A MADE IN MONTANA STORE

Find distinctive treasures from the plains of Southeast Montana while visiting this charming store in a charming town. Prairie Unique offers a variety of gourmet food, candy, art, toys and special gifts, all made in Montana.



114 S. Logan Ave. • Terry 406.635.5598 prairieunique.com

# EXPLORE THE BADLANDS ONE STEP AT A TIME!

Walk where dinosaurs walked, visit museums, galleries, unique shops and the beauty of Makoshika State Park. Visit Glendive and Share the local experience!



Glendive Chamber, 808 N. Merrill Ave. Glendive • 406.377.5601 visitglendive.com

## ZOOMONTANA MONTANA'S ONLY ZOO!

ZooMontana is a zoological/botanical garden in Billings, Montana dedicated to the conservation of wildlife throughout the state and the 45th parallel of earth.



2100 S. Shiloh Road • Billings 406.652.8100 • zoomontana.org

#### TELLING THE STORY OF MONTANA FOR OVER 75 YEARS. Montana State Parks manages 55 parks

across Montana. Our cultural, historical and recreational parks tell the story of Montana.



stateparks.mt.gov

### TRAVEL THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THROUGH MAJESTY AND WITHIN LEGEND.

Whether you seek adrenaline-pumping adventure or easy-paced experiences, Billings—Montana's Trailhead—is the perfect place to start your journey.



815 S. 27th St. • Billings 800.735.2635 • visitbillings.com

## MILES CITY

Founded in 1876, at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Tongue rivers, Miles City is rich in history. Discover why we are truly a legendary Western town!



511 Pleasant St. • Miles City 406.234.2890 • milescitychamber.com