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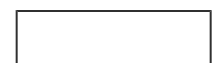
Go

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Montana

There's a lot of ground to cover in Montana, and almost all of it is stunningly beautiful, so it lends itself to an old-fashioned road trip—there are even outfits that organize



summer bike trips for a family that's ready for a more [active adventure](#). Montana is home to two of the country's most celebrated national parks, each of which justifies its own trip, but this route focuses on some of the state's historic landmarks, like the remnants of Louis & Clark's famous expedition and the site of Custer's last stand (more on Glacier and Yellowstone, and other national parks, coming soon). This particular route could be scaled up or down depending on how many stops you make, and it's also peppered with a combination of gorgeous campsites and surprisingly cool hotels, so there are places to stay regardless of your style.

Billings



Conveniently located along I90, Billings is an easy jumping off point for local landmarks.



Stay

[The Northern](#), a recently renovated hotel that feels oh-so Montana.

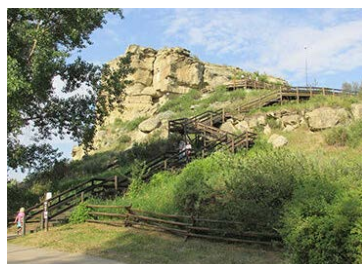


Eat

[Fieldhouse](#) is great for dinner—you'll be greeted with well-loved wooden tables and a straightforward menu that skews just a tad foodie.



Little Bighorn Battlefield



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First, drive an hour southeast to Crow Agency, the tiny town that's home to the [Little Bighorn Battlefield](#). In addition to offering gorgeous lookouts over the Montana prairie, there's a national cemetery, an old-fashioned monument, and knowledgeable rangers in the information center.

Pompey's Pillar

On the way back to Billings, stop by [Pompey's Pillar](#), a rock outcropping overlooking the Yellowstone River that bears the still-visible etching of William Clark's signature (supposedly the only physical evidence of the Core of Discovery's journey that's still visible today). It's a lovely place to explore in general—if the historical bend isn't your thing, there's plenty of places to fish along the Yellowstone River and an excellent campsite. If you're not camping, it's just a short 30-minute drive back to Billings.

Other Places To GO

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Bozeman



A little more than two hours west of Billings (along a monumental mountain-lined drive), Bozeman is one of the more beautiful college towns you'll come across. In the winter months it's home base for skiers at Big Sky, and in the summer you can book raft outfits—we like [Montana Whitewater](#)—for trips along the Yellowstone River.



Stay

[The Lark](#), a modern retro-fitted motel that offers cool, kid-friendly rooms



Eat

[Montana Ale Works](#) is located in a reimaged industrial freight house. It

(bunk beds!) and often hosts food trucks in its parking lot.



Clark's Lookout

A little farther south, you can hike up to [Clark's Lookout](#), literally putting yourselves in the explorers shoes as you survey the view of the Beaverhead River and the mountains beyond it.



Butte

Butte was one of the richest towns in the country back in the 1920s, when the copper mine first came into production (and when copper prices were extraordinarily high). The copper mines crashed in the 1950s, but not before creating a town that's home to curious old brick mansions and the creepily interesting "anaconda pit," a former mine and superfund site that can be viewed from an observation tower. For an interesting look into the history of Butte, [Empty Mansions](#) tells the story of an heir to one of three infamous Copper Barons.

has an excellent beer list.



Beaverhead Rock State Park

A few miles west of Bozeman along I90, it's worth taking a detour south for a few key state parks that pay homage to the Lewis & Clark expedition. First, stop at [Beaverhead Rock State Park](#) to check out its eponymous rock formation; Sacajawea recognized it as a place where the group could find a tribe of Native Americans to trade with in 1805.



Bannack

On the way back up to I90, take a little detour to [Bannack](#), a ghost town that was abandoned back in the 1950s, once all remnants of the gold rush had officially evaporated. Brave littles love this place, as most of the 60+ remaining structures are safe to explore.