



Around Yellowstone

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Best Places to Stay

- » The Murray Hotel (p151)
- » Chamberlin Inn (p147)
- » Rainbow Ranch Lodge (p165)
- » Chico Hot Springs (p152)
- » 320 Ranch (p164)

Best Places to Eat

- » Paradise Valley Grill (p154)
- » John Bozeman's Bistro (p160)
- » 2nd St Bistro (p151)
- » Sydney's Mountain Bistro (p171)
- » Log Cabin Café (p144)

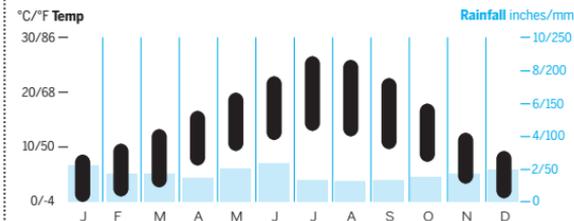
Why Go?

The 43,750-sq-mile Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem doesn't suddenly end at the park fence. Enveloping the park kernel is a protective cushion of national forests and wilderness areas that offer almost as much scenic splendor as the parks themselves, but without the crowds and the pesky permits. Try to allocate at least a few days to explore this exceptional area.

Latched onto Yellowstone Park's northern boundaries, the three gateway towns of Gardiner, West Yellowstone and Cooke City serve as acceptable visitor hubs, good for a bed and a bite to eat, but it's the four corridors that radiate out from the park that offer the real scenic draws. Plan your itinerary to combine the stunning Beartooth and Gallatin routes, or the Beartooth, Wapiti and Chief Joseph Scenic Hwy via the Wild West town of Cody, and you have the ultimate add-on to a classic Yellowstone trip.

When to Go

West Yellowstone, MT



September

Warm days, clear skies and no crowds; hikers should watch for hunters

July & August

Great for hiking, rafting and rodeo; blistering temperatures in Billings and Cody

December-March

Fantastic skiing in Big Sky and snowmobiling in West Yellowstone

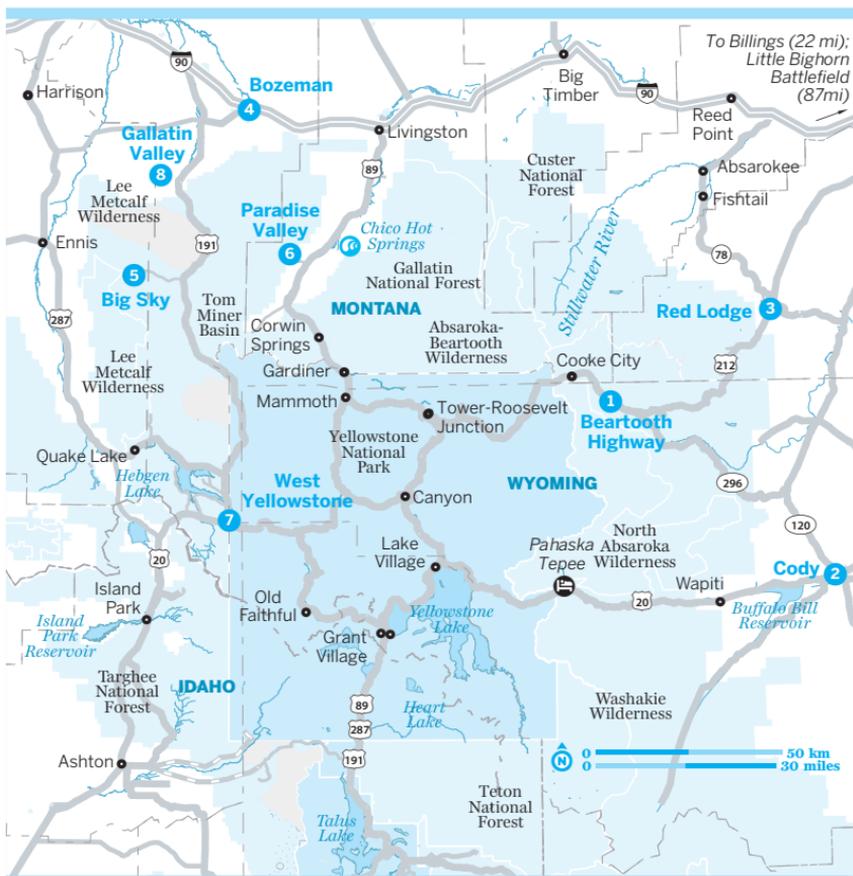
BEARTOOTH ROUTE

Billings

☑ 406 / POP 105,000 / ELEV 3300FT

Montana's largest city has far more in common with the dusty plains of eastern

Montana than the much-celebrated Rocky Mountain scenery out to the west of the state. It shouldn't be a priority stop off on your Yellowstone itinerary, but it is not such a bad place to stay for a night before heading out to the park or catching your flight back home.



Around Yellowstone Highlights

- 1 Grip the steering wheel extra tight as you climb the spaghetti loops of the **Beartooth Highway** (p139), America's most scenic road
- 2 Blow off some steam at the night rodeo after exploring the Wild West at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in **Cody** (p144)
- 3 Suck down an extra-large chocolate malt at the

Red Box Car after a hike in the mountains around **Red Lodge** (p136)

4 Stare open-mouthed into the open jaws of a T Rex at Bozeman's **Museum of the Rockies** (p158)

5 Hit the slopes at stylish **Big Sky** (p162), site of the region's biggest downhill runs

6 Mosey through the lovely **Paradise Valley** (p151), home to ranchers, movie stars and plenty of hungry trout

7 Enjoy some of the best cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the country in **West Yellowstone** (p167)

8 Hit the hiking trails, take on some white-water rafting or ride horses at a ranch stay in the **Gallatin Valley** (p162)