HISTORY, LEGENDS & LORE

10+ MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

MOUNTAINS
RIVERS
HOT POOLS
AND DESERTS

RAWLINS • SINCLAIR • SARATOGA • ENCAMPMENT • RIVERSIDE HANNA • MEDICINE BOW • ELK MOUNTAIN • BAGGS • DIXON • SAVERY

WYOMINGCARBONCOUNTY.COM
Wyoming’s Carbon County has it all. Nowhere else will you find such diversity and wide open spaces. Pristine mountains, beautiful deserts, rivers teeming with “blue ribbon” trout, mineral hot springs pools, trails that straddle the Continental Divide, 10 museums and numerous historic sites, three golf courses, abundant wildlife, dazzling sunsets, and every authentic Western adventure you can imagine. Carbon County, the perfect place to “Get Your West On.”

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Carbon County is 7,897 square miles from the mountains to the deserts. It is known for its rich natural resources, gorgeous mountains, scenic vistas and pristine rivers and streams. There is a lot of ground to cover to take advantage of all the exciting and authentic experiences here. Plan to spend at least five days in Wyoming’s Carbon County, even longer if you can! To help make the most of your time here, we have included multi-day itineraries that will allow you to soak in mineral hot springs, visit museums and historic sites, fish, golf, hike, take scenic drives, see wildlife and more. Come to Carbon County and leave the crowds behind.

Historically, Carbon County has been traversed by the Overland Trail, Oregon Trail, Mormon Trail, and both the original route of the Union Pacific Railroad and the Lincoln Highway. Interstate 80 is now the trail of choice for most travelers through the county, although several scenic back roads and byways offer pleasant alternatives.
RAWLINS HISTORY

The city of Rawlins garners it’s name from General John A. Rawlins, chief of staff of the US Army. In 1867, General Rawlins traveled to Wyoming to survey land with Grenville M. Dodge, chief engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad. Upon arriving to this area, General Rawlins sent out a team of scouts who found a fresh spring. He declared it “the sweetest water ever tasted” and indicated that the highest honor he could receive would be to have the spring named for him. Rawlins Spring, later shortened to Rawlins, was founded as a division point on the railroad. Rawlins became known as a last stop for water before the long dusty ride across the Great Divide Basin.

The Railroad arrived in Rawlins in 1868, and along with it, gamblers, thieves and gunmen. Tough, rowdy and lawless—soalon brawls were frequent. Sometimes vigilantes took over when the towns-people felt justice should be immediate. Such was the case for infamous outlaw, George Parrott, also known as Big Nose George. Stop by the Wyoming Frontier Prison to see what became of George.

Rawlins’ remote location made it a desirable place for the first state penitentiary. Inmates arriving here by train would find escape difficult in the desert. For 80 years, the “Old Pen” housed some of Wyoming’s most notorious criminals. Now a museum, the Wyoming Frontier Prison shares their stories.

Rawlins is a nationally recognized, award-winning Main Street Community. As you wander the streets of downtown Rawlins, admire the architecture from 150 years ago and reflect on the serene beauty of this western city.
Best Three Day Itinerary

RAWLINS & SINCLAIR

DAY 1 - TOUR MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC DOWNTOWN RAWLINS

Take an all-day tour that spans 150 years. From the moment explorers and settlers sprawled West to claim lands once inhabited by Native American tribes, Carbon County has been a stronghold of some of Wyoming's most colorful characters. Experience Rawlins' rich history through its diverse and interesting collection of museums.

Learn the history of western expansion at the Carbon County Museum. Your "Wild West" adventure begins with fascinating exhibits of the mountain men and the pioneer trails, the Union Pacific Railroad, 19th century medicine and Wyoming's first female physician, an interactive Discovery Zone for kids, Thomas Edison, and a pair of shoes made from the skin of outlaw, Big Nose George. There is much to see here, so take your time. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm.

Looking for an authentic experience that's a tad creepy, yet educational? Tour the Wyoming Frontier Prison, Wyoming's first state penitentiary. Currently operated as a museum, this impressive stone fortress once housed Wyoming's most infamous outlaws. Excellent tour guides tell interesting stories of the inmates, prison life and punishment--from hangings to the gas chamber. Daily one hour tours available, from the skin of outlaw, Big Nose George. There is much to see here, so take your time. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm.

For an off-the-beaten-path piece of history, visit the Fort Steele State Historic Site. The Fort was built in 1868, on the North Platte River, to protect the men building the Union Pacific Railroad from attacks by Native Americans. There are still many foundations, a few original structures and occasionally trains pass by over the bridge, giving you a sense of life in the past. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day from 9am to 7pm. Directions: From the 1-80 Rest Area, exit 228, follow the paved road 1.5 miles north to the Fort.

DAY 2 - GOLF AND TOUR THE PARCO/SINCLAIR MUSEUM & FORT FRED STEELE HISTORIC SITE

The golf experience in Wyoming is about so much more than great golf. The public courses in Rawlins and Sinclair are certain to challenge your abilities in Wyoming's weather and terrain.

The Rochelle Ranch Golf Course in Rawlins has quickly become one of the most-talked about golf destinations! This is partly due to the 18-hole, open links-style course that weaves through sagebrush for nearly 8,000 yards. Challenge your skills on well-groomed greens and fairways where you have a good chance of seeing wildlife right on the course. Excellent views and reasonably priced with on-site restaurant, bar and pro shop.

Not far from Sinclair, the Sinclair Golf Course offers uncrowded, reasonably-priced golf for every skill level. Play 9 holes amid a few trees and natural beauty. The course is located roughly 13 miles northeast of Sinclair on the Sinclair Golf Course Road.

The Parco/Sinclair Museum is located inside the Sinclair Town Hall, in a room that was originally the First National Bank of Parco. Collections date back to the 1930's and feature the founding of the town of Parco (Producers And Refiners Company) and the building of the oil refinery. This company town was purchased by Sinclair Oil in 1935, so there is plenty of Sinclair's history here as well. Open Monday through Friday, 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm.

For an off-the-beaten-path piece of history, visit the Fort Steele State Historic Site. The Fort was built in 1868, on the North Platte River, to protect the men building the Union Pacific Railroad from attacks by Native Americans. There are still many foundations, a few original structures and occasionally trains pass by over the bridge, giving you a sense of life in the past. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day from 9am to 7pm. Directions: From the 1-80 Rest Area, exit 228, follow the paved road 1.5 miles north to the Fort.

DAY 3 - SEMINOE-ALCOVA BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY SCENIC DRIVE

There's just something about the wide open spaces of Carbon County. Take your time, explore the stops and absorb the natural scenery of this backcountry drive.

The Seminoe-Alcova Back Country Byway begins just a couple of miles off of 1-80, north of Sinclair. It follows County Road 351/ Seminoe Road, a paved road, for 64 miles. Highlights of the trip include passing through the remote, red rocky terrain of Carbon County to Seminoe Reservoir, Seminoe State Park, Seminoe Mountains and Miracle Mile (a seven-mile-long blue-ribbon trout fishery on the North Platte River). See SCENIC DRIVES on page 24 for more details.

TIP: The Byway segment beyond Seminoe State Park and through the Seminoe Mountains to the Miracle Mile is very steep, and not recommended for motor homes or vehicles pulling trailers. There are no services along the Byway.
Saratoga

Located 20 miles south of Interstate 80, Saratoga is nestled in a scenic river valley between the Snowy Range and Sierra Madre Mountain Range. This easy-going town also sits atop one of the most active mineral hot springs in Wyoming.

Saratoga is treasured by those that love the outdoors. It offers miles of “blue ribbon” trout fishing in the North Platte River and close proximity to mountains for hiking, camping, big game hunting, skiing, mineral hot springs in Wyoming, snowmobiling, and wildlife viewing.

Native American tribes were the first to discover the healing and relaxation benefits of the natural mineral hot springs, naming them the “Place of Magic Water”. Early explorers, trappers, and traders were the next to arrive. Emigrants soon followed in stagecoaches and wagon trains along the established trails. Wagon runs from the Overland Trail, are still visible where the trail crosses Highway 130, north of Saratoga.

Saratoga, originally known as Warm Springs, traces its origins to 1877. It was then that homesteader, William H. Cadwell built a bath house for travelers passing through the area. As word spread, visitors came to soak, eat and stay the night. Hotels were built, including the two-and-one-half story Hotel Wolf. A gathering place for the past 125 years, this landmark in downtown Saratoga offers visitors and locals casual dining in historic ambiance.

The North Platte River has long been prized for its excellent trout fishing, solitude and scenic views. More than 65 miles have been designated as a “Blue Ribbon” trout fishery. As one of the few rivers that flow north, it was used during the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. “Tie hacks” were employed to cut logs/railroad ties from lodgepole pine in the Medicine Bow mountains. During spring runoff, the logs were floated down creeks to the North Platte River, where they drifted in mass to Fort Steele.

Visitors are still drawn to Saratoga as a destination for healing, relaxation and thrilling outdoor adventures. Enjoy the small town atmosphere and endless beauty in a place away from the crowds.

SARATOGA HISTORY

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

- Summer High (July) 82°F
- Winter Low (Jan) 11°F

MILEAGE TO SARATOGA

- Denver, CO: 226 miles
- Salt Lake City, UT: 333 miles
- Steamboat, CO: 126 miles
- Cheyenne, WY: 148 miles
- Casper, WY: 146 miles

SARATOGA DINING

- Duke's Bar and Grill: 110 E Bridge Ave. • 307-326-3853
- Firewater Public House: 110 E. Main Ave. • 307-326-3473
- Hotel Wolf Restaurant: 101 E Bridge Ave. • 307-326-5525
- J.W. Hughes & Company: 405 N. First St. • 307-326-5046
- Snowy Mountain Pub & Brewery: 601 E. Pic Pike Road • 307-326-5261
- The Silver Saddle Room: 601 E. Pic Pike Road • 307-326-5261
- Bella’s Bistro: 218 N. First St. • 307-326-8033
- The Grumpy Italian Eatery and Deli: 113 W. Bridge St. • 307-326-3218
- Sweet Marie’s Bakeshop: 117 W Bridge St. • 307-326-3244
- Lollypops: 107 E. Bridge Ave. • 307-326-5020
- Ten Mile Inn & RV Park: 5651 Highway 130 • 307-326-5928
- Roan Hill Ranch Guesthouse: 5 miles on NFSR 452 • 307-326-5258
- The Rendezvous Lodge: 5 miles on NFSR 452 • 307-326-5258
- Brush Creek Luxury Ranch Collection: 214 N. Third St. • 307-326-8901
- The Hideaway: 212 W. Hickory Ave. • 307-326-5992
- Historic House: 214 N. Third St. • 307-326-9901
- Copperline Lodge: 417 W. Rochester Ave. • 402-885-5611
- The Rendezvous Lodge: 99 Ryan Park Road • 307-326-8998
- River Cottages: 216 E. Walnut Ave. • 307-326-5053
- Ten Mile Inn & RV Park: 5651 Highway 130 • 307-326-5928
- Hot Springs Lake Campground & RV Park: 2 miles North of Saratoga • 307-326-8855
- Sage and Sand Motel: 311 S. First St. • 307-326-8339
- Silver Moon Motel: 412 E. Bridge Ave. • 307-326-5974
- Hacienda Motel: 1500 S. First St. • 307-326-5751
- Historic Wolf Hotel & Restaurant: 101 E. Bridge Ave. • 307-326-5525
- Riviera Lodge on the River: 104 E. Saratoga Ave. • 307-326-5651
- Jack Creek Guard Station: 5 miles on NFSR 452 • 307-326-5258
- River Cottages: 5 miles on NFSR 452 • 307-326-5258
- Brush Creek Luxury Ranch Collection: 214 N. Third St. • 307-326-8901
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Best Three Day Itinerary

SARATOGA

DAY 1 - SOAK IN SARATOGA’S MINERAL HOT SPRINGS POOLS

Arrive in Saratoga and drop off your bags at your place of accommodation. If arriving between April and September, arrive in Saratoga and drop off your bags at your place of accommodation. If arriving between April and September, 48 hours in advance.

Afterward, take a leisurely soak in the Hobo Hot Springs Pools. Free and open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, these mineral hot spring pools are the ultimate for healthy relaxation. Water temperatures range from 101 to 110 degrees; the Lobster Pot is a steaming 120 degrees. The "Not-So-Hot" Pool offers cooler temperatures. Restrooms, changing, and shower facilities are available on-site.

Next tour the Saratoga Museum which is housed in the 1915 Saratoga-Encampment Railroad Depot. Learn the history of Saratoga and the Upper North Platte River Valley through exhibits that include: minerals and gems ranging from India to Antarctica, hands-on dinosaur poop, a Columbian mammoth tooth, vintage toys, a buffalo kill site and a one-bedroom cabin. The Saratoga Museum is open seasonally from Memorial Day weekend through September, Wednesday through Saturday 10am-4pm and on Sunday’s noon to 4pm.

Then head to downtown Saratoga for it’s unique shops, western stores, art galleries, a personalized fashion experience at Laura M Gallery, ice cream at Laura M Gallery, ice cream at Lollypop’s and some of the best restaurants in Carbon County. There are so many dining options in Saratoga, you’ll have no trouble finding a great place to eat.

DAY 2 - GUIDED FISHING TRIP OR SCENIC RIVER FLOAT AND GOLF

SEASON: APRIL - SEPTEMBER

One of the best experiences in Carbon County is floating and fishing the Upper North Platte River (a Blue Ribbon Wild Trout Stream with about 3,200 fish per mile) and the Encampment River (for unique trophy trout). Professional area guides offer full-day and half-day float fishing trips. Wade fishing trips are available year round.

If fishing is not your thing, then take a nice relaxing half-day boat ride instead. Enjoy beautiful scenery with views of wildlife and bald eagles.

Afterwards, stretch your legs with a round of golf on the Saratoga Hot Springs Resort Golf Course. This scenic 9-hole public course offers over-river shots in a lush wooded area. Cart rentals are available. Then stop by the Snowy Mountain Brewery, located at the Resort, and sample some locally brewed beer.

Finish your day by watching the sunset at Saratoga Lake. Just 5 minutes north of town, Saratoga Lake is a favorite spot for fishing, boating and birdwatching at the nearby wetlands.

DAY 3 - SNOWY RANGE SCENIC DRIVE

SEASON: JUNE - MID-OCTOBER

Have a relaxed breakfast in town at Sweet Marie’s Bakeshop or JW Hugo’s & Company - both are hot spots for locals and visitors alike. After breakfast, pick up some fresh items for a picnic lunch at Valley Foods and Liquors. Then head south to the Snowy Range Scenic Byway turnoff, the Highway 130/230 junction.

The Snowy Range Scenic Byway follows Highway 130 for twenty-nine miles through the center of the Snowy Range in the Medicine Bow National Forest. Typically open Memorial Day through October, weather permitting, this high altitude pass offers easy access to many picnic areas, campgrounds, observation and interpretive sites and a large network of roads and trails. It also showcases some of the most breathtaking and easily accessible peaks in the Rocky Mountains, including famed Medicine Bow Peak at 12,013 feet. See SCENIC DRIVES on page 24 for more details.

Tip: There are several convenient places to stay and eat along Highway 130. See LODGING & DINING GUIDES on page 10.

ADDITIONAL DAY OPTION - HIKE MEDICINE BOW PEAK

SEASON: LATE-JUNE - MID-SEPTEMBER

Medicine Bow Peak is a popular attraction, so start your day early to avoid the crowds. This high elevation trail is strenuous and roughly 5.5 miles one-way. Be prepared for a long and warm hike. Take plenty of drinking water, snacks, good hiking shoes and a hat or a cap to protect you from the sun. It’s best to finish your hike by 3:00 pm as afternoon storms are common and often include lightning strikes.

The Medicine Bow Peak Trail is accessible from the Lake Marie parking lot and the Sugarloaf Recreation Area. If you begin from the Lake Marie parking lot, we recommend capturing some early morning photos of Lake Marie prior to your hike.

Lake Marie lies below majestic Medicine Bow Peak and is named after Mrs. Mary (Marie) Bellamy. Marie led a successful suffrage drive that resulted in the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. She was also the first woman elected to the Wyoming Legislature in 1910.

The Medicine Bow Peak Trail follows switchbacks and several rock crossings above tree line to the highest point in the Snowy Range at 12,013 feet. Serene and simply breathtaking views are everywhere.

Tip: Medicine Bow–Routt National Forest Maps are available from the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District in Saratoga.
These unhurried small towns share a huge backyard. Located in the beautiful foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, Encampment and Riverside offer easy access to big outdoor adventures.

Relax and unwind. This lightly visited paradise is the perfect place to fish the trout-filled Encampment River, backpack the Continental Divide, hike pristine wilderness, and hunt for plentiful elk, mule deer and pronghorn antelope.

Encampment and Riverside host exciting annual events to celebrate their rich history through family activities, old-fashioned melodramas, jamborees and rodeos.

ENCAMPMENT HISTORY

Camp le Grande—The Grand Encampment was named in 1838 by fur trappers for their mountain trading fair, or Rendezvous, beside the river. The annual Rendezvous attracted mountain men, traders and Native American tribes who passed through and hunted the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. Grand Encampment was later shortened to Encampment.

Copper was discovered in 1897 in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, just above this quiet settlement. The area boomed with approximately 2,000 residents by 1908. A 16-mile tramway was built to transport copper ore from the Ferris-Haggarty mine, over the Continental Divide (10,690 feet) to a smelter in Riverside. The mine produced more than two million dollars of copper over its ten years of production. A segment of this tramway is on display at the Grand Encampment Museum.

RIVERSIDE HISTORY

Formerly a ranching headquarters on the Encampment River, the town of Doggett was established in 1897 by the Doggett Brothers. As co-owners of a grocery store in Saratoga, the Doggetts expanded their business to the newly platted 13-acre, six block town. Within a year, the town of Doggett included a livery stable, blacksmith shop, grocery store, saloon, restaurant and served as a shipping center for the mines. In 1900, the Riverside Addition was added to the town of Doggett and the town was later renamed Riverside.

Encampment and Riverside host exciting annual events to celebrate their rich history through family activities, old-fashioned melodramas, jamborees and rodeos.

ENCAMPMENT/RIVERSIDE LODGING

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<th>CABIN &amp; COTTAGES</th>
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<td>Cabin at Riverside</td>
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<td>Cottonwood Cabins</td>
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<td>Platts Rustic Mountain Lodge Cabin</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Ridge Lodge &amp; Cabins</td>
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ENCAMPMENT/RIVERSIDE DINING

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SPECIALTY

| How You Bean? | 614 McCaffrey Ave. • Encampment | 307-327-5058 |

VACATION RENTALS

| 620 Vacation Rental | 620 MacFarlane Ave. • Encampment | 307-327-5110 |
| 620 MacFarlane Ave. | 307-327-5110 |
| 620 Vacation Rental | 620 MacFarlane Ave. • Encampment | 307-327-5110 |
| 620 MacFarlane Ave. | 307-327-5110 |

WyomingCarbonCounty.com
Best Two Day Itinerary

**ENCAMPMENT & RIVERSIDE**

**DAY 1 - GRAND ENCAMPMENT MUSEUM AND SHORT HIKE: INDIAN BATHTUBS TRAIL OR ENCAMPMENT RIVER TRAIL**

Get acquainted with southern Carbon County by touring the **Grand Encampment Museum**, the “GEM” of Southern Wyoming. Here you can walk among 15 historic buildings dating back to the early-1890’s to 1920. Museum highlights include a two-story outhouse, a segment of the aerial mining tramway used to transport copper ore 16 miles, and one of the largest photography collections in the West: the Lora Webb Nichols Collection. The GEM is open seasonally from Memorial Day weekend through early-October, Tuesday through Saturday 9am-5pm and Sundays noon to 4pm.

Next grab some water, snacks and sunscreen for a short hike. **Option 1: Indian Bathtubs Trail.** The Indian Bathtubs are deep holes in a granite outcrop, formed naturally by snow melt and rainwater. They are said to have been used by Native American tribes—the Ute, Arapaho and Cheyenne—as bathing holes. Access to this natural rock formation is located 0.5 miles southwest of the Hwy 230 Junction. Trading Post.

**Option 2: Encampment River Trail.** Named for the river it parallels, this scenic trail is great for out and back hikes and for fishing the shallow riffles and deep pools of the Encampment River. Fishing licenses and supplies are available at the Odd Fellows/Encampment River. Fishing licenses and supplies are available at the Odd Fellows/Encampment River. Fishing licenses and supplies are available at the Odd Fellows/Encampment River. Fishing licenses and supplies are available at the Odd Fellows/Encampment River. Tours of the river are offered from Memorial Day through October. The river is approximately 0.75 miles, one-way, on a well-marked dirt trail. A map is available at the Riverside Visitors Center.

**Sierra Madre Scenic Loop Trail**

**ADDITIONAL DAY OPTION - HIKE THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL OR THE GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS TRAIL**

**SEASON: JUNE - MID-OCTOBER**

Get up early for an all-day hike in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. Start with hearty breakfast at the **Beartrap Cafe** in Riverside or **The Divide** in Encampment—both are local favorites.

Approximately 45 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) straddle the backbone of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. Entering through Colorado, the CDNST climbs to its highest elevation at Bridger Peak (11,004 ft.) and descends to 8,441 ft. before leaving the forest. There are five points of access to the CDNST in southern Carbon County.

The **CDNST** - Red Mountain trailhead is located 12 miles west of Encampment, on the south side of Highway 70. This 12-mile segment of the CDNST leads into the **Huston Park Wilderness**. The trail descends through red granite, wet mountain meadows, mixed conifer and aspen forests before it ends at the Pipeline Trailhead. Other trails tie into the CDNST, offering additional route options. As this trail is one-way, consider leaving a vehicle at the Pipeline Trailhead and driving to the Red Mountain Trailhead for an all-day hike down the Continental Divide.

The **Green Mountain Falls trail** parallels the furious rush of the North Fork of the Encampment River and gently climbs to a spectacular descent of water crashing over large boulders. The hike is approximately 4 miles, one-way, through a mix of conifer and aspen trees. The first two miles of the hike follow a rough 4WD road to the trailhead. The path then becomes a well-marked hiking trail that leads to the Huston Park Wilderness. Directions: Drive west of Encampment for 6 miles on Highway 70. Turn left onto NFSR 550. Continue driving for another 2 miles until you reach NFSR 550.2H. There is a small parking area there.

**TIP:** Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Maps are available from the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District Office in Saratoga.
Medicine Bow, Hanna, & Elk Mountain

ELK MOUNTAIN POP.: 196 | ELEVATION: 7,264 FEET
HANNA POPULATION: 812 | ELEVATION: 6,818 FEET
MEDICINE BOW POP.: 270 | ELEVATION: 6,565 FEET

Early explorers established the routes followed by stagecoaches and wagons, opening the West for settlement. The Overland Trail, the transcontinental railroad, the Lincoln Highway and the discovery of coal contributed to the growth of these small towns.

MEDICINE BOW HISTORY

Medicine Bow was founded in 1866 as a Union Pacific watering station along the Medicine Bow River. Watering stations were important in a time when steam locomotives used thousands of gallons of water to go relatively short distances. These stations often became local supply depots and trading posts.

“When you call me that, smile!” Built in 1911, the three-story Virginian Hotel takes it’s name from Owen Wister’s famous novel. At the time, it was the largest hotel between Denver and Salt Lake City and a regular gathering place for travelers, local ranchers and railroad men. This historic hotel, built nearly a century ago, still operates as hotel and restaurant, with one of the finest old-time western bars in Wyoming.

HANNA HISTORY

Hanna was founded in 1890 as a company town for the Union Pacific Coal Company. The mines operated in one of Wyoming’s largest and richest coalfields through 1954. Hanna’s mining boom ended much as other mining camps of the era. Up and down for decades, until only a few hundred residents remained. The disastrous explosions in 1903 and 1908 took the lives of 228 local miners. There are three monuments in Hanna dedicated to those who lost their lives in the Carbon and Hanna coalmines.

A rare snowplow locomotive is also on display at the Hanna Recreation Center.

ELK MOUNTAIN HISTORY

Elk Mountain is located at the base of its 11,156-foot namesake. It was founded as a stage stop on the Overland Trail, where immigrants and stage travelers could safely cross the Medicine Bow River. In 1862, Fort Halleck was built a few miles west of Elk Mountain. It served to protect travelers passing through this region for four years.

In 1905, the Elk Mountain Hotel was built on the property previously used by the Overland Stage Station. The building’s architecture is Folks Victorian style, reminiscent of what was found on the frontier during that time. Next to the Hotel stood the Garden Spot Pavilion, which was host to such notable entertainers as Louis Armstrong, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, and Lawrence Welk. These entertainers inspired hundreds to “jump on and ride” the Garden Spot’s magical dance floor. The historic hotel remains a perfect venue for weddings and social gatherings, lodging and dining.

There is no shortage of pronghorn antelope in the spacious sagebrush flats surrounding Medicine Bow and Hanna. Stop and smell the sagebrush. Elk Mountain, a northern gateway to the Snowy Range, is located along Interstate 80. Peaceful and picturesque, it is ideal for outdoor getaways and adventures.
**Best One Day Itinerary**

**HANNA & MEDICINE BOW**

**DAY 1 - HANNA BASIN MUSEUM, MEDICINE BOW MUSEUM & THE VIRGINIAN HOTEL**

Experience quaint towns along the old Lincoln Highway (Highway 30) with must-see museums and a historic hotel.

The Hanna Basin Museum represents more than 134 years of underground coal mining in the Carbon and Hanna Basins. Learn the origins of this company mining town and that of the ghost town of Carbon—an early mining community on the original line of the Union Pacific Railway whose population was once 1,140 people. Impressive collections and artifacts include an original Union Pacific Coal Company house, the oldest church bell in Wyoming (1870), artwork depicting ranch and homestead life, a tribute to residents, and many historic photographs. Open Friday - Sunday, 1pm to 5pm.

The Medicine Bow Museum is housed in the 1913 Union Pacific Railroad depot. Get a sense of the Old West through the ranching and homesteading antiques and railroad memorabilia that inspired the classic western, “The Virginian” by Owen Wister. The museum grounds also house the Owen Wister Cabin and Monument, an original Union Pacific caboose—that you can actually walk inside, a sheepherder’s wagon, and a collection of local cattle and sheep brands. Open Memorial Day - Labor Day, Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm; weekends and holidays 9am to 3pm.

The Historic Virginian Hotel, built in 1911, derives its name from the classic western novel by Owen Wister. For wild west fans, this 3-story hotel (with saloon, cafe, and pool table) will have you feeling like you stepped back in time. Hotel rooms are adorned in old-fashioned wallpaper, with beautiful antique furniture and vintage curtains; the meals are hearty, western saloon fare. Located across from the railroad on the Old Lincoln Highway 30, the Virginian Hotel offers a full menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**ADDITIONAL DAY 2 - FISH THE WORLD FAMOUS MIRACLE MILE OR THE MEDICINE BOW RIVER**

**The Miracle Mile is a 7-mile stretch of the North Platte River between the Kortes Dam and Pathfinder Reservoir. Trophy-sized rainbow and brown trout caught here weigh 5 to 10 pounds. See driving directions from Hanna and more details on page 25.**

**The Medicine Bow River flows north from it’s source in the Medicine Bow National Forest, through the town of Elk Mountain and the Medicine Bow valley, before it merges northwest of Hanna into the Medicine Bow Arm of Seminoe Reservoir. Fish for good-sized brookies higher up on the forest. Large brown and rainbow trout are more common downstream.**

**Medicine Bow Arm access:** From Hanna, travel north on Jefferson Street/Hanna Draw Road (County Road 291) for 13 miles. At the Hanna-Leo Draw Road, turn left and follow for 9.7 miles to Shiners Point Road. From here the boat launch is 2.2 miles.

**Snowy Range access:** From Elk Mountain, travel east on Highway 72. This road becomes County Road 101; continue south for 14.5 miles. Drive past the Bow River campground to NFSR 105. Turn south to access on the East Fork of the Medicine Bow.

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**ADDITIONAL DAY 2 - FISH TURPIN RESERVOIR**

**Turpin Reservoir** is located 20 miles south of Elk Mountain in the Medicine Bow National Forest. It is stocked with brook trout and splake (a hybrid between a brook trout and lake trout) and is surrounded in beautiful mountain scenery.

A short distance below the reservoir, the road drops down along Turpin Creek and passes by remnant tie hack cabins. Stop and explore the meadow, you may even hear chorus frogs in the creek.

**Directions:** Travel County Road 101 for 13.5 miles. At NFSR 100, turn right and follow past the Bow River Campground for 6 miles. Turpin Reservoir and the boat ramp is on the left side of the road.
Baggs, Dixon & Savery

The Little Snake River Valley was a good place to settle for its access to water, abundance of wild game, impressive scenery and agricultural opportunities. This remote area offered some of the best-known hideouts for outlaws too.

BAGGS HISTORY

Located three miles north of the Colorado state line and east of the Red Desert, Baggs was a perfect hideout for bandits outrunning the law. Butch Cassidy and his infamous Wild Bunch, “holed-up” in this rough and tumble outpost. The Mathews-Gaddis House was a known hang-out for Butch and the gang.

DIXON HISTORY

Wyoming was only a territory when the town of Dixon was incorporated in July 1887. Dixon is named for Bob Dixon who was one of the region's first fur trappers, along with Jim Baker. Built in 1911, the Dixon Club has been a longtime watering hole for weary travelers passing through the valley. Its walls are covered with antiques and mementos of the area. Dixon is also home to the annual Little Snake River Rodeo. This small town rodeo and Saturday night dance offer plenty of action and family fun.

SAVERY HISTORY

Originally the Savery School, Little Snake River Museum houses several exhibits from the Valley's past, as well as buildings that reflect the history of the community.

Best One Day Itinerary

BAGGS, DIXON & SAVERY

DAY 1 - LITTLE SNAKE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM AND THE OUTLAW STOP

The Little Snake River Museum in Savery features over 15 historic buildings, including Jim Baker's cabin, built in 1873. Spend some time touring original cabins and homes, an interactive Homesteader House, a mountain man tent and several replicated businesses. The LSRV Museum is open seasonally from Memorial Day weekend through early-October, everyday from 10am-5pm.

The Outlaw Stop, located in the center of Baggs, features buildings frequented by Butch Cassidy and his infamous Wild Bunch during the heydays of the Old West. Tour the Mathews-Gaddis House - a roadhouse that doubled as a Saturday night dance hall for Butch and the gang, and the Baggs Town Hall-Fire Station-Jail - a building that saw many notorious characters.

ADDITIONAL DAY OPTION - EXPLORE THE RED DESERT AND SEE WILD HORSES

Southern Wyoming's Red Desert is one of the most spectacular, yet often missed, attractions in Carbon County. Located west of Baggs, between the Wyoming/Colorado border and Interstate 80, the Red Desert is a labyrinth of canyons, hoodoos, mesas, and dunes. And it is home to the largest remaining wild horse herd in Wyoming.

TIP: The Red Desert is best explored by an ATV or a sturdy, high-clearance, off-road 4WD vehicle and on foot. There are lots of roads, but they are confusing, unmarked and rough. You will definitely want to bring BLM maps, a GPS unit, and lots of water.

CARBON COUNTY LODGES, GUEST RANCHES & RESORTS

Lodge

Ladder Ranch
489 Carbon Co. Rd. #710 • Savery • 307-383-2413
ladderranch.com

Cowboy Inn RV Park
210 Penland St. • Baggs • 307-383-2200 | thecowboyinn.com
Cowboy Inn Motel & RV
560 N Penland • Baggs • 307-383-6448
Happy Camper
Highway 789, Mile Marker 49 • Baggs • 307-383-7120
facebook.com/pages/Happy-Camper-RV-Park

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

Country Inn Motel
560 N Penland • Baggs • 307-383-6448
Cowboy Inn Motel
210 Penland St. • Baggs • 307-383-2200 | thecowboyinn.com
Dixon Motel
217 Cottonwood • Dixon • 307-383-2300 | dixonmotel.com

Three Forks Ranch
1445 Carbon County Rd. • Savery • 970-583-7396 | threeforksranch.com

HOTELS / MOTELS

Boyer YL Ranch
34 County Rd 754 • Savery • 307-383-7778 | boyerylranch.com

Country Inn Motel
560 N. Penland • Baggs • 307-383-6448

The Dixon Club
216 Cottonwood St. • Dixon • 307-383-7722

CABINS & COTTAGES

Cowboy Inn RV Park
210 Penland St. • Baggs • 307-383-2200 | thecowboyinn.com
Cowboy Inn Motel & RV
560 N Penland • Baggs • 307-383-6448

CABINS, DIXON & SAVERY LODGING

BOYER YL RANCH
34 County Rd 754 • Savery • 307-383-7778 | boyerylranch.com

BAGGS, DIXON & SAVERY DINING

American

Brenda's Home Cookin
1445 N. Penland • Baggs • 307-383-6369
The Cowboy Inn RV Park
210 S. Penland St. • Baggs • 307-383-2200
The Dixon Club
216 Cottonwood St. • Dixon • 307-383-7722

Happy Camper
Highway 789, Mile Marker 49 • Baggs • 307-383-7120
facebook.com/pages/Happy-Camper-RV-Park

Camping, Lodging and Dining Guide

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If you love a good road trip, Carbon County has some of the most beautiful, jaw-dropping drives that will have you constantly looking for places to pull over to take more photos. So fill up your gas tank and prepare for some amazing views. Here are our favorite scenic drives with "must see" stops.

**BATTLE HIGHWAY SCENIC BYWAY**
Length: 28 miles via Highway 70
Open Memorial Day through October, weather permitting

Named for a famous battle between Native Americans and fur trappers in 1841, the Battle Highway stretches over the crest of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, between Encampment and Baggs. While there are many scenic highlights along the route, it also features two spectacular museums, ghost towns from the mining era, historic sites, and crosses the Continental Divide.

- Grand Encampment Museum in Encampment: features aerial mining tramway segment and 15 historic buildings from the copper boom era. See page 15 for more information.
- Battle: located on the Continental Divide, it is one of many mining ghost towns in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.
- Battle Pass Summit, 9,955 ft: on the Continental Divide, provides a sweeping view of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.
- Battle Lake and Thomas A. Edison monument: While vacationing here in 1878, Edison threw a broken bamboo fishing pole in the fire and was intrigued by the way the frayed pieces glowed. This observation led Edison to the discovery of filament for the incandescent electric lamp.
- Little Snake River Valley Museum in Savery: features over 15 historic buildings, including Jim Baker's cabin, built in 1873. See page 22 for more information.

**SNOWY RANGE SCENIC BYWAY**
Length: 29 miles via Highway 130
Open Memorial Day through October, weather permitting

This high altitude drive showcases some of the most spectacular and easily accessible peaks in Medicine Bow National Forest. Highway 130 runs between the Highway 130/230 junction (8 miles south of Saratoga) and Centennial. After crossing the North Platte River, it ascends to its highest point at 10,847 feet before meandering toward Centennial. Picnic areas, campgrounds, alpine lakes, a network of hiking trails and several scenic overlooks are accessible from the Highway—plus unforgettable views and plenty of wildlife sightings. Highlights include:

- Medicine Bow Peak, 12,013 ft: the highest peak in southern Wyoming. A 5.5-mile hike to the top features switch-backs, rock crossings and amazing views. See page 12 for more details.
- Lake Marie: popular lake named after Mary (Marie) Bellamy who led a suffrage drive for the adoption of 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote.
- Libby Flats Observation Point: the highest point on the Highway.
- P. O. W. Camp at the Ryan Park Campground: originally a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, it later served as a P.O.W. Camp for German and Italian soldiers during WWII.

**SEMINOE-ALCOVA BACK COUNTRY BYWAY**
Length: 64 miles via County Road 351

Located between Sinclair and Alcova, this remote drive climbs over the rugged Seminole Mountains before passing into antelope-grazed prairie and stark desert. The amazing transformations in the landscape are worth the backcountry journey. On your trip, you might see a variety of wildlife such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, golden and bald eagles, and ferruginous hawks. Attractions along the way include:

- Seminole Reservoir: popular for trout and walleye fishing, boating, water skiing, and wildlife viewing. See more on page 25.
- Miracle Mile: a 7-mile stretch of the North Platte River, famous for huge trout and great fly fishing. See page 25 for more details.
- Seminole State Park: popular for access to Seminole Reservoir, with camping and picnicking among giant white sand dunes.

**SIERRA MADRE SCENIC LOOP**
Length: 58 miles via Highway 70, and Forest Service Roads 550, 496 & 409
Open Memorial Day through October, weather permitting

Set in a quiet corner of southern Carbon County, this drive makes a loop through the Sierra Madre Mountain Range on well-maintained gravel roads. Beginning in Encampment, follow Highway 70 west for 6 miles to NFSR 550. Turn left and travel south for 16 miles. At Hog Park Reservoir, merge left, the road becomes NFSR 496. Continue 10 miles south and turn left to follow NFSR 496 north for 12.5 miles to NFSR 409 (the Blackhall Road). Turn left and travel north 11 miles and turn left onto Highway 230. The loop ends in 2 miles at Riverside. Along the way, enjoy several stops of historical and natural interest.

- Halfway House: built in 1902, as a stopping point between Encampment and the mining camps in the Hog Park area.
- Hog Park Reservoir: formed in the 1960’s when an earthen dam was constructed to store water for municipal use in Cheyenne. It is a favorite spot for fishing and boating.
- East Fork Trail Access: follows East Fork of the Encampment River, with several remnant mining cabins.
- Billie Creek Junction (NFSR 496 & 409): road forks left back to Riverside; right provides access to the Blackhall Mountain Fire Lookout Tower. 4WD recommended.
- Indian Bath tubs: a natural rock formation believed to be used by Native Americans for bathing. See page 15 for details.

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This Rocky Mountain paradise offers an impressive range of landscapes and activities. So pack up the tackle box and picnic basket and get ready for a little one-on-one time with nature.

FISHING

Come cast your line in Carbon County! It's the only area in Wyoming that offers such variety in fishing opportunities. From beautiful rivers and large reservoirs to alpine lakes and streams, the clear, cold water here is the perfect habitat for trout. Area waters contain "blue ribbon" wild brown and rainbow trout, walleye, tiger, brook, brown, rainbow, splake, golden and cutthroat trout, and kokanee salmon. Fish to your heart's content in spectacular scenery without the crowds.

Upper North Platte River features "blue ribbon" wild trout fishing and is popular for floating and kayaking. Beginning in Colorado, this pristine freestone river flows north through mountain wilderness, the Saratoga valley hay meadows, and finally through majestic desert before leaving Carbon County. As the "Premier Blue Ribbon Wild Trout Stream in Wyoming, the North Platte claims 4,000 catchable fish per mile. There are several public river access points between Colorado and the Miracle Mile.

The Miracle Mile is the famed 7-mile stretch of the North Platte River between the Kortes Dam below Seminole Reservoir and the headwaters of Pathfinder Reservoir. In this ideal, big trout habitat, trophy-size browns and cutthroats can weigh between 5 and 10 pounds. Directions: From Sinclair, follow County Road 351/Seminole Road for 37 miles to the North Platte bridge. From Hanna, follow County Road 291/Hanna-Leo Draw Road for 46 miles to Kortes Road. Turn left and follow 6 miles to the bridge.

Encampment River flows north into Wyoming through the rugged Encampment River Wilderness in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. It winds northwest through the town of Riverside before merging with the North Platte River. Also a "blue ribbon" trout stream, the river has three public river access points.

The most prominent reservoirs and lakes in Carbon County offer miles of great shoreline fishing and are excellent boating spots.

- Seminole Reservoir: of all the places in Wyoming where walleye are found, they are most abundant here. Seminole also offers great fishing for rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout, with 180 miles of shoreline. Seminole State Park, located 30 miles north of Sinclair on County Road 351, has several campsites, potable water, restrooms, boat ramps, picnic shelters and access to the largest sandy beach in Wyoming.

- High Savery Reservoir: located 38 miles south of Rawlins on County Road 401, it is the only place in Wyoming to catch tiger trout (brown trout/brook trout cross). Brook and rainbow trout, Colorado River cutthroat and Kokanee salmon are also plentiful here. Not much shoreline, but there is a boat ramp.

- Hog Park Reservoir: excellent fishing for brook, rainbow and cutthroat trout. There is a 50-site campground and two picnic areas, drinking water and plenty of shoreline fishing. From Encampment, travel west on Highway 70 for 6 miles. Turn left on NFSR 550 and travel south about 16 miles. The campground and boat dock is 3 miles ahead on NFSR 496.

- Saratoga Lake: located a few miles north of Saratoga, it offers good fishing for rainbow and brown trout. There is a 50-site campground, boat dock and restrooms. Nearby wetlands are home to hundreds of species of birds.

HIKING

Carbon County contains accessible public land as far as the eye can see, from the mountains to the desert. These lands offer a lifetime of exploring and adventure.

There are over 50 designated hiking trails in the Snowy Range and Sierra Madre Mountain Range of the Medicine Bow National Forest. Trails range from 7,400 ft. to 11,200 ft. in elevation and offer a variety of hiking experiences. Our favorite hikes are outlined in the itinerary pages of this guide.
SNOWMOBILING
SEASON: DECEMBER - APRIL

Carbon County has some of the best snowmobiling in Wyoming. Explore over 500 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails with terrain to excite users of all skill levels.

The Snowy Range is the largest and most developed snowmobile area in Carbon County, with 306 miles of groomed trails and 170 miles of ungroomed trails. It's also the home of the "Widow Maker" (11,330 feet), one of Wyoming's most extreme snowmobile trails. The terrain is varied with plenty of play areas, hills and deep champagne powder. Snow depths reach up to 12 feet.

The Sierra Madre Mountain Range is relatively uncrowded and offers a series of trail loops with outstanding views. There are 110 miles of groomed and 50 miles of ungroomed trails and two trailheads/parking lots. The Bottle Creek trailhead/parking area is located on Highway 70, six miles west of Encampment. The Stempsprings trailhead/parking area is located 16 miles east of Savery. Snow depths reach up to 8 feet.

CROSS-COUNTY SKIING & SNOWSHOEING
SEASON: DECEMBER - APRIL

Whether novice or expert, the beautiful, groomed trails in the Snowy Range and Sierra Madre Mountain Range provide plenty of solitude in diverse terrain.

The Bottle Creek Trails are located 6 miles west of Encampment on Highway 70 in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. Several loop trails wind through aspen, lodgepole pine stands, and reclaimed clear-cuts.

The Brush Creek Trails are accessed from Highway 130 in the Snowy Range, behind the Brush Creek Visitor Center. The trail system winds through aspen, lodgepole pine stands, and by a remnant tie hack cabin. Restroom facilities are available.

2019-20 CARBON COUNTY EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL
4-6 Andy Cloth Wyoming Open Pool Tournament - Saratoga
13 Rochelle Ranch Golf Course Opens
27 Almost 5K Rawlin Fireman Fun Run

MAY
1 Rawlins Outdoor Shooting Range Opens
20 Visitor Centers Open
25 Fort Fred Steele Historic Site Opens
28 Museums Summer Season Begins

JUNE
15-16 Woodchopper’s Jamboree & Rodeo
19 Gema Pearl Concert - Saratoga
20 Music in the Park - Rawlins
27 Working Ranch Rodeo - Encampment
27 Music in the Park - Rawlins
29 Saratoga Museum Historic Trek
28-29 Platte River Rodeo - Saratoga
29 Summit to Headwaters Music in the Park - Encampment
29-30 Little Snake River Rodeo - Baggs
29-30 Tale of Two Cities Disc Golf - Riverside
TBA Marion Baker Invitational Black Powder Shoot - Encampment

JULY
4 Music in the Park - Rawlins
4-6 Saratoga Days
5-7 Festival of the Arts - Saratoga
11 Music in the Park - Rawlins
12-13 SummerFest - Rawlins
18 Music in the Park - Rawlins
19-21 Grand Encampment Cowboy Gathering
20 Hunting for History - Saratoga Museum
25 Music in the Park - Rawlins
26-28 Mountain Man Rendezvous & Living History Day @ the GEM - Encampment
27 King Coal Days - Hanna

AUGUST
1 Music in the Park - Rawlins
2-10 Carbon County Fair and Rodeo
3 Encampment Community Barbecue & Music in the Park
3 C. J. Box Trivia Night - Saratoga
3 Moo-Fest (aka: Cow Plop) - Rawlins
15 Music in the Park - Rawlins
16 Latino-fest - Rawlins
17 Steinerly Cup Microbrew Festival

SEPTEMBER
2 End of Summer Season at Museums
2 Fort Fred Steele Historic Site Closes
6 Party on the Platte - Saratoga
7 Passion & Pride Ball - Rawlins
7-8 Copper Days - Encampment
TBA Colorado Grande Auto Tour
TBA High Desert Shootout Pool Tournament - Rawlins

OCTOBER
4-5 Artbeat - Rawlins
24 Masquerade Ball @ WY Frontier Prison - Rawlins
25,26 & 31 Haunted Tours @ WY Frontier Prison - Rawlins
31 Safe Trick or Treat in Downtowns

NOVEMBER
1 Indoor Shooting Range Opens
30 Small Business Saturday

DECEMBER
1 Winter Wonderland & Lighted Christmas Parade - Saratoga
7 Christmas out of the Big House
13 Saratoga Museum Toast to History
TBA Upper Valley Search & Rescue Ben Romios Memorial Poker Run - Encampment
TBA Rawlins Chamber Brewfest
TBA Silver Bullet NRA Tournament
TBA Pepsi Premier Racquetball Tournament - Rawlins

JANUARY 2020
1 First Day Hike @ Fort Fred Steele
18-19 Saratoga Lake Ice Fishing Derby
TBA Sierra Madre Winter Carnival

FEBRUARY
TBA Saratoga Skijoring Races
TBA Snowy Range Poker Run
TBA Saratoga Museum Toast to History
TBA Upper Valley Search & Rescue Ben Romios Memorial Poker Run
TBA Rawlins Chamber Brewfest
TBA Silver Bullet NRA Tournament
TBA Pepsi Premier Racquetball Tournament - Rawlins

For event dates and details, visit www.wyomingcarboncounty.com