

Skalkaho Pass Scenic Drive

Montana's Road Less Traveled



5 Days/4 Nights

Gateway City: Missoula, Montana



What a bonus! Your entire journey will be on Montana Scenic Drives. The Skalkaho Pass Scenic Drive, which takes you on one of the least traveled roads in America, connects the Bitterroot Valley Scenic Drive and the Pintler Veterans' Memorial Scenic Highway. Cradled by the Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains, the Bitterroot Valley is named after the small pink blossoms and succulent roots of the Montana state flower. Turning off the Bitterroot Valley Scenic Drive at Hamilton puts you on the Skalkaho Pass Scenic Drive. Built in 1924 to link mountain mining areas with the Bitterroot Valley, the narrow, winding drive takes you through an isolated, mountainous 23,000-acre wildlife area thick with spruce and fir. Blue jays, juncos, sparrows, flycatchers, and woodpeckers, coexist with bull elk, mountain goats, moose, mule deer, badgers, coyotes and black bears. Once you reach Philipsburg, a traditional Montana western town, and get on the Pintler Veterans' Memorial Scenic Byway, you'll quickly find it's a microcosm of Montana in a few miles. Skirting the Flint Creek Mountain range – referred to as the towering Pintlers - the drive has gorgeous mountain scenery with peaks rising over 10,000 feet. Georgetown Lake, spanning 3,700 acres at an elevation of 6,425 feet, comes along with you on the road following the land for miles. Just up the road, you can explore a Ghost Town (there are 60 in Montana) that was once a bustling silver mining town.



Touring the Byway

We recommend beginning your journey in Missoula, which will take you to the beginning of the Bitterroot Valley Scenic Drive. While in Missoula, you can take the Downtown Historic and Art Walking Tour to get to know the city, visit the Montana Natural History Center, and tour the Montana Museum of Art and Culture, and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, before taking the Riverfront Walking Trail and a stay at the Blue Mountain Bed and Breakfast. Between Missoula and Hamilton, you'll be traveling the Bitterroot Valley Scenic Drive through Lolo and Stevensville. In Hamilton, you can tour the Daly Mansion and the Ravalli County Museum before staying at the Bitterroot River Inn. The next morning, on the Skalkaho Pass Scenic Drive, you'll be traveling through the Bitterroot National Forest.

Make sure you are prepared for the drive. Fuel up in Hamilton and get all your needed supplies, because there are no services along the route. This is not a road

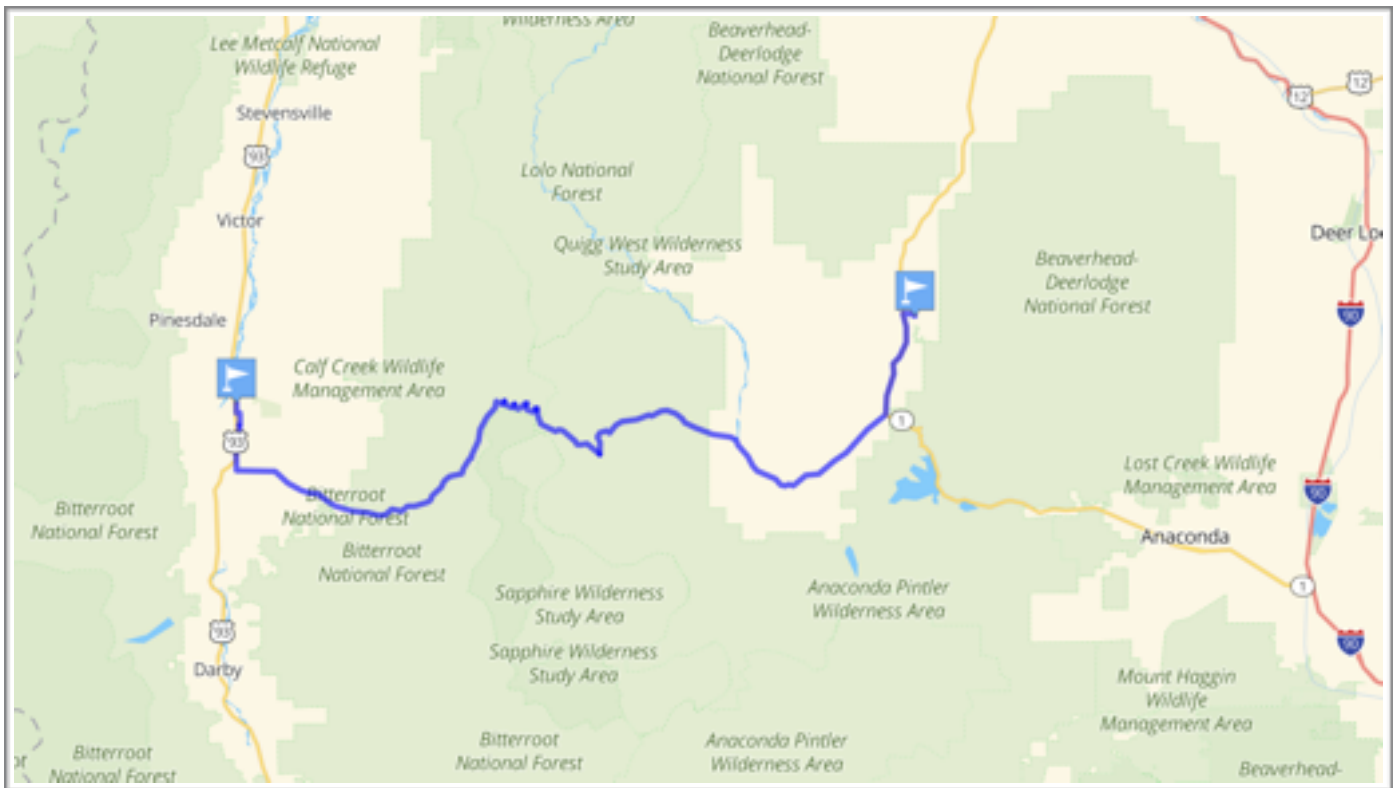
for large trailers and you'll need to slow down when you meet an approaching car. The road is paved leaving Hamilton and paved again on the other end before you reach Porters Corner. In between, the road is gravel, with no guard rails and curves are such that you can't see what's coming around the corner. The route is only open from Memorial Day weekend to the end of hunting season in November, weather permitting. From Hamilton, the road slowly gains elevation as it passes through open farmland. In about 10 miles, you'll reach the base of the Sapphire Mountains and begin the long, curvy climb toward the pass, which reaches an elevation of 7,250 feet. Once you reach Skalkaho Falls, two miles beyond the pass, the views open up. Take it slow on the sweeping serpentine curves; some are tight and twisting.



Once you reach Philipsburg, tour the Granite Town Ghost Town and the Granite County Museum and Cultural Center. If you're so inclined, take a stagecoach ride and visit the Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine and Showroom. After a stay at the brightly painted Broadway Hotel, you'll be on your way past Georgetown Lake and the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness, before you reach Anaconda. Here, a historic bus

tour of the city awaits, along with the Copper Village Museum and Arts Center and Smoke Stack State Park.

After a stay at the Hickory House Inn, you'll be on your way to Butte, where you can take the Trolley Tour to get to know the city, visit the Carle Gallery, the World Museum of Mining with 60 original turn of the century structures, and the Clark Chateau Museum and Gallery while staying at the Copper Kings Mansion. If you are interested, there are other mining-related locations in Butte. From there, we wish you safe passage if you're traveling another Montana Scenic Drive, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



DAY ONE



Missoula

C. P. Higgins and Francis Worden opened a trading post on the Blackfoot River in 1869, that was followed by the arrival of the Mullan Road connecting Fort Benton with Walla Walla, Washington. Fort Missoula was opened in 1877 to protect the growing community. The arrival of the railroad in 1883, along with the Missoula Mercantile Company, made the city a trading center. The University of Montana opened in 1895. Missoula's location within a heavily forested area made logging the mainstay industry until the mid-1970s. Saws could be heard over two miles away on a clear summer night.

Downtown Missoula Historic and Art Walking Tour

Learn more about Missoula on the downtown walking tour, which has one of the largest collections of buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the country. Locations like the Atlantic Hotel and the Diner Café, with huge historic neon signs, that have long been repurposed, peacefully coexist with the 1910 Missoula County Courthouse and the 1909 Palace Hotel. The downtown partnership has funded over 20 works of public art, that appear along the tour.

Montana Natural History Center

The Montana Natural History Center features displays of the flora and fauna, ecosystems, and geology in the state, including the Montana Ecosystem, The Magic Planet, a Naturalist Forest Station, Glacial Lake Missoula, Explore Fossils, Explore Geology, and the outdoor Nature Adventure Garden.

120 Hickory Street, Suite A, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-327-0405, T-F 9AM-5PM, Sat Noon-4PM, Adults \$4

Montana Museum of Art and Culture

Located on the University of Montana campus, this museum now has 11,000 pieces including work by Rocky Mountain artists, historic European works, and collections from Southeast Asia, American Impressionists, contemporary Native American artists, ceramics, and public art sites across the campus. European masters include Rembrandt, Delacroix, Boucher, Piranesi, and Daumier, along with 20th century artists, Miro, Toulouse-Lautrec, Chagall, Dali, Picasso, Remington, Merritt Chase, and Andy Warhol.

Across from the Adams Center off East 6th Street. University of Montana Campus. 406-243-2019. Tu-Sat Noon-6PM. Free, donations accepted.

Historical Museum at Fort Missoula

Fort Missoula was established by the US Army in 1877 to protect settlers in the region. Nearly 100 years later, the Historical Museum encompasses 32 acres with over 20 historic structures and a collection of nearly 50,000 artifacts.

3400 Captain Rawn Way, Missoula, MT 59804, 406-728-3476 M-Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun Noon-5PM

Riverfront Walking Trail

The riverfront walking trail along the Clark Fork River takes you past McCormick Park, the Old Milwaukee Depot, John H. Toole Park, and other scenic and historic treasures in Missoula.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Blue Mountain Bed and Breakfast 6980 Deadman Gulch Road, Missoula, MT 59804, 406-203-3187 The gardens here frame breathtaking views of the Bitterroot River. Elegant breakfasts go along with the Inn's lovely décor. Guest rooms have private baths with jetted tubs, air conditioning and amenities, plus Wifi.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Catalyst Café 111 North Higgins Avenue, Missoula, MT, 59802, 406-542-1337
American cuisine café.

Scotty's Table 131 South Higgins Avenue, Unit P3, Missoula, MT 59802, 406-549-2790 Fine dining in Missoula.

Tamarack Brewing Company 231 Front Street West, Missoula, MT 59802, 406-830-3113
American pub and bar, vegetarian and vegan options.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Missoula Art Galleries

The Artists' Shop 127 North Higgins, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-543-6393
Missoula's premiere co-op fine craft gallery. M-F 10AM-6PM, Sat-Sun 10AM-5PM

Dana Gallery 246 North Higgins Avenue, **Murphy-Jubb Fine Art** 210 North Higgins Avenue, Suite 300, **Radius Gallery** 114 East Main Street and **The Art Hang-up** 839 South Higgins Avenue

Lake Missoula Tea Company 136 East Broadway, Missoula, MT, 59801, 406-926-1038 Teas from around the world, including blends made in small batches.

Hometana 312 North Higgins Avenue, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-224-4166

Ducrey Chocolate Maker 311 East Front Street, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-218-7396

DAY TWO

Bitterroot National Forest

For most of your travels on the Bitterroot Valley Scenic Drive, you've been paralleling the 1.6-million-acre Bitterroot National Forest, the largest expanse of continuous pristine wilderness in the Continental US, encompassing the Selway-Bitterroot, the Frank Church River of No Return, and the Anaconda Pintler. No roads, logging, mining, or construction is permitted in the Wilderness areas. All access is on foot or horseback. Heavily glaciated and rugged peaks punctuate the forest, in contrast with glacially cut steep canyons that open into the valley floor. 1801 North First Street Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-363-7100

Hamilton

Incorporated in 1894, Hamilton was named after the railroad officer who platted the town for the Northern Pacific Railway. Early on, the town revolved around the Anaconda Copper Mine at Bitter Root Stock Farm. Most of the residents worked for Copper King Marcus Daly, living in "company" homes and shopping in "company" stores. By the time Daly died in 1900, Hamilton had grown to become the commercial center of the Bitterroot Valley, and the seat of Ravalli County.





Daly Mansion

When copper was discovered in the Bitterroot Valley, Copper King Marcus Daly purchased an existing farmhouse and had it completely remodeled by 1889, and again in 1897. When the finished home reminded him of a church, remodeling plans began again, but before that remodel which changed the Queen Anne home into Georgian Revival was complete, Daly had passed away. Today, the residence has over 50 rooms including 25 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms, 7 fireplaces, 5 of which are imported Italian marble, a large living room, music room, formal dining room, sunroom, a trophy room, upstairs sitting room, and third floor billiard hall. 251 Eastside Highway, Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-363-6004, 10:30AM-3PM, Tours on the hour begin at 11AM, with the last tour at 3PM, Adults \$9.

Ravalli County Museum

The Museum housed in the 1900 Ravalli County Courthouse designed by the same architect who designed the Daly Mansion, holds artifacts from all periods in the County.

205 Bedford Street, Hamilton, MT, 59840, 406-363-3338, Tu, W, F, 10AM-4PM, Th 10AM-8PM, Sat 9AM-1PM



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Bitterroot River Inn 139 Bitterroot Plaza Drive, Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-375-2525
Accommodations include a breakfast buffet, pool, hot tub, sauna and fitness center.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Nap's Grill 200 West Main Street, Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-363-0136 American food.
Taste of Paris 109 North Fourth Street, Suite 106, Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-369-5875 Fine dining.

Bitterroot Brewing 101 Marcus Street, Hamilton, MT 59840 406-363-7468
Great brews and awesome burgers.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Montana Bliss Artworks 101 South Seventh Street, Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-381-2488
Works include concrete sculptures, kiln fired glass, blown glass, sgraffito ceramics, custom designed jewelry, clay sculptures, woodwork, paintings, stipple dot art, metalwork, and more.
M, Tu, Th, F, Sat 11AM-3PM,

Big Sky Candy 319 West Main Street, Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-363-0580

DAY THREE

Skalkaho Pass Scenic Drive

Leaving Hamilton, you'll be traveling the Skalkaho Pass Scenic Drive over to the Pintler Veterans' Memorial Scenic Byway.

Philipsburg

Philipsburg became a thriving Old West mining town when high grade gold and silver was discovered here in the 1860s. Though most of the population vanished overnight during the Great Silver Crash of 1893, Philipsburg has slowly reemerged. It's remarkable history, now a "living presence" for the 800 people who live here, made the town a national finalist for the "Prettiest Painted Places In America."





Granite Town Ghost Town State Park

Steep, winding roads lead to remnants of this once thriving 1890s silver boomtown with the richest silver mine on the earth that might never have been discovered. The miner's backers thought the venture was hopeless and ordered it closed. The message was delayed while the miners worked on the last blast on the last shift, that uncovered a bonanza that ultimately yielded \$40,000,000. When word came to shut the mine down in the silver panic of 1893, granite had already been discovered the year before.

347 Granite Road, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-287-3541, Daylight hours only \$8 per vehicle

Granite County Museum and Cultural Center

Located in the former Courtney Hotel, this museum features historical exhibits including photos, clothing, and other belongings of former residents of Granite County. Be sure to see the mural downstairs that illustrates a mining community, complete with an assay office, a bank with a coin collection found beneath a miner's cabin, and a reconstructed miner's cabin.

135 South Sansome Street, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-560-1799, Daily Noon-4PM, Adults \$5



Gilmer & Salisbury Stage Line Rides

Relax and enjoy a 45 minute, three mile narrated tour in a historic Henderson built Mudwagon stagecoach.

135 Broadway Street, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 602-710-4229, weather permitting, 10AM-5PM

Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine and Showroom

Gem Mountain, which has produced over 180 million carats of sapphires over 120 years, has rendered the impressive collection of sapphires, amethysts, fossils, quartz, and Gem Mountain gravel on display. Take a side trip to the mine where the staff provides everything needed to find one of Montana's blue treasures.

201 West Broadway, Philipsburg MT 59858, 406-859-4367 Daily 9AM-5PM

Mine: 21 Sapphire Gulch Lane at mile marker 38.4 of Montana Highway 38, Skalkaho Pass Road, between Hamilton and Philipsburg, Open seasonally W-Sat, reservation required.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Broadway Hotel 103 West Broadway Street, Philipsburg MT 59858, 406-859-8000 The Broadway Hotel is your elegant, yet cozy, painted lady accommodations right in the heart of historic Philipsburg.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Brick's Pub 102 West Broadway Street, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-859-2749

American pub with a variety of food options.

Philipsburg Creamery 119 West Broadway Street, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-596-0843

The best ice cream around.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Back Creek Pottery 147 West Broadway Street, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-859-212

Sunsign Art 1205 Marshall Creek Road, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-859-337

Sapphire Gallery 115 East Broadway Street, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-859-323

The Sweet Palace 109 East Broadway Street, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-859-335

Montana Gems 204 West Broadway Street, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-859-6725

DAY FOUR

Georgetown Lake

Created by the damming of North Flint Creek in 1885, Georgetown Lake spans 3,700 acres with an average depth of only 16 feet, at an elevation of 6,425 feet above sea level. As time passes, natural phenomena in the lake results in ever cleaner water.

Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness

Covering nearly 250 square miles and close to 160,000 acres, the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness runs for 40 miles along the Continental Divide. West Goat Peak is the tallest at 10,793 feet.

Anaconda

Humbled by the towering Pintlers, Anaconda was established in 1883 by Marcus Daly, one of the three Montana "Copper Kings." During the boom years, hundreds of billions of dollars of copper ore was smelted for to be copper wires installed all over the world. When smelting operations were suspended nearly 100 years later, "The Stack" was turned into a state park.



The Anaconda Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center

Housed in a turn-of-the-century railroad station, stop here to take a Historic Bus Tour, that introduces you to the many historic buildings from early smelting days. 306 East Park Avenue, Anaconda, MT 59711, 406-563-2400, M-F, 10AM-5PM, Adults \$10

Copper Village Museum & Arts Center

The Arts Center is housed in the 1898 Deer Lodge County Courthouse, a three-story structure with a central stone rotunda, adorned with frescoes, resting on steel and a magnificent switchback staircase. Historic exhibits are coupled with arts exhibits and archives.

401 East Commercial Avenue, Anaconda, MT 59711, 406-563-2422 Tu-F
10AM-4PM





Smoke Stack State Park

At 585 feet, the 1919 Anaconda Copper Company smelter stack is one of the tallest free-standing brick structures in the world. Since the smelter closed in 1980, it has become a symbol of the challenges that face communities dependent on finite resources. Only viewed from a distance, interpretive signs tell the story. 100 Smelter Road, Anaconda, MT 59711, 406-287-354, Open daylight hours



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Hickory House Inn 218 East Park Street, Anaconda, MT 59711, 406-563-5481

The Hickory House, formerly St. Paul's Rectory, was constructed in 1902 next to St. Paul's Church. It is convenient to everything in Anaconda.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Barclay II Supper Club 1300 East Commercial Avenue, Anaconda, MT 59711, 406-563-5541 American choices, plus awesome steaks.

Donivan's 211 East Park Avenue, Anaconda, MT 59711, 406-563-6241 American pub.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Black Dog Antiques 1200 E Park Ave 406-563-0478: Open 7 days a week, 11AM-5PM, An Antique mall featuring selections from 30+ dealers, including antiques, glassware, collectibles, furniture, Butte/Anaconda mining and railroad items, jewelry, vintage items and more.

DAY FIVE



Butte

Butte was once the largest city in Montana, and for a time, the largest between Chicago and San Francisco. It began as a mining camp for gold and silver until the massive demand for copper began in the 1890s. By the 1900s, copper mining was consolidated among the three Copper Kings: William A. Clark, Marcus Daly, and F. Augustus Heinze. A combination of their operations resulted in the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. Workers from all over the globe came to mine, creating a unique city with a hardscrabble place where anything was possible. The cultures of many ethnic groups can still be found in Butte, primarily in food like Cornish pasties, Slavic povitica, and Scandinavian lefse.

Butte Trolley Tour

Experience Butte on a 2-hour trolley tour offered by the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce. Local experts who narrate the city's rich and colorful history take you through the the National Historic Landmark District, home to Copper King Mansion, Dumas Brothel, World Museum of Mining, Berkeley Pit Viewing Stand, Mai Wah Museum, Clark Chateau, Montana Tech, and much, much more. 1000 George Street, Butte, MT 59701, 800-735-6814, Daily, Memorial Day-Labor Day, Adults \$20.

Carle Gallery

The Carle Gallery is a tribute to John Carle whose murals and paintings depict Butte's historic buildings and people. In order to support local artists, the gallery has expanded to include the work of regional artists.

226 West Broadway Street, Butte, MT 59701, 406-723-3361, M, F, and Sat, 9AM-5PM, Tu, W, and Th, 9AM-7PM



Clark Chateau Museum and Gallery

Built for the oldest son of the Copper King, Clark Chateau, features exhibits that span the history of Butte, its Copper Kings, opera singers, music schools, Senators, Fez Clubs and more, in addition to information about the influential families who lived in the residence over the years.

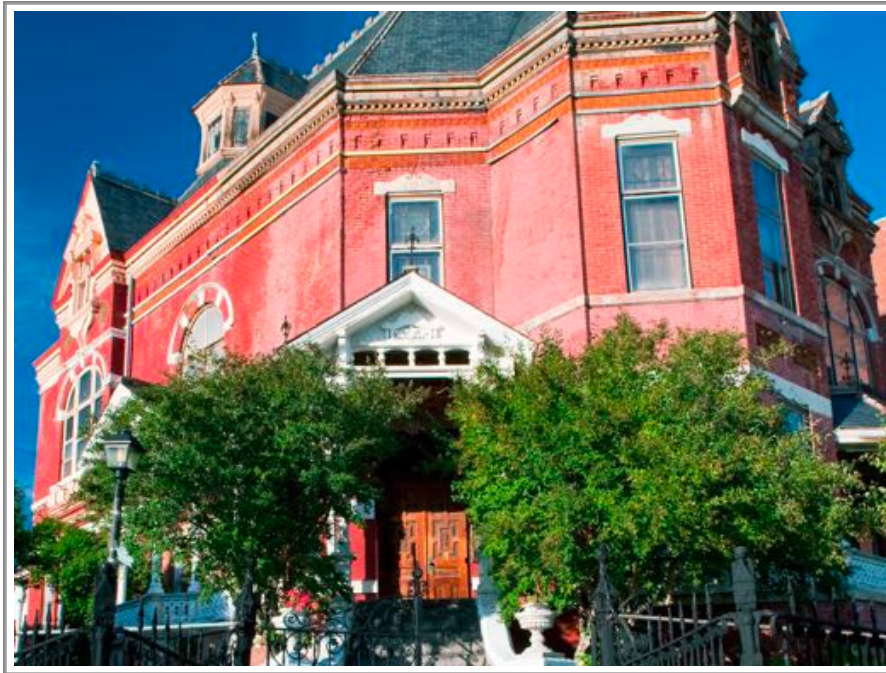
321 West Broadway Street, Butte, MT 59701 406-565-5600, Th-Sun, Noon-4PM, Adults \$7



World Museum of Mining

The World Museum of Mining lets you experience a mining camp once known as Hell Roarin' Gulch. Over 50 exhibit buildings, countless artifacts, and 66 exhibits in the mine yard reveal the story of the Gulch and the Orphan Girl Mine. As you tour underground, you can almost see the blackened faces and hear the exhausted sighs of the miners who toiled each day.

155 Museum Way, Butte, MT 59701, 406-723-7211, Daily April 1-Oct 30, 9:30AM-5:30PM, Adults \$9, Underground Mine Tour, Adults \$21



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Copper King Mansion 219 West Granite Street, Butte, MT, 59701, 406-782-7580 Before checking into your accommodations, be sure to take a tour of the Copper Kings Mansion, which reveals the history of the 34-room Romanesque Revival Victorian residence. After law school, William Clark grubstaked a gold mine in Colorado before heading to Bannock in southern Montana to stake a claim. He decided he was better at helping miners manage their claims than being a miner, and bought a team to haul supplies to mining camps, recorded claims for miners, and made loans, which generated an income of \$17 million a month. In addition to serving as a US Senator, Clark owned newspapers, mines, sugar plantations, and oil wells, as well as the Clark Wire Company in New Jersey, and the Henry Bonnard Bronze Company in New York. He even financed the railroad through Montana and established a ranch in Nevada to help miners and railroad workers recover in the dry desert climate. To better negotiate when collecting European art, he learned French and German. A wing was added to the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington, DC to house his collection.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Uptown Café 47 East Broadway Street, Butte, MT 59701, 406-723-4735 White-tablecloth restaurant serving Continental cuisine at dinner and more relaxed fare for lunch.

Casagranda's Steakhouse 801 Utah Avenue, Butte, MT 59701, 406-723-4141 Varied fare, from steak to pasta to sushi, plus beer and wine, served in a warehouse built in 1900.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Butte Silver Bow Arts Foundation 113 Hamilton Street, Butte, MT 59701, 406-479-4979

Butte Copper Company 2125 Harrison Avenue, Butte, MT 59701, 406-494-2070