

Battle Pass Scenic Byway

A Classic Western Adventure



5 Days/4 Nights

Gateway City: Laramie, Wyoming



In 1841, a Wyoming fur trapper named Henry Fraeb was killed at his trading post in the Medicine Bow National Forest during a battle with the Sioux peoples over an incident involving illegally traded whiskey and a stolen herd of horses. Nearly 60 years later, copper was discovered by an English prospector searching in that same area. Hundreds of hopefuls quickly flocked to the region for their share of the riches. A smelter, an aerial tramway, and entire towns were quickly established to house the miners, and by the time the mines closed in the early 20th century, over two million dollars' worth of copper had been mined. This classic Western history story is on full view along the Battle Pass Scenic Byway, a 57-mile-long road named for Fraeb's skirmish that stretches across the majestic Sierra Madre Mountains of the Medicine Bow National Forest. Discover a stunning landscape of lush pine trees, epic mountain vistas, and the wide open plains of the Old West as history comes alive before your eyes. From the remnants of log cabins scattered throughout mining ghost towns to a large aspen grove planted over one hundred years ago, historic places and exquisite scenery unite on southeastern Wyoming's Battle Pass Scenic Byway.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Laramie, a spirited town with deep Western roots. Discover the city's extraordinary architecture on the Historic Downtown Laramie Walking Tour, stop and smell the roses at the Williams Conservatory. Travel through art and human history at the Art Museum and Museum of Anthropology, both located on the beautiful University of Wyoming campus. Spend your first evening in a colorfully hand-crafted Victorian-style Inn.

On Day Two, learn about a quaint mountain town full of local characters at Centennial's Nici Self Historical Museum and make sure your gas tank is full before driving a bonus Byway - the Snowy Pass Scenic Byway! Twist and turn your way through Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, visit crystal clear alpine lakes like Brooklyn Lake, Mirror Lake, and Lake Marie, reach an elevation of over 10,000 feet at Snowy Range Pass, the apex of the Byway, and enjoy panoramic views of three different mountain ranges at the Libby Flats Observation Area. Afterwards, enjoy a secluded getaway at Spirit West River Lodge.

Day Three brings you to Encampment, a small mining town where you can learn about the area's rich mining and agricultural history at the Grand Encampment

Museum and tour the Willis House, the only historic masonry residence in town. Then, get ready for some serious scenery as you drive the Battle Pass Scenic Byway! Reach an elevation of nearly 10,000 feet at Battle Pass, located on North America's Continental Divide, marvel at the timbered world in Aspen Alley, and get a glimpse of pioneer life at the Little Snake River Museum. On Day Four, see the locations where Butch Cassidy and his train-robbing gang frequented the Outlaw Stop in Baggs, then head north on WY-789 and east on transcontinental I-80 to Rawlins, a city full of Western hospitality, history, and the Wyoming Frontier Prison Museum. Stop at Fort Fred Steele State Historic Site, an 1868 railroad fortress, then turn off I-80 to go north on WY-30 to visit the Hanna Basin Museum in Hanna and Medicine Bow, a popular town on the old Lincoln Highway. As you finish this amazing adventure on Day Five, see the world's "oldest" building - Fossil Cabin located seven miles east of Medicine Bow. From there, we wish you a safe passage if you're continuing your journey on another Wyoming Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



DAY ONE



Laramie

Situated on the high plains in southeastern Wyoming, Laramie, which has been the site of human activity for more than 10,000 years, is surrounded by forests and mountains. Native Americans hunted big game here before French-Canadian fur trapper Jacques La Ramee arrived in about 1817. Settlers began arriving in 1862 on Ben Holladay's Overland Stage line. Today, this diverse town is home to the only university in Wyoming, with six museums, a historic downtown with quaint shops, unique boutiques, restaurants, breweries, and cafés. You'll find the "Gem City of the Plains" brimming with Western influence and hospitality.

Historic Downtown Walking Tour

Explore the historic remnants of this former "hell-on-wheels" town, where Laramie's first citizens made their mark, imagining you just arrived here more than a century ago when the train comes in. Pick up a brochure at the Laramie Visitor Center for the 33 stop walking that begins as Garfield and First Street.

800 South Third Street, Laramie, WY, 82070, 307-745-4195, Tu-Sat
12:30PM-4:30PM

Laramie Plains Museum at Historic Ivinson House

The beautiful three story Queen Anne Victorian built by Edward and Jane Ivinson in 1892 which led to the historic architecture of Laramie of today. The residence hosts an extensive collection of artifacts and archives illustrating the history of Laramie, Albany County, the American West, Victoriana, Ranching and westward migration.

603 East Ivinson Avenue, Laramie, WY, 82070, Tu-Sat 12:30PM-4:30PM, Tours Hourly 1PM-4PM, Adults \$10



University of Wyoming Museum of Anthropology

Housed on three floors on the university campus, exhibits in the main gallery follow the "Human Odyssey," from the evolution of humans in Africa several million years ago to the spread of humanity throughout the world from emergence during the Late Pleistocene era to the New World. A portion of this gallery is dedicated to a the Colby Mammoth Site, the Vore Buffalo Jump, and a celebration of hunter-gatherer heritage throughout the world. Other exhibits cover the evolution the bison and world cultural diversity.

12 East Lewis Street, Laramie, WY, 82071, 307-766-5136, 7:30AM-4:30PM mid-May-late August

University of Wyoming Art Museum

Filled with world-class art by regional, national, and international artists, the University of Wyoming has created a "Museum as Classroom," including a special collection of art from the American West. Works also include the Annual Juried University Of Wyoming Student Exhibition, Laramie And Albany County Student Art Exhibition and the University Of Wyoming Art Department Faculty Exhibition.

2111 East Willett Drive, Laramie, WY 82071, 307-766- 6622, T-Sat 10AM-5PM, Th 10AM-7PM, Free





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Mad Carpenter Inn 353 North Eighth Street, Laramie, WY, 82072, 307-742-0870 Featuring Blossom and Whimsy, two imaginative rooms, The Mad Carpenter Inn was lovingly restored with hand-crafted woodwork and sculptured ceilings.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Wyoming's Rib & Chop House 2415 Grand Avenue, Laramie, WY, 82070, 307-460-9090, Enjoy premium steaks, fresh seafood and award-winning baby back ribs in a relaxed, casual setting.

Born in a Barn 100 East Iverson Avenue, Laramie, WY, 82070, W-M 307-460-3604 Woodsy, old-school sports bar specializing in creative burgers and wings.

J's Prairie Rose Café 410 South Second Street, 307-745-8140, Laramie, WY, 82070, M-Th Cheery pink establishment known for breakfast burritos & other hearty fare in a cozy, retro room.

Destination Distinctive Retail

The Curiosity Shoppe 206 South Second Street, Laramie, WY, 82070, 307-745-4401, M-Sat Offers a variety of locally sourced gifts and housewares, one-of-a-kind artwork, furniture, and gifts.

Works of Wyoming 300 South Second Street, Laramie, WY, 82070, 307-460-3304, Unique fine art and gifts created by Wyoming artists.

Rustic Cowgirl Edge 208 Grand Avenue, Laramie, WY, 82070, 307-631-3551, Western apparel featuring leather goods, conceal purses, turquoise jewelry, clothing, scarves, and more.

DAY TWO



Centennial

This quaint mountain town of 300 residents is the gateway to Wyoming's beautiful Snowy Range Mountains. Early Plains Indians passed through here looking for wood for teepee poles and bows, before a railroad tie camp was established in 1868. The first homestead was staked out in the valley in 1870, and gold was discovered in 1875. Both the town and the mine were named in honor of America's 100th birthday. As mining declined, ranchers and loggers kept the town alive until the railroad from Laramie to Centennial and breathed new life into the old work camp site. A newspaper, bank, hotel, fish hatchery, store, and two saloons were constructed in 1876.

Nici Self Historical Museum

The Centennial Depot, which also served as the post office and grocery store, was built in 1907 for the Laramie, Hahns Peak and Pacific Railway. Exhibits include the history of mining, lumbering, railroading, and ranching, in the area, plus a 1944 UPRR caboose, beehive burner, one-room schoolhouse, and more.

2734 WY-130, Centennial, WY, 82055, 307-742-7763, Th-M 12PM-4PM, Free

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests

Covering nearly 2.9 million acres from north central Colorado to central and northeastern Wyoming, the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest delivers beautiful vistas of mountain ranges, grasslands, and crystal clear streams. Miles of dirt and paved roads meander through dense forest areas where exposed rock faces reveal millions of years of history and open spaces reveal the vastness of the land that characterizes the American West.

Laramie Ranger District, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, WY, 82070,
307-745-2300, M-F 8AM-4:30PM, Day Pass \$5

Snowy Range Visitor's Center

The perfect stop for information while driving the Snowy Range Scenic Byway, built from beetle-killed pine salvaged from trees on site. There is a pollinator garden, short walking trail, picnic tables, interpretive signage and maps.

Range Road, Centennial, WY, 82055, 307-742-9730, Th-M 9AM-5PM

The visitor center is at the forest boundary 1 mile west of Centennial.

Brooklyn Lake

Tucked away in the forest, this small, picturesque lake, at an elevation of 10,500 feet, lies in the shadow of the snow-capped Browns Peak.

National Forest Service Road 315, lake and campground open seasonally July 15-October 1



Libby Flats Observation Area

Enjoy views south to Rocky Mountain National Park, west toward Medicine Bow Peak, the Sierra Madre Mountains, and Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area, and east toward the Laramie Mountains.

160-194 WY-130, Centennial, WY, 82055

Snowy Range Pass

At 10,895 feet, majestic Snowy Range Pass is said to be the state's second highest. The road itself, built in the 1870s as a wagon road, and paved in the 1930's, was originally called the "Great Sky Road." The pass is named for the large amounts of snow that remain at high elevations during the summer months. Even though the road to the summit, with awe-inspiring sweeping views, is a two-lane paved road, with a steep incline, it is suitable for all vehicles.

Medicine Bow Peak

Soaring to 12,018 feet, the highest peak in the Snowy Range is visible from Snowy Range Pass. Before John Frémont's expeditions of 1833-1834, Native Americans used the mountain passes as travel routes. Engines and other fragments of the United Airliner Flight 409 that crashed here in 1955 are still present on the peak. A memorial known as "Disaster Wall", was placed here in 2001.



Mirror Lake

If you brought a picnic with you, enjoy it at the picnic tables here with a side of scenic views, before taking the short easy walking trail to the West Lake Marie Trailhead.

Lake Marie

A short trail traces the perimeter of the lake, while another trail leads to the mountaintops.

Brush Creek Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is home to the Brush Creek Trailhead and a historic cabin built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

5556 WY-130, Saratoga, WY, 82331, 307-326-5258, Weekends 9AM-5PM





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Spirit West River Lodge and Bed and Breakfast 313 Shoshone Avenue, Encampment, WY, 82325, 307-327-5753 This sprawling lodge, located at the base of the Sierra Madre Mountains with intriguing Native American and Western decor, was constructed of massive pine logs on a picturesque bend of the Encampment River surrounded by the Sierra Madre Mountains. Enjoy one of Wyoming's most unique Bed and Breakfasts and some of the West's most beautiful scenery.

Pine Lodge 508 McCaffrey Avenue, Encampment, WY 82325, 307-327-5110, Choice of rooms with full kitchens or limited kitchens, and hot tubs.

Riverside Garage and Cabins, 107 Riverside Avenue, Riverside WY 82325, 307-327-5361 Located in the little town of Riverside.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Beartrap Cafe & Bar 120 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, WY, 82325, 307-327-5277, Specializing in hearty, high quality food, and newly added hand-tossed pizza

The DiVide Restaurant & Lounge 520 McCaffrey Avenue, Encampment, WY, 82325, 307-327-5064, Known for its top-notch pizzas, full bar, and cozy meals.

DAY THREE



Encampment

Rich in history and lore, frontier Encampment was once a Native American holy place, where fur traders and trappers were followed by tie cutters, cattle barons, and hunting expeditions. A branch of the Cherokee Trail was blazed through the region by California-bound gold-seekers in the late 1840s. Starting in 1897, hundreds of copper miners amassed for a share of the riches. A smelter and an innovative tramway were built to accommodate the decades-long mining boom. The Saratoga & Encampment Railway arrived in 1908, but by that time, copper prices had fallen and the town's population declined. Agriculture, which came to the fore early in the century, remains an important to the area today.

Grand Encampment Museum

The Grand Encampment Museum hosts over a dozen historical buildings filled with artifacts illustrating the timber, mining, and agricultural history of the Encampment valley at the turn of the 20th century. Highlights include a two-story outhouse and cable cars used for copper ore.

807 Barnett Avenue, Encampment, WY, 82325, 307-327-5308, Summer Hours Tu-Sat 9AM-5PM, Sun 12PM-4PM, Donations accepted. Book tours by calling the museum, or download the mobile tour at gemuseum.com .

Historic Homes in Grand Encampment

Pick up a Historic House Tour brochure from the Grant Encampment Museum featuring 20 historic homes including the 1901 Henry House, former home of the Major of Encampment, the Kuntzman House, the first house in the town with indoor plumbing and the Willis House, built in 1908 for Mrs. Lydia M. Willis. This American Four Square historic home that remained unfinished inside, served as a deluxe house of prostitution and headquarters for her family's business network. The house changed hands 18 times before 1931, until it was purchased by rancher, merchant, and miner Charles Deo Terwilli.



Green Mountain Falls Trail

Enjoy this 6.6 mile aspen-lined trail surrounded with wildflowers, wildlife, a small creeks, with a bridge that leads to a waterfall. Park at the intersection of Forest Roads 550/550.2H if you do not have a high clearance or 4 wheel drive vehicle.

Battle

Now mostly a ghost town, this coal town was named for the battle fought between 500 Sioux, Arapaho, and Cheyenne against 23 Rocky Mountain Fur Company trappers. Once a flourishing mining town in the late 1890s and early 1900s, before construction of the smelter and the tramway in Encampment, ore was hauled 70 miles away by wagon. Battle's location on the Continental Divide at 10,000 feet made it difficult to access in winter, with snow often remaining until June. Normal travel within the townsite was on skis or snowshoes. Newspapers and mail were also often delayed by weather. Little remains of the townsite except excellent views of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Interpretive information provides a snapshot of the once bustling town.



Battle Pass / Townsite Overlook

Battle Pass, located on the Continental Divide, affords excellent views of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

Aspen Alley

This scenic spot with a mature stand of aspen has one of the most spectacular displays of quaking aspen in the Sierra Madre and the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest.

Forest Road 801, Encampment, WY, 82325

Little Snake River Museum

Housed in the former Savery School, the museum is now home to more than 15 historic buildings filled with thousands of artifacts, photographs, and stories piecing together a picture of the bygone era in the region. Historical exhibits cover pioneers, outlaws, ranchers, mountain men, wild horses, antique vehicles and more. Structures include a one-room schoolhouse, mercantile and laundry, and a two-cell jail.

13 County Road 561 North, Savery, WY, 82332, 307-383-7262, Daily 10AM-5PM





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Antelope Ranch, 763 Country Road 561 North, Savery WY 82332, 307-38-2625

This historic five bedroom ranch house is located on a 320 acre property, surrounded on three sides by public lands. Depending on season, you can rent the whole house or one room for the evening.

Boyer YL Ranch, 34 Country Road 754, Savery, WY 82332, 307-744-8773, Beautifully situated on the banks of the Savery River, surrounded by the Medicine Bow National Forest.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Brenda's Home Cooking 1459 Penland Street, Baggs, WY, 82321, 307-383-6369, Friendly staff serves juicy homemade burgers, fries, and more.

Cowboy Inn 210 Penland St #490, Baggs, WY, 82321, 307-383-2200 A small town, family owned business known for fantastic customer service and delicious, hearty meals.

DAY FOUR



Baggs

Claiming a fascinating place in the history of the Wild West, Baggs is reputed to be the home of Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, and their Wild Bunch. The town was named after early settler, George Baggs, who brought the first herd of Texas longhorns into the region and built a ranch at the site that is now the town of Baggs. Besides ranching, early industries included farming, lumbering, and mining. The Union Pacific Railroad ran between Baggs and Wamsutter, 50 miles away.

Outlaw Stop

The Outlaw Stop features the Mathews/Gaddis House, Baggs Town Hall, Fire Station, and Jail, the Cow Creek Sheep Company, all with stories about outlaws and early Baggs residents. The Mathews/ Gaddis House, which was a roadhouse and Saturday night dance hall, was home to Pearl Mathews Gaddis for over 70 years. Butch Cassidy and his gang were known to frequent the home for a good meal and entertainment.

250 North Penland Street, Baggs, WY, 307-383-7261, Sat 10AM-5PM

Rawlins

Rawlins was named for Union General John Aaron Rawlins, who first camped here in 1867, before the location was selected as a major passenger and freight station on the Transcontinental Railroad. In 1886, Rawlins was incorporated as a “city,” while Wyoming was still a territory. Revisit the town’s heyday on a walking tour of historic downtown and award-winning Main Street with 19th-century architecture, colorful murals, quaint shops, and local restaurants.



Carbon County Museum

Preserving and interpreting the rich heritage of Carbon County and the diversity of its communities with a collection includes over 30,000 artifacts and archive items.

904 West Walnut Street, Rawlins, WY, 8230, 307-328-2740, Summer Tu-Sat 10AM-6PM, Free

Wyoming Frontier Prison Museum

The eighty year history of Wyoming's first state penitentiary, now known as the Wyoming Frontier Prison, is as "colorful and elaborate as the plot of a classic western movie." Opened in 1901 with 104 cells, approximately 13,500 people were incarcerated in this grisly remnant of Wyoming's past, at first with no electricity or running water, and inadequate heating. The City of Rawlins walking path takes you up to the old prison cemetery.

500 West Walnut Street, Rawlins, WY, 82301, 307-324-4422, M-Th 9AM-12PM, 1PM-4PM, Adults \$12



Destination Distinctive Dining

Cappy's Restaurant & Bar 2351 West Spruce Street, Rawlins, WY, 82301, 307-324-4847, Classic diner fare and drinks in a simple setting with eclectic decor.

Penny's Diner 2005 Daley Street, Rawlins, WY, 82301, 307-324-4700, 24hrs Quaint diner with large portions for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snacks.

Fort Fred Steele State Historic Site

Established in 1868 to protect the newly built Union Pacific Railroad from attacks, this frontier Army post served as a hub for both the military and Wyoming's lumber and livestock industries. Though many of the foundations are still visible, very few structures are intact.

North Platte River at the Union Pacific Railroad crossing off I-80 at Exit 228,
307-320-3013, Daily 9AM-7PM, Free



Hanna Basin Museum

The Hanna Basin Museum tell the story of coal mining in the area and the now ghost town coal camps of Carbon, Sampo and Dana., which are now ghost towns. Mines in the Hanna Basin mines, which operated until 10 years ago, produced over 220 million tons of coal, at a tremendous human cost, with 373 miners killed over the 144 years of mining.

502 Front Street, Hanna, WY 82327, 307-325-6465

Medicine Bow

Home of “The Virginian,” acclaimed the first western ever written, legend has it that Native American tribes of southeastern Wyoming found mountain mahogany in the mountain valleys from which bows of exceptional quality could be made. Tribes also assembled here every year to hold a ceremonial powwow for curing disease. “Making medicine” combined with “making bows” became Medicine Bow. Officially founded in 1868 as a Union Pacific watering station, the town soon became a very important place in the era when steam locomotives used thousands of gallons of water. The town became a supply depot and trading post, with the 1909 Virginian Hotel serving as a regular gathering place for travelers, local ranchers, and railroad men.

Medicine Bow Museum

Housed in the 1912 Union Pacific Depot, the Medicine Bow Museum is full of artifacts and historical documents regarding the railroad, Native Americans, ranching, homesteading, the US mail, and, of course, “The Virginian.” The Owen Wister Cabin and Monument, erected in 1939, are located next to the Museum.”
405 Lincoln Highway, Medicine Bow, WY, 82329, Hours by appointment,
307-703-8084





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Virginian Hotel 404 Lincoln Highway, Medicine Bow, WY, 82329, 307-379-2377 The Historic Virginian Hotel, the "gathering place" in southern Wyoming since 1911, gets its name from Owen Wister, 's class 1902 western novel.

Destination Distinctive Dining

The C-Spear Bar & Grill 202 US-30, Medicine Bow, WY, 82329, 307-520-3030

Serving lunch, dinner, drinks, coffee, wraps, sandwiches, burgers, pasta, steaks, desserts and more.

DAY FIVE

Fossil Cabin

This cabin, built of 5,796 dinosaur bones excavated at nearby Como Bluff, was constructed as part of a gas station along US Route 30. It is the only building constructed of fossilized dinosaur bones in the United States.

U.S. Route 30/287 about five miles east of Medicine Bow in Rock River, WY,
82083

