

Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway

America's Western Hero



6 Days/5 Nights

Gateway City: Cody, Wyoming



It's the stuff of legends. William Frederick Cody, aka Buffalo Bill, was once one of the most recognized people in the world. His Wild West Show was featured at Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, and only the Egyptians rivaled the attention paid to Bill at the Chicago World's Fair. Following a rather humble start in Iowa, Canada, and Kansas, Cody became a Pony Express rider at age 15. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War, receiving a Congressional Medal of Honor in 1872 for his service as a scout during the Indian wars. His first show performance as the character of the "Scout of the Prairie" brought to life his exploration of the remote terrain surrounding Yellowstone National Park, at the Old Glory Blowout, July 4, 1882. The following year, he unveiled Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, featuring Annie Oakley, "Wild Bill" Hickok, bronco riding, roping, and other rodeo skills. After a successful tour of the United States and a special invite to England, he quickly rose to international fame. More than two decades later, Cody returned to found the town. Fortunately, his success, fame, and vision enabled Cody to bring attention to Western causes, including the rights of Native

Americans and women, the conservation of Western lands, and the destruction of bison herds. Winding through the Shoshone National Forest on routes that Cody traveled, you'll be exploring the same remote rugged terrain he loved so much. The drive, filled with wildlife and stunning views, ends at Yellowstone National Park, one of the most beautiful places in the United States – or on earth for that matter.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Cody, filled with attractions related to Buffalo Bill's legacy. Begin your visit with the Historic Walking tour, followed by a visit to all five museums at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. And, enjoy the Wild West Spectacular, the Musical, before a stay at the 1902 Irma Hotel, named for Cody's daughter.

On Day Two, spend another day in Cody. Visiting Old Trail Town, the original site of Cody, the Cody Heritage Museum, the Meeteese Museums, and By Western Hands Museum and Gallery, before staying another night at the Irma. On Day

Three, you'll be heading out on the Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway, with stops at the Buffalo Bill Dam and Visitor Center, Buffalo Bill State Park, and Cody's original lodge Pahaska Teepee Resort, before heading into Yellowstone National Park.

Spend Days Four and Five exploring both loops of Yellowstone to view all of the important thermal features in the Park. On Day Six, head back to Cody on the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway which connects with the Beartooth Highway. From there we wish you safe passage if you are traveling another Wyoming Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



DAY ONE



Cody

As he explored the region in the 1870s as an Army scout, Cody was so impressed with the grand scenery surrounding Yellowstone National Park, that, after taking his Wild West Show all over the world, he returned to start the town in 1896.

Several streets in the historic downtown are still named after other investors and founders: Beck, Alger, Rumsey, Bleistein, and Salsbury. The construction of a dam on the Shoshone River brought federal money pouring in, spurring Cody to grow and prosper even before oil was discovered in the Oregon Basin in 1912. By the time Cody passed in 1917, his namesake town, deemed the "Rodeo Capital of the World," was well on its way.

Historic Downtown Walking Tour

Experience Cody's storied Wild West downtown where bison once roamed and teepees dotted the landscape. Hear stories about the historic buildings, "Buffalo Bill," his career, his family, daughter Irma, the Cody Stampede Rodeo Office, the Chamberlin Inn whose guests have included Ernest Hemingway, the Cody Trading Company, and the Cody Post Office with the same facade and interior details as when it was built in 1927, on an audio tour describing each stop.



Buffalo Bill Center of the West

Often referred to as the “Smithsonian of the West,” the Buffalo Bill Center of the West weaves together stories of the Yellowstone region and the American West in five different museums. Immerse yourself in the geology and natural environment of the region at the Draper Natural History Museum. Get to know William F. Cody in the Buffalo Bill Museum. Experience the traditions, values, and culture of regional Native Americans at the Plains Indian Museum, and enjoy artists’ depictions of the West at the Whitney Western Art Museum. The Cody Firearms Museum houses more than 4,000 firearms used in the American West.

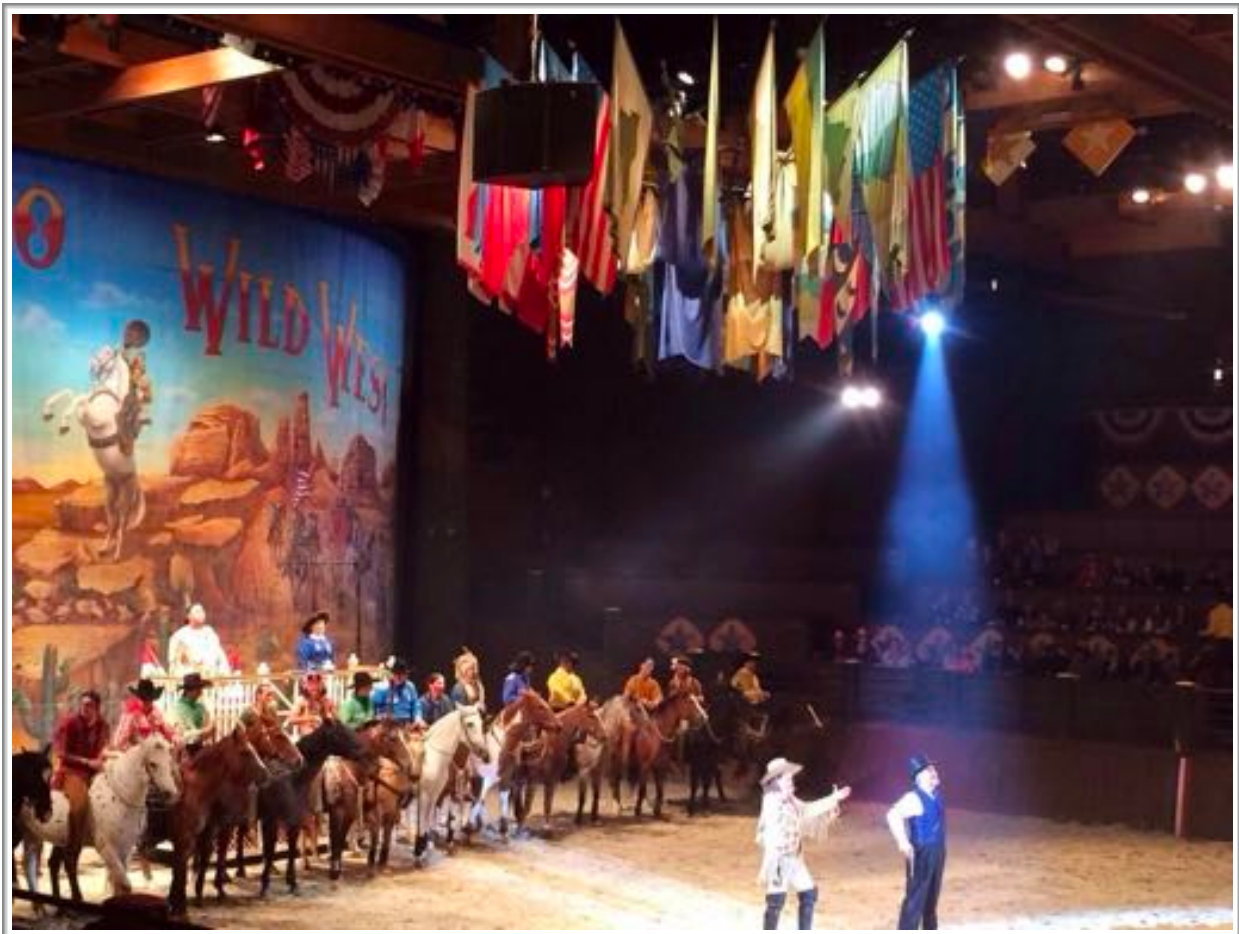
720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-4771, May 1-Sept 15
8AM-6PM, Adults \$22 (Tickets good for 2 consecutive days)



Buffalo Bill Wild West Show

Turning his real life adventures into the first outdoor western show, Buffalo Bill's Wild West opened in 1883, not in Cody, but in Omaha, Nebraska. Today, you can join the Rocky Mountain Dance Theatre, for the Wild West Spectacular, The Musical, a historically based, comedic, full-length production offered during the summer at the historic downtown Cody Theatre. During intermission, you can interact with the cast members in character and share stories at the bar.

Downtown Cody Theater, 1171 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY , 82414,
307-527-9973, 7PM, 2 hour show, Adults \$23





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

The Irma Hotel, 1192 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-4221

Opened in 1902, the Irma has been a symbol of neighborliness and good cheer for over 100 years. As they say, everyone from Colonel Cody, to princes and potentates, Indian chiefs and cowboys “came as they were” to the Irma. You can too.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Trailhead Bar, Grill, and Wood-Fired Pizza 1326 Beck Avenue, Cody, WY 82414, 307-578-8510 Laid back eatery serving classic Italian.

Proud Cut Saloon 1227 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-527-6905 Buffalo burgers and traditional American classics with a full bar.

Irma Hotel Restaurant 1192 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-4221

Famous for its Prime Rib, the hotel also has a full menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and daily summer buffet. The famous cherry back bar was a gift from British Queen Victoria to Cody.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Bighorn Gallery 1167 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-527-7587

The gallery features western landscapes and wildlife art, by local, artists regional, and national artists, in a wide variety of media including and paintings, sculpture, fine jewelry and original graphics.

Timmer Gallery 1371 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 586-604-6314 Art studio and gallery featuring contemporary landscapes and unique gifts by artist Brian Timmer.

Cowtown Candy Company 1323 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-8212

Delectable treats, popcorn and fudge.

DAY TWO

Old Trail Town

Explore a rare collection of ghost-town relics, authentic buildings, and historic furnishing in this reconstructed frontier town where Cody started. Original cabins used by outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, and a Wyoming saloon frequented by Cassidy's "Hole-in-the-Wall Gang" were moved to the site, along with the cabin of "Curley," a Crow scout who helped guided Custer and the U.S. 7th Cavalry to the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. Several pioneer graves on the property include mountain man John Johnson, portrayed by Robert Redford in "Jeremiah Johnson."

1831 Demaris Drive, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-5302, May 15th-Sept 1st M-Sun 8AM-6PM, Adults \$10



Cody Heritage Museum

Cody history here begins in prehistoric times Cody history moving chronologically from settlement through the 1950s. Exhibits feature founders Bill Cody, George Beck, Nate Salsbury, H.M. Gerrans, George Bleistein and Bronson Rumsey, ranching and agricultural history, early Cody businesses, the oil, gas, and railroad industries, and cowboy history. The Heritage Garden surrounding the historic De Maris House, is a living exhibit of native plants, pollinator plants, wildflowers, grasses, and a bronze sculpture which memorializes the original pioneers who built the town.

1092 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-586-4272, Tu-Sat 10AM-4PM & Sun 12PM-4PM



Meeteetse Museums

This unique complex features the Belden Museum with historic western photographs by Charles Belden, the Olive Fell Gallery, the "Little Wahb the Grizzly" and Wolves Exhibit, Thomas Molesworth furniture, the legendary Meeteetse Mercantile, and Mike Crocker's Grand Slam of North American Wild Sheep, among others. A newly restored bank building houses the Bank Museum with vintage office furniture, the bank vault and safes, an early telephone switchboard, dictaphones, and photographs.

1947 State Street, Meeteetse, WY, 82433, 307-868-2423, Tu-Sat 10AM-4PM, Free



By Western Hands Museum and Gallery

Legacy artisans who produce a wide range of functional and decorative arts including beadwork, fabric, carving, leatherwork, saddles, bags, bits and spurs, and jewelry that preserve the unique regional western style of the late 1880s.

12th Street, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-586-1755, W-Sat 10AM-5PM



Dan Miller's Cowboy Music Revue

Dan Miller and his Cowboy Music Revue, who deliver first-class musicianship and a family friendly show, have been entertaining audiences from around the world for 18 years, including visitors from over 70 countries. The doors open at 3:15 and the show begins at 3:30, allowing you to enjoy the music and still have dinner and catch the Cody Nite Rodeo.

1601 Stampede Avenue, Cody, WY 82414, 307-899-2799, Matinee shows selected days, Adults \$20, Couple \$35

DAY THREE

Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway

This morning, you'll leave Cody on the Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway traveling the same routes Cody did on his rounds as a scout in the region, following US 14/16/20 for the entire Byway.

Buffalo Bill Dam & Visitor Center

Completed in 1910 at 325 feet , the Buffalo Bill Dam was one of the first concrete arch dams built in the United States. Water held by the dam is used to irrigate more than 93,000 acres of beans, alfalfa, oats, barley, and sugar beets. Be sure to watch the film, view the taxidermy and savor close up views of the reservoir.

4808 N Fork Highway, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-527-6076, Daily 9AM-5PM



Buffalo Bill State Park

In addition to his fame as an entertainer, Cody was able to use his influence and notoriety to bring irrigation and agricultural development into the area, supported today by the water in Shoshone Canyon impounded behind the Buffalo Bill Dam. The canyon is framed by Rattlesnake Mountain to the north and Cedar Mountain to the south, and Logan Mountain lies along the northern shoreline further west. Elevations vary from approximately 5,400 feet in the state park to more than 12,000 feet on the horizon. A portion of the land in the park was acquired from Cody to implement the reservoir project.

4192 North Fork Highway, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-587-9227, May 1st-Sept 30th
Open 24/7 Office Hours 7AM-7PM



Wapiti

Situated halfway between Cody and Yellowstone on the North Fork of the Shoshone River, Wapiti is named after the Cree Indian word for elk. As you pass through, you can catch a glimpse of Wapiti's landmark attraction, the Smith Mansion, a five-story, seventy-seven foot tall, twisting, rustic structure hand-built without blueprints by the late Francis Lee Smith. He spent every spare moment working on this project for 22 years. The building eventually morphed into a tangle of rooms, balconies, and staircases. Made from logs Smith hauled from Rattlesnake Mountain by pickup truck, Smith was hit by falling lumber while alone on a balcony. His body was discovered two days later.



Destination Distinctive Dining

Yellowstone Cutthroat Guest Ranch 53 Stagecoach Trail, Cody, WY, 82414

307-272-6982 Providing guest lodging on the Shoshone River with 360° views, frequent wildlife sightings, and access to on-site. This private riverfront lodge with panoramic views of the Shoshone River, features a five-star restaurant with a full bar.

Pahaska Tepee Resort – Buffalo Bill’s Original Lodge

Buffalo Bill’s original 1904 Lodge, nestled in the tall pines at the foot of majestic Cody Peak, was built from logs obtained from the Shoshone National Forest with a special use permit. Hardware, glass, and other materials were hauled from Cody by wagon on the North Fork Road, which he thought would soon become the most popular entrance to Yellowstone when visitors came to appreciate the rugged mountain scenery along the route.

183 N Fork Highway, Cody, WY, 82414, 307-527-7701, Memorial Day-Labor Day 7AM-9PM, Free





Yellowstone National Park

The creation of Yellowstone National Park and protection of its astounding resources was not without challenges. The first Park Act called for administration with no cost to the United States, which unfortunately, did not protect the land or the wildlife from poaching and squatters. A second superintendent appointed in 1877 began constructing roads, appointed a “gamekeeper,” and campaigned against hunters and vandals. When those measures still didn’t work, the U.S. Army arrived in 1886 to develop and enforce regulations, evict troublemakers, and patrol park lands. Finally, recognizing that America’s National Parks needed cohesive management, the National Park Service was established in 1916.

Fortunately for all visitors since then, Yellowstone has remained a beautiful place with incredible wildlife and more thermal features than anywhere else in the world. It is best to allow at least one whole day to travel each of the two park loop roads. If you enjoy stopping at both the Visitor Centers and the natural attractions, it may take two days to thoroughly explore each loop.

Accommodations are located in six different locations, affording a lot of flexibility for overnight stays. If you don't want to drive all of Yellowstone's roads, the best way to tour is to take the Yellow Bus vintage White Motor Company buses that ferry visitors on guided wildlife-watching tours, photo safaris, sunset tours, tours into the heart of the geyser region, wildlife-rich areas like Hayden Valley, the Northern Range, and more. The distinctive antique yellow vehicles have retractable canvas roofs and panoramic windows, making them ideal for sightseeing.

As you come into the park on the Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway, you'll be passing the Fishing Bridge Visitor Information Center and Trailside Museum, a distinctive stone-and-log style structure known as "parkitecture," one of several prototypes for park buildings. Today, the museum highlights the ecology of Yellowstone Lake. 307-344-2450.





Lake Yellowstone Hotel, 235 Yellowstone Lake Road, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
307-344-7311

Situated on the shores of shimmering Yellowstone Lake, the Lake Yellowstone Hotel takes you back to the elegance of the 1920s. Restorations have stayed true to its old-fashioned roots by incorporating charming interior furnishings with a colonial-style exterior. The building is painted a fitting golden yellow inside and out. Enjoy dinner in the dining room. Be sure to make dinner reservations in advance.

DAY FOUR

This morning, it's time to travel the South Loop Road in Yellowstone starting at the West Thumb and Grant Village, both of which sit at the edge of Yellowstone Lake. The small facility at the start of the 1925 West Thumb Geyser Basin boardwalk, is a good example of National Park Service historic ranger-station architecture. You can learn more about Yellowstone's fires over the years in the exhibit hall at the Grant Village Visitor Center. Ranger programs and restrooms are also available. 307-344-2650.

Next up, Old Faithful and the Old Faithful Visitor Center where you can marvel at the famous geyser from the tall front windows. Delve into the natural wonders of the park in the exhibit hall, check the ranger programs on offer, and use the restrooms. 307-344-2751 Between Old Faithful and Madison, take the Firehole Canyon Drive, Firehole Lake Drive, the drive to the Fountain Paint Pot, Lower Geyser Basin, Midway Geyser Basin, Biscuit Basin, Black Sand Basin and the Upper Geyser Basin right at Old Faithful.



Further on the South Park Loop Road, Madison is the home of the Madison Information Center and Trailside Museum. Located about halfway between Old Faithful and West Yellowstone, this structure is another good example of "parkitecture" from the 1930s. You can sign up for a ranger program and use the bathrooms here. 307-344-2821.

From there, it's off to Canyon Village, where you can learn about the geologic story of the area, including the Yellowstone volcano, and view a room-size relief map of the park at the Canyon Visitor Education Center. Be sure to watch the 20-minute film. Restrooms available 24 hours a day. 307-344-2550





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Canyon Lodge & Cabins Yellowstone National Park, 41 Clover Lane, Yellowstone National Park, WY, 82190, 307-344-7311 The largest sustainable lodging in the National Park collection, is also the largest hotel in Yellowstone.

Destination Distinctive Dining and Retail

Canyon General Store & Canyon Fountain and Grill 2 Canyon Village Loop Road, Canyon Village, Yellowstone National Park, WY, 82190, 307-242-7377 Opened in 1957, the fun look and feel of the structure recalls America's first ventures by automobile to the scenic West. The store offers a wide selection including Native American-inspired collectibles. The Canyon Fountain and Grill is a nostalgic diner serving hamburgers, fries, and shakes.

DAY FIVE

Before you leave the Canyon Lodge area today, be sure to take the North Rim Scenic Drive that takes you to Inspiration Point along the Yellowstone River and the South Rim Scenic Drive takes you to Artist Point. There are also views of the Upper Falls.

Next up is the Norris Geyser Basin Museum and Information Center which overlooks the Geyser Basin. This historic building was built to serve as a “trailside museum” to serve people traveling in their own cars without a guide in the 1930s. Restrooms are located in the parking lot. 307-344-2812. The Norris Campground and Museum of the National Park Ranger is staffed by retired park rangers who celebrate the history of the Park Ranger profession. After visiting here, you’ll be headed through the basin to view the steam vents and geysers.



From there, it's time to head to Mammoth Hot Springs. Walk on the upper and lower boardwalks above the steaming hydrothermal features or take a drive around the vibrant travertine terraces with approximately 50 hot springs.

This area is also home to the Albright Visitor Center, Historic Fort Yellowstone, the Mammoth Springs Hotel, the Upper Terrace Drive, and the headquarters of Yellowstone National Park. Explore exhibits to learn more about the wildlife and history of Yellowstone and check the ranger programs on offer. The visitor center has free Wi-Fi. 307-344-2263. Accommodations further on, at the Roosevelt Lodge will put you in the most convenient place to exit the park tomorrow morning on the Beartooth Highway.





Roosevelt Lodge and Dining Room, 100 Roosevelt Lodge Road, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, 307-344-7311

Built near one of Theodore Roosevelt's favorite places, this rustic log lodge, Yellowstone's tribute to the Old West, boasts two stone fireplaces, a family-style restaurant, lobby bar and front porch made for rocking and relaxing. Cabin-style lodging and a large corral operation contribute to the "cowboy-feel."

DAY SIX



Beartooth Highway

This morning as you leave Yellowstone National Park to the north, you'll be traveling the Beartooth Highway, a dramatic All American Road. It's a dramatic drive! That's the main calling card of this All American Road that famed writer Charles Kuralt termed "America's most beautiful highway." It's named the Beartooth because, at the pass, at the highest point, there's a perfectly formed glacially-shaped mountain which the Crow thought looked just like a bear's tooth. Nearby, a whole mountainside looks like a full set of teeth.

As you climb over 5,000 feet through the mountainous terrain, the drive is punctuated by hundreds of glacial lakes, over 20 mountain peaks reaching skyward beyond 12,000 feet, waterfalls, and vivid wildflowers that bloom when the highway is open between Memorial Day and Columbus Day. Breathtaking views of the Beartooth Mountains accompany you on the entire route between Red Lodge and Cooke City, rewarding you with stunning views at every turn. Hairpin turns magically emerge as you travel to nearly 11,000 feet and into the clouds. The terrain is so rugged that only Native Americans traversed the pass until General

Sheridan took the route in 1882. In 1936, when the road was built with tight switchbacks to get up and down the canyon walls, it was considered an engineering marvel. As you round corners, don't be surprised if you spot a moose or grizzly bear among the wildflowers or on the glaciers. They're used to having the land to themselves.

Cooke City/Silver Gate

For decades, Cooke City was known as Miner's Camp, until it was renamed for the Pacific Railroad contractor working to bring the railroad to the mountain camps in the New World Mining District. Like so many western mountain towns, people came and went with the fortunes of mining. Where there was once two smelters, two sawmills, three general stores, two hotels, and a local meat market, is now home to about 100 hardy souls. The tiny town of Silver Gate began when a family that wanted to work on the Beartooth Highway purchased the original land. Instead of coming from mining, the name of Silver Gate came from the silver haze which seemed to shine over the mountains.

Cooke City Montana Museum

The Cooke City Montana Museum has several permanent exhibits on the history of the three communities of Colter Pass, Cooke City, and Silver Gate, as well as exhibits on the Beartooth Highway, local schools, tourism, local women and winter. 206 Main Street, Cooke City-Silver Gate, MT 59020, 406-838-2203. M-Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun 10AM-4PM, Free

Destination Distinctive Dining

Miners Saloon 208 Main Street, Cooke City-Silver Gate, MT 59020, 406-838-2214

Enjoy quality food made as the seasons change with local fresh, and sustainable foods.

Beartooth Café 211 Main Street, Cooke City-Silver Gate, MT 59020, 406-838-2475

A beautiful old log structure decorated with everything from antique beer signs and mining artifacts, to fine art by local artists.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Cooke City Store 101 Main Street, Cooke City, MT, 59020, 406-838-2234 Featuring many of the original fixtures from the late 1800's, this General Store still uses the original hand crank cash register and sells penny candy.

Chief Joseph Scenic Byway

From the Beartooth, you can catch the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway back to Cody. The Byway follows the path taken by the Nez Perce as they fled the US Cavalry in 1877. Several interpretive signs along the route tell more of the story. Along with learning the story of the road, you'll be driving through National Forest for most of the route, enjoying spectacular vistas, beautiful scenery, and mountains at every twist and turn. Distant views of the Beartooth Mountains are complemented with views of the Beartooth Plateau and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. Unlike the Beartooth, the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway is not a high-elevation drive. It does cross Dead Indian Pass at 8048 feet, but for the most part passes through a series of open valleys, surrounded with tall, forested mountains. Be sure to stop at the scenic pullout at Mile 1.2, Dead Indian Summit Overlook at Mile 13.3, and the Sunlight Bridge at Mile 23.

