

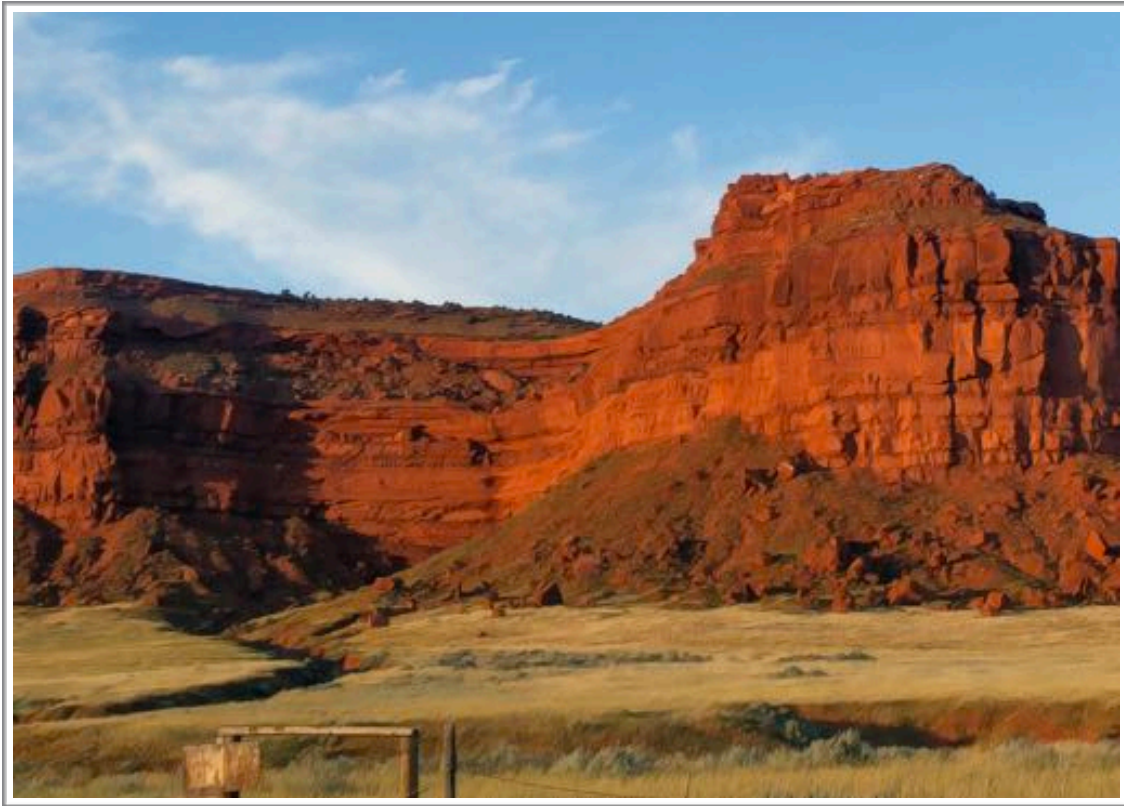
The South Big Horn/Red Wall Back Country Byway

The Bighorn Road Less Traveled



3 Days/ 2 Nights

Gateway City: Casper, Wyoming



The remoteness deep in the southern end of the Big Horn Mountains attracted ranchers as a place to graze their cattle, and they still do. In fact, the 102-mile South Big Horn/Red Wall Back Country Byway traces old livestock trails through a part of Wyoming that's so remote you're more likely to see a flock of sheep than another car. As you begin the drive on CR 125 east of Casper, slow, methodical oil field derricks add motion to the otherwise vast, silent prairie. Grazing antelopes will likely ignore you. Slowly gaining elevation as you pass through Fifty Mile Flat, you'll begin to see a few pines sprouting up and wind-carved rock formations. More red mesas signal you're close to the Red Wall, a long escarpment of red sandstone and shale - the same wall where Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid hung out and hid their money in the Hole-in-the-Wall. At the north end of the horseshoe-shaped road, you'll discover Roughlock Hill where emigrants maneuvered their covered wagons down the steep rocky slope by locking their wagon wheels and skidding the wagons down. Nearby are a few rock cairns with plaques commemorate the old-time sheep herding men and women in the region. Take it easy on this mostly gravel route. Slow down and enjoy a one-of-a-kind journey.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting and ending your journey on the backway in Casper. On Day One, tour the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, Fort Caspar Museum, the Nicolayson Art Museum and the Casper Planetarium before staying at Red Butte Ranch.

On Day Two, visit the Tate Geological Museum before heading out on the South Big Horn/Red Wall Back Country Backway. You'll be driving the entire 102 miles, since there are no services on the road. Make sure the tires on your car are good and your gas tank full. At the end of the drive, return to Casper.

On Day Three, enjoy the rest of the Casper College museums, Casper Mountain and the Bridal Trail. From there, if you're traveling another Wyoming Scenic Byway, we wish you safe passage, or a safe and pleasant journey home.

DAY ONE



Casper

Casper, named for nearby Fort Casper, began when the tracks of the Fremont, Elkhart and Missouri Valley Railroad arrived in 1888. Soon after the railroad arrived the town became an important shipping point for cattle and wool, from the earliest buildings at A and McKinley streets. When the railroad platted lots further west, the center of town became the corner of Center and Second streets, where it is today. During its first years, Casper was a rough-and-tumble town with numerous saloons and raucous culture. Early sheriffs worked to keep order among rowdy cowboys and celebrating sheepherders. Casper became an oil boomtown when the Salt Creek Oil Field was discovered in the 1890s. Originally planned as a stopping point on the expanding Wyoming Central Railway, Casper instead became the center of the region's petroleum industry. Today's Casper has great restaurants and unique retail shops, in a city surrounded with recreational opportunities.

National Historic Trails Interpretive Center

Celebrating the Oregon, Mormon, California, Pony Express, Bridger and Bozeman trails, the National Historical Trails Interpretive Center commemorates the Native American history of the region, as well as early explorers and pioneers who traveled the corridors west. Hands-on, interactive exhibits, multi-media programs and virtual education opportunities illustrate the historic westward expansion.

1501 North Poplar Street, Casper, WY, 82601, 307-261-7700, Daily 8AM-5PM,
Free



Fort Caspar Museum

This fully reconstructed frontier outpost includes a stockade, a replica of the Mormon ferry that operated here from 1847-1849 and an interpretive center illustrating Casper's first 100 years. Exhibits are enhanced with authentic objects from the museum's collection, complemented with interactive videos.

4001 Fort Casper Road, Casper, WY 82604, 307-235-8462, May 1-Sept 30,
8AM-5PM Adults \$4



Nicolaysen Art Museum

More than 25,000 square feet of galleries are filled with contemporary art from the central Rockies and high plains. The Discovery Center is a hands-on art studio, where everyone can celebrate the visual arts.

400 East Collins Drive, Casper, WY 82601, 307-235-5247, Tu-Sat 10AM-5PM,
Adults \$5



Casper Planetarium

Wyoming's oldest planetarium is now sporting the latest digital planetarium technology, with a virtual starship, time machine and regular programming in a full-dome presentation similar to an IMAX theatre.

904 North Poplar Street, Casper, WY, 82601, 307-577-0310, Office M-F 9AM-5PM, Public Shows Tu-F 4PM & Sat 7PM, Gift Shop and Lobby Displays, M-F 2PM-5PM





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Red Butte Ranch, 8550 South Bessemer Boulevard, Casper, WY 82604, 307-472-3784

Nestled among the trees along the North Platte River, this authentic ranch stay comes with an Oregon Trail historical marker, indicating where the first pioneer cabin was built in 1812.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Fire Rock Steakhouse 6100 East Second Street, Casper, WY 82609 307-234-2333 Bold flavors grilled over open flame.

Backwards Distilling Company 214 South Wolcott Street, Casper, WY 82601, 307-337-1255 High quality spirits amazing sensations.

Racca's Pizzeria Napoletana 430 South Ash Street, Casper, WY 82601, 307-337-2444 Classic Italian.

Branding Iron 129 West 2nd Street, Casper, WY, 82601, 307-333-6804 An up and coming gourmet burger restaurant located in downtown.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Mustard Seed 120 West 1st Street, Casper, WY, 82601, 307-337-3301 Casper's best destination for distinctive gifts, one-of-a-kind clothing and decor, an indulgent bath and body collection, culinary tools, gourmet food items, and more.

Floral Rhino 139 South Center Street, Casper, WY, 82601, 307-265-0063 A wonderfully eclectic ever-changing collection of jewelry, belt buckles, purses, scarves, candles, witty greeting cards, wall art, gift books, home décor, kitchen items, laptop covers, phone holders, pillows, aprons, and seasonal items.

DAY TWO

Tate Geological Museum

The Tate houses a collection of over 6,000 fossil and mineral specimens gifted by Marion and Inez Tate. Highlights include Dee the Mammoth, an 11,600-year-old Columbian Mammoth which lived in the American West during the Pleistocene, or Ice Age, the skull of Nicole the Torosaurus, the Mesozoic Marine, exhibits featuring the underwater world that existed in Wyoming during much of the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, and the Hall of Minerals.

2332 Lisco Drive, Casper, WY, 82601, 307-268-2447, M-F 10AM-4PM, Sat 10AM-3PM



South Bighorn/Redwall Back Country Byway

Leaving out of Casper, you'll be turning north on CR 125, before catching CR 110, CR 105 and CR 104, that will take you to Waltman. From there, head east on US Route 20/26 back to Casper.

DAY THREE

Casper College Museums

In addition to the Tate, Casper College hosts two other museums in Casper:

Werner Wildlife Museum

Founded in 1964 by Herman Werner, this museum at Casper College has grown from the original 36 exhibits to almost 400 birds, fish and animals. The main focus is on wildlife native to Wyoming, complemented by wildlife from around the world. The Lair is an interactive area for children, as well as a garden, bird feeding station and picnic area.

405 East 15th Street, Casper, WY, 82601, 307-235-2108, M-F 10AM-4PM, FREE



Western History Center

Specialized archives which provide access to the collections that reflect aspects of Western and Wyoming history. Materials include research, notes, photographs, maps newspapers, with information about the City of Casper, Casper Mountain, Natrona County, cabins, camps, and forts, including unique collections such as that of the Oregon-California Trails Association.

125 College Drive, Casper, WY 82601, 307-268-2680

Casper Mountain

Arguably the most iconic landmark in central Wyoming is Casper Mountain. The mountain boasts dense forests, stunning vistas, abundant wildlife, beautiful trails, and stunning views of the basin. A beautiful waterfall where hiking to watch the clear, rushing water cascade down the mountainside, delivers one of nature's best offerings. There are hikes for every level of experience and capabilities.

Garden Creek Road at the base of Casper Mountain, Casper, WY, 82601, M-Sun 7:30AM-9PM, Free





Bridle Trail

The trailhead begins in Rotary Park in Casper and offers spectacular views of the Garden Creek Falls, the city below and the surrounding countryside. The main loop is almost five miles long, rising over 1200 feet, with a 'tunnel' about midway known as "split rock". The average hiker can complete the outermost loop in about 3 hours but it requires much stamina and cardiovascular health. If you're pressed for time and energy, opt for a shorter loop on the west side of the park.