

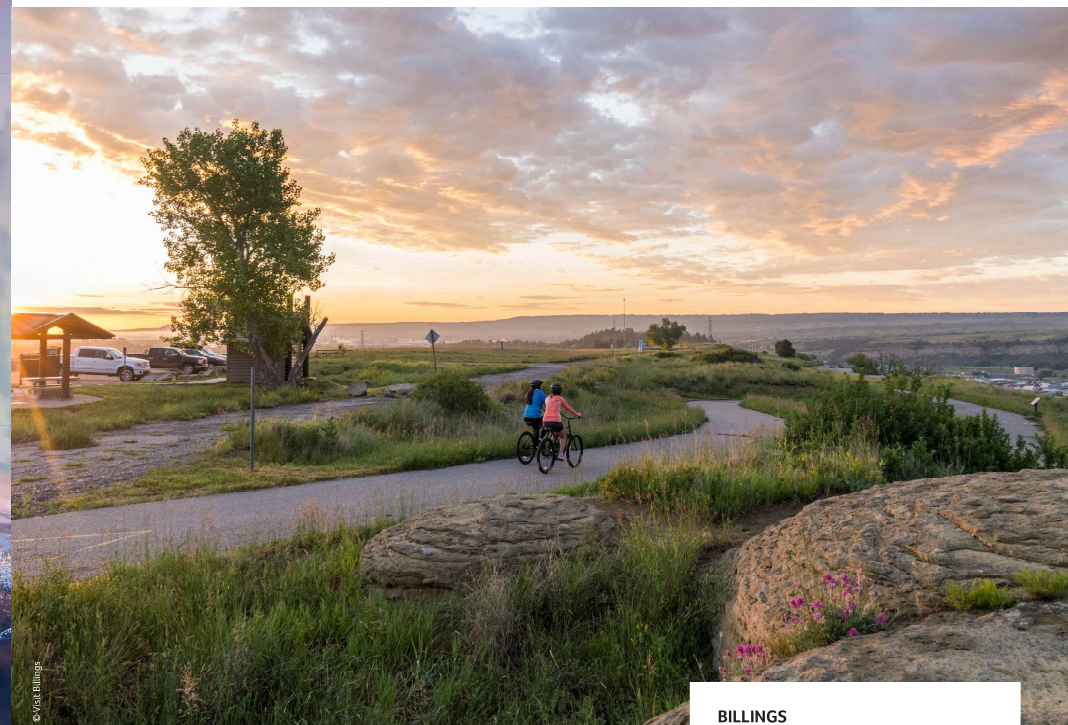
WA | OR | ID | MT | AK | BC | WY TRAVEL & LIFE

A large, stylized number 52 with a 3D effect, set against a green background. The number is surrounded by various travel-related images and text, including 'Montana', 'Greetings', and 'The Wacky Front of Vancouver'.

Getaways

15

Road Tripping to Montana's 3 Bs



© Visit Billings

BY SUSIE WALL

Three of Montana's most dynamic towns lie in a straight line along I-90 separated by just 220 miles. The distance between Billings, Bozeman and Butte may be short by Montana standards, but the feel and personalities of each could not be more diverse. Plan a visit to the three Montana "Bs" to discover what makes each stop unique.

BILLINGS

Montana's largest city offers a wealth of unique activities and a variety of dining and lodging options while still maintaining a small-town feel.

Kick off your visit with a bird's eye view of town along the Rimrocks, imposing sandstone cliffs that afford sweeping views in every direction. Swords Park is the perfect place to park your car and explore the trails that run across the top of the rocks.

LIVE

BOLDLY. BRAVELY. BEYOND.



ADVENTURE

DARE TO EXPLORE COWLITZ COUNTY

www.visitmtsthelens.com





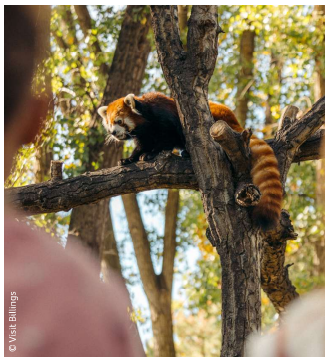
Make your next stop downtown at the Western Heritage Center where permanent and traveling exhibits tell captivating stories of Billings and the surrounding areas yesterday and today. Check the center's website for upcoming events like the High Noon Lecture Series and historic walking tours when historians regale visitors with tales of Calamity Jane and other notable and nefarious residents.

Continue your tour of Billings' wild side at the lovely and lush ZooMontana. Most animals are rescues that hail from Montana and comparable climates across the world allowing them to feel at home during Billings' harsh winters. Delight in watching wolverines chase each other on grassy hills and seeing red pandas scale logs to their tree-top shelters.

Before heading back downtown, relax for a while with a flight at Yellowstone Cellars & Winery. Taste a variety of wines produced onsite using grapes from Washington's Yakima Valley. The menu is dominated by reds like cabernet franc with a handful of whites for a balance.

Settle down in the heart of Billings at the luxurious Northern Hotel. Grab dinner downstairs at TEN and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or beer before hitting the streets for some serious barhopping. Doc Harper's Tavern celebrates Billings' past and present with a menu of classic cocktails and modern martinis. Bar MT lives up to its name offering a staggering selection of Montana-crafted beers.

▼ Billings' historic Northern Hotel, originally built in 1904 and host to presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, was destroyed by fire in 1940. The current ten-story structure, built in 1942, underwent complete renovation and reopened in 2013. The hotel was fit with the latest technology, making it one of the most advanced hotels in the country, featuring 160 rooms and fine dining.



BOZEMAN

A two-hour drive west brings you to the vibrant college town of Bozeman. Despite its small size and reputation as a playground for the wealthy, Bozeman's youthful and active population, and its proximity to some of the most scenic country in Montana, makes it the perfect place to explore indoors and out.

The Museum of the Rockies is world-renowned for its collection of dinosaur fossils and skeletons. You could easily spend hours gawking at bones of these giants, but there is much more here to explore including the planetarium and the Living History Farm.

The American Computer and Robotics Museum is not as well-known as the Museum of the Rockies, but it should be. Small but mighty, the museum is packed with exhibits that highlight the history of human innovation including 17th-century prints of Shakespeare's MacBeth and the original Apple I computer.



▲ The American Computer and Robotics Museum artifacts trace over 4,000 years of computing history and information technology. The museum's mission is "to explore the past and imagine the future of the Information Age through thought-provoking exhibits, innovative storytelling, and the bold exchange of ideas."



You deserve to relax after all that learning so head over to Bozeman Hot Springs. Take your pick of 12 pools inside and out that range in temperatures from 59 to 106 degrees. Every Thursday and Sunday evenings, take in a soak while listening to live bands play on the outdoor stage.

As with most college towns, Bozeman offers a wide variety of dining options. Sweet Chili Bistro serves Cantonese dishes using local ingredients whenever possible. Over at MAP Brewing Company, combine

a Strange Cattle IPA, a burger smothered in house-made huckleberry jam, and stunning views of the Bridger Mountains.

You should expect to pay a premium for lodging in Bozeman proper, but the bill is easier to swallow when you avoid the chain hotels and book a room at the locally owned Sapphire Motel. The motel offers personalized service with a retro vibe where bright comfy rooms open onto an expansive courtyard with plenty of places to sit and breath in the crisp mountain air.

BUTTE

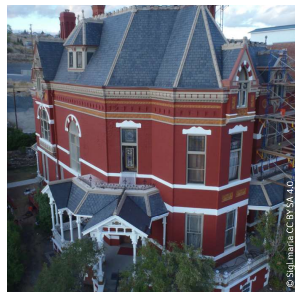
Back on I-90, head west over Homestake Pass to Butte. Once the "richest hill on earth" with a population pushing 100,000 during the copper-mining boom, Butte suffered the inevitable bust when the price of copper bottomed out in the 1980s. Many of the mines may be shuttered, but what remains is a town with fascinating history at every turn and a tight-knit community of residents that share a fierce sense of civic pride.

Simply walk the streets of Uptown (named because it sits on a hill above the rest of town) to learn about Butte's rich

and wild past or choose from a handful of guided tours led by local history buffs.

Old Butte Historical Adventures provides walking tours that lead you along the streets of Uptown then underground to a hidden speakeasy and the dank dark cells of the old city jail.

The Copper King Mansion was once the opulent home of copper tycoon, William Andrews Clark. The home retains its grandeur today operating as a bed and breakfast with daily docent-led tours that explain the history of the mansion and the life of one of Butte's wealthiest residents.

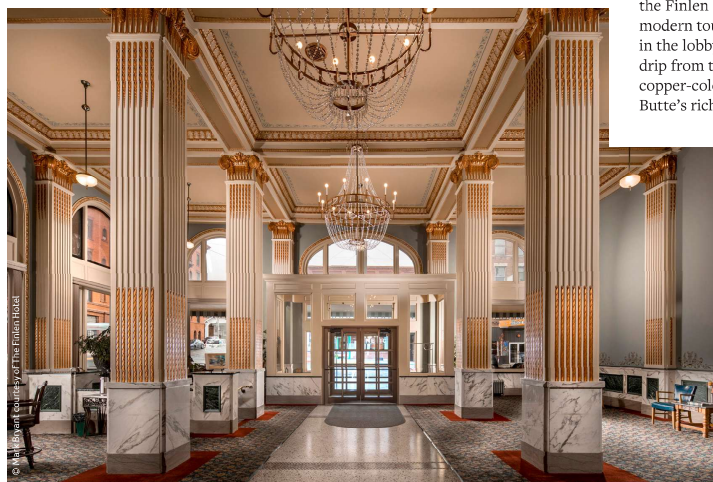


Butte's culinary scene celebrates the ethnic diversity of miners that came from around the globe to work in the mines. Sit down to a meal at Pekin Noodle Parlor, the country's oldest family-owned Chinese restaurant. Grab a selection of Italian meats and cheeses from Front Street Market. Dig into Butte's most famous dish, thanks to Cornish miners, at Joe's Pasty Shop where fluffy pockets of dough come stuffed with savory meat and potatoes slathered in a rich brown gravy.

Conclude your visit to Butte at the Hotel Finlen. Built in 1924 in the French-style of New York's Hotel Astor, the Finlen offers historic rooms with a modern touch. Sip your morning coffee in the lobby where crystal chandeliers drip from the ceiling and gleaming copper-colored pillars give a nod to Butte's rich past. 🍷

When you go

- ▶ Visit Billings visitbillings.com
- ▶ Visit Bozeman visit-bozeman.com
- ▶ Visit Butte visitbutte.com



Explore

10

Classic Winter Adventures

Scan to see them all

**EUGENE
CASCADES
AND COAST**

WINTER WELLNESS, REIMAGINED

A GETAWAY THAT GOES FURTHER

Imagine a **Pacific Northwest wellness escape** that goes beyond the spa. In Surrey, Canada, wellness is crisp, forested trails beneath towering sequoias, a morning sauna and cold plunge at a serene farm retreat, and mindful indulgence in authentic global cuisines—all within a 30 min drive.

Just **two hours north of Seattle**, discover a winter getaway that leaves you restored and inspired.

DISCOVER
Surrey

Location: Redwood Park, Surrey, BC, Canada