



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

MONTANA

10 ULTIMATE ROAD TRIPS

THE BEST
OF BIG SKY
COUNTRY

PLANNING
YOUR TRIP

lands where dinosaurs once roamed.

WIDE-OPEN SPACES Head east from Glasgow to Wolf Point, home of July's annual **Wild Horse Stampede**. Detour up MT-13 for a back-in-time visit to Scobey, home of the **Daniels County Museum and Pioneer Town**. Or, head north on MT-16 to look for white pelicans at the **Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge**. **Eat & Stay:** **Bergie's Café & Gifts**, Nashua, and **Microtel Inn**, Sidney.

BORDER CROSSING View Western art and pioneer artifacts at **The MonDak Heritage Center** in **Sidney** (closed Sundays and Mondays). From here, take a side trip to the **Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site**, once the fur-trading hub of the Upper Missouri. The site straddles the Montana-North Dakota border. **Eat & Stay:** **Monte Carlo Pizza** and **Astoria Hotel & Suites**, Glendive.

PLAY PALEONTOLOGIST In Glendive, pre-book a fossil hunt with **Baisch's Dinosaur Digs** (April to October). See a Triceratops horridus skull and hike through the badlands at **Makoshika State Park**, one of two Glendive stops (**Frontier Gateway Museum** is the other) on the **Montana Dinosaur Trail**. **Eat & Stay:** **Mexico Lindo** and **La Quinta Inn & Suites**.

BACK COUNTRY Head west to hook up with the **Big Sky Byway**, a 105-mile scenic route following a section of the historic **Regina-Yellowstone (R-Y) Trail**. Stop at the **Byway** kiosk in Terry to learn more about the drive. At the northern end of the route, visit the **Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum** to see "**Peck's Rex**,™" one of the world's most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeletons. **Eat & Stay:** **Gateway Club** and **Fort Peck Hotel**, Fort Peck (May to November).

HYDRO POWER Before driving back to Glasgow, explore any of the six recreation areas surrounding **Fort Peck Lake**. See **Fort Peck Dam** and take a free tour of the **Fort Peck Power Plant Museum** (Memorial Day to Labor Day). Downstream from the dam, hike the **Beaver Creek Nature Trail** and look for elk and bison on the **Leo B. Coleman Wildlife Exhibit** driving route. **Eat & Stay:** **Sam's Supper Club** and **Cottonwood Inn**, Glasgow.

10. Bitterroot Parkway

The Route: Missoula > U.S. 93 > Lost Trail Pass > MT-43 > Big Hole National Battlefield > MT-43 > U.S. 93 > MT-269 > U.S. 93 > Missoula
Total Distance: approximately 230 miles
Gateway Airport: Missoula International Airport, Missoula

DIG DEEP into Montana's roots on a four-day drive through the history-rich Bitterroot Valley. The down-and-back route crosses the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails, as well as the Continental Divide. Along the way, bunk in a hand-hewn log cabin and camp under the stars. Watch for moose, elk, and deer. Soak in natural hot springs. And, depending on the season, go skiing, skating, hiking, or horseback riding.

ICE AGE At Missoula's **Montana Natural History Center**, get a free driving map of the proposed **Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail**, and visit some local **Glacial Lake Missoula** landmarks. Walk in the footsteps of explorers near Lolo at **Travelers' Rest State Park**, the only site on the **Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail** with a confirmed expedition campsite.

Eat & Stay: **Lolo Hot Springs**, Lolo.

PLAY DAY Continue south to the **Historic Darby Ranger Station Visitor's Center and Museum**. Inside, find out about **Bitterroot Valley** activities and see Forest Service historical exhibits. In Darby, buy Montana-made huckleberry treats—including fudge, gummy bears, coffee, and taffy—at the **Old West Gallery & Old West Candy Store**. Weather permitting, spend the afternoon biking, hiking, or swimming at **Lake Como**. **Eat & Stay:** **Nap's Grill**, Hamilton, and **Alta Ranch**, Darby.

SKI & SEE In winter, make this a ski day. There's downhill at **Lost Trail Powder Mountain** (just before **Lost Trail Pass**) and cross-country loop trails accessible from 7,251-foot **Chief Joseph Pass**, where you cross the Continental Divide. Or, drive on to hike the trails and tour the exhibits at **Big Hole National Battlefield**, sacred ground to the Nez Perce people and part of the four-state **Nez Perce National Historical Park**. **Eat & Stay:** **Sula Country Store & Resort**, Sula.

WHERE MONTANA BEGAN On the return trip to Missoula, stop in Stevensville to tour (April 15 to October 15) the historic **St. Mary's Mission & Museum**. The complex, established in 1841, includes a **Salish** encampment and American Indian artifacts. Visit nearby **Fort Owen State Park**, site of the first permanent white settlement in Montana. **Eat & Stay:** **Bitter Root Brewery**, Hamilton, and **The Stevensville Hotel**, Stevensville.

EXPLORE MORE ONLINE Get additional road trip information—including interactive maps, special events, and more must-see stops—at nationalgeographic.com/montana/roadtrips.

Bottom left to right: Try a homemade donut at Windmill Village Bakery, Ravalli. Take a soak at Norris Hot Springs. Hunt for morels, a fungus native to Montana, at many of the local farmers' markets.



DONNIE SEXTON (DONUTS), LYNN DONALDSON (SPRINGS AND MUSHROOMS), TYLER METCALE (CANOES)