







CARBON COUNTY WYOMING

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Mineral Hot Springs · Historic Walking Tours
10+ Unique Western Museums · Wildlife
Historic Wyoming Frontier Prison · Local Events
Rodeos · Excellent Outdoor Recreation



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CARBON COUNTY VISITORS' COUNCIL

discovercarboncounty.com PO Box 1017 | Rawlins, WY 82301 800-228-3547 • 307-324-3020











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CARBON COUNTY, **WYOMING**

is known for its diversity of landscapes, wide open spaces, delicious food, natural and historic attractions, abundant wildlife, dazzling sunsets and friendly people.

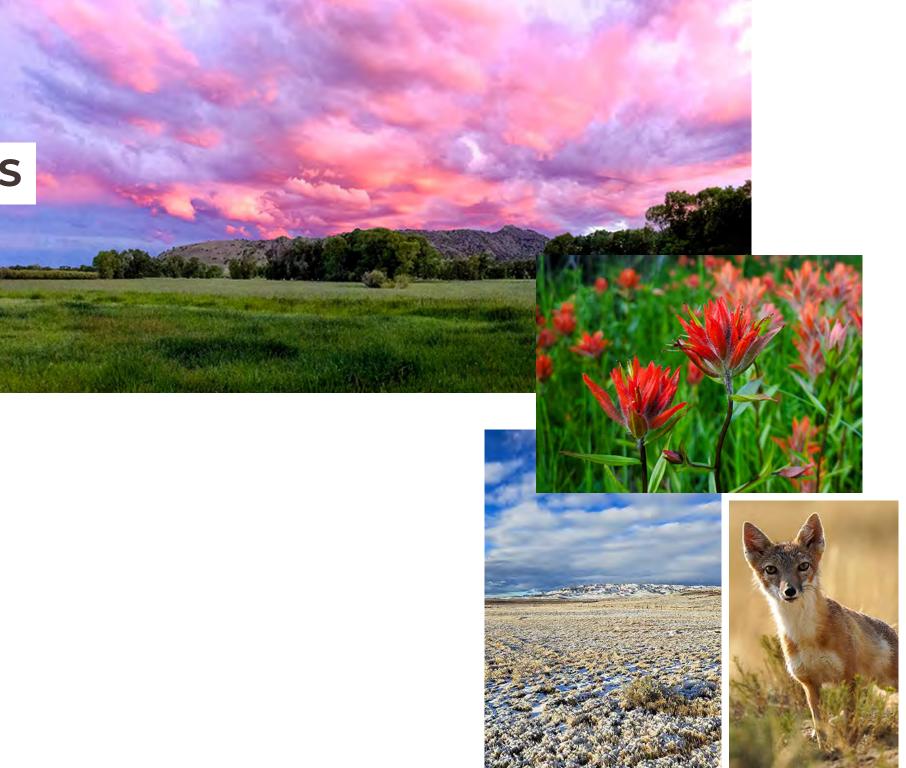
Take the scenic road less traveled to explore pristine mountains, beautiful deserts, rivers teeming with "blue ribbon" trout, mineral hot springs and uncrowded trails.

To help make the most of your visit, we have included itineraries to soak in mineral hot springs, tour museums and historic sites, fish, golf, hike, take scenic drives, see wildlife and more.

Come to Carbon County and leave the crowds behind.



CONTENTS





ABOUT US

Carbon County is 7,897 square miles from the mountains to the deserts. 53% of the lands are public lands, with the largest portions managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service. Our unique combination of great public access and an expansive area allows for countless exciting discoveries and authentic experiences.

Historically, Carbon County has been traversed by the Overland Trail, the Oregon Trail, and the Mormon Trail. With the arrival of the first Transcontinental Railroad (Union Pacific) and the Lincoln Highway, settlement and expansion increased throughout the county. 10 museums and 1 historic site preserve our history through unique artifacts and stories.

The population of Carbon County is largely rural, with most living within the communities of Rawlins, Sinclair, Saratoga, Encampment, Riverside, Hanna, Medicine Bow, Elk Mountain, Baggs, Dixon and Savery. There is a wide variety of places to stay, eat, and shop throughout Carbon County, Wyoming.



MAPS & INFORMATION

Bureau of Land Management Rawlins. WY · 307-328-4200

Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest

Saratoga, WY · 307-326-5250

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Cheyenne, WY · 307-777-4600

Wyoming Road and Travel

(888) 996-7623 · wyoroad.info

MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

1 Baggs Outlaw Stop 221 N. Penland St. · Baggs 307-383-7262 littlesnakerivermuseum.com

Carbon County Museum 904 W Walnut St. · Rawlins 307-328-2740 carboncountymuseum.org

 Elk Mountain Museum 105 Bridge St. · Elk Mountain 307-348-7037 elkmountainmuseum.com

A Fort Fred Steele State Historic Site Exit 228 on I-80 · Sinclair 307-320-3013 wyoparks.wyo.gov/index.php/places-togo/fort-fred-steele

G Grand Encampment Museum 807 Barnett Ave. · Encampment 307-327-5308 · gemuseum.com

6 Hanna Basin Museum 502 Front St. · Hanna · 307-325-6465 hannabasinmuseum.net

7 Little Snake River Museum 13 County Rd 561 N · Savery 307-383-7262 littlesnakerivermuseum.com

8 Medicine Bow Museum 405 Lincoln Hwy. · Medicine Bow 307-379-2383 medbowmuseum.com

 Parco/Sinclair Museum 300 Lincoln Ave. · Sinclair · 307-324-3058 parcosinclairtheatre.com

10 Saratoga Museum 104 E Constitution Ave. Saratoga · 307-326-5511 saratogamuseumwy.com

Wyoming Frontier Prison 500 W. Walnut St. · Rawlins 307-324-4422 wyomingfrontierprison.org

CARBON COUNTY WYOMING Distances (in miles)	Rawlins	Saratoga	Encampment/ Riverside	Medicine Bow	Hanna	Elk Mountain	Baggs	Dixon	Savery	Denver, CO	Salt Lake City, UT	Yellowstone Nat'l Park South Entrance	Steamboat, CO	Cheyenne, WY	Casper, WY
Rawlins	-	42	62	58	41	46	77	84	88	230	290	248	160	150	114
Saratoga	42	-	20	57	38	44	75	68	62	228	333	280	126	148	152
Encampment/ Riverside	62	18	-	76	58	63	46	39	34	217	333	300	108	136	172
Medicine Bow	58	57	76	-	20	36	135	142	146	186	348	282	182	107	95
Hanna	41	38	58	20	-	16	117	124	130	198	348	331	165	119	116
Elk Mountain	46	44	63	36	16	-	110	103	97	184	336	283	170	105	129
Baggs	77	75	46	135	117	110	-	7	12	242	315	374	80	225	198
Dixon	84	68	39	142	124	103	7	-	6	249	322	381	87	232	20!
Savery	88	62	34	146	130	97	12	6	-	255	328	393	93	238	211

GOLF COURSES

Rochelle Ranch Golf Course

2808 E Rochelle Dr. · Rawlins · 307-324-7121 https://rawlinswy.gov/158/Rochelle-Ranch-Golf-Course

Saratoga Resort Golf Course

601 E Pic Pike Rd. • Saratoga • 307-326-5153 wyomingoutdooradventures.com/saratoga-public-golf-course

Sinclair Golf Course

510 A CR 324 · NE of Sinclair · 307-324-6320

POOLS & STATE PARKS

Rawlins Aquatic Center 1401 Colorado St. · Rawlins · 307-328-9272 https://www.crbl.net/page/aguatic-center

Saratoga Municipal Pool 300 E. Walnut Ave. · Saratoga · 307-326-8338

Saratoga Hobo Hot Pools 300 E. Walnut Ave. · Saratoga · 307-326-8335

Seminoe State Park County Rd 351 · 307-320-3013 · https://wyoparks.wyo.gov/index. php/places-to-go/seminoe

Rawlins is located on I-80, at the crossroads of frontier history and high-plains adventure. Framed by the Great Divide Basin, Sierra Madre Mountain Range, and the Seminoe and Ferris Mountains, Rawlins serves as a gateway community for the Continental Divide Trail and a jumping-off point for anglers and boaters heading to Seminoe Reservoir, Seminoe State Park, and the legendary Miracle Mile.

With comfortable lodging, welcoming parks, and a rich cultural scene, Rawlins offers an unforgettable taste of Wyoming's frontier spirit.

RAWLINS HISTORY

Rawlins traces its origins to 1867 when General John A. Rawlins, chief of staff to the U.S. Army, accompanied a Union Pacific Railroad survey team through the region. Discovering a pristine spring, he declared it "the sweetest water ever tasted," and the site became known as Rawlins Spring—later shortened to Rawlins.

When the railroad arrived in 1868, so did a cast of rough-and-tumble characters—gamblers, outlaws, and vigilantes—bringing both opportunity and lawlessness. Among the most infamous was George "Big Nose" Parrott, a notorious train robber who met an unusual fate. Visit the Carbon County Museum to uncover his bizarre story, including what became of his remains.

As the West expanded, Rawlins' remote location made it the perfect site for Wyoming's first state penitentiary. For 80 years, the **Wyoming Frontier Prison** housed some of the region's most notorious criminals. Today, visitors can tour its eerie corridors, hear tales of daring escapes, and see firsthand the brutal conditions prisoners endured.

Now a nationally recognized **Main Street Community**, Rawlins blends its Wild West roots with modern charm. Historic 19th-century architecture, public art, and the TravelStorys audio tour bring the town's colorful past to life. Locally-owned shops showcase artisan goods, while restaurants serve everything from homestyle comfort food to international flavors. In the heart of downtown. Depot Park features a splash pad, offering a fun spot to cool off on warm summer days.

WHERE TO STAY AND EAT: RAWLINS & SINCLAIR **CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS**

Rawlins KOA Camparound 205 E. Highway 71 · 307-328-2021 koa.com/campgrounds/rawlins

Red Desert Rose Camparound 3101 Wagon Circle Rd. 307-328-1091 · reddesertrose.com Western Hills Camparound 2500 Wagon Circle Rd. • 307-324-2592 westernhillscampground.com

HOTELS & MOTELS

Baymont Inn & Suites Rawlins 2005 E. Daley St. · 307-324-4700 wyndhamhotels.com/baymont

Best Western Cottontree Inn 2221 W. Spruce St. · 307-324-2737 cottontreeinns.com

Brickyard Inn

415 W. Spruce St. · 307-461-2199 brickyardinn.com

Comfort Inn & Suites

2366 E. Cedar St. · 307-324-3663 choicehotels.com

Days Inn

2222 E. Cedar St. · 307-621-9100 wyndhamhotels.com

Econo Lodge

1801 E. Cedar St. · 307-324-2783 choicehotels.com

Fairfield by Marriott

2370 E. Cedar St. · 307-328-5991 marriott.com

First Choice Inn

1904 E. Cedar St. · 307-328-1401 1stchoicerawlins.com

Hampton Inn

406 Airport Rd. • 307-324-2320 hamptoninn3.hilton.com

Holiday Inn Express

201 Airport Rd. · 307-324-3760 ihg.comholidayinnexpress

Labella Motel

1819 W Spruce St. 307-324-2583

Microtel Inn and Suites by Wvndham

812 Locust St. · 307-324-5588 wyndhamhotels.com

Motel 7

1915 W. Spruce St. · 307-324-2263

Pronghorn Inn

1392 S. Higley Blvd. • 307-328-1732

Ouality Inn

1617 W. Spruce St. · 307-328-1600 wyndhamhotels.com

Rawlins Western Lodge

1806 E. Cedar St. · 307-328-5621

Rodeway Inn

1500 W. Spuce St. · 307-324-2905

Super 8 Motel

2338 Wagon Circle Rd. 307-328-0630

wyndhamhotels.com

ASIAN & THAI

Anong's Thai Cuisine 210 5th St. 307-324-6262

Aspen House

318 5th St. · 307-324-4787

Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse

1307 W. Spruce St. · 307-328-5858

MEXICAN

La Abuelita Mexican Restaurant 304 E. Cedar St. · 307-328-5210

Los Jilbertos

1821 E Cedar St. 307-324-0083

Michael's "Big City" Steakhouse

1711 W. Spruce St. • 307-324-4868

Su Casa Cafe in Sinclair

705 E. Lincoln Ave. · 307-328-1745

SPECIALTY

Carbon Coffee

410 W. Cedar St. · 307-321-2667

Deb B's Family Espresso

1902 E. Cedar St. · 307-324-2919

Good Days Tea House 509 West Cedar St.

Mukwano Coffee

1410 West Pine St. · 307- 328-5021

Starbucks

2409 Plaza St. · 307- 417-6462

AMERICAN FOOD

Buck's Sports Grill

401 W. Cedar St. · 307-328-5581

Cappy's Restaurant

2351 Spruce St. · 307-324-4847

Country 6 Bar & Grill

609 Locust St. · 307-370-9000

Country Pride

1400 S. Higley Blvd. • 307-324-8722

Denny's

I-80 & Johnson Rd. · 307-324-0078

Michael's "Big City" Steakhouse

1711 W. Spruce St. · 307-324-4868

Penny's Diner

2005 E. Daley · 307-324-4700

Peppermill Bar & Cactus Jack's

1602 Inverness Blvd. • 307-324-8100

Stinker I-80 Travel Plaza & Restaurant I-80 & Exit 221 · 307-324-4407

Turnbuckle Lounge at Best Western

2221 W. Spruce St. · 307-324-2737

PIZZA & ITALIAN

Domino's

312 W. Cedar St. · 307-328-1400

Pizza Hut

506 Higley Blvd. • 307-324-1000

Shoqunz Pizzeria

309 W. Cedar St. · 307-328-5550

FAST FOOD

Burger King

2510 E. Cedar St. · 307-324-3866

Taco Bell

2421 Plaza St. · 307-328-5890

McDonald's

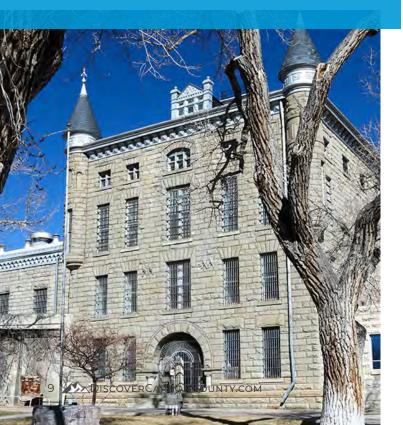
2225 Plaza St. · 307-324-7377

Subway (2 locations)

2014 E. Cedar St. · 307-324-6130 1400 S. Higley Blvd. · 307-328-2103



Rawlins & Sinclair BEST 3-DAY ITINERARY



DAY 1 - MUSEUMS & HISTORIC DOWNTOWN RAWLINS

Step into the past with a day of discovery, exploring Rawlins' rich history, legendary characters, and vibrant downtown. From outlaws and lawmen to railroaders and frontier settlers, Rawlins has been a crossroads of adventure and ambition for over 150 years.

Begin your journey at the Carbon County Museum. Explore the new "Justice and Law Enforcement in Carbon County" exhibit, which delves into the stories of frontier justice, notorious criminals, and the officers who upheld the law. "How Did We Get Here: Travels Through Carbon County" highlights the roads, rails, and trails that shaped the region. Visitors can also see the infamous remains of Big Nose George Parrott, hear the ringing of the historic fire truck bell, and browse collections featuring Native American culture, early ranching life, and the impact of the Union Pacific Railroad. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am to 5pm, year-round.

Next, step inside the Wyoming Frontier Prison, a towering stone fortress that once housed the state's most notorious criminals. These guided tours offer an immersive look at prison life, escape attempts, and infamous inmates. Walk through dimly lit cell blocks and hear stories of daring breakouts and harsh punishments—from hangings to the gas chamber. Tours run daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day; call ahead for offseason availability.

After a morning of Wild West history, grab a meal in Rawlins, where restaurants serve everything from sizzling steaks and wood-fired pizza to Thai cuisine and classic American favorites. Then, spend the afternoon exploring Historic Downtown Rawlins admire 19th-century architecture, browse locally



owned boutiques, and follow the self-guided mural and audio walking tours that reveal the town's hidden stories. For a break, Depot Park offers a splash pad for kids and a relaxing spot to take in the surrounding artwork and historic charm.

DAY 2 - TEE OFF, TOUR A FORT, & EXPLORE WYOMING'S **INDUSTRIAL PAST**

SEASON: APRIL - SEPTEMBER

Start your day with a round at Rochelle Ranch Golf Course, recognized by Golfweek as one of the "Best Courses You Can Play in Wyoming." This stunning 18-hole, links-style course stretches nearly 8,000 yards through rolling sagebrush and high-desert terrain. Designed for both challenge and playability, it offers pristine greens, sweeping views, and frequent sightings of pronghorn antelope. In October 2023, pro golfer Kyle Berkshire shattered the long drive world record here, adding to the course's growing reputation.

For a more relaxed round, the Sinclair Golf Course, just northeast of Sinclair, offers a peaceful 9-hole experience. Tucked amid open prairie with a handful of trees, it's an uncrowded option for golfers of all levels.

After working up an appetite, head to Su Casa in Sinclair, a beloved local spot serving up authentic Mexican flavors. Their shrimp fajitas, green chili, and sopapillas have made them a local favorite.

Next, step into the past at the Parco/Sinclair Museum. located inside Sinclair Town Hall. The museum takes you back to the 1930s, when the town was built by Producers and Refiners Corporation (PARCO) to support Wyoming's oil industry. In 1935, Sinclair Oil took over, shaping the town's identity for decades to come. Open Monday-Friday, 8am to Noon and 1pm to 5pm.

End the day with an off-the-beaten-path visit to the Fort Steele State Historic Site. The Fort was built in 1868, on the North Platte River, to protect the men building the Union Pacific Railroad from attacks by Native Americans. There are still many foundations, a few original structures and occasionally trains pass by over the bridge, giving you a sense of life in the past. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day from 9am to 7pm. Directions: From the I-80 Rest Area, exit 228, follow the paved road 1.5 miles north to the Fort.

DAY 3 - SEMINOE-ALCOVA BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY SCENIC DRIVE

SEASON: MAY - OCTOBER

Discover the untamed beauty of Carbon County on this scenic 64-mile route filled with rugged red rock formations, rolling sand dunes, and stunning blue waters. Starting just north of Sinclair off I-80, this



drive takes you through some of Wyoming's most remote and breathtaking landscapes.

Follow County Road 351 (Seminoe Road) to Seminoe Reservoir and Seminoe State Park, a haven for boaters, anglers, and campers. Towering above the water, the Seminoe Mountains provide a dramatic backdrop for fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Continue over steep, winding terrain to Miracle Mile, a legendary seven-mile stretch of the North Platte River, famous for trophy-sized trout and pristine solitude. See **SCENIC DRIVES** on pages 25-26 for more details.

Travel Tip: The road beyond Seminoe State Park is steep and rugged—not recommended for RVs or trailers. No services are available along the route, so fuel up and pack essentials before heading out.



Nestled in a picturesque river valley between the towering peaks of the Snowy Range and the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, Saratoga is a haven for travelers seeking both relaxation and outdoor adventure. Located just 20 miles south of Interstate 80, this charming town is known for its mineral hot springs, world-class fishing, and welcoming small-town atmosphere. Whether you come to unwind in the healing waters, cast a line in the legendary North Platte River, or explore the surrounding wilderness, Saratoga offers a perfect blend of serenity and excitement.

SARATOGA HISTORY

Long before settlers arrived, Native American tribes recognized the restorative powers of the mineral-rich hot springs, calling them the "Place of Magic Water." In the 1800s, explorers, trappers, and pioneers followed well-worn trails through the region, including the Overland Trail, remnants of which can still be seen north of town.

Saratoga's modern history began in 1877 when homesteader William H. Cadwell built a bathhouse near the springs, drawing weary travelers seeking rejuvenation. The town—originally named Warm Springs—soon flourished, attracting visitors and settlers alike. The arrival of the **Saratoga-Encampment Railroad** further spurred growth, and the area became known for its timber, agriculture, and hospitality.

One of Saratoga's most enduring landmarks, the **Hotel Wolf**, has stood proudly in downtown since 1893. Once a stage stop for weary travelers, it continues to serve as a gathering place for locals and visitors, offering historic charm, fine dining, and an authentic glimpse into Saratoga's past.

The North Platte River has long been prized for its excellent trout fishing and scenic beauty. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, lodgepole pine logs—cut by skilled "tie hacks" in the Medicine Bow Mountains—were floated down the river to aid in the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. Today, the river remains a vital part of Saratoga's identity, offering anglers, rafters, and wildlife enthusiasts a pristine outdoor playground.

BED AND BREAKFASTS

Copperline Lodge 417 W. Rochester Ave. · 307-321-5544 copperlinelodge.com

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

Deer Haven RV 706 N. First St. · 307-326-8746 deerhavenry.com

Saratoga Lake Campground 2 miles N. of Saratoga • 307-326-8335 townofsaratoga.org

Ten Mile Inn & RV Park 5651 Highway 130 · 307-326-5928 tenmileinnsaratoga.com

HOTELS & MOTELS

STREET, SQUARE, SQUARE

Hacienda Motel 1500 S. First St. · 307-326-5751

Historic Wolf Hotel & Restaurant

101 E. Bridge Ave. • 307-326-5525 wolfhotel.com

Riviera Motor Lodge

104 E. Saratoga Ave. • 307-326-5651 therivieramotorlodge.com

Sage Motel

311 S. First St. · 307-326-8339 saratogasagemotel.com

Snowy Mountain Inn

412 E. Bridge Ave. • 307-326-5974 snowymountaininn.com

Brush Creek Luxury Ranch Collection

66 Brush Creek Road · 307-327-5284 brushcreekranch.com

Medicine Bow Lodge and Adventure Guest Ranch

5556 Highway 130 · 307-326-5439 medicinebowlodge.net

CABINS & COTTAGES

Jack Creek Guard Station 20 miles W. on County Road 500, 5 miles on NFSR 452 307-326-5258 • recreation.gov

Platte River Cottages

304 S. River St. • 307-321-1658

Platte Valley Cabins 6495 WY-130 · 307-329-8246 plattevalleycabins.com

The River Cottages & Lodge 216 E. Walnut Ave.

307-326-3053 rivercottagesandlodge.com

Ten Mile Inn & RV Park

5651 Highway 130 307-326-5928 tenmileinnsaratoga.com

LODGES, GUEST RANCHES & RESORTS

Rendezvous Creekside Lodge #9 Ryan Park Road 307-326-8998

rendezvouscreekside.com

Roan Hill Guesthouse

1107 Hugus Ave. • 307-710-5299 roanhillguesthouse.com

Saratoga Hot Springs Resort

601 E. Pic Pike Rd. • 307-326-5261 saratogahotspringsresort.com

AMERICAN FOOD

Hotel Wolf Restaurant

101 E. Bridge Ave. • 307-326-5525

Lazy River Cantina

110 E. Bridge Ave. • 307-326-8472

Saratoga Sandwich Company

104 W. Bridge Ave. • 307-326-5555

Snowy Mountain Pub & Brewery 601 E. Pic Pike Road · 307-326-5261

PIZZA & ITALIAN

Bella's Bistro

218 N. First St. • 307-326-8033

The Grumpy Italian Eatery and Deli 113 W. Bridge St. • 307-326-3210

SPECIALTY

Lollypops

107 E. Bridge Ave. • 307-326-5020

Sunny Cup

100 S. First St. • 307-326-3699



Saratoga **BEST 3-DAY ITINERARY**



DAY 1 - SOAK, STROLL & SAVOR: A RELAXING START IN SARATOGA

Upon arriving in Saratoga, settle into your chosen accommodations and prepare for a day of relaxation and local exploration. If visiting between April and September, be sure to book a guided fishing trip or scenic float on the North Platte River at least 48 hours in advance, as these experiences are highly popular and fill up quickly.

Once settled, begin your stay with a soothing soak at **Hobo Hot Spring Pools**, a free, public facility open 24/7. These mineral hot spring pools are the ultimate for healthy relaxation. Water temperatures range from 101 to 110 degrees; the Lobster Pot is a steamy 120 degrees. The "Not-So-Hot" Pool offers cooler temperatures. Restrooms, changing, and shower facilities are available on-site.

Next, delve into the region's rich history at the Saratoga Museum, which houses over 10,000 artifacts, including an extensive geological collection featuring minerals and gems from around the world. Visitors have praised the museum as a "pleasant surprise," noting its diverse exhibits and fascinating outdoor displays. Admission is free and the Museum is open year round: Memorial Day - Labor Day, Monday - Friday 11am-6pm, Saturday & Sunday 12pm-4pm; Off Season Hours: 1pm to 5pm and by appointment.

Conclude your day by exploring downtown Saratoga's unique shops, such as Koyoty Sports for outdoor gear, The Lucky Pearl and Sweet Marie's Mercantile for contemporary and Western fashion, souvenirs and gifts and Studio T Art Gallery for local artwork, before dining at one of the town's esteemed restaurants, like the historic Hotel Wolf or Bella's Bistro.



DAY 2 - CAST, SWING, SIP & SUNSET: A PERFECT SARATOGA DAY

SEASON: APRIL - SEPTEMBER

Start your morning with a hearty breakfast at local favorites like the Saratoga Sandwich Company or Lollypops, then set out for your guided fishing trip or scenic float on the Upper North Platte River (a Blue Ribbon Wild Trout Stream with over 3,200 fish per mile) and the **Encampment River** (for unique trophy trout). Professional guides offer full-day and half-day excursions. Wade fishing trips are available year round.

If fishing isn't your preference, opt for a peaceful float trip, where you can take in stunning scenery and spot local wildlife, including bald eagles and mule deer.

In the afternoon, play a round at the Saratoga Hot Springs Resort Golf Course, a scenic 9-hole public course featuring over-river shots in a lush, wooded setting. Cart rentals are available. After golfing, visit the Snowy Mountain Pub & Brewery, located at the resort, to sample locally brewed beers and pub-style food.

Finish your day by watching the sunset at **Saratoga** Lake. Just 5 minutes north of town, Saratoga Lake is a favorite spot for fishing, boating and birdwatching at the nearby wetlands.

DAY 3 - PEAKS, PICNICS & **PICTURE-PERFECT VIEWS**

SEASON: JUNE - MID-OCTOBER

Prepare for a breathtaking journey along the **Snowy** Range Scenic Byway (Highway 130), a 29-mile route that winds through the heart of the Medicine Bow National Forest. Before setting out, stop by Valley Foods to pick up fresh items for a picnic lunch.

This high-altitude drive showcases dramatic alpine landscapes, crystal-clear lakes, and towering peaks, including Medicine Bow Peak at 12,013 feet. Along the way, stop at Lake Marie, a serene alpine lake nestled below Medicine Bow Peak, perfect for photography and a peaceful picnic. The byway also provides easy access to numerous hiking trails and scenic overlooks. Typically open from Memorial Day through October, weather permitting, it's advisable to check current conditions before your trip.

For those looking to extend their stay in the mountains,



there are additional lodging options along Highway 130, offering a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the beauty of the Snowy Range.

BONUS ADVENTURE: SUMMIT MEDICINE BOW PEAK

SEASON: LATE-JUNE - MID-SEPTEMBER

For those seeking a rewarding alpine challenge, dedicate a day to hiking Medicine Bow Peak. This high-elevation trail follows a series of switchbacks and rock crossings above the tree line, offering breathtaking panoramic views at every turn. The journey is strenuous, requiring proper hiking gear, water, snacks, and sun protection, but the unforgettable vistas make it well worth the effort.

Before beginning your ascent, take a moment at Lake Marie, a serene alpine lake nestled beneath Medicine Bow Peak. The lake is named after Mary (Marie) Bellamy, a trailblazing leader in the women's suffrage movement. Marie played a pivotal role in securing the passage of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, and made history as the first woman elected to the Wyoming Legislature in 1910.

The trailhead can be accessed from Lake Marie or Sugarloaf Recreation Area, with the Lake Marie route offering an excellent opportunity for earlymorning photography. As you climb, enjoy the solitude and sweeping views of the rugged Snowy Range. Given the high elevation, it's best to start early in the day and aim to finish by mid-afternoon to avoid common afternoon thunderstorms.



Tucked in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, Encampment and Riverside are destinations for outdoor lovers, history buffs, and those seeking a true Western escape. As official Continental Divide Trail (CDT) Gateway Communities, Riverside and Encampment welcome hikers tackling the iconic trail, while both towns offer unrivaled access to fishing, hiking, and wildlife in the surrounding wilderness. This region is rich in natural beauty and frontier heritage, inviting visitors to explore, unwind, and experience the untamed spirit of Wyoming.

ENCAMPMENT HISTORY

Encampment's story began in 1838, when trappers gathered along the river for a Rendezvous, to exchange goods with mountain men, traders, and Native American tribes at Camp le Grande—The **Grand Encampment.**

In 1897, the discovery of copper ore in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range transformed the quiet town into a booming mining hub. The Ferris-Haggarty Mine fueled rapid development, drawing thousands of workers and entrepreneurs eager to strike it rich. A 16-mile aerial tramway was built to carry copper ore over the Continental Divide, transporting it across the rugged terrain to a smelter in Riverside.

The town's mining heritage is preserved at the **Grand Encampment Museum**, where visitors can explore historic buildings, mining relics, and a preserved segment of the tramway.

RIVERSIDE HISTORY

Founded in 1897, Riverside began as the town of **Doggett**, established by the Doggett Brothers, who expanded their business to serve the growing number of miners, ranchers, and settlers in the area. The small town quickly developed into a ranching and supply hub, featuring a livery stable, blacksmith shop, grocery store, saloon, and restaurant.

Renamed in 1900. Riverside continues to be a quiet retreat and a basecamp for exploring the Sierra Madre Mountain Range and the Encampment River.

Both towns celebrate their heritage through annual events like the Woodchoppers Jamboree and Rodeo, the Grand Encampment Cowboy **Gathering, Living History Day, the Sierra Madre** Mountain Man Rendezvous, Tramway Days and the Sierra Madre Winter Carnival.

LODGES. GUEST RANCHES & RESORTS

BED AND BREAKFASTS

Bed and Breakfast

Bed and Breakfast

307-327-5753

Spirit West River Lodge

spiritwestriverlodge.com

Platts Rustic Mountain Lodge

11202 Highway 230 · Encampment

307-327-5539 · plattoutfitting.com

1046 State Highway 230. Riverside

A Bar A Ranch 820 A-Bar-A Ranch Rd.

Encampment · 307-327-5454 abararanch.com

Brush Creek Luxury Ranch Collection

66 Brush Creek Ranch Rd. Encampment brushcreekranch.com

River Ridge Lodge & Cabins 3640 Highway 230 · Encampment

307-327-5345 · wyriverridge.com

Spur Outfitters Elk Hollow and Hanging Bull Lodges 3224 Unit B Hwy 230 · Encampment

307-327-6505 · spuroutfitters.com

HOTELS & MOTELS The Pine Lodge

GROCERIES

508 McCaffrey Ave. Encampment · 307-327-5110 · pinelodgewyo.com

CABINS & COTTAGES

Cabin at Riverside 205 W. Riverside Ave. 307-760-0017 thecabinatriverside.com

Cottonwood Cabins 411 First St. · Riverside 307-228-4773 cottonwoodcabinswy.com

Platts Rustic Mountain Lodge Cabin

11202 Highway 230 Encampment · 307-327-5539 plattoutfitting.com

River Ridge Lodge & Cabins 3640 Highway 230 Encampment · 307-327-5345 wyriverridge.com

Riverside Garage & Cabins 107 Riverside Ave. 307-327-5361 riversidegarageandcabins.com

VACATION RENTALS

620 Vacation Rental 620 MacFarlane Ave. · Encampment 303-919-9378 · vrbo.com/781174

AMERICAN FOOD

Bear Trap Café & Bar

120 Riverside Ave. · Riverside 307-327-5277

307 Pub & Grub

621 Macfarlane Ave. · Encampment 307-327-5280

Mangy Moose

108 Riverside Ave. · Riverside 307-327-5005

The DiVide

520 McCaffrey Ave. · Encampment 307-327-5064

PIZZA & ITALIAN

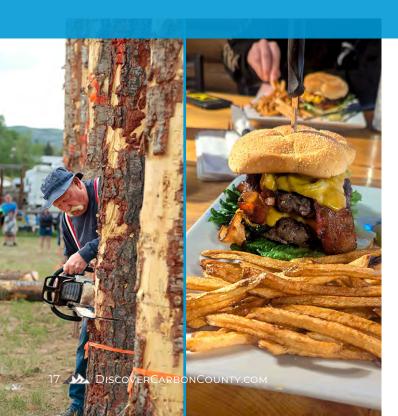
Bear Trap Café & Bar 120 Riverside Ave. · Riverside 307-327-5277

The DiVide

520 McCaffrey Ave. · Encampment 307-327-5064



Encampment & Riverside **BEST 2-DAY ITINERARY**



DAY 1 - DISCOVER THE GEM. HIKE THE RIVER OR **EXPLORE THE ROCKS**

Start your day with a hearty breakfast at the 307 Pub N Grub in Encampment, a local favorite. Then head to the **Grand Encampment Museum**, the "GEM" of Southern Wyoming. This museum takes visitors back in time with 18 historic buildings, including a two-story outhouse and one of the largest photography collections in the West, featuring the work of Lora Webb Nichols. A highlight of the museum is the tramway segment, a remnant of the once-thriving copper mining era. The GEM is open seasonally from Memorial Day weekend through early-October, Tuesday -Saturday 9am-5pm and Sundays noon to 4pm.

Next, it's time to get outdoors. Pack water, snacks, and sunscreen for a short hike.

Option 1: The Indian Bathtubs Trail

This 0.75-mile scenic trek leads to naturally carved rock pools in a granite outcrop and is believed to have been used by Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne tribes. Located just minutes southeast of Riverside, this hike offers stunning views and a glimpse into Wyoming's natural history. A map is available at the **Riverside Visitors Center.**

Option 2: The Encampment River Trail

Located half a mile southwest of Encampment, the trail meanders through a scenic canyon, offering a peaceful hike and excellent fishing. Anglers can find fishing supplies and licenses at the **Trading** Post at the Highway 230 Junction.

As the day winds down, return to town for dinner at The DiVide Restaurant in Encampment for hand-crafted burgers, steaks, and creative cocktails or the Bear Trap Cafe & Bar in Riverside for classic comfort food with a Western twist.



DAY 2 - JOURNEY THROUGH THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAIN RANGE

SEASON: LATE-MAY - MID-OCTOBER

Spend the second day exploring Wyoming's stunning backroads, filled with scenic viewpoints, high alpine terrain, and endless adventure.

Option 1: Battle Highway Scenic Drive

Head west from Encampment on Highway 70, also known as the Battle Highway, a 28-mile paved scenic byway that crosses the Continental Divide at Battle Pass (9,955 feet). Along the way, stop at scenic pullouts to admire sweeping views of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. The highway passes through dense aspen groves, wildflower-filled meadows, and rugged mountain terrain, making it a must-see for photographers and nature lovers. Keep an eye out for elk, mule deer, and other wildlife roaming the hillsides.

Option 2: Sierra Madre Scenic Loop

For those craving backcountry exploration, take the Sierra Madre Scenic Loop, a remote, rugged journey through the forest. Starting in Encampment, follow Forest Service roads deeper into the mountains. One must-see stop is the **Hog Park Reservoir**. This picturesque spot is perfect for a lakeside picnic or some fishing from the boat dock. After a relaxing afternoon by the water, continue your drive through the forest, keeping an eye out for moose, elk, mule deer, osprey, and eagles.

EXTRA DAY: HIKE TO HIDDEN FALLS OR CONQUER THE DIVIDE

SEASON: JUNE - MID-OCTOBER

For those looking to immerse themselves in Wyoming's rugged landscapes, spend an extra day hiking one of the region's most stunning trails.

Option 1: Green Mountain Falls Trail

If you're looking for a shorter but rewarding hike. the Green Mountain Falls Trail is a moderate 4-mile trek (one-way) that leads to a picturesque waterfall tumbling over rocky cliffs. The trail parallels the North Fork of the Encampment River, winding through aspen groves, conifer forests, and alpine meadows. The first two miles follow a rough 4WD road, transitioning to a well-marked trail that leads to the **Huston Park** Wilderness boundary and finally, the falls.

Option 2: Continental Divide Trail

For a true backcountry experience, lace up your boots and hike a section of the Continental Divide Trail (CDT). A great starting point is the Red Mountain Trailhead, located 12 miles west of Encampment, where hikers can take a 12-mile segment into the Huston Park Wilderness. The trail winds through granite formations, wildflower meadows, and dense forests, offering incredible views and a chance to experience the solitude of Wyoming's high country. Since this is a pointto-point trail, consider shuttling a vehicle to the Pipeline Trailhead for a one-way hike.



The Continental Divide Trail (CDT) enters the Sierra Madre Mountain Range at the Colorado-Wyoming border, winding 45 miles north through high alpine terrain before descending into Rawlins and the Great Divide Basin. Encampment, Riverside and **Rawlins are official CDT Gateway Communities,** providing warm hospitality to long-distance hikers.

Whether you choose to chase waterfalls or walk the backbone of the Rockies, this extra day is a chance to connect with nature, soak in the fresh mountain air, and experience the untamed beauty of Encampment's backyard. Before heading out, stop by the **Riverside Visitor Center** to grab trail maps and last-minute tips to make the most of your adventure.

MEDICINE BOW, HANNA & ELK MOUNTAIN

ELK MOUNTAIN POP.: 147 | ELEVATION: 7,264 FEET HANNA POPULATION: 663 | ELEVATION: 6,818 FEET MEDICINE BOW POP.: 237 | ELEVATION: 6,565 FEET



Wyoming's historic corridors converge in the towns of Medicine Bow, Hanna, and Elk Mountain. These communities grew along the Overland Trail, the First Transcontinental Railroad, the Lincoln Highway, and Interstate 80, each playing a role in shaping the American West. Set among sweeping prairies and winding rivers, these towns offer a glimpse of the past and an escape into the guiet beauty of the West.

MEDICINE BOW HISTORY

Medicine Bow was founded in 1868 as a **Union Pacific** watering station along the Medicine Bow

River. As steam locomotives pushed westward, these
outposts supplied water, goods, and services to
railroad workers, travelers, and settlers.

In 1911, **The Virginian Hotel** was constructed, named after Owen Wister's novel *The Virginian*. This grand hotel became a prominent gathering place, offering a glimpse into the elegance of the early 20th-century West.

As automobiles replaced rail, the town became a stop along the **Lincoln Highway**, America's first transcontinental road. Nearby, Como Bluffs gained fame for some of the world's earliest **dinosaur discoveries**, attracting fossil hunters and paleontologists. In the 1920s and '30s, **airmail pilots** navigated the plains by following giant concrete arrows, with Medicine Bow serving as a key waypoint in Wyoming's vast sky.

HANNA HISTORY

Hanna was founded in 1890 as a coal mining town for the **Union Pacific Coal Company**. Its history is deeply tied to the railroad, over 150 years of mining, and the resilience of those who called it home.

The mines operated in one of Wyoming's largest and richest coalfields, fueling locomotives and industries across the country. However, coal mining came with risk—disastrous explosions in 1903 and 1908 claimed the lives of 228 miners, marking some of the worst disasters in Wyoming history. Today, **Hanna Basin Museum** preserves the town's legacy with artifacts from the coal camps, an original Coal Miner's Cottage, and a mural depicting Hanna's history.

Additional points of interest include the **Miners' Monument**, a **WWI Soldier Monument**, and military vehicles, each honoring those who shaped Hanna's past. One of the town's rarest relics is a **Union Pacific rotary snowplow**, an essential tool for keeping the railroad running through Wyoming's harsh winters.

ELK MOUNTAIN HISTORY

Elk Mountain sits at the base of its 11,156-foot namesake. Founded as a stage stop on the **Overland Trail**, the town provided a vital crossing over the Medicine Bow River for emigrants and stage travelers heading west.

In 1905, the **Elk Mountain Hotel** was built on the site of the former Overland Stage Station. This Folk Victorian-style hotel became a centerpiece of the community, welcoming quests with Western charm and elegance. For decades, it stood alongside the **Garden Spot Pavilion**, a once-famous dance hall that hosted legendary performers like Louis Armstrong, Glenn Miller, and Tommy Dorsey. Crowds came from miles around to dance on its famed floating

Today, visitors can explore local history at the **Elk Mountain Museum** and enjoy a meal at the hotel's restaurant. Families can take a break at **Centennial Park**, which offers a playground for kids to enjoy.

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

Elk Mountain Campground 103 E Main St. · Elk Mountain 307-321-1178 or 307-760-5719

The Historic Virginian Hotel RV Park

404 Lincoln Highway/Highway 30 Medicine Bow • 307-331-2288

Medicine Bow RV Park Highway 487 & Maple St. Medicine Bow • 307-379-2225

CABINS & COTTAGES Elk Mountain Cabins

107 Main St. · Elk Mountain 307-348-7778 elkmountaincabins.com

Tyler Sims Outfitting LLC 958 Highway 13 · McFadden 307-760-5596 · tylersims.com

HOTELS & MOTELS

The Historic Elk Mountain Hotel
102 E. Main St. · Elk Mountain
307-348-7774
elkmountainhotel.com

The Historic Virginian Hotel
404 Lincoln Highway/Highway 30
Medicine Bow · 307-331-2288
jethospitality.com/the-virginian-hotel/

Jet Motor Inn

404 Lincoln Highway/Highway 30 Medicine Bow • 307-331-2288 jethospitality.com/the-virginian-hotel/

Cowboy Corner - Virginian Hotel 404 Lincoln Highway/Highway 30 Medicine Bow · 307-331-2288 jethospitality.com/the-virginian-hotel/

The Bank - Virginian Hotel 404 Lincoln Highway/Highway 30 Medicine Bow · 307-331-2288 jethospitality.com/the-virginian-hotel/

AMERICAN FOOD

C Spear Bar & Grill

202 Lincoln Hwy. · Medicine Bow 307-520-3030

Mike's Deuces

204 Adams #9 Miner Plaza · Hanna 307-325-9829

Poulos' Nugget Bar

2200 1st St. • Elmo Addition, Hanna 307-325-6872

Skinny's Beer Garden

605 2nd St. · Hanna · 307-797-1827

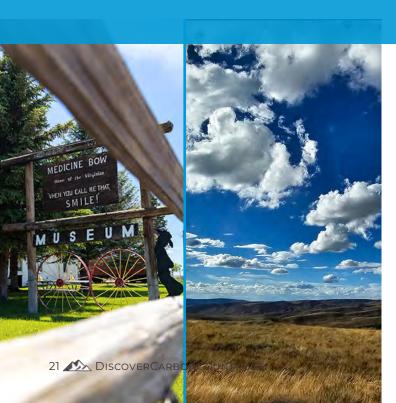
The Historic Virginian Eating House

404 Lincoln Highway/Highway 30 Medicine Bow • 307-331-2288



Medicine Bow, Hanna & Elk Mountain

BEST 2-DAY ITINERARY



DAY 1 - LEGENDS AND LANDMARKS ON THE HISTORIC LINCOLN HIGHWAY

Follow the Historic Lincoln Highway (Highway 30), where coal miners, railroaders, and cowboys built communities that still bear the marks of their grit, ambition, and untold stories.

Visit the **Hanna Basin Museum**, which represents more than 134 years of underground coal mining in the Carbon and Hanna Basins. Learn about the origins of this company mining town and the **ghost town of Carbon**, an early mining community along the original Union Pacific Railway. Impressive collections include an original Coal Miner's Cottage, the oldest church bell in Wyoming (1870), a mural depicting Hanna's history, and historic photographs. The museum is open Friday - Sunday, 1pm to 5pm.

The Medicine Bow Museum, housed in the 1913 Union Pacific Railroad depot, showcases ranching and railroad memorabilia and dinosaur fossil discoveries. Step inside an original Union Pacific caboose, and visit the Owen Wister Cabin. Adjacent to the cabin stands a **monument** made of petrified wood, erected in 1939 to honor Wister and his iconic novel, The Virginian. The museum is open Memorial Day - Labor Day, Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm; weekends and holidays 9am to 3pm.

COMING SOON: Efforts are underway to move the historic Fossil Cabin to the museum grounds. The "World's Oldest Building" was constructed from nearly 6,000 dinosaur bones excavated from nearby Como Bluff.

The Historic Virginian Hotel, built in 1911, derives its name from the classic western novel by Owen Wister. For wild west fans, this 3-story hotel offers a glimpse into the town's past, with a Western saloon, antique-adorned rooms, and hearty meals—making it a perfect spot for lunch or an early dinner.



DAY 2 - STROLLING THROUGH HISTORY IN ELK MOUNTAIN

Elk Mountain offers a glimpse into the past through its historic buildings, legendary gathering places, and small-town hospitality.

Start the day at the Historic Elk Mountain Hotel, built in 1905 on the site of the former Overland Stage Station. This beautifully restored Folk Victorian hotel once welcomed weary travelers crossing Wyoming's rugged terrain. Today, visitors can experience its timeless charm, from the antique-adorned rooms to the restaurant, which serves delicious homemade meals in an intimate, historic setting. Reservations are appreciated at 307-348-7774.

Just a short walk away, the Elk Mountain Museum brings the town's past to life with exhibits on its Overland Trail roots, early ranching families, and the famed **Garden Spot Pavilion**—a dance hall that once echoed with the sounds of big band legends like Louis Armstrong, Glenn Miller, and Tommy Dorsey. Artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia tell the story of a frontier town that became an unexpected hub for music and entertainment. Open seasonally Memorial Day through Labor Day, Wednesday from 1pm to 7pm, Friday and Saturday 10am - 5pm and by appointment at 307-348-7037.

To truly immerse yourself in Elk Mountain's past, take the **Self-Guided Walking Tour** of historic buildings scattered throughout town. Take a short walk down Bridge Street and across the bridge to see some of Elk Mountain's original buildings.

ADDITIONAL DAY: OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AND SCENIC DRIVES

Option 1: Fish the World-Famous Miracle Mile or Medicine Bow River

For anglers, few places rival the Miracle Mile, a legendary seven-mile stretch of the North Platte River between Kortes Dam and Pathfinder Reservoir, Known for its trophy-sized rainbow and brown trout, this blueribbon fishery regularly produces catches weighing 5 to 10 pounds.

The **Medicine Bow River** flows north from it's source

in the Medicine Bow National Forest, through the town of Elk Mountain and the Medicine Bow valley, before it merges northwest of Hanna into the Medicine Bow Arm of Seminoe Reservoir. Fish for good-sized brookies higher up in the forest. Large brown and rainbow trout are more common



Option 2: Outdoor Adventures & Scenic Drives For those craving fresh air and open landscapes, the **Pass Creek Road** is a scenic drive through sagebrush-dotted hills, willow-lined meadows, and rolling foothills. This historic route between Elk Mountain and Saratoga is a favorite for spotting pronghorn, deer, and raptors soaring overhead, offering a peaceful escape into Wyoming's wild beauty.

If you're looking for a quiet retreat in the mountains, head into the Medicine Bow National Forest to Turpin Reservoir, a tucked-away fishing spot stocked with brook trout and splake. The drive passes remnants of tie hack cabins, reminders of the early loggers who supplied timber for the railroad industry. Whether you're casting a line, watching for wildlife, or simply soaking in the solitude of the high country, this peaceful lake is the perfect way to round out your time in Carbon County.



The Little Snake River Valley is a place of rugged beauty and deep frontier history, where the vast Red Desert meets the forested slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. This remote stretch of Wyoming offers more than just scenic landscapes—wild horses roam the open range, historic sites tell tales of pioneers and bandits, and the wide-open spaces invite exploration. The towns of Baggs, Dixon, and Savery each tell their own story, woven together by a deep ranching heritage, the lore of outlaws, and the enduring spirit of the West.

BAGGS HISTORY

Located three miles north of the Colorado border, Baggs is steeped in Western legend. Stories suggest that Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch frequented the **Mathews-Gaddis House**, now the **Outlaw Stop**, for meals and Saturday night dances. As the frontier faded, Baggs became a hub for ranching and later, oil and gas development. Today, Baggs remains a gateway to adventure, attracting hunters who seek the area's abundant wildlife, along with travelers exploring its rugged landscapes and outlaw lore.

SAVERY HISTORY

One of the oldest settlements in the valley, Savery is home to the **Little Snake River Museum**, where visitors can step back in time through historic buildings, homesteading artifacts, and exhibits on the region's legendary outlaws and pioneers.

DIXON HISTORY

Incorporated in 1887—before Wyoming even became a state—Dixon was named after fur trapper Bob Dixon, who roamed the valley alongside **Jim Baker**. The **Dixon Club**, built in 1911, has long been a gathering place for locals and travelers alike, with its walls lined with relics from the past. In 1916, the Stockgrowers Bank was established, serving the community until 1923. The bank's building later housed various businesses. In 1975, it became the **Dixon Town Hall**. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Among the museum's highlights is **Jim Baker's two-story log cabin**, once home to the famous mountain man, explorer, and trader who helped shape the early frontier.

CABINS & COTTAGES

Ladder Ranch 489 Carbon Co. Rd. #710 · Savery 307-383-2413 · ladderranch.com

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

Happy Camper at Baggs End 4897 Wyoming 789 Baggs · 307-291-0211 baggsendrvpark.com

HOTELS & MOTELS

Cowboy Inn Motel 210 Penland St. · Baggs 307-383-2200 · thecowboyinn.com

Dixon Motel

217 Cottonwood · Dixon 307-383-2300 · dixonmotel.com

LODGES, GUEST RANCHES & RESORTS

Antelope Ranch

763 Carbon Co Rd. 561 N. · Savery 307-383-2625

Bover YL Ranch

34 County Rd 754 · Savery 307-383-7778 | boyerylranch.com

The Lodge and Spa at Three Forks Ranch

1445 Carbon County Rd. #710 Savery • 970-583-7396 threeforksranch.com

AMERICAN FOOD

The Cowboy Inn

210 S. Penland St. • Baggs 307-383-2200

The Dixon Club

216 Cottonwood St. · Dixon 307-383-7722



Baggs, Dixon & Savery BEST 1-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 - OUTLAWS, HOMESTEADERS, AND SPIRIT OF THE WEST

Start your day in Baggs with a hearty breakfast at the **Cowboy Inn**, where visitors can enjoy a classic meal served with warm western hospitality. After fueling up, head to Savery to explore the **Little Snake River Museum**, home to a fascinating collection of historic buildings and homesteading artifacts. The LSRV Museum is open seasonally from Memorial Day through mid-October, Tuesday-Sunday from 10:00am-4:30pm.

As midday approaches, make your way to Dixon for lunch at the **Dixon Club**, a longtime local favorite. Then, return to Baggs to step into the town's outlaw past. Visit the **Outlaw Stop**, where local legends suggest that Butch Cassidy and his gang once gathered. Also visit the **Baggs Town Hall-Fire Station-Jail**, a historic building that housed notorious characters.

ADDITIONAL DAY OVER THE DIVIDE OR INTO THE DESERT

Option 1: Battle Highway Scenic Byway (Highway 70)

This breathtaking route winds through the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, and crosses the **Continental Divide** at over 9,900 feet. Interpretive pullouts along the way highlight area history.

Option 2: Red Desert – Wild Horses & Hidden Wonders For an off-the-beaten-path adventure, visit the Red Desert. This vast, untamed landscape is a labyrinth of canyons boodoos.

This vast, untamed landscape is a labyrinth of canyons, hoodoos, mesas, and dunes. It's also a place where wild horses still roam free.

Exploring the Red Desert requires preparation—bring BLM maps, a GPS unit, and plenty of water, as roads are unmarked, rough, and often confusing. An ORV, high-clearance vehicle, or 4WD is highly recommended for navigating the remote trails.

DISCOVER CARBON COUNTY

FOUR AMAZING **SCENIC DRIVES**

BATTLE HIGHWAY SCENIC BYWAY

Length: 57 miles via Highway 70

Open Memorial Day through October, weather permitting



SNOWY RANGE SCENIC BYWAY

Length: 29 miles via Highway 130

Open Memorial Day through October, weather permitting





SEMINOE-ALCOVA BACK COUNTRY BYWAY

Length: 64 miles via County Road 351 Open Memorial Day through October, weather permitting



SIERRA MADRE SCENIC LOOP

Length: 58 miles via Highway 70, and Forest Service Roads 550, 496 & 409

Open Memorial Day through October, weather permitting

BATTLE HIGHWAY SCENIC BYWAY

Named for the famous 1841 battle between Native Americans and fur trappers, the Battle Highway stretches over the crest of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, between Encampment and Baggs. Many scenic highlights, including two spectacular museums, ghost towns from the mining era, and historic sites, are featured on this trek across the Continental Divide.

Grand Encampment Museum in Encampment: features aerial mining tramway segment and 15 historic buildings from the copper boom era.

Battle: located on the Continental Divide, it is one of many mining ghost towns in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

Battle Pass Summit, 9,955 ft: on the Continental Divide, provides a sweeping view of the Sierra Madre Mountain

Battle Lake and Thomas A. Edison monument: While vacationing here in 1878, Edison threw a broken bamboo fishing pole in the fire and was intrigued by the way the frayed pieces glowed. This observation led Edison to the discovery of filament for the incandescent electric lamp.

Aspen Alley: a natural canopy of aspen trees, just north of the Highway on NFSR 801. Particularly beautiful in the fall.

Little Snake River Valley Museum in Savery: features over 15 historic buildings, including Jim Baker's cabin, built in

SNOWY RANGE SCENIC BYWAY

This high altitude drive showcases some of the most spectacular and easily accessible peaks in Medicine Bow National Forest. Highway 130 runs between the Highway 130/230 junction (8 miles south of Saratoga) and Centennial. After crossing the North Platte River, it ascends to its highest point at 10,847 feet before meandering toward Centennial. Picnic areas, campgrounds, alpine lakes, a network of hiking trails and several scenic overlooks are accessible from the Highway--plus unforgettable views and plenty of wildlife sightings.

Medicine Bow Peak, 12,013 ft: the highest peak in southern Wyoming. A 5.5-mile hike to the top features switch-backs, rock crossings and amazing views.

Lake Marie: popular lake named after Mary (Marie) Bellamy who led a suffrage drive for the adoption of 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote.

Libby Flats Observation Point: the highest point on the Highway.

P. O. W. Camp at the Ryan Park Campground: originally a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, it later served as a P.O.W. Camp for German and Italian soldiers during WWII.

SEMINOE-ALCOVA BACK **COUNTRY BYWAY**

Located between Sinclair and Alcova, this remote drive climbs over the rugged Seminoe Mountains before passing into antelope-grazed prairie and stark desert. The amazing transformations in the landscape are worth the backcountry journey. On your trip, you might see a variety of wildlife such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, golden and bald eagles, and ferruginous hawks.

Seminoe Reservoir: popular for trout and walleye fishing, boating, water skiing, and wildlife viewing.

Miracle Mile: a 7-mile stretch of the North Platte River, famous for huge trout and great fly fishing.

Seminoe State Park: popular for access to Seminoe Reservoir, with camping and picnicking among giant white sand dunes.

SIERRA MADRE SCENIC LOOP

Set in a guiet corner of southern Carbon County, this drive makes a loop through the Sierra Madre Mountain Range on well-maintained gravel roads. Beginning in Encampment, follow Highway 70 west for 6 miles to NFSR 550. Turn left and travel south for 16 miles. At Hog Park Reservoir, merge left, the road becomes NFSR 496. Continue 10 miles south and turn left to follow NFSR 496 north for 12.5 miles to NFSR 409 (the Blackhall Road). Turn left and travel north 11 miles and turn left onto Highway 230. The loop ends in 2 miles at Riverside. Along the way, enjoy several stops of historical and natural interest.

Halfway House: built in 1902, as a stopping point between Encampment and the mining camps in the Hog Park area.

Hog Park Reservoir: formed in the 1960's when an earthen dam was constructed to store water for municipal use in Cheyenne. It is a favorite spot for fishing and boating.

East Fork Trail Access: follows East Fork of the Encampment River, with several remnant mining cabins.

Billie Creek Junction (NFSR 496 & 409): road forks left back to Riverside; right provides access to the

Blackhall Mountain Fire Lookout Tower. 4WD recommended.

Indian Bathtubs: a natural rock formation believed to be used by Native Americans for bathing.



FISHING

Come cast your line in Carbon County! It's the **only area in Wyoming** that offers such variety in fishing opportunites. From beautiful rivers and large reservoirs to alpine lakes and streams, the clear, cold water here is the perfect habitat for trout. Area waters contain "blue ribbon" wild brown and rainbow trout, walleye, tiger, brook, brown, rainbow, splake, golden and cutthroat trout, and kokanee salmon. Fish to your heart's content in spectacular scenery without the crowds.

Upper North Platte River features "blue ribbon" wild trout fishing and is popular for floating and kayaking. Beginning in Colorado, this pristine freestone river flows north through mountain wilderness, the Saratoga valley hay meadows, and finally through majestic desert before leaving Carbon County. As the Premier Blue Ribbon Wild Trout Stream in Wyoming, the North Platte claims 4,000 catchable fish per mile. There are several public river access points between Colorado and the Miracle Mile.

The Miracle Mile is the famed 7-mile stretch of the North Platte River between the Kortes Dam below Seminoe Reservoir and the headwaters of Pathfinder Reservoir. In this ideal big trout habitat, trophy-size rainbows and browns can weigh between 5 and 10 pounds. Directions: From Sinclair, follow County Road 351/Seminoe Road for 37 miles to the North Platte bridge. From Hanna,

follow County Road 291/Hanna-Leo Draw Road for 46 miles to Kortes Road. Turn left and follow 6 miles to the bridge.

Encampment River flows north into Wyoming through the rugged Encampment River Wilderness in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. It winds northwest through the town of Riverside before merging with the North Platte River. Also a "blue ribbon" trout stream, the river has three public river access points.

These prominent reservoirs and lakes in Carbon County offer miles of great shoreline fishing and are excellent boating spots.

Seminoe Reservoir: of all the places in Wyoming where walleye are found, they are most abundant here. Seminoe also offers great fishing for rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout, with 180 miles of shoreline.

Seminoe State Park is located 30 miles north of Sinclair on County Road 351 and has several campsites, potable water, restrooms, boat ramps, picnic shelters and access to the largest sandy beach in Wyoming.

High Savery Reservoir: located 38 miles south of Rawlins on County Road 401, it is the only place in Wyoming to catch tiger trout (brown trout/brook trout cross). Brook and rainbow trout, Colorado River cutthroat and Kokanee salmon are also plentiful here. Not much shoreline, but there is a boat ramp.

Hog Park Reservoir: excellent fishing for brook, rainbow and cutthroat trout. There is a 50-site campground and two picnic areas, drinking water and

plenty of shoreline fishing. From Encampment, travel west on Highway 70 for 6 miles. Turn left on NFSR 550 and travel south about 16 miles. The campground and boat dock is 3 miles ahead on NFSR 496.

Saratoga Lake: located a few miles north of Saratoga, it offers good fishing for rainbow and brown trout. There is a 50-site campground, boat dock and restrooms. Nearby wetlands are home to hundreds of species of birds.

HIKING

There are over 50 designated hiking trails in the Snowy Range and Sierra Madre Mountain Range of the **Medicine Bow National Forest**. Trails range from 7,400 ft. to 11,200 ft. in elevation and offer a variety of hiking experiences. Our favorite day hikes are outlined in the itinerary pages of this guide.

HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL

Approximately 125 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) pass through Carbon County. For those who relish the experience of traveling along the spine of the Rocky Mountains and through the Great Divide Basin, this is the place. The terrain is wonderfully diverse and scenic views are breathtaking and endless. Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and motor vehicle use are allowed on the majority of the trail. However there are a few segments that are unavailable to motorists.

From south to north, the trail enters Wyoming through the Sierra Madre Mountain Range and the tranquil Huston Park Wilderness. *Please note that motorized vehicles and mountain bikes are not allowed in wilderness areas.* An alternate route is available utilizing forest roads. The trail then crosses the **Battle Highway Scenic Byway** (Highway 70) and climbs to 11,004 feet in elevation at Bridger Peak and 9,091 feet at Divide Peak before leaving the forest. It then descends 3,500 feet through sagebrush prairie as it reaches the city of Rawlins.

Rawlins, a CDT Gateway Community, is located at the southeastern edge of the Great Divide Basin. Rawlins is a great place to refresh and refuel before continuing your journey. The CDT passes directly through Rawlins, offering opportunities to shop, dine and stroll through Historic Downtown Rawlins. Public restrooms are available downtown and at the Memorial Sports Complex (ballfields across from the Rawlins Recreation Center).

From Rawlins, the trail follows Highway 287 north and continues northwest across sagebrush prairie into the Great Divide Basin. This trail segment is best explored with 4WD vehicles and mountain bikes. Highlights include expansive desert vistas, wildlife sightings, and wild horses. Bring plenty of water for this segment as it is exposed with little cover and services are unavailable.

The best time of year to experience the CDT in Carbon County is late-June through mid-September. Snow at high elevations can remain through much of June and make passage difficult. Even in July and August, afternoon storms can bring plenty of rain, lightning, sleet and hail. Be prepared for weather to change rapidly. Travelers should expect summer daytime temperatures to be around 80F and nighttime temperatures in the mountains to be around 30F.

GREAT DIVIDE BASIN

In North America, river systems west of the Continental Divide flow into the Pacific Ocean and river systems east of the Continental Divide flow into the Atlantic Ocean. That is, except in the **Great Divide Basin** which lies just west of Rawlins. Water that flows into this vast high desert either evaporates or soaks into the earth, but does not drain to either ocean.

The **Great Divide Basin** encompasses 778,792 acres of public, private, and state land. Closer inspection of this seemingly barren landscape reveals a variety of mountains, badlands, and sand dunes. Wild horses, over 50,000 pronghorn antelope, a rare desert elk herd and the greater sage grouse are among the wild animals that call this rich high desert landscape their home.

It's a good idea to let someone know which segment of the trail you will be traveling. Cell phone service ranges from limited to non-existent in remote areas. And there are no taxi or Uber services available if you get tired of hiking. Plan ahead and download the **Carbon County Interactive Map** on the next page.

all skill levels.

The Snowy Range is the largest and most developed snowmobile area in Carbon County, with 306 miles of groomed trails and 170 miles of ungroomed trails. It's also the home of the "Widow Maker" (11,330 feet), one of Wyoming's most extreme snowmobile trails. The terrain is varied with plenty of play areas, hills and deep champagne powder. Snow depths reach up to 12

The Sierra Madre Mountain Range is relatively uncrowded and offers a series of trail loops with outstanding views. There are 110 miles of groomed and 50 miles of ungroomed trails and two trailheads/parking lots. The Bottle Creek trailhead/parking area is located on Highway 70. six miles west of Encampment. The Stemp Springs trailhead/parking area is located 16 miles east of Savery. Snow depths reach up to 8 feet.

CROSS-COUNTY SKIING & SNOWSHOEING

Whether novice or expert, the beautiful, groomed trails in the Snowy Range and Sierra Madre Mountain Range provide plenty of solitude in diverse terrain.

The Bottle Creek Trails are located 6 miles west of Encampment on Highway 70 in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. Several loop trails wind through aspen, lodgepole pine stands, and regenerating tree harvest areas.

The Brush Creek Trails are accessed from Highway 130 in the Snowy Range, behind the Brush Creek Visitor Center. The trail system winds through aspen, lodgepole pine stands, and by a remnant tie hack cabin. Restroom facilities are available.

For the more adventurous skiers or snowshoers. there's a lot of backcountry to explore in both mountain ranges.



DISCOVER CARBON COUNTY

ADVENTURE VACATIONS

Experience genuine western hospitality, ride horses, and enjoy family-style dining and sporting opportunities at ranch getaways in Carbon County.

A BAR A RANCH

abararanch.com

Located along the banks of the Upper North Platte River, on the southwestern edge of the Snowy Range, the A Bar A is one of the oldest guest ranches in the country. It has operated as a guest and cattle ranch since the early 1920s. With nearly 100,000 acres for guests to explore, the A Bar A features unforgettable horseback riding, fly fishing, hiking, archery/shooting ranges and children's programs. Anglers have access to 32 miles of "blue-ribbon" private water and exceptional fly-fishing conditions.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner cookouts are highlights of the week. Creative menus are prepared with healthy, quality ingredients. Evening entertainment includes cowboy singing and folk music.

MEDICINE BOW LODGE & ADVENTURE GUEST RANCH

medicinebowlodge.net

Since 1917, the Medicine Bow Lodge has been offering guests an extraordinary opportunity to unplug, unwind, and reconnect with their families.

Located in the Medicine Bow National Forest along the Snowy Range Scenic Byway, the Medicine Bow Lodge is easily accessible and close to many horseback riding trails. Well-trained wranglers specifically tailor trips for riders of all levels. Guests can take advantage of all day rides, overnight pack trips, fishing excursions, scenic hikes, and the archery range.

Guests stay in rustic cabins that are comfortable, cozy and welcoming. Enjoy all amenities and three delicious home cooked meals that are served daily.

BRUSH CREEK LUXURY RANCH COLLECTION

brushcreekranch.com

Reconnect, relax, and rejoice in unbridled luxury at the Travel + Leisure #1 Resort in the US and #2 Hotel in the World. Vacationing at the Brush Creek Ranch means all-inclusive access to a host of lodging, amenities, food and beverage, and lots of activities, all unfolding over 30,000 acres of a working cattle ranch. All-inclusive, luxury ranch resorts are located southeast of Saratoga.

Guests can explore a vast array of activities: fly fishing, archery, ATV adventures, horseback riding, rock climbing, guided ranger tours, spa, hiking and trail running, yoga, glamping, mountain biking, golf, shooting sports, ziplining, farm tour, culinary classes, wine cellar tour, skiing, snowboarding, sleigh rides, ice skating, ice fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and activities tailored specifically to families.

THE LODGE AND SPA AT THREE FORKS RANCH

threeforksranch.com

Located just 40 miles north of Steamboat Springs on the Colorado-Wyoming border, this luxury getaway and working cattle ranch has attracted and impressed anglers, outdoorsmen, vacationers, and explorers from far and wide. Every aspect of this all-inclusive stay is personalized for each and every guest.

Guests can take advantage of a variety of activities: wellness classes, 3D archery range, cooking classes, fly fishing, hiking, horseback riding, relaxing massage, wildlife tours, game hunting, ice fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowboarding and downhill skiing.



CARBON COUNTY 2025-2026 **EVENTS**



Discover Carbon County Wyoming's Exciting Events - Rodeos, Concerts, Festivals, and More!

For more details about annual and upcoming events, visit discovercarboncounty.com/blog

All events and/or dates are subject to change. Confirmation of event happenings is a necessity.

MARCH 2025

27-30 Spring Renewal Wellness Retreat @ Brush Creek

APRIL 2025

- 1-27 Spring Break @ Brush Creek Ranch
- Sage Grouse & Wildlife Tours @ Brush Creek Ranch 1-30
- Spring Fling Fly Fishing @ Brush Creek Ranch
- Wyoming Open Pool Tournament Saratoga
- 4 Vino & Vinyasa @ Brush Creek Ranch
- 20 Sinclair Annual Easter Egg Hunt @ Sinclair
- Rochelle Ranch Golf Course Opening Day Rawlins 20
- 22 Earth Day in the Greenhouse @ Brush Creek
- 30 Rawlins Indoor Shooting Range Closing

MAY 2025

- Rawlins Outdoor Shooting Range Opens
- 10-12 RSC GLOCK Shootout @ Rawlins Outdoor Range
- 15 National Police Week Flag Ceremony
- 17 C. J. Box Book Signing @ Saratoga Museum
- First Annual Wine & Food Festival @ Brush Creek
- Beginning of Summer Season at Museums
- 24 C. J. Box Book Signing @ GEM - Encampment
- 24 Visitor Centers & Services Opening Day
- 24 Ft. Fred Steele Historic Site Opening Day
- 26 KenDucky Derby @ Elk Mountain
- 31 Statewide Free Fishing Day

JUNE 2025

- Tale of Two Cities Disc Golf Riverside
- 6 Summer Shenanigans: A Night of Talent - Rawlins
- 7 Carbon County Museum 85th Anniversary Block Party - Rawlins
- Melodrama @ Grand Encampment Opera House
- Melodrama @ Grand Encampment Opera House
- 13 Rawlins Cemetary Tour by Carbon County Museum
- 13 Friday the 13th Night Tour @ Wyoming Frontier Prison - Rawlins
- Woodchoppers Jamboree & Rodeo Encampment
- 15 Father's Day Bourbon & Cigar Bar @ Brush Creek
- 19 Music in the Park - Rawlins
- Platte River Rodeo Saratoga
- 21 Rubber Check Race - Encampment
- 21 The Melted Masters Golf Tournament @ Saratoga Hot Springs Resort - Saratoga

- 27-28 Aspen & Sage Market Day's Encampment BioBlitz Conference @ Seminoe State Park
- Music in the Park Rawlins

JULY 2025

- 1-6 Independence Week at Brush Creek Ranch
- Cherrywood's Poppy Art Quilt Exhibit @ Platte Valley Community Center - Saratoga
- Platte Valley Independence 5k, Fourth of July Parade, Saratoga Days & Street Dance-Saratoga
- Platte Valley Festival of the Arts Saratoga
- 10 Music in the Park - Rawlins
- 11 Summer Shenanigans: All About Kids - Rawlins
- 12 High Tea @ Elk Mountain Hotel - Elk Mountain
- 12 Summer Concert featuring Mike Ault - Savery
- 17 Music in the Park - Rawlins
- Annual Grand Encampment Cowbov Gathering
- Sunset at the Slammer-WY Frontier Prison- Rawlins
- 24 Music in the Park - Rawlins
- 25-26 King Coal Days Hanna
- 25-26 Whatfest Saratoga
- Living History Day @ the GEM- Encampment
- 25-27 Mountain Man Rendezvous Encampment
- Music in the Park Rawlins

AUGUST 2025

- Carbon County Fair & Rodeo: Pancake Breakfast, Parade, PRCA Rodeo, and Concert - Rawlins
- Steinley Cup Microbrew Festival @ Veterans Island -Saratoga
- Annual Community Barbecue & Music in the Park -Encampment
- Energy Day @ Carbon County Fairgrounds
- National Night Out- Rawlins
- Carbon County PRCA Rodeo @ Fairgrounds
- Carbon County Fair Concert @ Fairgrounds
- Haunted Night Tour @ WY Frontier Prison Rawlins
- 9 Demo Derby @ Carbon County Fairgrounds
- 16 "Sleuthing with Joe Pickett" Trivia Contest - Saratoga
- 16 Sinclair Annual Art & Music Festival - Sinclair
- 23
- Saratoga Bullfest @ Buck Springs Arena Saratoga
- 23-26 DTI Women's Defensive Handgun Skills Retreat @ Elk Mountain Hotel - Elk Mountain

SEPTEMBER 2025

- End of Summer Season at most Museums
- Fort Fred Steele Historic Site Closes
- Party on the Platte Saratoga
- Born & Raised Wyoming Beef and Whiskey Festival - Riverside
- Chug n' Tug Copper Days Festival & Antique Tractor Pull & Engine Show - Encampment
- Continental Divide Trail Week- Rawlins
- Night Tour @ Wyoming Frontier Prison Rawlins

- 26-28 Water Stop Jamboree Concert & Vendor Fair -Medicine Bow
- End of Summer Season at GEM Encampment
- Pumpkin Run @ Rochelle Ranch Golf Course

OCTOBER 2025

- 3-4 ArtBeat - Rawlins
- Taste of Wyoming Festival @ Carbon County Fairgrounds - Rawlins
- Octoberfest @ Elk Mountain Hotel Elk Mountain
- Halloween Party @ WY Frontier Prison Rawlins
- 25 Halloween @ Cabon County Museum - Rawlins
- 24-25 Haunted Tours @ WY Frontier Prison Rawlins
- Haunted Tours @ WY Frontier Prison Rawlins
- 31 Safe Trick or Treat in Communities
- 31 Outdoor Shooting Range Closing Day- Rawlins
- 31 Halloween Carnival & Haunted House - Sinclair

NOVEMBER 2025

- Indoor Shooting Range Opens Rawlins
- Rochelle Ranch Golf Course Closing Day Rawlins
- Sinclair Local Veteran's Day Event Sinclair
- 21 Light The Night Festivities - Sinclair
- 21-22 Annual Fall & Holiday Craft Fair Sinclair
- Blue Plaid Friday Rawlins
- 28-30 'Tis the Season Rawlins
- Small Business Saturday Rawlins & Saratoga

DECEMBER 2025

- 'Tis the Season Rawlins 1-21
- Festival of Trees Gala & Auction @ Platte Valley Community Center-Saratoga
- Christmas out of the Big House Rawlins
- Breakfast with Santa @ Elk Mountain Hotel
- 13 Winter Wonderland & Saratoga Christmas Parade
 - Carbon County Museum Christmas Open House

JANUARY 2026

- 17-18 Saratoga Lake Ice Fishing Derby Saratoga
- 23-24 Sierra Madre Winter Carnival Encampment

FEBRUARY 2026

- Saratoga Skijoring Races Saratoga
- Cabin Fever Cowbov Ball @ Platte Vallev Community Center- Saratoga

CARBON COUNTY VISITORS' COUNCIL

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discovercarboncounty.com











