Montana Highway Map

Montana Vacation Regions

GLACIER COUNTRY

Flathead Lake - (B, C-2) At nearly 200 square miles, Flathead is the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi.

Glacier National Park - (A, B-2, 3) Called "North America's Crown Jewel," this natural haven is filled with alpine glaciers, sparkling lakes, deep forests, wildflowers, waterfalls and wildlife. The 52-mile Going-to-the-Sun Road (open June to mid-October) crosses the Continental Divide at Logan Pass and traverses the scenic Garden Wall.

Hiking - Eight federally protected wilderness areas (nearly 2 million acres) and Glacier National Park welcome hikers, horseback riders and other non-motorized travelers.

National Bison Range - (D-2) This national treasure protects one of the most important remaining herds of American Bison. Visitor center and year-round self-guiding auto tour.

Ross Creek Cedar Grove Scenic Area - (B-1) Walk among cedars more than 500 years old and 250 feet tall on this handicapped accessible interpretive trail.

Missions - See the influence of the Catholic Church on Montana history at St. Ignatius Mission (D-2), built against the backdrop of the Mission Mountains in 1854, and at St. Mary's Mission (E-2), the first Catholic mission in the Northwest, established in 1841 in Stevensville.

RUSSELL COUNTRY

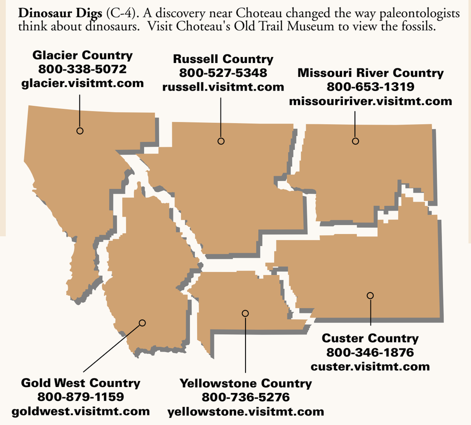
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center (C-5). Located midway along the Lewis and Clark Trail, the center focuses on relations between the Corps of Discovery and the many Indian tribes they encountered, and on the month-long portage around the five falls on the Missouri River near Great Falls.

Giant Springs Heritage State Park (C-5). One of the world's largest freshwater springs, noted by Lewis and Clark in 1805.

C.M. Russell Museum Complex (C-5). Famed Western artist Charlie Russell interpreted the landscapes and lifestyle of Northcentral Montana in canvas and in bronze sculpture. The museum has the world's largest collection of his art.

Bear Paw Battlefield (B-7). South of Chinook. This site marks the surrender of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce on Oct. 5, 1877, after a 1,170-mile retreat.

Dinosaur Digs (C-4). A discovery near Choteau changed the way paleontologists think about dinosaurs. Visit Choteau's Old Trail Museum to view the fossils.



MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

Fort Peck Lake (C-9, 10). An inland ocean that stretches 135 miles through the Missouri River Breaks behind one of the world's largest dams. Fort Peck is one of the nation's best walleye fisheries and home to more than 40 species of fish, including northern pike, catfish, sauger, and sturgeon.

Charles M. Russell and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuges (C-8, 9). These wildlife-rich refuges consist of prairies, pines, breaks and badlands, and encompass a million acres of wildlands surrounding Fort Peck Lake. They support Montana's biggest prairie elk herd, plus mule deer, red fox and a great diversity of birds.

Fort Union Trading Post and National Historic Site (B-12). The Missouri River's pre-eminent fur trading post from the 1830s to the Civil War is north of Fairview. Bourgeois House, once the setting of elegant dinners, is now a visitor center.

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge (B-9). Famous for its great flocks of migrating waterfowl. Commonly seen are Canada geese, ducks of all species, colonial nesting birds, and upland game birds.

Little Rocky Mountains (C-8). An island of mountains on a sea of plains, the Little Rockies have been drawing visitors ever since Butch Cassidy and Kid Curry chose them as a favorite hideout. The area is rich in history, minerals, and recreation opportunities.

GOLD WEST COUNTRY

Fishing - Many of Montana's fabled blue-ribbon trout streams flow through here. Famous rivers include the Madison, Big Hole, Missouri, Beaverhead, and Jefferson.

Hiking - Four federally protected wilderness areas and several national forests offer hiking, camping, horseback riding and fishing.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park (F-5). Montana's first and best-known park features the most highly decorated limestone caverns in the Northwest. Daily cave tours (May 1 - Sept. 30).

Virginia City/Nevada City (G-4). Two authentically preserved and restored mining camps from the 1860's gold rush era. View period buildings or try your luck at gold panning. See the Nevada City railroad museum and ride the steam train.

Mining Cities. Butte (F-4) was built on copper, Helena (E-4) on gold. Butte, once known as "the richest hill on Earth," offers tours of historic mines and monuments, plus theWorld Museum of Mining. Helena, once the "Queen City of the West," is the state capital. Visit the historic walking mall, Capitol Building, St. Helena Cathedral, original Governor's Mansion and Montana Historical Museum.

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (H-4). Montana's best viewing of rare trumpeter swan. Also see waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, and moose.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

Yellowstone National Park (H, I-5, 6). The world's first national park is renowned for its spouting geysers, brilliant pools, bubbling cauldrons, mountains, meadows, waterfalls, canyons, and wildlife. Wintertime brings ski and snowmobile touring.

Hiking - Two federally protected wilderness areas and several national forests offer excellent hiking, camping and horseback riding. The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness (G-6) adjoins Yellowstone Park on its north edge and offers more than 700 miles of trails and over 400 alpine lakes.

Winter Sports - Includes three of Montana's most popular ski areas. Big Sky (G-5) is known for its perfect powder and destination resort atmosphere, Bridger Bowl (F-5) has steep chutes and wide open bowls, and Red Lodge (G-7) a quaint location.

Museum of the Rockies (F-5). Best known for its world-class dinosaur collection, the Bozeman museum also has a planetarium and extensive Indian and historical exhibits.

CUSTER COUNTRY

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (G-9). On June 25, 1876, the U.S. Cavalry was crushed by Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors. The dead included 263 soldiers and personnel of the 7th Cavalry including Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer. The Monument has a visitor center, museum, battlefield tours, Custer National Cemetery, and 7th Cavalry Memorial.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (G-8). Stunning canyon scenery, hiking trails, interpretive programs, boating, fishing and camping.

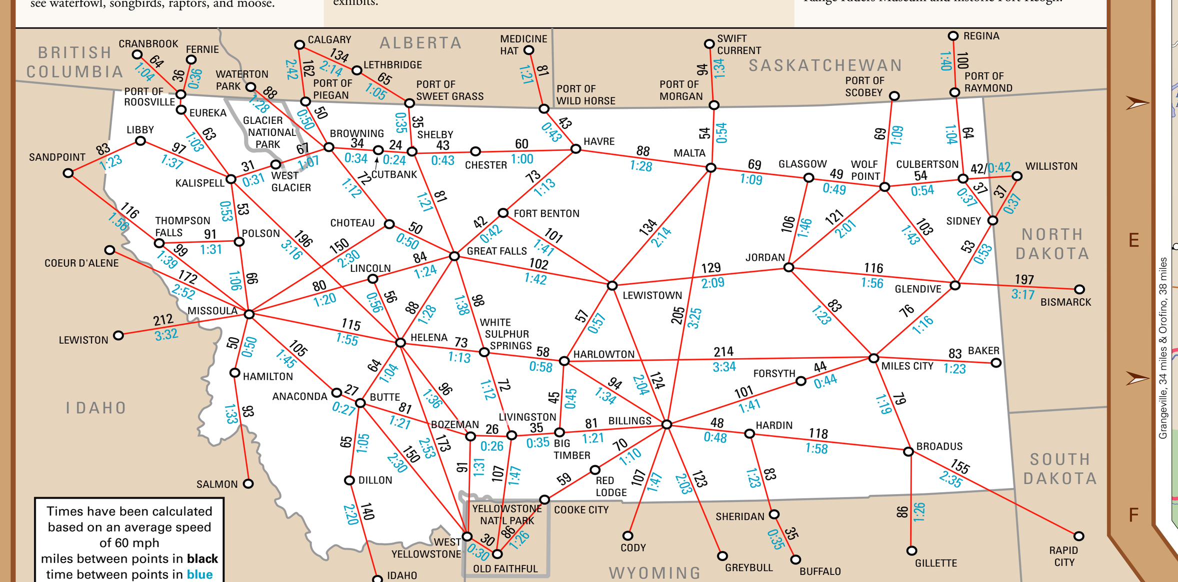
Pompeys Pillar National Historic Landmark (F-8). Captain William Clark carved his name on this sandstone butte in 1806.

Montana's Largest City (F-8). Billings is a regional hub and cultural center. Enjoy great shopping, restaurants, ZooMontana, the Western Heritage Center, Metra Park, and the Moss Mansion.

Makoshika State Park (D-12). A badlands with caprocks, pinnacles, hogback ridges and fluted hills.

Medicine Rocks State Park (F-12). A sculptured garden of soft sandstone, regarded as a place of "Big Medicine" by Indians.

Cow Capital of the West (E-11). Visit Miles City's Range Riders Museum and historic Fort Keogh.



CITIES AND TOWNS

Population figures for incorporated cities and towns are from the 1999 U.S. Census Estimate.

U Gas stations ● County Seats ✪ Hospitals

Licensed ambulance service is available in cities or towns printed in red. If ambulance telephone number isn't available contact Highway Patrol or Sheriff's Office.

State Capital: Helena
Montana Population: 882,779*
*1999 U.S. Census Estimate

Land Area: 145,392 sq. miles
Water Area: 1,746 sq. miles
Total Area: 147,138 sq. miles

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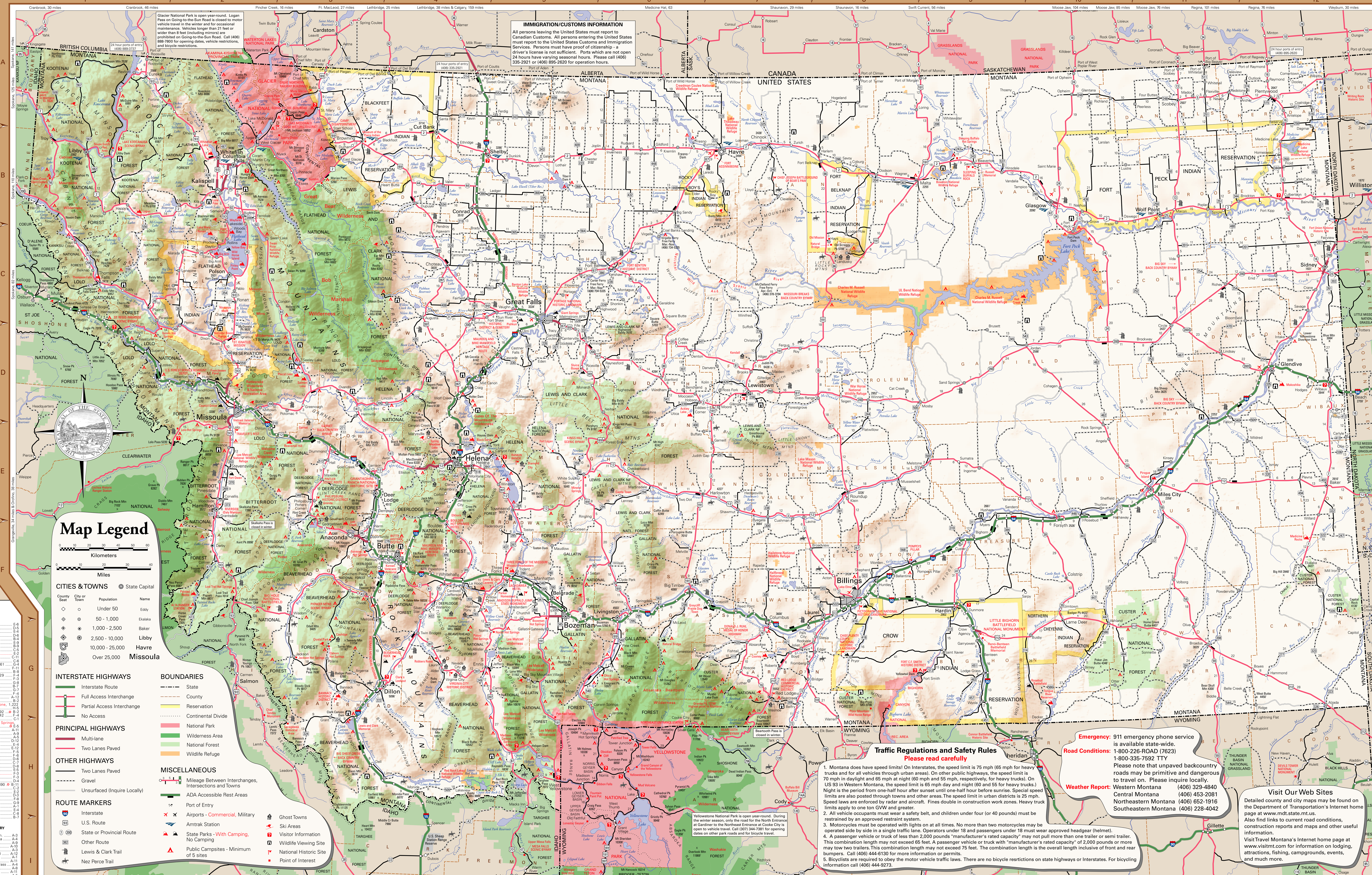

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