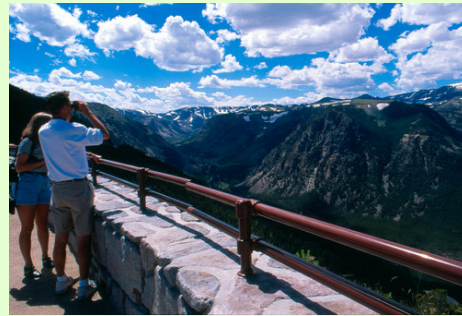


# Beartooth Highway - Montana

The Beartooth Highway in Montana is one of the most spectacular alpine highways in North America. It offers sweeping vistas of snow-covered mountains, unlimited outdoor recreation opportunities, unparalleled wildlife watching, and panoramic views of hundreds of high alpine lakes.



Length: 30 miles / 48.0 km

Time One hour to drive or 1.5  
to hours to enjoy the Montana  
Allow: part of the Byway.

## Local Information

### Cooke City Chamber of Commerce

406-838-2495

[Send E-mail](#)

### Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce

888-281-0625

[Send E-mail](#)

## Visitor Services

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



A growing number of visitors experience the byway and its surrounding areas with bicycles, motorcycles, ATVs, and hiking trails. There are hundreds of miles of designated trails that are easily accessible from the byway for those who are interested in getting out of their vehicles and enjoying the backcountry. Although the byway can be biked from end to end, stretches of the route require careful and cautious travel.

### Camping



Nine Forest Service Campgrounds are located along the Montana portions of the Highway from 5 miles south of Red Lodge to Cooke City. Gallatin National Forest in the west offers 3: Chief Joseph, Colter and Soda Butte. Custer National Forest in the east offers 6: Sheridan, Rattin, Parkside, Limber Pine, Greenough Lake, and "M-K." Most of these Forest Service camps have parking spurs, tables, fire rings, and vault toilets ("M-K" may not have all services.) The lower elevation campgrounds are open by Memorial Day Weekend; whereas, the camps near Beartooth and Island Lakes may not be open until mid to late June, depending upon snow conditions. Full service RV campgrounds are available near Red Lodge.



### **Food**

Red Lodge, Cooke City and Silver Gate offer a variety of dining and food services.



### **Gasoline**

Red Lodge, Cooke City and Silver Gate offer gasoline and service stations.



### **Information**

There is an authoritative information center along this byway.



### **Lodging**

Red Lodge and Cooke City in Montana offer lodging services. Travelers should also contact Yellowstone Country, (800) 736-5276, for additional lodging reservation needs.



### **Phone**

Public phones are available along this byway.



### **Restrooms**

Rock Creek Vista Point, 20 miles south of Red Lodge is a Montana Dept. of Transportation Rest Area. It has several overlooks, a large parking lot and restroom facilities.



### **Retail**

The neighboring communities of Red Lodge, Silver Gate and Cooke City offer a wide variety of businesses and vendors with many shopping opportunities.

## **Special Considerations**

Alpine climate is rigorous, and severe weather conditions can occur any month of the year. For example, during the summer temperatures range from the 70s on sunny days to below freezing during sudden snowstorms.

## **Restrictions**

The Montana portions of the byway are generally open seasonally from Memorial Day weekend to mid-October depending on snowfall. To check road conditions and opening and closing dates travelers should call the Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce at 406-446-1718. The road is normally plowed by Memorial Day, but closures are common through June due to spring snow storms. From the opening near Memorial Day, the road is seldom closed more than one day to remove the snow. It is not uncommon to experience blizzard type conditions both in the spring and the fall, especially at higher elevations. When these events occur, travel is slowed considerably or the highway is closed until it can be reopened by maintenance crews.

## Beartooth Highway - Montana

### Seasons

#### Best Time to Drive

Driving from Red Lodge to Cooke City (east to west) in the morning and west to east in the afternoon will reduce glare.

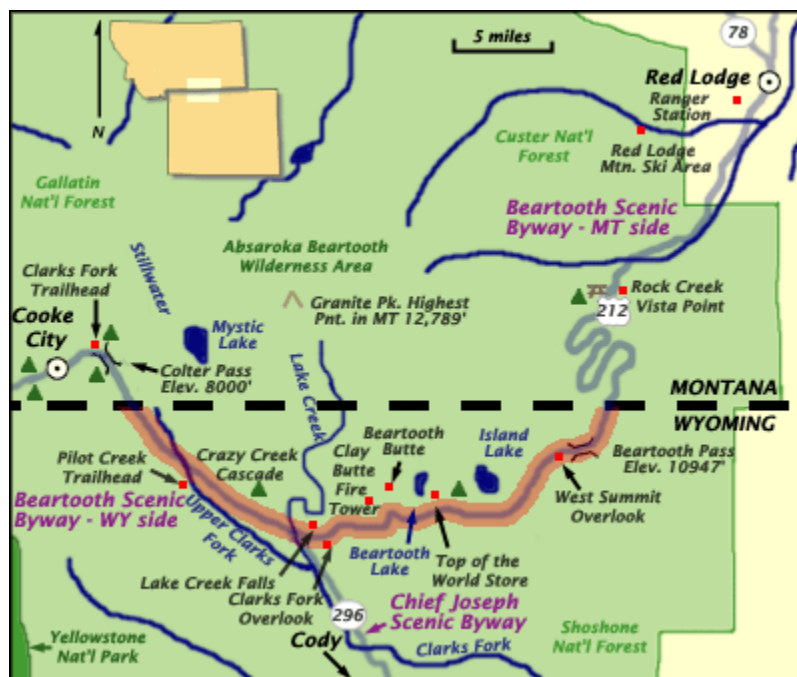
#### High Season

Summer















#### Shoulder Season

Check with the local ranger station or the Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce before traveling the byway in May, September or October.

### Map and Directions



### Legend:

	Point of Interest		City		Water
	Campground		Capital		Roads
	Mountain		U.S. Highway		Scenic Byway
	Pass		Interstate		All-American Road or National Scenic Byway
			State Highway		Unpaved Road

### Driving Directions

Montana's portion of the Beartooth Scenic Byway, U.S. Highway 212, is comprised of two segments, reached by continuing on the same route through Wyoming. The western

section travels through the Gallatin National Forest, starting between Red Lodge and Gardiner, just north of Yellowstone National Park, and ending at the state line. The eastern section resumes about 40 miles later at the state line and travels through the Custer National Forest to end at Red Lodge, Montana.

### **Getting to the Byway**

#### **From Bozeman, MT**

- Take I-90 east to Livingston.
- Exit onto US-89 and go south to Mammoth in Yellowstone National Park.
- On Grand Loop Rd., go east to Tower Junction.
- Take NE Entrance Rd. east to Montana where it becomes US-212, the Beartooth Highway.

#### **From Billings, MT**

- Take I-90 southwest to Laurel.
- Get on US-212 and go southwest to Red Lodge where the byway begins.

#### **Alternate Route from Billings, MT**

- Take I-90 south to Columbus.
- Get on MT-78 and go south to Red Lodge where the byway begins.