

Attractions

ALDER

The Ruby River Reservoir, nestled in the lush agricultural country between the Tobacco Root and Ruby Mountain Ranges, is a favorite place for rock hounders to hunt for garnets. At **Alder's** dredge ponds, you can see 50 foot high piles of processed rock windrows from gold mining in the early 1900's.

Don't leave town without visiting the gem mine which is open to the public or throw a line in one of the area's excellent fishing rivers; the Jefferson, Beaverhead, Ruby or Madison Rivers. **Alder** and surrounding communities have access to some of the best big-game hunting in Montana.

ANACONDA

Located approximately 27 miles west of Butte via Interstate 90 & Highway 1.

Anaconda is part of the Butte-Anaconda Historical park system, which is dedicated to the preservation of important industrial sites and structures. The Old Works golf course, designed by Jack Nicklaus, is laid-out on reclaimed lands and ruins of the Upper Works smelter. Across the valley is the giant 585 ft. tall smelter stack, the tallest masonry stack in the world. The stack is all that remains of what was once the world's largest non-ferrous smelter.

An Interpretive site is located near the old entrance to the smelter. The interpretive site depicts the size of the base and top of the stack. Six interpretive signs provide an overview of **Anaconda's** smelting history. The nearby mountains are a rockhoulder's paradise and feature sapphires, garnets and fossils.

Tour Historic **Anaconda** on a vintage 1936 Yellowstone Tour Bus mid-May through Mid-September.

There are many things to do in the **Anaconda** area such as trout fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, alpine and cross-country skiing, ice fishing and ice skating,



St. Patrick's Day in Butte (photo courtesy Wikimedia)

camping, hiking, horseback riding, motocross and drag racing, biking, antiquing and unique shops and fine dining facilities.

The free to the public Copper Chute slide, is 50 feet high and 140 feet long. It undulates to the bottom in varying slopes, none steeper than 45 degrees. A sand pit at the bottom breaks the ride. The slide is covered with puckerboard, the same material used around the sides of hockey rinks. It is free for kids of any age – some in their 80s!

AUGUSTA

Located approximately 60 miles north of Helena via I-15 & Highway 287.

Fishing and camping are popular activities around the "Old West" town of **Augusta**, and for good reason. The town, a gateway to the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness areas, is located near Wood and Bean Lakes and Willow Creek, Gibson and Nilan Reservoirs — all with camping facilities and all hold tempting Rainbow

trout. River anglers can try their luck on the Sun River immediately north of town or the Dearborn to the south (via Highway 287 & Highway 200) with both rivers offering a chance to take browns as well as rainbows. In town, the browser will find antique shops and photo galleries among the many ways to take a journey back in time.

BUTTE

Located at the junction of I-90 & I-15, approximately 65 miles south of Helena.

Its location at the junction of the Montana's east/west and north/south interstates, makes **Butte** a popular stop for vacationers traveling between the state's larger cities or between Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks.

Butte's status as one of the nation's largest National Historic Districts (4,500 buildings), its rich mining history and location mean there's plenty to see and do in and around the city.

There are walking tour guides available from the Chamber Visitor's Center, or you can take an historic tour on the **Butte** Trolley. A guided tour of **Butte's** historic district including a stop at the Berkeley Pit viewing stand.

Literally "topping" the long list of "must-sees" in and around **Butte** is the Our Lady of the Rockies Statue, standing 90 feet tall on the crest of the east ridge of the Continental Divide.

Completed in 1985, the statue was built in sections in the city and lifted to the site by helicopter.

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Old Montana State Prison, Deer Lodge (photo courtesy Jimmy Emerson)

Because no private vehicles are allowed on the road to the statue, visitors must take a tour bus leaving from Butte Plaza Mall. Once there, the reward is an astonishing view of the city and hundreds of miles of mountain peaks.

Down below, visit the Berkeley Pit observation stand and visitor center for a close-up view of Montana's deepest body of water. Started in 1955, the pit was the largest truck-operated open pit copper mine in the U.S. (7,000 ft. long, 5,600 ft. wide, 1,800 ft. deep) until mining stopped in 1982. Since then, water has been seeping into the pit and today it's filling at a rate of three million gallons per day.

The telescope at the pit is a great way to get another perspective on the Our Lady of the Rockies Statue. Highlighting **Butte's**

mining and mineral history, the **World Museum of Mining and 1899 Mining Camp** is built around the Orphan Girl Mine which once produced silver and zinc.

Today, visitors can stroll through the old mining village (over two dozen structures) and view the artifacts in its shops, offices and homes, or try the new walk-through mining display. The hoist house, located at the mine's gallows-like head frame, still houses the machinery that lowered men and equipment into the mine, and today features historic photographs and the museum gift shop.

In winter or summer, outdoor recreational opportunities abound in and around **Butte**. The surrounding Deerlodge National Forest serves as the backdrop for many of the activities. It includes

over 600 miles of hiking and riding trails, 22 Forest Service campgrounds (two cabins for rent year-round), 140 lakes, 1,000 miles of streams, 234 miles of marked snowmobile trails, 40 miles of marked ski trails and a section of the 158,516 acre Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness area.

Patient observers and hunters alike will find mule deer, elk, moose, black bear and blue grouse in and around the Deerlodge. A detailed guide to the forest's trails, campgrounds and scenic drives is available from the Deerlodge National Forest office.

For fishermen, **Butte** is centrally located to such waters as the Jefferson, Madison, Beaverhead, Gallatin, Clark Fork and Big Blackfoot Rivers and smaller streams like the Boulder River and blue-ribbon Rock Creek. For both boating and fishing, Georgetown Lake, 18 miles west of Anaconda on the Deerlodge, is one of the region's most popular and productive spots.

CANYON FERRY LAKE

Located along Highway 287 & Highway 284, between Townsend & Helena.

This huge reservoir and state park on the Missouri River near Helena has something for visitors and vacationers throughout the year. Not surprisingly, boating, swimming, fishing and lakeside camping are favorite activities in the warmer months.

The largest in Montana's state park system, **Canyon Ferry** includes 22 individual day-use and overnight recreation sites and three marinas. The fall season brings a

unique opportunity for bird-watching, as the **Canyon Ferry/Holter/Hauser Lakes** area is popular among migrating Bald Eagles and a variety of waterfowl.

The area around the visitor center and **Canyon Ferry Dam** at the north end of the lake, is a good place to view this winged parade.

DEER LODGE

Located 41 miles northwest of Butte via Interstate 90.

Several attractions in and around the town of **Deer Lodge** offer a genuine taste of history. Just north of town at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch (a National Historic Site), visitors can tour the grounds and buildings of what was one of the largest cattle operations in America (over one million acres).

Although most of the land was eventually sold, the original structures of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch have been preserved. The main house, with its original and elaborate 19th century furnishings, as well as workshops, stables and a barn housing a collection of horse-drawn vehicles, are all open to those interested in a view of the past.

In town, several museums are worth checking out. The Old Montana State Prison, located on the site of the Old Montana Territorial Prison, is a castle-like stone building used from the 1870's until 1979, is now on the National Register of Historic Places and open for self-guided tours.

Worthwhile excursions within easy driving distance of **Deer Lodge** include Lost Creek State Park and Georgetown Lake.

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