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# VISIT CHEYENNE FACT SHEET



## ABOUT CHEYENNE

Cheyenne, Wyoming's capital city, embodies the spirit of the Old West. It is considered the nation's rodeo and railroad capital, and is home to numerous museums; historic hotels and mansions; a collection of steam engines; western-themed attractions and shopping; resorts and ranches; and a thriving art community with soft adventure nearby.

## LOCATION

Just 90 miles north of Denver International Airport, Cheyenne is located near the southeast corner of the state of Wyoming near Medicine Bow National Forest. The city has a total area of approximately 25 square miles, of which .11 square miles is water.



## HISTORY



On July 4, 1867 the first tents were pitches on the site now known as Cheyenne. Cheyenne means "aliens" or "people of foreign language," a name given by the Sioux Indians. The first residents were men who moved west to work on the Union Pacific Railroad and the majority of settlers moved away when the railroad was completed in November of that same year. By 1869 Cheyenne was a thriving western town home to a variety of residents including railroad gangs, soldiers from Fort D.A. Russell, and employees from Camp Carlin. It was through this population that gave way to the type of entertainment that became associated with the "Wild West."

## LODGING

Cheyenne offers a variety of hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts and campgrounds to meet every taste and pocketbook. Top lodging options include:

- **[The Historic Plains Hotel](#)**  
A charming 1911 National Historic Landmark Hotel located in the heart of Downtown Cheyenne where tourists enjoy the alluring Western edge. The Plains has played host to notable guests of the past and is designed with Western High Style décor.
- **[Nagle Warren Mansion B & B](#)**  
One of Cheyenne's most elegant residences, the Victorian B&B was built in 1888 and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. English High Tea is served on Fridays and Saturdays.
- **[Little America Hotel & Resort](#)**  
In the midst of the vast Wyoming prairie, Little America Cheyenne is an 80-acre oasis of luxury service, surrounded by beautifully groomed grounds, a nine-hole executive golf course and a heated, outdoor swimming pool.



## WESTERN EXPERIENCES

Cheyenne's slogan, "Cheyenne - Live the Legend," speaks to its rich history that is seeping with Western culture. Travelers will find that there are still plenty of cowboys in the West at the world-renowned Cheyenne Frontier Days and other regularly held rodeo events around the city. Additionally, there are expansive ranches and numerous historic sites that provide a sense of what the Old West was really like. Top western experiences in Cheyenne include:

- **[Terry Bison Ranch](#)** – Located on nearly 30,000 acres of rolling countryside spotted with more than 2,300 bison, Terry Bison Ranch features horseback rides, ATVs, train tours, fishing and more.
- **[The Depot Museum](#)** – This historic museum tells the story of the Cheyenne's beginnings during the construction of the transcontinental railroad.
- **[Nelson Museum of the West](#)** – Home to numerous exhibits full of pieces that encompass Western history, including cowboy and Native American relics.
- **[The Wrangler](#)** – 13,000 square feet of ranch wear and Western clothing. The sky-lit hat room has a selection of nearly 500 hats and has been home to retail since 1892.
- **[Big Boy Steam Engines](#)** – Cheyenne is home to two of the Big Boy Locomotives, including Big Boy No. 4014, which arrived in 2014 and was restored for a tour of the U.S. in May 2019. The Big Boy No. 4004 can be seen on display in Cheyenne's Holliday Park and has been a favorite attraction for many visitors for more than 50 years.

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

Cheyenne has a wide variety of restaurants, ranging from Asian cuisine to buffalo burgers. The town is also home to a number of local breweries, crafting a variety of seasonal brews. A few top restaurants and breweries include:

- **[Senator's Steakhouse](#)** – Located at Terry Bison Ranch, Senator's Steakhouse features what famed chef Booby Flay called "the best burger in Wyoming."
- **[Bunkhouse Bar & Grill](#)** – A fun place with great food featuring a laid back atmosphere and the best steak in the West.
- **[Poor Richards](#)** – Poor Richard's Restaurant has been a staple in Cheyenne for 28 years. It's an elegant yet casual destination for seafood and steaks.
- **[Freedom's Edge Tap House Brewing Co.](#)** Microbrewery opened in February 2012, Freedom's Edge is committed to making fresh, quality-handcrafted beer.
- **[Danielmark's Brewery](#)** – Danielmark's opened April 2016 in a historic home. They have six different beers, which they brew in their carriage house.
- **[Accomplice Beer Company](#)** – Located in the Depot Plaza, Accomplice Beer Company features seven signature beers, three seasonal styles and four guest taps.

## ARTS & CULTURE

Visitors looking for Western-themed art and a variety of cultural activities will not be disappointed when they arrive in Cheyenne. The city offers numerous galleries and museums to view beautiful and historic Western art, as well as theaters and concert venues to see live performances.

- **[Historic Atlas Theater](#)** – The three-story building was originally built in 1887. In 1907, Cheyenne architect William Dubois was hired to convert the first floor into a theater, which would be named the Atlas. In 1966, the Cheyenne Little Theatre Players began to use the Atlas for their live theater productions. The Atlas was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.
- **[Historic Governor's Mansion](#)** – From 1905 to 1976, the mansion was the residence of 19 Wyoming first families. Governors, First Ladies, their children and pets lived and entertained in the home over the course of 71 years.
- **[Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra](#)** – The symphony performs a variety of concerts at the Cheyenne Civic Center.
- **[Cheyenne Artists Guild](#)** – Provides numerous art shows throughout the year. Located in the historic Can Tassel Carriage Barn, The Cheyenne Artists Guild is the oldest continuously operating, nonprofit artists organizations in Wyoming.

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Home to a myriad of interactive activities and experiences, the city affords the opportunity for an unforgettable family vacation that is both fun and educational. Family-friendly activities include:

- **[Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley Tour](#)** – For a fully narrated historic tour of Cheyenne, jump on board the Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley. The trolley operates from May through the end of September. Ghost tours are offered in October and Christmas Lights tours in December.
- **[Cheyenne Botanic Gardens](#)** – The Cheyenne Botanic Gardens are an oasis on the high plains featuring nine acres of different landscapes, gardens and plant collections. Some specialty areas include a nationally recognized inspirational Peace Garden, as well as the Discovery Pond and educational wetland area.
- **[Paul Smith Children's Village](#)** – Showcases and interprets sustainable systems for food production and preparation, water quality, energy production, habitation, and cultural fulfillment. The Cheyenne Botanic Gardens are open year-round and is free to the public.
- **[Cheyenne Big Boots Tour](#)** – The eight foot tall cowboy boots have been carefully painted by local artists to show Wyoming's and Cheyenne's history. Attempt a scavenger hunt and find all 19 of the giant boots via the location maps available at The Depot in the visitor's center.

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Outdoor adventure is waiting just 30 minutes west of Cheyenne. Three scenic and distinct areas—the Pole Mountain and Vedauwoo areas within Medicine Bow National Forest, and Curt Gowdy State Park—provide a rich playground for both the casual nature lover and the avid outdoor enthusiast.

- **[Curt Gowdy State Park](#)** – Curt Gowdy State Park lies among the picturesque foothills of the Laramie Mountains. The area features granite towers, rocky soils and timbered slopes. Two small reservoirs form the heart of Curt Gowdy State Park. Granite Reservoir, the larger of the two, is an excellent base for water sports as well as rainbow trout and kokanee salmon fishing.
- **[Vedauwoo Recreation Area](#)** – Visit the ancient rock formations at Vedauwoo Recreation Area, which allows for beautiful sightseeing, hiking, camping and mountain biking.
- **[Pole Mountain](#)** – Prior to 1959, this 55,000-acre area was administered by the War Department for military training. It is now managed by the US Forest Service and offers endless outdoor recreation.
- **[Ames Monument](#)** – This monument is a 60-foot high granite pyramid located in southeastern Albany County, Wyoming. It is dedicated to Oakes and Oliver Ames, two Massachusetts brothers who were extremely influential in constructing the nation's first transcontinental railroad. The monument was placed at the highest point on the transcontinental railroad to serve as a splendid reminder of that great enterprise.

## SIGNATURE ANNUAL EVENTS

- **[Restaurant Week](#)** (April) – Seven days of your favorite restaurants, and the ones you've always wanted to try. Offering exceptional pricing on special menu items.
- **[Depot Days](#)** (May) – Depot Days takes place at the Cheyenne Depot with exhibits and tours of the historic UP roundhouse and WASATCH RR Contractors. The Sherman Hill Model Railroad Show is at the Frontier Park Exhibition Hall.
- **[Wyoming Brewers Festival](#)** (June) – Serving up two days of great fun, good beer and tasty food. More than 75 brews, 30+ regional and national brewers offering specialty beers.
- **[Cheyenne Frontier Days](#)** (July) – Cheyenne Frontier Days takes place the last full week of July. The world's largest rodeo includes ten days of rodeo action, parades, pancake breakfasts, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, and the hottest concert acts.
- **[Cheyenne Arts Festival](#)** (August) – The two-day festival features dozens of juried visual and performance artists from around the region, workshops for young people to learn about their artistic talents, and activities for the entire family.
- **[Zombiefest](#)** (September) – From The Historic Atlas Theatre, the Depot Plaza, the Hynds Building and all around the downtown Cheyenne area zombies will overrun the city.
- **[New Year's Eve Ball Drop](#)** (December) – A fully lit ball is suspended 75 feet in the air and drops at midnight. While waiting for the New Year, people gather in the Depot Plaza to enjoy music. Then, when the ball drops, the plaza fills with sounds of Auld Lang Syne and fireworks.



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