

A TRIP TO ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING

Home to the only university in Wyoming, Laramie is a vibrant college town brimming with western history, modern art and quaint accommodations. History buffs can step into the past at the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, where the infamous outlaw, Butch Cassidy, was once held. Go back further in time at the University of Wyoming's Geological Museum, Wyoming's very own "Jurassic Park." Outdoor enthusiasts can explore Laramie's picturesque surroundings of Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and the Snowy Range Mountains. From climbing gravity-defying rock formations in Vedauwoo Recreation Area to downhill skiing at Snowy Range Ski Area, Laramie offers year-round outdoor adventure. Be sure to explore Laramie's historic downtown with a walkable brewery or mural tour; downtown Laramie features brilliant full wall murals created by local artists. Then, grab a bite to eat at any foodie hotspot, including stops featured on Guy Fieri's Food Network show, Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives.

While there are many adventures to be had in Albany County, this itinerary does not include everything this area has to offer. Be sure to check out the full list of Wyoming listings [here](#). You can find more Wyoming activities throughout the state on the Travel Wyoming Events [Calendar](#).

@Visit Laramie





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Day 1: Downtown Laramie

Laramie Railroad Depot & Union Pacific Railroad Footbridge

First stop on our adventure is the Laramie Railroad Depot, full of artifacts from Laramie's Union Pacific foundation. A tour can be scheduled ahead of time with a volunteer, or they are open on Monday for regular tours. South of the Depot on any day, visitors can see a steam engine alongside a wedge snow car that was in use on the tracks for over 50 years.

Just north of the Depot is the Union Pacific Railroad footbridge. This is the perfect vantage point for rail fans to feel the rumble of the tracks. It is also Laramie's absolute favorite spot for a selfie, with the fantastic structure the steel bridge. Across the bridge into West Laramie, visitors can also enjoy the Laramie Green Belt along the Laramie River at Optimist Park, and then head back toward downtown.

Mural Tour

The Laramie Mural Project began in 2011, and now murals adorn walls all over the historic downtown area. Some of Laramie favorites include the "Gill Street" mural, an artist collaboration of fish behind the shops at 1st and Garfield, "Hollyhock Haven" and "Crossing Sherman Hill" by Travis Ivey, and of course "Laramie" by June Glasson. For history buffs, be sure to catch the Historic Hidden Figure project in the alley between 211 Grand Avenue and 218 Iverson.

Be sure to stop into the Laramie Area Visitor Center to catch a glimpse of the brand new mural that will be completed in June 2022.





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Day 1 continued...

Shopping: Bent & Rusty

Most of Laramie's locally-owned shops downtown open around 10 am. Unique boutiques are around every corner downtown, so be sure to stop in for clothing, gifts, flowers, décor, furniture, and other treasures. Locals highly recommend taking advantage of the art scene in downtown Laramie, with over 7 art galleries featuring views of Wyoming to display at home, western styles, pottery, jewelry, and fantastic locally-crafted art found nowhere else.

A downtown staple is the Bent & Rusty, the largest craftsman co-op in the country. Afterward, a stop by Range Leather shop delights with locally-made leatherworks and hats for a truly Wyoming experience. For western wear, Martindale's Western Store offers everything from cowboy boots to Wranglers. And finally, the Curiosity Shoppe and the Knothole are our go-to for Laramie and University of Wyoming souvenirs.

Famous Food

Laramie has an abundance of incredible, award winning, eateries that you will not want to miss. When you combine eclectic college town tastes with Wyoming flare, you will find that there's a little bit of everything right here in this historic town. From locally-owned diamonds in the rough to familiar chains, there are delights for every palate. Laramie offers everything from Wyoming steaks and funky fries to award-winning vegetarian and curry Thai. Grab breakfast at a classic brunch stop or local bakery, lunch on craft burgers and wings, and treat yourself to a steak dinner so amazing you'll be back again.

In addition to the abundance of delicious food around town, restaurants like Born in a Barn, The Alibi, Sweet Melissa's, Prairie Rose, Dubble Dub Wings, and The Crowbar are being featured on the Food Networks infamous Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives hosted by Guy Fieri. So, you have plenty of top notch meals to choose from throughout your visit.

Nightlife

As Wyoming's only University town, downtown Laramie sets the bar for a buzzing night life. We recommend stopping along any of the five walkable breweries downtown on Laramie's Brewery Tour for a taste of cold, frothy Wyoming-made ales. Their award-winning brewmasters are sure to find tastes you have never experienced before. For wine drinkers, a stop by Cask 307, The Great Untamed or Chalk n Cheese for wine pairings and charcuterie or tapas makes a fantastic evening.





Day 2: Out & About

Museums

As the Equality State, Wyoming was the first state to grant full equal voting rights to women. The Wyoming Women's History Museum is a fantastic museum featuring the figures who fought for women's suffrage in Wyoming, including Laramie's own Louisa Swain, the first woman to vote in a general election under laws giving women and men fully equal voting rights.

Visit the location of the first female jury, Laramie's historic buildings and hotels, and old west brothels with our Historic Downtown Tour brochure. The Buckhorn Bar, Laramie's longest standing bar, brings its own rough-and-tumble history with tales of bullets and outlaws.

A trip to Laramie would be remiss without a stop at the Laramie Plains Museum at the Ivinson Mansion. Museum tours offer a step back in time to learn about Laramie's foundation, its changemakers in the Ivinson family, and life in the late 1800's on the Wyoming frontier. This beautifully restored museum is often voted Laramie's favorite.

Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site

Listed on the National Register, the Wyoming Territorial Prison was a U.S. Penitentiary in 1872 and later Wyoming's first State Penitentiary. For 30 years it held violent and desperate outlaws. Now a museum, visitors learn of punishment and rehabilitation, as well as discover the stories held within the iron cells and behind the prison walls through a prisoner identity. The Prison Industries Building (broom factory) was used to raise revenue, manage the prison population, and used as a rehabilitative strategy. Located on 197 acres, the site offers restored historic buildings, museum exhibits, picnic area, a nature trail, visitor center with gift shop, and a RV Dump Station.





Day 3: Outdoor Recreation

Centennial

Providing the perfect base camp for hikers, backpackers, anglers and others looking to escape into the area's pristine natural spaces, Centennial offers solitude and friendly hospitality. From the secluded sites at Brooklyn Lake Campground to the rustic accommodations of Mountain Meadow Cabins and comforting rooms at Mountain View Historic Hotel, you have your choice of places to stay in Centennial. Plan to visit in the winter months to be just minutes from the affordable and family-friendly Snowy Range Ski Area. Sled heads will enjoy miles of snowmobile trails featuring fresh powder and stunning vistas within the Snowy Range Mountains. No matter the season, a surreal mountain retreat awaits you in Centennial, Wyoming.

Medicine Bow National Forest

The Medicine Bow National Forest provides year-round recreation opportunities. Activities including hiking, biking, camping, horseback riding, off road vehicle (ORV) riding, fishing, and hunting are at your disposal in the spring, summer, and fall months. In the winter there is snowshoeing, snowmobiling, skiing, and snowboarding. Beautiful vistas await sightseers and photographers. The topography varies greatly within the national forests with the elevation ranging from 5,500 to 12,013 feet. The months of July and August bring a gorgeous array of wildflowers, and wildlife sightings are not uncommon and may include critters such as pica, marmots, foxes, moose, and, less frequently but still prevalent, black bears and mountain lions.

Happy Jack, Vedauwoo and The Snowy Range Mountains

Happy Jack Recreation Area, Vedauwoo Recreation Area, and the Snowy Range Mountains are major points of interest. Laramie is surrounded by the forest boundaries with Vedauwoo and Happy Jack less than a 15-minute drive east of town and the Snowy Range approximately 35 miles west. Access to campgrounds, picnic sites, observation points, and hiking trails are plentiful, and high alpine lake recreation such as trout fishing and paddleboarding or kayaking are popular attractions. Any section of the forest is excellent for those looking to try out new activities on relatively easy hiking terrain that is well-signed and supported by pronounced landmark navigation. More experienced outdoor enthusiasts and those looking for more of a challenge won't be disappointed, either.

Snowy Range Scenic Byway

Accessing the peak area of the Snowies is relatively easy because of the Snowy Range Scenic Byway that cuts through the forest. If you are traveling on I-80 through southeastern Wyoming, you can reach this scenic drive by exiting from the west at Walcott Junction, 20 miles east of Rawlins (follow signs for Saratoga). Or, if accessing the byway from Laramie, you'll take Exit 311 for Snowy Range Road. The byway does have a short season with the highest part of the highway sitting at just under 11,000 feet above sea level. The route is cleared of the snowpack at the end of May and closes back up by mid-November.

