

EXPLORE SWEETWATER COUNTY

Towering buttes, red-hued desert landscapes and otherworldly rock formations might leave you wondering if you've left the state – or country.

You've just entered Sweetwater County. This sprawling area is filled with outdoor activities, restaurants and museums as varied as its terrain. Just south of Green River lies Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, a desert oasis where you can hike and mountain bike or kayak, fish and boat on a beautiful reservoir that spans the Utah border. Head northeast to the Killpecker Sand Dunes for views of Boar's Tusk and other rock formations as you hike, sandboard or ATV through 11,000 acres of sand. Then stop for a stroll in downtown Rock Springs where you can find local dining and attractions like Bittercreek Brewing and the Rock Springs Historical Museum, which features exhibits on the area's coal mining and railroad past that provided work for 56 nationalities. Be sure to check if there's a rodeo or another exciting event happening at the Sweetwater Events Complex before going on to explore more treasures in southwest Wyoming.

While there are many adventures to be had in Sweetwater 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](#).



@therockieswest



Day 1: Tour Rock Springs

Sidekicks Bookbar

Books line the wall from floor to ceiling at this one-of-a-kind bar in Downtown Rock Springs. Sidekicks Bookbar features a wide selection of wine along with charcuterie boards, desserts, coffee, tea, and most recently, beer. This modern space also hosts various events from book signings to comedy performances.

Mural Tour

Downtown Rock Springs has an award-winning Main Street for many reasons – one being the vibrant public art found around town. Larger than life murals, commissioned by the Rock Springs Main Street/Urban Renewal Agency, are inspired by the Southwestern Wyoming landscapes and wildlife, and the history of Sweetwater County. Some of the favorites include 'Big Country' by Valerie Doshier, 'Ambition Within' by Arcy, 'Pronghorn' by Dan Toro, 'The Plateau' by Arcy, 'Rock Springs' by Jesse Stark, 'The Power of Coal' by Dan Toro, 'Disarming' by Rose Klein, 'Freedom' by Chad Bolsinger and 'Lioness' by Rose Klein.

Art Underground Gallery

The pedestrians underpass in Downtown Rock Springs is filled with community artwork from 25 residents of all ages. Known as the Art Underground Gallery, individual murals brighten this unique public gallery.

Community Fine Arts Center

Visit the Community Fine Arts Center (CFAC) in Downtown Rock Springs to see a large collection of 20th century and contemporary American art as well as rotating displays by local and regional artists. There is also incredible artwork from Norman Rockwell, Grandma Moses, and Dali. In addition, the center offers several performances and classes throughout the year. The gallery is free to the public as part of the county library system and a local artists' gift shop helps support an annual scholarship for a high school senior. Come in for the view! Visitors can schedule individual or group tours free of charge.

Wyoming

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Day 2: Tour Rock Springs Continued...

WWCC Natural History Museum

The WWCC Natural History Museum is an archaeologist's and geologist's playground, displaying a stunning collection of stones and several wallmounted fossils of fish, palm leaves and reptiles discovered in the area. And to learn about the earliest known humans who lived here, feast your eyes on prehistoric pottery, small fossils and other evidence of our ancient neighbors.

Rock Springs Historical Museum

The Rock Springs Historical Museum is housed in what was once the Rock Springs City Hall - built of sandstone brick in 1894. Each year, the museum offers regularly rotating exhibits that showcase the town's proud heritage, allowing visitors a chance to appreciate the perserverance it took to carve out a livelihood in this unforgiving landscape. The museum staff is happy to answer any questions you have about the history of Rock Springs, and they'll steer you to other points of interest such as a self-guided walking tour of historic downtown.

White Mountain Golf Course

At the White Mountain Golf Course, stop by the fully equipped pro shop, take your pick of 27 challenging holes or practice your swing on the driving range. A food and beverage cart will cater to you on the fairways, and you can grab a bite and a beverage and kick up your cleats in the clubhouse after your match. Any non-golfers can enjoy the small fishing lake, the ball field complex and the duck pond nearby.





Day 3: Explore Green River

Sweetwater County Historical Museum

Discover the rich cultural heritage of southwestern Wyoming at the Sweetwater County Historical Museum. Explore the stories of Native Americans, explorers, fur trappers, travelers of overland trails, railroad workers, coal miners, cowboys, shepherders, homesteaders, business people, trona miners and oil and gas workers. Established in 1967, the museum is housed in a renovated 1930 post office building and contains a collection of several thousand artifacts, a large historical photograph collection, and local history research material.

Outdoor Recreation at Expedition Island

If you want to blend a little history with your river fun, Expedition Island in the City of Green River is at the ready. Originally a starting point for Major John Wesley Powell's expeditions in 1869 and 1871, this island oasis is the perfect spot for family picnics and Blue Ribbon trout fishing. It also serves as the ideal launching off point for tubing, kayaking and rafting on the river.

Green River Railyard

Since 1868 when the Union Pacific Railroad reached the city of Green River and established a station there, the Green River Railyard has had a major impact on the area. Up until the 1970s, the railyard continued to expand with roundhouses, car sheds, machine shops, passenger depots and restaurants. At its height during World War II(1941-45), over 100 trains passed through Green River each day. The pedestrian overpass spans the Green River Railyard connecting the two sides of town and reminding visitors of the area's local history. Pedestrian overpass bridges were built as a safe way to cross the track. Although most towns once had an overpass, those in Green River and Laramie are the only remaining ones in Wyoming. The pedestrian overpass offers an expansive view of the depot, railyards and occasional passing trains.





Day 4: Explore Green River Continued...

Wilkins Peak Trail System & Green River Bike Park

Named the most popular trail system in the state, Wilkins Peak Trail System offers single track trails for riders of every skill level. Fourteen trails and more than 20 miles of varied terrain and features including switchbacks, bridges and drops will challenge even the most advanced riders-it's what keeps mountain bike enthusiasts coming back again and again.

For those seeking the thrill of freestyle and big air, the Green River Bike Park lets you kick it up a notch with a pump track, berms, ladder bridges and more. Whether you have an aspiring X Games teenager in the family or not, the Green River Bike Park offers trails and features to challenge bikers of every level.

Green River & Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area Tour

The most popular destination is Flaming Gorge Reservoir, measuring 91 miles long and spanning the states of Wyoming and Utah. Sign up for the brand new Flaming Gorge Tour for a full day of fun. Learn about the area's wildlife, geology and history with stops at the Flaming Gorge Dam and other scenic overlooks. Plus, lunch is included with your reservation. Not to be outdone, the Green River is here, too, separated from the reservoir by the towering wall of the Flaming Gorge Dam, which you can tour too. Both the reservoir and the river provide a plethora of water activities to choose from, including fishing from the shore or boat. Open the door to endless water sport opportunities by bringing your own boat or renting one from the Buckboard Marina. Tubing, water skiing, and wakeboarding are just a few ways to enjoy your time on the water. Or opt for another form of water transportation and jet ski, kayak or raft on the river or lake. Around the Flaming Gorge, you will find plenty of hiking and mountain biking trails. There is even plenty of room to camp along the water. However, you'll want to book at least a month in advance during the summer season. Not only is the reservoir beautiful but the Flaming Gorge - Green River Basin Scenic Byway is only 1 of 37 in the US that is designated as an All-American Road.



Day 5: Sightseeing

Pilot Butte Wild Horse Scenic Loop

Check out Southern Wyoming's wild horses on this unforgettable scenic drive around Pilot Butte. With the breathtaking high-desert landscape as your backdrop, go off-road and witness these majestic wildlife in their natural habitat, as well as other critters like desert elk, rabbits, coyotes, hawks and eagles.

Few scenic byways in North America will give you such a detailed image of the pure and untamed Wild West. For additional information, view our brochure.

Disclaimer: This is a true “off the grid experience,” and cell service is limited! Make sure you have extra water, and a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle with thick tires (and a spare tire) to traverse the dirt roads. Let someone know where you are headed and when you plan to return.

Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge

The name Seedskaadee originated from the Shoshone Indian word “Sisk-a-dee-agie” meaning “river of the prairie hen.” The 27,230 acre Refuge protects a mosaic of riparian, wetland, and upland shrub habitats along 36 miles of the Green River in southwest Wyoming. The riparian corridor of the Green River is an important migration route and nesting area for a wide variety of migratory waterfowl and passerine bird species. Many insects, big game and small mammals can be found on the Refuge as well as resident and migratory birds. The refuge also has a fantastic visitor center with interactive displays that you will not want to miss.





Day 6: Play in Nature

Killpecker Sand Dunes, Boars Tusk & White Mountain Petroglyphs

Located north of Rock Springs, Wyoming, the Killpecker Sand Dunes offer beautiful, soft dunes to explore, as well as the remains of a tumultuous geologic past in the form of buttes and spires. At 7100 ft elevation, Boar's Tusk is a dormant volcanic structure rising 400 ft above the valley floor. Used as a landmark for hikers, mountain bikers and railroad travelers, this distinct feature is the core of a long dormant volcanic eruption. The Lamprite material that makes up the feature dates back 2.5 million years.

Motorsport enthusiasts from across the country have made the dunes a hotspot for ATViing. Bring your dune buggy, dirt bike or ATV to traverse across the 11,000 acres of designated open play space. Novice riders learn the ropes on flatter areas and smaller dunes while the experts show their skills on mammoth dunes that reach 100 feet high.

When you're not kicking up sand with motors and tires, make sure to toss a Frisbee, surf down the dunes on a sled or skis, or play an unforgettable match of beach volleyball. You can also hike the dunes and try to spot the herd of rare desert elk, found nowhere else in North America. And at the end of the day as the sun dips down, look west. It's sure to be a sunset you won't soon forget.

Hundreds of carved figures dot the sandstone cliffs at the White Mountain Petroglyph site in Wyoming's Red Desert. As one of Wyoming's premier rock art sites, the White Mountain Petroglyphs should be a stop on any tour of southwestern Wyoming. Etched into the stone surface some 200 to 1,000 years ago, several figures appear to portray bison and elk hunts while others depict geometric forms or tiny footprints. Handprints are worn into the rock as well, providing visitors with a compelling connection to those who used the site long ago.

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Farson Mercantile & Big Sandy Reservoir

This is a must-stop in the summer, since this small town serves up some of the biggest ice cream cones you've ever seen. Head to Farson Mercantile to try the well-known "Big Cone" for yourself. Here, you can also treat yourself to pizza, sandwiches or coffee, and shop for souvenirs at the gift store. While in the area, be sure to stop at Big Sandy Reservoir to fish, boat, camp or just have a picnic. Petroglyphs, fossil beds and segments of the Oregon Trail can also be found nearby.

