

## ONLY IN CASPER, WYOMING

This town in central Wyoming marks the only point where the Oregon, California, Mormon and Pony Express Trails intersected during the westward expansion of the mid-1800s. Step into the shoes of these western travelers with a wagon ride from Historic Trails West or by visiting Independence Rock. Experience the outdoors with a quick drive to Casper Mountain, where summer hiking and mountain biking give way to winter snowshoeing and skiing at Hogadon Ski Area. Be sure to cast a line on the North Platte River, where uncrowded waters teeming with blue ribbon trout easily make Casper one of the best fishing destinations in the U.S. And don't leave hungry; the restaurants in Casper are some of the best in the state, including Racca's Pizzeria Napoletana and Firerock Steakhouse. End your day by perusing shops downtown and checking out the local music scene in the one and only Casper, Wyoming.

While there are many adventures to be had in Casper, 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.





## Day 1

### Casper Mountain

Start your day with a hike or mountain bike ride at Casper Mountain. This recreation area features a number of trails ranging in length and difficulty. Paths such as the Lee McCune Braille Trail are perfect for hiking, while the Casper Mountain Trails Center acts as a hub for anyone looking to access mountain biking, cross-country skiing and trail running routes.

### Tate Geological Museum and Western History Center at Casper College

What better way to experience Wyoming than by learning about the prehistoric giants that once roamed this land? The Tate Geological Museum is a geology and paleontology museum located on the Casper College campus. Featuring over 3,000 fossil and mineral specimen, it will be well-worth your time to spend a few hours exploring this Wyoming museum. Each summer, the museum leads three Dinosaur Digs where participants spend a week excavating and collecting artifacts. A recent dig even led to the excavation of Lee Rex, the T. Rex. At the museum, you can examine rocks, minerals, meteorites and Wyoming Jade to learn why the state looks the way it does. Make sure you take a look at Dee the Columbian Mammoth. Not only is he unique for being 11,600 years old, but was also found with over 300 complete and identifiable bones.

### Backwards Distilling Company

Visit this family-run distillery with a quirky, circus vibe to experience Wyoming craft spirits. Tours can be made by appointment only and gives you a behind the scenes look at how the distillery is run. Classes are also available for those interested in learning how to make fun cocktails and infused spirits at home. If you'd rather just sit back and enjoy the delicious products of this craft distillery, head to the tasting room for cocktails with your crew.

### Yellowstone Garage

End your day with made-from-scratch burgers, sandwiches and American dishes at Yellowstone Garage. This once gas station and auto garage was transformed into a family-friendly bar and grill that serves up fresh food. Stop by in the summer to enjoy live music with your meal.





## Day 2

### Bridle Trail

For another hiking experience not far from downtown Casper, head to Rotary Park. This area features trails for hiking along with grills and fire pits so you can enjoy an outdoor meal. Bridle Trail is one of the most popular paths in this area, and for good reason. This 4.5 mile trail awards hikers with views of the city and Garden Creek Falls.

### Nicolaysen Art Museum

Known as the NIC to locals, this museum features contemporary artwork from a variety of artists. From space photography to interactive sculptures to local and historic pieces, all types of art enthusiasts can find something to enjoy. Explore the museum at your own pace or schedule a tour to learn more about featured art and the museum itself.

### National Historic Trails Interpretive Center

Did you know that the Oregon, California, Mormon and Pony Express trails all passed through Wyoming during America's westward expansion? The National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper offers exhibits on the iconic locations and real-life struggle pioneers following these trails experienced in the mid-1800s. This self-guided lesson in American history will really pay off for what's in store on day three.

### Frontier Brewing Company

Enjoy a freshly-brewed beer at Casper's Frontier Brewing Company. This microbrewery releases a new small batch of beer each week and features a self-pour tap system, allowing you to create your own flights. The brewery has live music on Thursdays and board games every day, making it an ideal spot to kick back with friends and family.





## Day 3

### Mormon Handcart Historic Site – Martin’s Cove

Drive to Martin’s Cove in Alcova, Wyoming to discover the hardships members of the Latter-day Saints experienced as they journeyed by foot to Salt Lake City, Utah, pulling handcarts along the way. This Mormon Handcart Historic Site includes a visitors center where you can view artifacts and learn the story of these handcart pioneers. You can also hike the trail to Martin’s Cove, the location where pioneers sought shelter while awaiting rescue during a winter storm. If you’d like, you can even pull a handcart along part of the trail.

### Independence Rock State Historic Site

Located about eight miles northeast of Martin’s Cove, Independence Rock is a large, granite rock formation that became an iconic landmark to the over 500,000 pioneers traveling west along the Oregon, California, Mormon and Pony Express trails. Emigrants journeying west along these routes would depart in early spring with the goal of reaching Independence Rock by July 4. The landmark served as a goal and a resting point for travelers, as well as a place for them to add their name to history. More than 5,000 pioneers carved their names in the granite, giving the boulder the nickname, “Great Register of the Desert.” You can hike on the large, gently-sloped rock to get a closer look at this historic landmark.

### Fremont Canyon

Continue 30 miles east of Independence Rock to reach Fremont Canyon, a beautiful location for fishing, hiking, rock climbing, boating and swimming. Take a boat ride from Alcova Reservoir to Pathfinder Reservoir and marvel at the towering red canyon walls along the way. Alcova Resort offers water skis, tubes, wakeboards, pontoon boats, stand-up paddleboards and kayaks to rent so you don’t miss out on water fun. Or stick to the land and explore the area’s mountain biking trails, hiking trails or rock climbing routes. Fishing is available on Alcova Reservoir, with plenty of fly fishing options along the nearby North Platte River.





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## Day 4

### Historic Trails West

Touchable history can be found on a trek with Historic Trails West. Offering a hands-on experience along the Oregon Trail, Historic Trails West has experiences that range from short outings of two hours to multi-day treks as guests get a firsthand look at the trail, its terrain and history with camping and dutch oven cookouts.

### Wyoming Ale Works

Following your afternoon at the Historic Trails West, head back into Casper for fresh, regionally-sourced eats at Wyoming Ale Works. Did we mention that this Wyoming brew house has forty craft beers on tap? If that doesn't convince you to try this Casper gem, we don't know what will.

### Racca's Pizzeria Napoletana

Sit down for a delicious coal-fired pizza dinner at Racca's in Casper. The pizzeria offers Neapolitan favorites, including Italian sandwiches, salads, pizza and more.

