

WHAT'S NEW IN MONTANA'S BIG SKY COUNTRY

NEW ATTRACTIONS, EVENTS & UPDATES

BIG SKY RESORT & MOONLIGHT BASIN NOW ONE RESORT

Big Sky, MT – Yellowstone Country

www.BigSkyResort.com

The Biggest Skiing in America is located in Big Sky, Montana! In October 2013, Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin combined to be, permanently, one great ski complex. Big Sky Resort is the largest resort in the United States, with 5,750 acres of continuous skiing, 4,350 vertical drops and over 30 lifts. The Big Sky Resort lift ticket, at \$99 per day, offers an exceptional experience on both Lone Mountain and Andesite Mountain for all skiers' levels. After a day of skiing enjoy a variety of lodging, dining and other winter recreation options to make your stay unforgettable. Check out www.BigSkyResort.com for details.

NEW CONCESSIONER SELECTED FOR GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Glacier National Park – Glacier Country

www.NPS.gov/Glac

The National Park Service (NPS) has selected Xanterra Parks & Resorts Inc. (Xanterra) to provide a variety of services in Glacier National Park for the next 16 years. The contract, beginning January 2014, includes lodging, retail, transportation and other visitor services in the Park. The contract requires replacement of much of the lodging furnishings throughout the park, remodeling selected guest rooms in the Many Glacier Hotel and Lake McDonald, improved food and beverage services, additional tour buses, and other support needs outside of the Park. Xanterra provides a variety of visitor services in several national and state parks across the United States, including Yellowstone National Park.

GLACIER PARK INC. LODGING AVAILABILITY NEAR GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Whitefish, MT – Glacier Country

Glacier Park Inc. accommodations will continue through the Glacier National Park area. GPI, which will lose its concessioner contract beginning January 2014, owns and will continue to operate four properties near Glacier National Park. Those properties include St. Mary Lodge and Resort at St. Mary, (east entrance) Glacier Park Lodge in East Glacier, Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish and Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton Park, Alberta, Canada. For information on these lodging opportunities, go to www.GlacierParkInc.com.

LINX PROVIDES PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK AREA

West Yellowstone & Gardiner, MT and Yellowstone National Park

www.Linx.coop

Celebrating 3 years of expanding service, the Linx Regional Transportation Cooperative – “The Linx” – provides affordable public transportation inside Yellowstone National Park and to and from its gateway communities – including daily connections between West Yellowstone and Gardiner, MT and Cody and Jackson, WY. Operating June through September 30th, tickets are available to meet the needs of international travelers expecting public transportation; hikers, cyclists or RVers wanting to see other parts of the park or staff who need to visit gateway communities. Tickets include a day pass allowing for multiple boardings *inside* the national park or one-way ‘connection’ passes traveling to gateway communities of the Great Yellowstone area. Tickets are available online or from vendors inside and outside the park. To purchase tickets or see its schedule of stops, maps and timetables, go online at www.Linx.coop, or call 877-454-5469, or stop by the Operations Center at 209 Firehole Avenue in West Yellowstone, MT.

WHAT'S NEW IN MONTANA'S BIG SKY COUNTRY

NEW MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS AT WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT

Whitefish, MT

www.SkiWhitefish.com

Whitefish Mountain Resort added 5 miles (8 km) of mountain bike trails to its summer activity options. Ranging from expert and technical to old school trails these trails were built by professional trail builders and feature names such as *Kashmir*, *Freebird*, *GNR*, *Classic Rock* and *Overflow*. The trails range from 0.21 mile (0.34 km) for premiere technical riding to the 2.54 mile (4.09 km) trail following the ridge and are accessible via the scenic chairlift going up and a stoked ride coming down. For more information on the trails, packages and Whitefish Mountain Resort, check out www.SkiWhitefish.com.

AERIAL ADVENTURE PARK AT WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT

Whitefish, MT – Glacier Country

www.SkiWhitefish.com

This summer, explore the newest addition to the Whitefish Mountain Resort, an Aerial Adventure Park. From the safety of a harness, navigate courses of varying difficult and gain an appreciation of both your body and the surrounding views. Cross suspended bridges and cable walk ways, climb on nets and ladders, swing on trapezes, tube traverses and negotiate other fun elements like zip lines and barrels. For details on the Aerial Adventure Park, Alpine Slide, Walk in the Treetops or scenic lift lines in the summer, check out www.SkiWhitefish.com

LODGING ADDITIONS AT LAKE MCDONALD IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

West Glacier, MT

www.GlacierParkInc.com

Two historic buildings – the Cobb House and Snyder Hall – near Lake McDonald Lodge – are now available for visitor lodging in Glacier National Park. The Cobb House, a two-story bungalow, features 1- and 2-upscale bedroom suites, with a shared common area. Snyder Hall features eight budget 'hostel' rooms with common restroom and show facilities. For details and availability, check the Park's concessionaire, Glacier Park Inc. at www.GlacierParkInc.com.

GLACIER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR UPGRADES

Kalispell & Whitefish, MT – Glacier Country

This summer, passengers arriving and departing from Glacier International Airport (FCA) will see the result of a \$2 million interior remodeling upgrade, allowing them to remain connected while waiting for flights. Upgrades include more power sources for electronic devices (for those tech savvy), furniture and tabletops for laptops, and expanded post-security concessions and gift shops.

EXPLORER CABINS AT YELLOWSTONE

West Yellowstone, MT – Yellowstone Country

www.VisitYellowstonePark.com

This July, 50 unique cabins became available for guests seeking private cabins, cozy fireplaces and s'more supplies at check in, located in the heart of West Yellowstone. Only moments from the West entrance and 34 miles from Old Faithful, these cabins feature stylish decor, flat screen TVs, and kitchenettes for simple meals. For details, packages or reservations check out www.VisitYellowstonePark.com.

WHAT'S NEW IN MONTANA'S BIG SKY COUNTRY

NEW REST AREA OFF I-15 – CONRAD REST AREA

Conrad, MT – Central Montana

Travelers on I-15 now have a state-of-the-art rest area to take a break at, that is unique, interesting and user friendly. Each of the eight public restrooms are unisex and feature individual sinks and commodes, rather than the traditional dormitory bathroom model. The rest area also features flat-screen TV displays offering information on the area's historical, tourism and commercial aspects and, electronic travel kiosks for statewide planning suggestions and security systems for peace of mind. Outside, the large parking area, easy access to I-15 and a simple, yet Eastern Montana Modern architecture style, is blending the prairie landscapes with functionality.

NEW STATE PARK – MILLTOWN STATE PARK

Bonner & Milltown, MT – Glacier Country

www.stateparks.mt.gov/milltown

Montana's newest state park will formally open in 2014; but today, enjoy panoramic views of the park and its interpretive experience of the confluence via the Milltown State Park Overlook. This park, a Superfund site, is being reclaimed to feature more than 500 acres of restored river bottoms and pine forest bluffs. Once open, activities available will include, hiking, biking, fishing, floating and bird and wildlife viewing. A picnic area, trails and river access points will also be available. Interpretive displays will explore the natural and human history of the area, from its "*place of big bull trout*" name from the Salish and Pend d' Oreille Indians to the journals of Meriwether Lewis to the dams that produced the power for surrounding communities, and ultimately Superfund designation. For more information on the park, visit www.stateparks.mt.gov/milltown.

OLD FORT BENTON RECONSTRUCTION – BOURGEOIS QUARTERS

Fort Benton, MT – Central Montana

www.FortBenton.com

Once known as the world's most innermost port (from the Gulf of Mexico to Montana), Fort Benton served as a fur trading post, then military fort from 1848 to 1881, and became the "birthplace of Montana". During these years, what is now Old Fort Benton was constructed, but fell into disrepair. Today, the Fort is being reconstructed, building by building, log by log, to bring this grand history back to life. The 2-story Bourgeois Quarters and the Starr Gallery, features Karl Bodmer North America Prints and Bob Scriver bronzes, including "No More Buffalo." Other examples include the reconstructed Trade Store, Warehouse and Blacksmith – Carpenters Shop houses exhibits and displays that focus on the fur trade and frontier era. For more details on Fort Benton, Old Fort tours and the four museums, go to www.fortbenton.com/museums.

BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD & VISITOR CENTER

Wisdom, MT – Southwest Montana

www.NPS.gov/biho

The Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center recently completed a major remodel for new exhibits, structural repairs and landscaping. The new exhibits tell the story between the non-treaty Nez Perce and the US military and allow visitors to gain a better appreciation and understanding of the tragic events that occurred on August 9 & 10, 1877. Inside, exhibits include artifacts from both Nez Perce and military members, interactive stations and actual beadwork to touch and feel. Outside, the battlefield still provides two self-guided interpretive trails for visitors. The first follows the creek and the Nez Perce camp, while the second offers the military viewpoint. Either trail, provides a unique perspective into American history. The Visitor Center and Battlefield are open year-round, seven days a week.

WHAT'S NEW IN MONTANA'S BIG SKY COUNTRY

GRIZZLY & WOLF DISCOVERY CENTER — EAGLE AVIARY & BIRD OF PREY EXHIBIT

West Yellowstone, MT – Yellowstone Country

www.GrizzlyDiscoveryCtr.org

The Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center newest project – an eagle aviary and bird of prey exhibit is complete. Visitors can journey from the River Valley Wolf Habitat to come face-to-face with hawks, owls and the majestic Bald Eagle. The eagle enclosure simulates a cliff-side overlooking a pond, while smaller exhibits invite visitors to view and learn about other raptors held at the Center. The raptors, which cannot be released into the wild, provide educational messages including how bears and wolves can influence the raptor populations; provide interpretive venues and conservation efforts of these magnificent species. The Center is open year-round from 8 a.m. to dusk. For more information, go to www.grizzlydiscoveryctr.org.

HISTORIC OLD FAITHFUL HAYNES PHOTO SHOP RE-OPENS

Yellowstone National Park

www.Nps.gov/Yell

For a fun photo op, stop at the Old Faithful Haynes Photo Shop Visitor Center near Old Faithful Lodge, and get your photo taken in front of a giant reproduced Haynes postcard! The restored center features a glimpse of photographic history through the camera lens of famed Yellowstone photographers Frank and Jack Haynes, along with interactive exhibits about the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

WHITFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT BEGINS NEW LIFT EXPANSION

Whitefish, MT – Glacier Country

www.SkiWhitefish.com

Planning to open for the 2014-2015 ski season, Whitefish Mountain Resort is adding the Flower Point chairlift and runs to its north side ski area. Known for epic views into Glacier National Park, consistent snow coverage and great early and late skiing, the \$1.4 million expansion adds 300+ acres of lift-served skiing, four new runs and two connector trails and a fixed-grip triple chairlift. For more information, on winter and summer activities, explore www.SkiWhitefish.com.

BRIDGER BOWL INSTALLS 2 NEW LIFTS

Bozeman, MT – Yellowstone Country

www.BridgerBowl.com

Beginner and intermediate skiers will have better access to Bridger Bowl's "Cold Smoke Powder" starting the 2013-2014 ski season. Two new lifts are being added – Alpine #1 and Alpine #2 – replacing the original Alpine lift and services over 3,300 skiers per hour, versus 1,100. # 1 serves intermediate skiers to North Bowl while #2 provides easy access some of the best beginner and lower intermediate trails. For more details, check out www.BridgerBowl.com.

5 NEW GLADED RUNS AT BIG SKY RESORT

Big Sky, MT – Yellowstone Country

www.BigSkyResort.com

The Biggest Skiing in America expanded its skiing terrain for the 2012-13 ski season. Big Sky Resort added 5 new gladed ski trail runs adding 20+ acres of terrain to its already incredible skiing base. The trails, ranked intermediate to expert offer great natural-feeling skiing from the Ramcharger Chairlift on Andesite Mountain. Check out www.BigSkyResort.com for more details on the trails and updates to the resort and mountain.

WHAT'S NEW IN MONTANA'S BIG SKY COUNTRY

ELECTRONIC UPDATES & RESOURCES

M.VISITMT.COM

When you are on the road and looking for a hot springs, a hot drink or a hot spot, find info on your smartphone with M.VisitMT.com. Basically, it is the entire VisitMT.com experience with hotel listings, things to do and traveler services—distilled into a phone interface.

GETLOSTMT.COM and **M.GETLOSTMT.COM**

No one knows Montana like the local residents or those that love Montana. On this website and mobile site, the locals share their favorite places to eat, to stay and to play, on a clickable virtual map of Montana. Groups of favorite places are assembled into quick trips that can fit into a long weekend or a few days. Download the app for your smartphone or visit www.GetLostMT.com to find the kinds of places and trips that guidebooks can miss.

MONTANA'S IPAD MAGAZINE

(IPAD APP) This is the magazine for all things Montana – and we do mean all things. Through feature articles, photo essays and short sidebars, meet local people, get the inside information on back road diners, learn a bit of history and find local-interest information to make any trip to Montana even more special. <http://magazine.getlostmt.com>

MONTANA PARTNER UPDATES & RESOURCES

HELENA WALKING TOURS APP

Helena, MT – Southwest Montana
www.HelenaMT.com

A free, smartphone app for iPhones and Droids is now available a walking tour, with historical and directional information of Montana's capital city. The tours, divided into The Central District, the Downtown District, and the Mansion District, also provide hiking trails, galleries and museums. Over 90 sites, with more added daily provide history, exact locations and nearby features useful to the traveler. To download, go to either an app store or through www.HelenaMT.com.

BILLINGS BREWERY TOUR MAP

Billings, MT – Southeast Montana
www.VisitBillings.com

Boasting the only walkable brewery district in Montana, the Billings Convention and Visitors Bureau recently developed and released a Brewery Tour map that enables visitors to explore downtown Billings, the breweries and craft beers offered, as well as the newest distillery, Trailhead Spirits. For the printable map, go to www.visitbillings.com/pdf/CVB_BreweryTourMap.pdf.

BILLINGS SCENIC DRIVE TOUR APP

Billings, MT – Southeast Montana
www.VisitBillings.com

Arriving May 27 (Memorial Day), the app acts as a guide to Billings' Scenic Drive route. Providing audio commentary as one drives as well as at each stop, travelers – both familiar and new to the Magic City – will find it useful and informative.

WHAT'S NEW IN MONTANA'S BIG SKY COUNTRY

11 NEW HOTELS OPEN ACROSS MONTANA

Belgrade – **Holiday Inn Express and Suites** – Opening August 2013, this is the newest hotel in the Bozeman and Belgrade area. Conveniently located off I-90 and minutes from Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, the 97 rooms and suites offers free “fresh start” hot breakfasts, indoor pool, whirlpool, business center and wireless high-speed internet access. 406-388-7100 or www.holidayinnbelgrade.com

Billings – **Northern Hotel** – Re-opened in March 2013, this renovated historic landmark hotel in downtown Billings, offers 160 upscale rooms, from classic to suites offering high speed WiFi, triple sheet “Goldilocks Sleep System” beds, all decorated with a touch-of-the-West detail. Amenities include complimentary airport shuttle, covered parking, business center, and flat-screen TVs. (406) 867-6771 or www.northernhotel.com

Bozeman – **Comfort Suites Bozeman** – Opened in July 2013, this new hotel offers 80 guest rooms, less than 5 miles from the Museum of the Rockies. Each guest room is non-smoking and offers flat screen TVs with cable, sofa sleeper, coffee pot, high speed internet and recharge stations. Relax in the indoor pool and enjoy the complimentary “Your Morning Breakfast.” (406) 587-0800 or www.comfortsuitesbozeman.com

– **My Place Hotel** – Opened in March 2013, this is the newest in extended stay accommodation for the economy traveler. Enjoy clean, modern rooms perfectly suited for short or long term stays. Amenities include a plush bed, premium recliner, and fully-furnished ‘My Kitchen.’ 855-200-5685 or www.myplacehotels.com

Browning – **Holiday Inn Express & Suites Browning** – Opening in August 2013, the natural environment, river rock, local landscape and historic cultural photography remind guests that Glacier National Park is less than 20 miles away. Featuring 86 rooms and suites, the hotel also offers an indoor pool and Jacuzzi, complimentary hot breakfast and is adjacent to the Glacier Peaks Casino. (888) 465-4329 or (406) 338-2400 or www.holidayinnexpress.com

Butte – **Holiday Inn Express & Suites** – Opened in July 2013, and located at the intersection of Interstates 90 and 15 right off the Harrison Ave. exit. Features 84 spacious guestrooms including 23 suites, with 42" HDTV's, wireless high speed internet, complimentary hot breakfast featuring our signature pancakes and cinnamon rolls, and indoor pool and spa. (406) 782-2000 or www.hiexpress.com.

Glendive – **Guesthouse Inn & Suites** – Opening in September 2013, this 63-room hotel offers standard rooms, King Suites and Family Suites, with bunk beds to meet individual needs. Amenities include full hot breakfast, high-speed wireless internet and DVD player, refrigerator, microwave, and indoor pool and whirlpool. (406) 377-7300 or www.guesthouseglendive.com

Shelby – **Best Western Shelby Inn & Suites** – Located off I-15, this new hotel features 74 guest rooms, with refrigerator and microwave set, complimentary high speed Internet access, flat screen TV, and fluffy white bedding. Amenities include indoor pool and spa, fitness center and a complimentary hot breakfast. (406) 424-4560 or www.bestwesternmontana.com

Sidney – **Best Western Golden Prairie Inn & Suites** – Features 72 rooms, each containing a refrigerator and microwave set, complimentary high speed internet access, iron/ironing board, flat screen TV and fluffy white bedding. Amenities also include a guest laundry, an indoor pool and spa, fitness center and a complimentary hot breakfast. (406) 433-4560 or www.bestwesternmontana.com

– **Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Sidney** – Features 75 rooms ranging from King Suites to standard Queens. Amenities include free hot breakfast, indoor pool, hot tub and business center. (406) 433-2300 or www.hiexpress.com/sidneymt.

– **Microtel Inn & Suites** – Rest comfortably in this new hotel, complete with modern amenities like Dream Well bedding, free Internet access, microwave and refrigerator. Other amenities include indoor heated pool and hot tub, and located off Hwy 16. (406) 482-9011 or www.microtelinn.com

WHAT'S NEW IN MONTANA'S BIG SKY COUNTRY

MONTANA'S TOP LIST DESIGNATIONS

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK – NAMED AS A TOP 10 U.S DESTINATION FOR 2013 BY *LONELY PLANET*

Glacier National Park – Glacier Country
www.nps.gov/glac

The *Lonely Planet* travel guidebook series listed Glacier National Park as one of its top 10 U.S. destinations for 2013. By unanimous choice, the park earned its designation based on a range of criteria, with the destinations meant to appeal to savvy travelers who might not otherwise have thought to visit the location, according to Lonely Planet editors. Glacier is the only destination to be featured twice in the ranking; it first appeared in 2010 when it celebrated its centennial year.

“THE BREAKS” OF THE MISSOURI RIVER – NAMED “BEST OF THE WORLD 2013” BY *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER*

Fort Benton, MT – Central Montana
www.FortBentonChamber.org

National Geographic Traveler editors named the Missouri River Breaks, a 149-mile (239 km) stretch of the Wild and Scenic National Monument one of the “20 must see places” of 2013. The Breaks, located in north-central Montana, still contains “scenes of visionary enchantment” that Lewis and Clark first documented in 1805. Today, bighorn sheep, elk and antelope still graze from the shore, while eagles, pelicans and songbirds soar above the rugged sandstone cliffs carved by the Missouri River. For more information on accessing this section of the river, contact the Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce.

WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT – NAMED #11 BY SKI MAGAZINE READER RESORT AWARD 2013

Whitefish, MT – Glacier Country
www.SkiWhitefish.com

Making its highest ranking ever, Whitefish Mountain Resort was ranked #11 in this year's annual *Resort Guide* by Ski Magazine. (Previous rankings include # 22 in 2012 and #18 in 2000-2001.) Of the Top 30, Whitefish is the only resort with a lift ticket under \$70 USD, with single day lift tickets at \$67 and multi-day lift tickets at \$61 USD. This ranking is determined by a combination of reader's scores across 20 different categories including digital presence, value, family programs, character, and scenery. For more information on deals, skiing on the mountain or après opportunities, visit www.SkiWhitefish.com.

MISSOULA, MT – NAMED A TOP RIVER TOWN BY *OUTSIDE MAGAZINE*

Missoula, MT – Glacier Country
www.destinationmissoula.org

Outside Magazine, along with non-profit American Rivers partnered to create a list of the top 10 rivers in the U.S. Following a vote on from its Facebook community, Missoula was named #5 for 2012. Criteria to reach the top 10 included cultural vibrancy, environmental stewardship and access to the outdoors. Missoula, located on fishing mecca the Clark Fork River, and kayaking souse hole “Brennan's Wave”, it has easy access to the Blackfoot and Bitterroot Rivers and, Rock Creek. For more information on Missoula, visit www.DestinationMissoula.org.

MAIN STREET BOZEMAN – NAMED A TOP 10 BEST STREETS IN 2012” BY GREAT PLACES IN AMERICA

Bozeman, MT – Yellowstone Country
www.BozemanCVB.com or www.DowntownBozeman.org

Bozeman's iconic main street – specifically between Third and Broadway – was singled out for its frontier-town charm, concentration of late 19th and early 20th century building, adaptive reuse of historic structures and diversity of uses – by the American Planning Association. The Great Places recognizes streets, neighborhoods and public spaces with unique and authentic characteristics that have evolved through deliberate planning, community participation and innovative development.