

DISCOVER THE INSPIRATION BEHIND FAR CRY 5

WELCOME
to Hope County
MONTANA

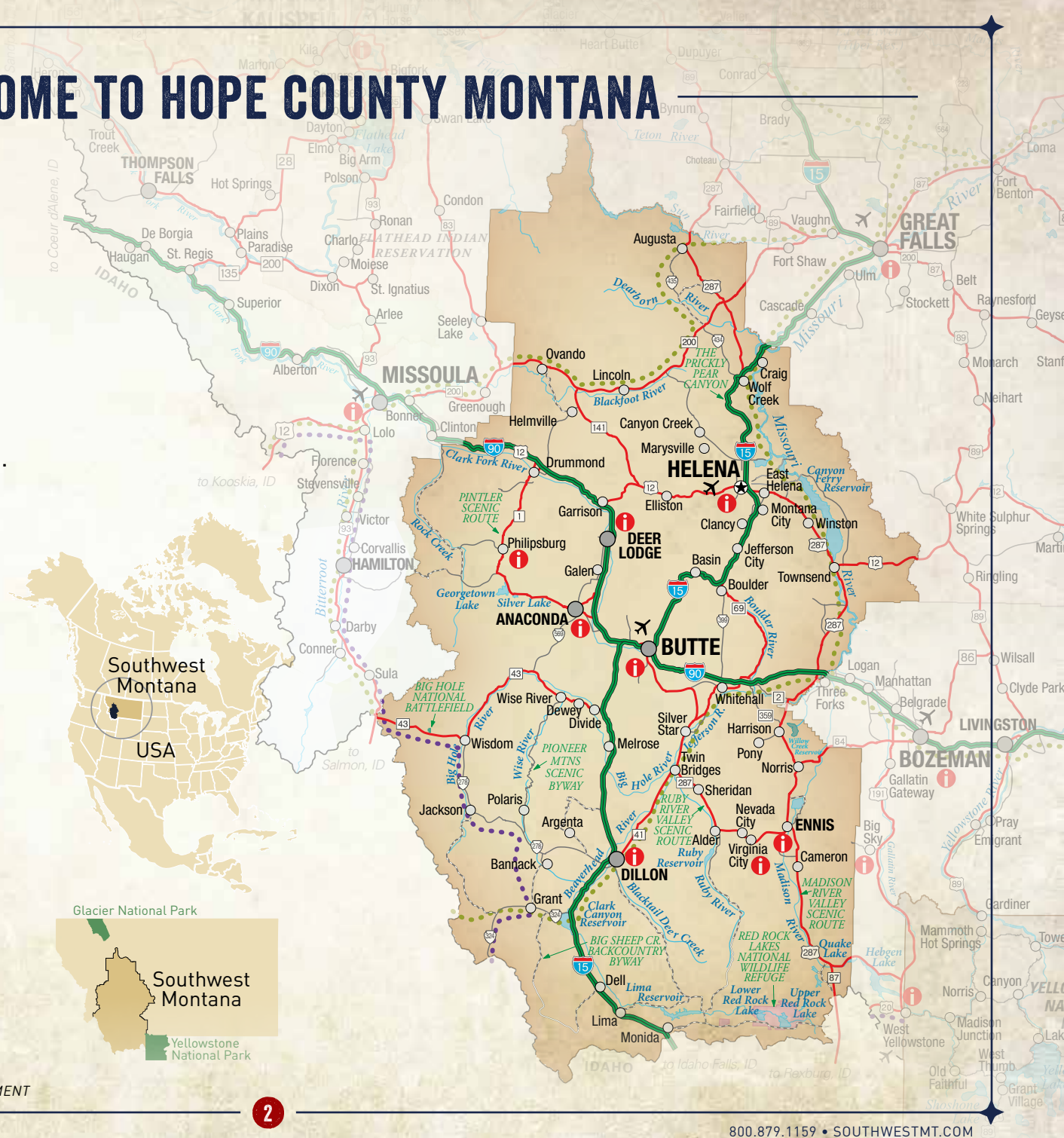
FIELD GUIDE

WELCOME TO HOPE COUNTY MONTANA

“Hope County” may be fictitious, but the mountains, rivers and wildlife that inspired Far Cry 5 are very real and based on the landscape of Southwest Montana. Dig deeper into the visually stunning scenery that backdrops the game, and plan your own Montana adventure in the “Last Best Place.” Open trails and big skies await in this magnificent region of the western United States. Welcome to Hope County!



ON THE COVER: PIONEER MOUNTAINS
MONTANA OFFICE OF TOURISM AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT





ACTIVITIES

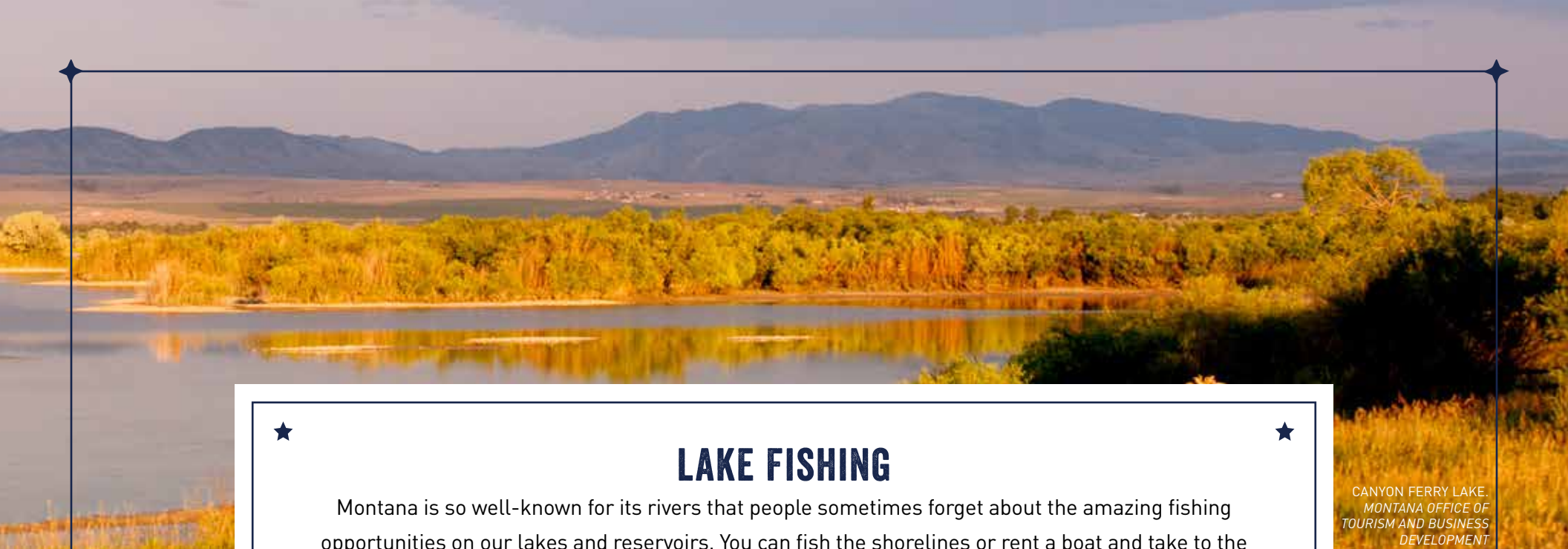
With only 150,000 residents spread over 21,097 square miles, there is no better place for a mountain adventure or a river expedition. Southwest Montana is known for outdoor adventure. Whether you prefer a day of leisurely hiking or an afternoon on the water, there is something for everyone here in the outdoor mecca that is Hope County.



BIG HOLE RIVER. MONTANA OFFICE OF TOURISM AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

FISHING

If your favorite part of Far Cry 5 was the side-fishing fun on the beautiful rivers of Hope County, you're in luck. Fishing is basically a way of life here in Southwest Montana. Every year, trout sportsmen find themselves in this fisherman's paradise. Even anglers who have never been here often feel like they're on a first-name basis with our rivers, as they are so celebrated in trout fishing lore and literature. Away from our famed hot spots, anglers can find equally great fishing—and oftentimes perfect solitude—along other nearby waterways. And then there are the many productive and scenic lakes that dot the region, offering not only great rainbow and brown trout fishing, but opportunities to fish for kokanee salmon and walleye as well.



CANYON FERRY LAKE.
MONTANA OFFICE OF
TOURISM AND BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT

LAKE FISHING

Montana is so well-known for its rivers that people sometimes forget about the amazing fishing opportunities on our lakes and reservoirs. You can fish the shorelines or rent a boat and take to the water. You'll have the chance to catch any number of freshwater species, including rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, walleye, perch, brook trout and more. The scenery will leave you inspired.

CANYON FERRY LAKE

If you're looking for walleye, look no further than this scenic lake. Big, plentiful walleye lurk in its waters, coexisting with fat, red-fleshed rainbows.

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR

Here you'll find some of the state's best stillwater fishing for large rainbow trout.

GEORGETOWN LAKE

Nonstop action for pan-sized kokanee salmon and slab-sized rainbow and brook trout make Georgetown Lake the perfect combination of serene setting and great fishing.

HAUSER RESERVOIR

Fish for rainbow trout, brown trout, walleye and perch at this 3,200-acre reservoir on the Missouri River. Operated by the Bureau of Land Management, you'll find several campgrounds nearby.

HOLTER LAKE

This is a popular location for both day trips and overnight camping. Species including rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, walleye and perch can be found in this beautiful lake setting.

RUBY RESERVOIR

Stocked with trout, this remote and peaceful reservoir is lined with willows and makes for good fishing when water levels permit.

RIVER AND STREAM FISHING

The rivers that run through Southwest Montana are some of the most scenic and productive rivers in the United States.

Many of Montana's rivers are blue-ribbon trout streams, so fishing is a popular and beloved activity in our region.

Fish for rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout and walleye, to name a few.



BEAVERHEAD RIVER

With its willowy banks, tight twists and fluctuating water levels, the Beaverhead offers plenty of challenges, even to skilled anglers, but boasts more trophy brown trout than any other waterway in the state.



BLACKFOOT RIVER

This is the river that braids its way through the dramatic prose of Norman Maclean's *A River Runs Through It*, and it remains one of Montana's wildest and most productive fisheries.



MADISON RIVER

The Madison deserves its reputation as the best trout stream in Montana. The "Fifty Mile Riffle" between Quake Lake and Bear Trap Canyon is home to vast quantities of trophy trout.



BIG HOLE RIVER

Over its 150-mile course, the Big Hole offers the chance to fish for trophy rainbow, brook and brown trout as well as fluvial arctic grayling—a fish unique to the Big Hole in the lower 48.



JEFFERSON RIVER

The Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers are the three forks that form the Missouri River. The Jefferson is not as frequented as other nearby spots, which makes for a day of solitude on the water.



MISSOURI RIVER

Below Holter Dam, this is one of Montana's most popular destination fisheries, with enormous trout found in dense, shallow-water pods.

HUNTING

For hunters, only one thing can beat the thrill of chasing big game, and that is the whole of the experience. The experience of waking up to the chill of an autumn day and looking out over the rolling mountains and jutting peaks of a timeless landscape. Of course, harvesting big game isn't too bad, either. Be sure to reference the seasons, permits and licenses, and regulations before planning your trip, and contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks with questions.

SEASONS

In Montana, hunting licenses are issued in various quantities for the following animals: pronghorn antelope, beaver, bighorn sheep, bison, black bear, bobcat, common snipe, deer and elk, duck and coot, fisher, goose, grouse, marten, moose, mourning dove, mountain goat, mountain lion, otter, mink, muskrat, partridge, pheasant, sandhill crane, swan, swift fox, turkey, upland game bird and waterfowl, wolf and wolverine. Seasons for each species vary, so please check the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks website to confirm dates before planning a trip and obtaining proper permits and licenses: www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting/seasons

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Make sure to obtain the proper licenses and permits before scheduling a hunting trip in Montana. A license is required to harvest any game animal. A permit is not a license, but rather is issued in conjunction with a license to ensure that—at any given time—certain areas are not over-hunted or over-crowded with hunters. Permitting and licensing processes vary based on species, so be sure to check the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks website or speak with a representative.

REGULATIONS

In addition to obtaining proper permits and licenses, be aware of hunting regulations for the species you intend to harvest. Information on hunting regulations broken down by species can be found on the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks website. (www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting/regulations)



WILDLIFE

The vast wild places of Southwest Montana are home to incredible biological diversity, from tiny shrews to massive elk and other iconic creatures of the West, like grizzly bears and gray wolves. Bring good binoculars or a spotting scope as well as some patience.



BLACK BEAR *URSUS AMERICANUS*

Black bears can be found throughout most of North America, including Montana, and are smaller than grizzly bears. Grown males weigh between 180 and 250 pounds. Black bears, despite what their name suggests, can also be brown, white, chestnut or blonde. While they're at the top of the food chain, black bears are not known to hunt for meat. They subsist more on berries and plants, and sometimes fish and grubs. They are opportunist feeders and are infamous for stealing food left unattended.



GRIZZLY BEAR *URSUS ARCTOS*

In the lower 48 states, grizzly bears are unique to Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and a small part of Washington. Grizzlies are much larger than black bears, and grown males weigh an average of 440 pounds. Grizzly bears are solitary animals, with the exception of young cubs and mothers. The grizzly bear, along with the wolf and mountain lion, is a top predator species in Montana. They hunt elk and deer, and can be found near waterways. When they feel threatened, they can become aggressive toward humans. Though this is rare behavior, it is suggested that—as a precaution—humans carry bear spray while hiking anywhere in grizzly country.



ELK *CERVUS CANADENSIS*

The elk is an iconic representation of the American West. Adult males have large antlers and can weigh between 500 and 600 pounds. Elk are migrators, summering at higher elevations and wintering in lower elevations. Elk are a draw for hunters and wildlife viewers alike.



MOOSE *ALCES AMERICANUS*

Moose are prevalent in Canada, and in the western United States they can be found in a small territory that includes Montana. These ungulates are usually solitary, and males can weigh up to 1,200 pounds. Moose tend to favor wet groves of willow or similar species.



GRAY WOLF *CANIS LUPUS*

Despite their name, gray wolves are either brown or black, and adult males weigh around 100 pounds. Wolves historically ranged throughout most of North America and into Central America, but can now only be found in small patches near the Canadian border states, including western Montana. Wolves are pack animals and usually travel in large family groups.



BIGHORN SHEEP *OVIS CANADENSIS*

Bighorn sheep have a small range in North America, including most of western Montana. They can be spotted on the sides of cliffs and rocks, with their hooves designed to traverse steep, rocky terrain. Adult males may reach around 300 pounds.



MOUNTAIN GOAT *OREAMNOS AMERICANUS*

The majestic mountain goat has a fully white coat year-round. Their hooves are designed to withstand rocky, steep conditions, and older males can weigh up to 300 pounds. In the lower 48 states, mountain goats are only found in small patches throughout Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington.



MOUNTAIN LION *PUMA CONCOLOR*

Mountain lions range from Alaska to South America, but in the United States are most prevalent in the West. Mountain lions are hard to spot and spend their time in trees hunting deer and elk. These solitary cats can weigh between 150 and 190 pounds, and they usually hunt at dusk, dawn and nighttime.



BOBCAT *LYNX RUFUS*

Bobcats are found throughout North America and can vary in color from spotted to solid grays, browns and reds. They are roughly double the size of domestic house cats, with grown males weighing up to 35 pounds. These small predators tend to spend time in grassy areas and shrublands.



BISON *BOS BISON*

The American bison, also called the buffalo, is the national mammal of the United States. This massive animal can weigh up to 1,400 pounds. Bison can be seen on ranches throughout the Bitterroot Valley and Southwest Montana, and bison herds can be seen in nearby Yellowstone National Park. Bison primarily eat grasses and are a culturally significant to American Indian tribes in the area.



STRIPED SKUNK *MEPHITIS MEPHITIS*

The skunk is a creature specific to North America and is about the size of an average house cat, with adult males weighing up to 14 pounds. Skunks emit a strong odor as a defense mechanism against predators, and they are mostly nocturnal.



NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER *LONTRA CANADENSIS*

River otters are semiaquatic mammals that feed on freshwater river fish. An adult male otter weighs about 20 pounds. Otters have webbed feet and thick fur to withstand cold river conditions, especially in Montana.



RED FOX *VULPES VULPES*

This small dog-like creature can be found in Montana as well as throughout Canada and into the eastern United States. Adult males weigh up to 15 pounds. Foxes are most commonly found in forested areas.



MULE DEER *ODOCOILEUS HEMIONUS*

Known as “muleys” to the locals, mule deer are one of the two most common deer species in Montana and the western United States. They are migratory animals, and adult males can weigh between 250 and 275 pounds.



WHITE-TAILED DEER *ODOCOILEUS VIRGINIANUS*

The white-tailed deer is the most common deer species in the United States and is one of the two most common deer species in Montana. White-tailed deer males weigh between 250 and 275 pounds.



PRONGHORN *ANTILOCAPRA AMERICANA*

The pronghorn is a species common to the western United States. Pronghorn males are solitary animals, though in the winter they may be seen with herds. Pronghorns can run up to 55 mph, and adult males can weigh up to 125 pounds.



PEREGRINE FALCON *FALCO PEREGRINUS*

This falcon has an average wingspan of 35 to 44 inches and can be found across the western regions of the Americas. They usually nest high on vertical cliffs to protect their young from predators and, for hunting purposes, are most commonly located near water.



BALD EAGLE *HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*

The bald eagle is the national bird of the United States, and it can be seen flying around the lakes and mountains of Southwest Montana. Bald eagles have a wingspan between 66 and 90 inches.



GOLDEN EAGLE *AQUILA CHRYSAETOS*

The golden eagle can be found throughout North America, from Canada down into Central America. They are golden-brown in color and have a wingspan between 80 and 94 inches.



HIKING

Southwest Montana is crisscrossed with maintained trails ranging from easy riverside strolls to rugged, multiday ridgeline treks. Take in the scenic beauty of our mountains and valleys on your own two feet, and get an authentic feel for our vast natural wonders. Hiking is a lifelong sport that can be done by all ability levels. From short, flat day hikes to hardcore excursions, there is something for every kind of hiker in Southwest Montana.



EASY TRAILS

GHOST TOWN WALKS

Enjoy a nice leisurely hike at one of Southwest Montana's many ghost towns. Walk the historic streets or venture up to Bannack State Park, Montana's first territorial capital. Exploring ghost towns on foot makes for a fun day trip, with hiking between stops and on nearby trails. Explore historic placer mining areas along the German Gulch Trail near Fairmont Hot Springs.

LOST CREEK STATE PARK

Near Anaconda, enjoy a short hiking trail to view the spectacular Lost Creek Falls, cascading over a 50-foot drop. Scan the limestone cliffs for bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Features include restrooms, a campground and a picnic area. Activities include hiking, fishing, bird-watching and wildlife viewing.

PRICKLY PEAR / SOUTH HILLS TRAIL SYSTEM

South of Helena, the South Hills Trail System is a great place for beginner hikers to enjoy time in nature, with out-and-back trails and loops ranging from 0.5 miles to 35 miles. Enjoy beautiful views of the city in this easily-accessed area.

THOMPSON PARK

Located minutes from Butte, this 3,500-acre park is a great place to spend an afternoon hiking forested trails and the abandoned Milwaukee Railroad that includes two tunnels and a trestle that leads to the Continental Divide. Pick a trail that fits your time and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at three picnic areas. Thompson Park is a great place to view moose, elk and deer.

MODERATE TRAILS

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (CDNST)

Straddling mountain ridges, the CDNST divides waters that flow to the Atlantic and Pacific. Throughout Southwest Montana, the trail winds through forests and meadows and along ridges, giving visitors boulder batholith geology hiking adventures and spectacular vistas from historic mining areas to remote lakes and valleys. Hikes vary in distance and difficulty, with access from Helena, Butte, Big Hole and Lima.

GEORGETOWN LAKE

Georgetown Lake offers several trails ranging from easy to moderate. Explore this beautiful lake setting—a great place for viewing wildlife. Enjoy wildflowers in the springtime and birding throughout the year. Hike as far as you would like and explore as challenging of a trail as you would like in this excellent system.

HAYSTACK MOUNTAIN TRAIL

This 7.2-mile round-trip trek provides a memorable payoff when you arrive at the top of Haystack Mountain—an 8,823-foot overlook offering 360-degree vistas of the Boulder River Valley, Elk Park and other scenic areas.

HIGHLANDS LOOKOUT TRAIL

15 miles south of Butte, this hike offers quite the alpine experience. The trail climbs to 9,000 feet and offers panoramic views of the Butte area to the north and the Big Hole Valley to the west.

LOST CABIN LAKE TRAIL

This 5-mile trail southeast of Whitehall is well maintained on an easy grade. The peaks surrounding the lake reach elevations above 10,000 feet, providing stunning views. Mountain goats can often be seen on the cliffs to the south and east of the lake. The trail is open for hiking from July 1 to mid-October.

MAUD S. CANYON LOOP

This well-marked 4.3-mile hike just outside of Butte is a great choice for a quick, scenic trip with lovely vistas. Climb around 1000 feet in elevation and gain beautiful views of Butte and the surrounding mountains.

SILVER BOW GREENWAY TRAIL

This greenway spans 26 miles between Butte and Warm Springs Ponds. Discover the various trailheads throughout the region, along with stream access and other scenic areas. You'll find wide-open spaces and stunning mountain views along this trail corridor. Choose your distance and speed for a great day hike.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT. TEMPEST TECHNOLOGIES

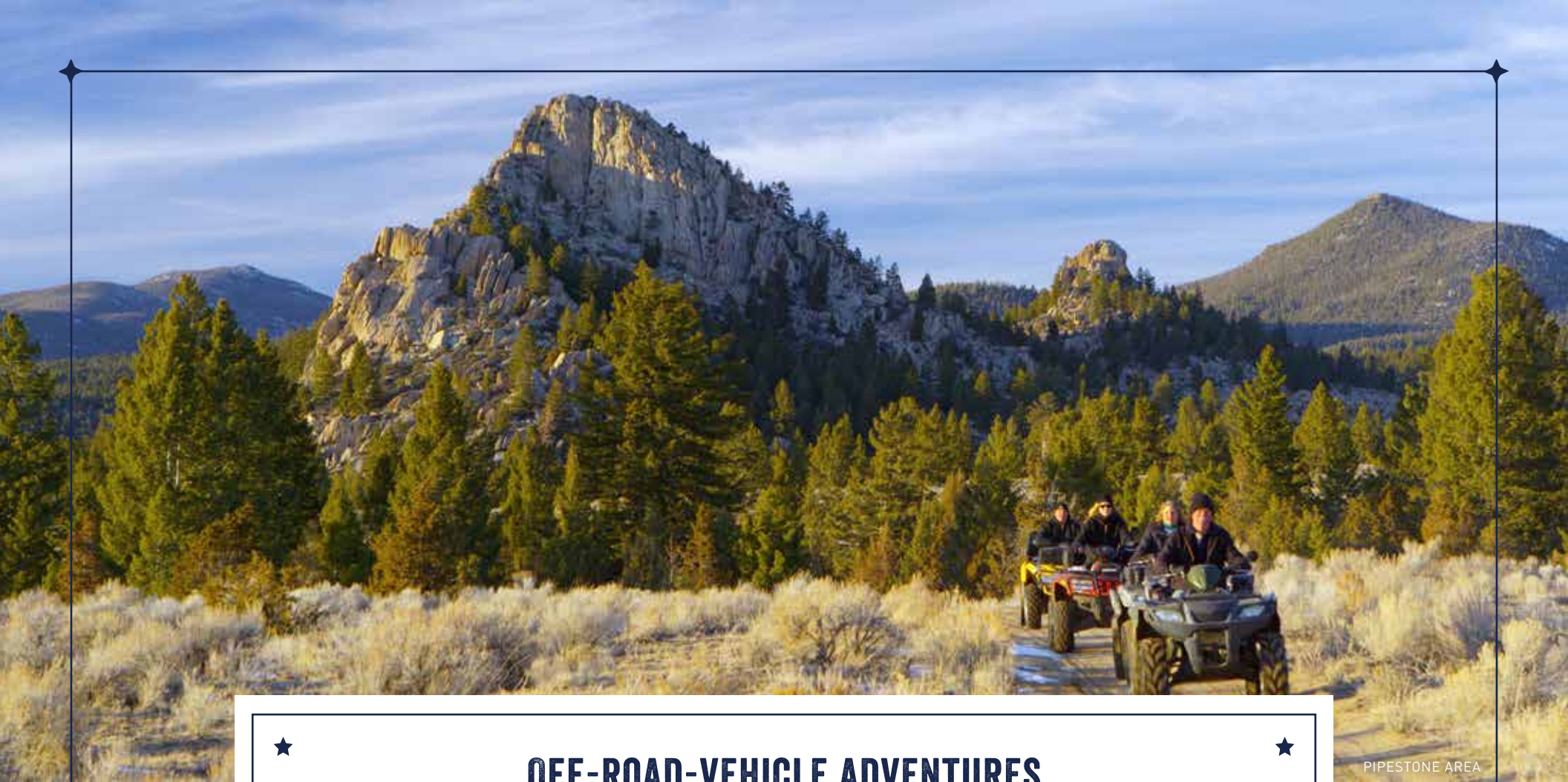
MORE-DIFFICULT TRAILS

BEAR CREEK LOOP TRAIL

A few miles southeast of Ennis, this challenging 12-mile loop threads the saddle between two of the most famous peaks in the Madison Range: Sphinx Mountain and The Helmet. On your 2,400-foot ascent, you'll travel through fields of sagebrush and wildflowers, through dense forests and up into the rocky alpine environment.

HANGING VALLEY NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

Located in the Big Belt Mountains, this is a challenging 12-mile round-trip hike to a remarkable location. You'll be rewarded with time in a unique valley flanked by towering limestone cliffs and numerous spires. Along the way, you'll pass under a natural bridge. For a shorter but steeper trip, start this hike from Magpie Gulch.



PIPESTONE AREA



OFF-ROAD-VEHICLE ADVENTURES



Home to an incredible amount of public land, Southwest Montana's vast open spaces are a real draw, with endless outdoor opportunities. For those looking for a true adventure in the beauty of our rugged landscape, there are a number of popular areas for off-road travel with well-maintained and marked old roads and trails. From visiting mining ghost towns to getting up in the hills to examine millions of years of geology, the open air and four wheels is an exciting way to cover more ground and see more sights. Guided ATV tours are available across the region.



LODGING IN HOPE COUNTY

After a day exploring Southwest Montana and experiencing our region's mountains and valleys, waterways, authentic small towns and everything in between, rest your head at one of our many hotels, campgrounds, B&Bs or rustic cabins.

BED & BREAKFASTS

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/BEDANDBREAKFASTS

CABINS

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/CABINS

CAMPING

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/CAMPING

CHALETS

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/CHALETS

CONDOMINIUMS

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/CONDOMINIUMS

HOTELS & MOTELS

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/HOTELSANDMOTELS

LODGES

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/LODGES

RANCH VACATIONS

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/RANCHVACATIONS

RESORTS

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/RESORTS

VACATION HOMES

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/ACCOMMODATIONS/VACATIONHOMES

OTHER RESOURCES

Looking for a little bit more information to plan your epic Montana adventure? Here are a few links we hope will help you discover the inspiration for Hope County. Still not sure where to start? Give us a call—our expert (and very friendly) travel associates are ready to offer you the best travel tips and tricks. **1.800.879.1159**

VISITOR INFORMATION

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/VISITORSERVICES/VISITORINFORMATION

SOUTHWEST MONTANA COMMUNITIES

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/EXPLOREBYREGION

OUTFITTERS & GUIDES

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/THEGREATOUTDOORS/OUTFITTERSANDGUIDES

RIVER GUIDES

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/THEGREATOUTDOORS/RIVERGUIDES

TOURS

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/THEGREATOUTDOORS/TOURS

SOUTHWEST MONTANA EVENTS

WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM/CALENDAROFEVENTS

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

WWW.FWP.MT.GOV

VISIT MT - MONTANA OFFICE OF TOURISM

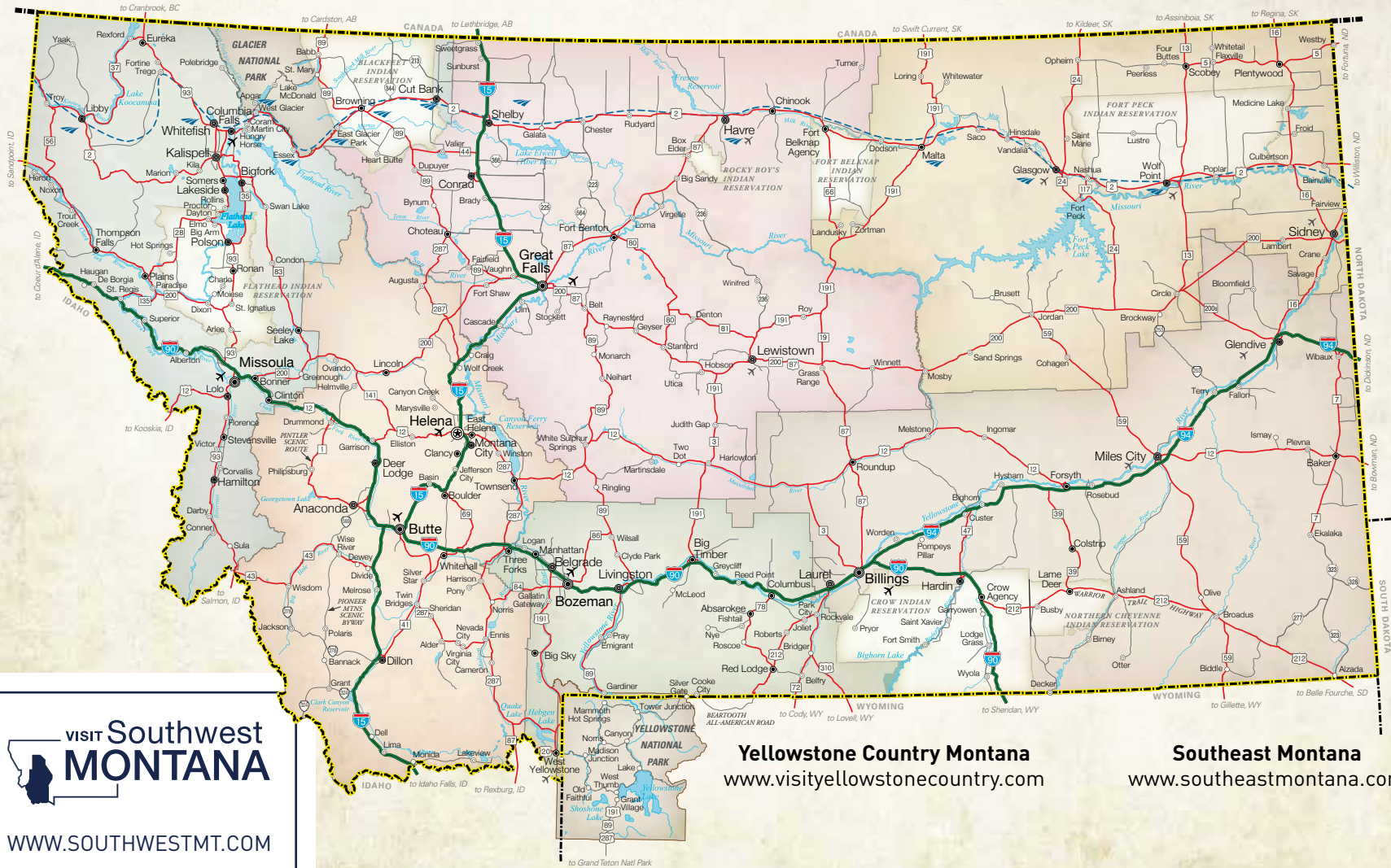
WWW.VISITMT.COM

Thinking of taking a road trip?
Montana has six geographic regions to check out once you've explored Hope County.

Glacier Country
www.glaciermt.com

Central Montana
www.centralmontana.com

Missouri River Country
www.missouririver.visitmt.com



visit **Southwest MONTANA**
WWW.SOUTHWESTMT.COM

Yellowstone Country Montana
www.visityellowstonecountry.com

Southeast Montana
www.southeastmontana.com