

# THE ULTIMATE WINTER DESTINATION

## MONTANA

IS FOR WINTER PEOPLE









📍 GREAT DIVIDE SKI AREA

FOR THE WINTER VACATION OF A LIFETIME,  
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COVER: MAVERICK MOUNTAIN

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WINTER EXPERIENCES



📍 MONTANA SNOWBOWL

MONTANA  
IS FOR WINTER PEOPLE



ERIK PETERSEN

📍 SHOWDOWN MONTANA

WELCOME, WINTER LOVERS.

For those who prep their winter gear in August, who understand the thrill of a good snowball fight, who delight in the quiet beauty of landscapes transformed by snow, the wonderland that is winter in Montana beckons. Because Montana doesn't shut down when the snow falls — it opens up with opportunities to enjoy snowy pastimes and places and to discover new-to-you winter experiences and warmly welcoming towns. For those who live for winter, Montana is the ultimate destination.



The itineraries in this guide aren't just ski getaways, outdoor adventure excursions or sightseeing tours — they're road trips through Montana's scenic landscapes and small towns. Follow our winter driving tips to ensure the travel between destinations and activities is as enjoyable as your adventures themselves.

## WINTER DRIVING TIPS

1. Allow extra time to get to your destination.
2. Check [511mt.net](https://511mt.net) for road conditions where you'll be traveling.
3. Ensure that your vehicle is prepared for winter conditions (check wipers, headlights, brake lights, batteries and tires).
4. Clear windows, mirrors and lights of snow and ice.
5. Buckle up.
6. Maintain a safe distance behind other vehicles.
7. Drive at speeds appropriate for conditions.
8. Expect ice on bridges and shaded spots.
9. Carry emergency supplies (water, food, blankets, warm clothing, flashlights).

Visit the Montana Department of Transportation website for more advice on winter road travel. [www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/people/winterdriving.aspx](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/people/winterdriving.aspx)

# HIT THE ROAD LIKE A LOCAL.



📍 CHIEF JOSEPH PASS, MONTANA



# HIT THE SLOPES LIKE A LOCAL.

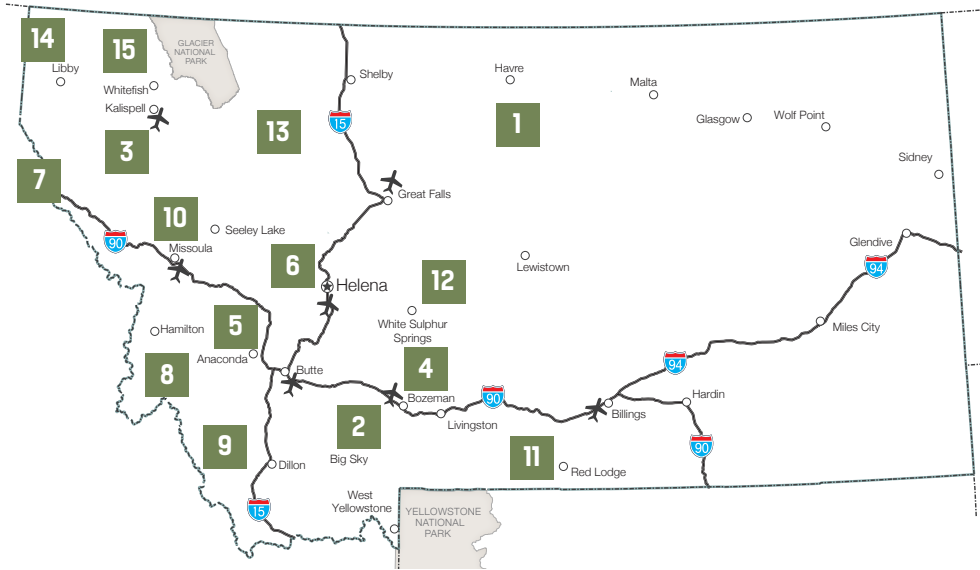


📍 GREAT DIVIDE SKI AREA

Get a taste of Montana skiing in the warmest mountain towns around with these 10-day, four-day and two-day ski getaway ideas. Be sure to check ski conditions as you plan your trip to ensure you make the most of your time in the snow.

## ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Bear Paw Ski Bowl                  | 9. Maverick Mountain          |
| 2. Big Sky Resort                     | 10. Montana Snowbowl          |
| 3. Blacktail Mountain Ski Area        | 11. Red Lodge Mountain        |
| 4. Bridger Bowl Ski Area              | 12. Showdown Montana          |
| 5. Discovery Ski Area                 | 13. Teton Pass Ski Resort     |
| 6. Great Divide Ski Area              | 14. Turner Mountain           |
| 7. Lookout Pass Ski & Recreation Area | 15. Whitefish Mountain Resort |
| 8. Lost Trail Ski Area                |                               |





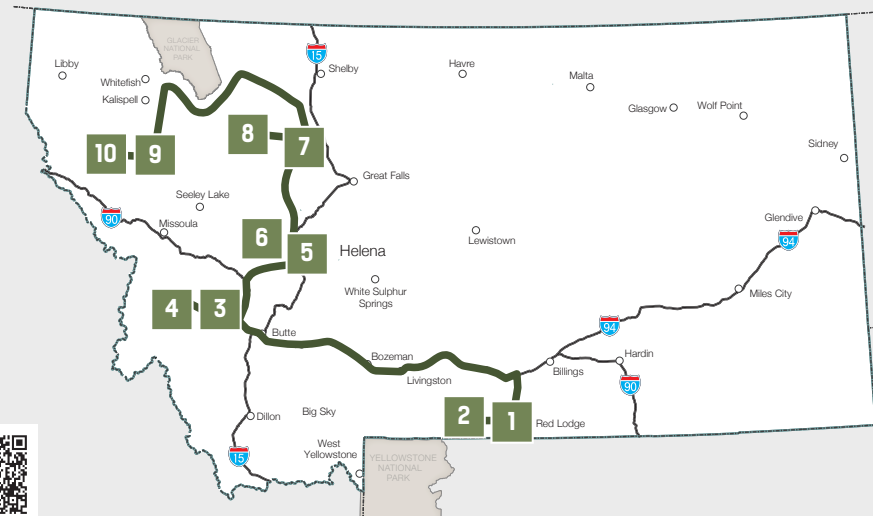
## 10-DAY SKI GETAWAY

**TOTAL DISTANCE:**  
Approximately 790+ miles

**TRIP DETAILS:** Red Lodge Mountain > Discovery > Great Divide > Teton Pass > Blacktail Mountain

Discover where Montanans hit the slopes. These hometown ski areas offer a taste of true winter life in Big Sky Country. After your time on skis, enjoy fun dining, cozy lodging and unique Montana experiences in our friendly mountain towns.

- DAY 1** Explore Red Lodge
- DAY 2** Ski Red Lodge Mountain
- DAY 3** Explore Anaconda
- DAY 4** Ski Discovery
- DAY 5** Explore Helena
- DAY 6** Ski Great Divide
- DAY 7** Explore the Rocky Mountain Front
- DAY 8** Ski Teton Pass
- DAY 9** Explore Flathead Lake Area
- DAY 10** Ski Blacktail Mountain



Scan for full itinerary or go to  
[visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/  
thats-how-you-montana/ten-day-ski-getaway](https://visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/thats-how-you-montana/ten-day-ski-getaway)



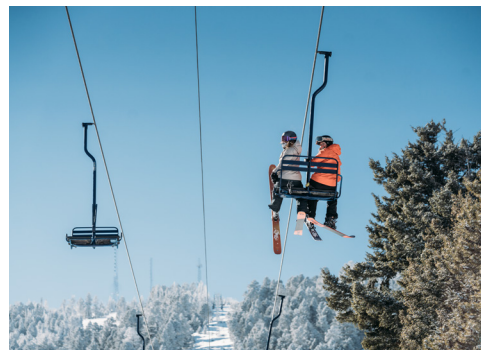
📍 RED LODGE MOUNTAIN



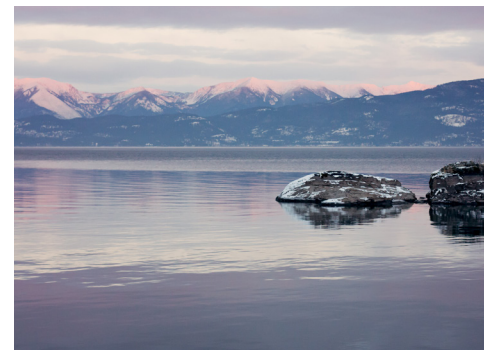
📍 HELENA, MONTANA



📍 RED LODGE, MONTANA



📍 GREAT DIVIDE SKI AREA



📍 FLATHEAD LAKE

## FOUR-DAY SKI GETAWAY

**TOTAL DISTANCE:**  
Approximately 372 miles

**TRIP DETAILS:** Lookout Pass > Discovery > Lost Trail > Maverick Mountain

Ski with the locals at these hometown treasures and soak up the allure of jaw-dropping Montana landscapes and vibrant small towns.

- DAY 1** Ski Lookout Pass
- DAY 2** Ski Discovery
- DAY 3** Ski Lost Trail
- DAY 4** Ski Maverick Mountain



Scan for full itinerary or go to  
[visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/  
thats-how-you-montana/four-day-ski-getaway](https://visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/thats-how-you-montana/four-day-ski-getaway)



📍 DISCOVERY SKI AREA



📍 ELKHORN HOT SPRINGS



📍 LOOKOUT PASS SKI & RECREATION AREA



📍 MAVERICK MOUNTAIN



📍 PHILIPSBURG, MONTANA



# TWO-DAY SKI GETAWAY

**TOTAL DISTANCE:**  
Approximately 160 miles

**TRIP DETAILS:** Showdown > Bear Paw

Spend a winter weekend on the slopes of two of Montana's hidden-treasure ski hills and explore the historic town of Fort Benton.

- DAY 1** Ski Showdown Montana
- DAY 2** Ski Bear Paw  
(open Saturdays and Sundays)



Scan for full itinerary or go to  
[visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/  
thats-how-you-montana/two-day-ski-getaway](https://visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/thats-how-you-montana/two-day-ski-getaway)



📍 SHOWDOWN MONTANA



📍 BEAR PAW SKI BOWL

# SKI AREAS & RESORTS



📍 GREAT DIVIDE SKI AREA





📍 BEAR PAW SKI BOWL



## BEAR PAW SKI BOWL

Bear Paw Ski Bowl harkens back to skiing's heyday: one double lift, one rope tow, 900 feet of vertical, 20-some runs and more community stoke than anywhere else in skidom. A visit here truly is like stepping back in time to what skiing was 50 years ago. That's a good thing. Bear Paw is also one of two U.S. ski areas that operate on tribal land: It's located inside Rocky Boy's Reservation, home of the Chippewa Cree. The mountains themselves, which jut up suddenly in the middle of Montana's plains, are also remarkable — with Bear Paw in the shadow of the region's pinnacle peak, 6,900-foot Baldy Mountain.

Big Sandy Creek Road, Havre, MT 59521

**TICKETS:** [bearpawskibowl.org](http://bearpawskibowl.org)



### ESSENTIALS



#### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Get a fascinating look at historic, underground Havre on a "Havre Beneath the Streets" tour.



#### APRÈS SKI

Recount a fun day on the slopes with the friendly crowd at Triple Dog Brewing Company.



#### EAT

The coziest dining in town, Bow & Marrow serves up seasonal seafood and pasta dishes alongside mouthwatering steaks.



#### SLEEP

Take your pick of friendly Havre hotels, like the Best Western Plus Havre or Great Northern Inn.



#### MUST DO

For bumps, jumps and tree lines, ski the Four Souls trail along Bear Paw's western boundary.



## BIG SKY RESORT

With 5,850 skiable acres, 4,350 vertical feet and an average of 265+ inches of annual snowfall, Big Sky Resort is big everywhere. The resort's iconic Lone Peak is a massive white tooth with trails spilling down all sides. It's so spectacular, and only an hour from both Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport and Yellowstone National Park. The turn into the Ikon Pass resort is marked, as turns in Montana often are, by a log-cabin general store that sells everything from breakfast sandwiches to cowboy hats. Restaurants, lodging and bars are plentiful too — try a local favorite like Beehive Basin Brewery in Meadow Village, where most of the folks around these parts live. From the double-black-diamond buffet of the hike to A–Z Chutes and Headwaters, to the mellow, sun-drenched corduroy off Andesite, there is so much terrain here that it would take a lifetime to explore it all. That would be a life well lived, indeed.

50 Big Sky Resort Road, Big Sky, MT 59716

**TICKETS:** [bigskyresort.com/lift-tickets](http://bigskyresort.com/lift-tickets)



📍 BIG SKY RESORT

### ESSENTIALS



#### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Yellowstone National Park's secret season is winter, when visitors board snowcoaches to enjoy a private audience with the majestic bison that abound.



#### APRÈS SKI

Keep it simple at Carabiner, a lounge at the base of the lifts where live music and a lively crowd remind you of everything that's right about Big Sky.



#### EAT

Horn & Cattle opened at the expansive Lone Mountain Ranch in 2017. The ambience alone is worth the reservation — but the cuisine never disappoints.



#### SLEEP

Check in to The Wilson Hotel in Big Sky Town Center, a Marriott Residence Inn with 129 suites decorated with a bit of Western swagger.



#### MUST DO

Big Sky Resort's new headlamp-equipped night skiing is not to be missed. Join a group and see the slopes in a whole new light — literally.





# BLACKTAIL MOUNTAIN SKI AREA

This local hill area is an excellent family ski destination overlooking Flathead Lake. It's unique in these parts because the parking lot is at the top (the local refrain is "The first run's free!"), where the unparalleled views of Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park will prompt your kids to take selfies that are actually worthwhile. Three chairlifts and a handle tow access 1,000 acres of tree skiing, along with beginner and intermediate terrain. The thoughtful layout, which sections off terrain according to difficulty, was designed by the former mountain manager at Whitefish Mountain Resort, an hour and a half away.

13990 Blacktail Road, Lakeside, MT 59922  
**TICKETS:** [blacktailmountain.com/tickets-passes](https://blacktailmountain.com/tickets-passes)



📍 BLACKTAIL MOUNTAIN SKI AREA

## ESSENTIALS



### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Point your compass north to historic downtown Kalispell and explore the local shops and galleries, tasty eateries and lively nightlife.



### APRÈS SKI

By the time you reach the base of the mountain you'll be ready for pizza and a pitcher of Montana craft beer fireside at Tamarack Brewing Company.



### EAT

Enjoy waterfront dining — even when the water is ice — at Harbor Grille in Lakeside. We like starting with the smoked trout before feasting on seafood, burgers and steak.



### SLEEP

Stay right on Flathead Lake at Whispering Pines Cabins or settle in for the night in Kalispell at Sherman Lodge or the Kalispell Grand Hotel.



### MUST DO

Blacktail Mountain Nordic Trails are the perfect way to slow things down a bit and take in the winter wonderland that is Montana.



📍 BRIDGER BOWL SKI AREA



# BRIDGER BOWL SKI AREA

Bridger Bowl, a community-owned nonprofit, is the biggest little resort in the West. It's as if you put Big Sky's raucous chutes, Whitefish's powdery trees and Blacktail's purring groomers together in a snow globe, shook it until it was choked with snowflakes and planted it 25 miles from the hip and bustling center of Bozeman. Bridger Bowl's unique storms (the arrivals of which are announced by the flashing blue beacon atop the Baxter Hotel in Bozeman) come from the Bridger Bowl Cloud — an upslope-precipitation phenomenon that hovers mysteriously over The Ridge, a 600-foot hike-to zone that requires both avalanche gear and a solid jump turn. Despite its radical terrain (though you'll find some incredible beginner and intermediate runs here, too), Bridger Bowl's vibe is all about duct tape and high-fives.

15795 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715  
**TICKETS:** [bridgerbowl.com/tickets-passes/tickets](https://bridgerbowl.com/tickets-passes/tickets)



## ESSENTIALS



### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

If you haven't soaked in a natural hot springs, you haven't fully arrived. Bozeman Hot Springs is the place to enjoy this quintessential Montana experience.



### APRÈS SKI

Immerse yourself in local vibes and real Montana flavor at Bozeman Taproom. With over 50 taps, this community fave is a sip in the right direction.



### EAT

Dinner is one thing (and you can't go wrong in Bozeman), but breakfast is a whole other thing, and Nova Café knows what they're doing in the kitchen.



### SLEEP

Bozeman's first and only 4-star hotel, the Kimpton Armory Hotel, is your place for adventure beyond the slopes — plus a dose of modern Montana hospitality.



### MUST DO

If you've got kids in tow, don't snooze on Hully Gully — it's a fave run that even adults can enjoy, with a few tips: Take it slow and don't ski right down the middle.





DISCOVERY SKI AREA

## DISCOVERY SKI AREA

Aptly named, Discovery Ski Area is the most expansive hometown mountain you'll ever ski. With 2,200 skiable acres, it has nearly as much swagger as the big guns, but this family-owned operation doesn't fuss with slopeside lodging or a base village. The shortbread chocolate chip cookies at the base lodge are the only frills you'll need. Easily reached from Missoula, Butte and Helena, it's a real skier's mountain: With 55% expert terrain, double black diamonds pepper the entire north-facing slopes. Its sunny south side is friendly for the green-circle set, while the Granite area is rife with blues and black diamonds. This place is a discovery worth finding. Psst ... don't miss the bighorn sheep sculpture on Gold Bug Run.

180 Discovery Basin Road, Anaconda, MT 59711

**TICKETS:** [skidiscovery.com/tickets-passes](https://skidiscovery.com/tickets-passes)



### ESSENTIALS



#### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Mine your own Montana sapphires at Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine in Philipsburg, and get your sugar rush at The Sweet Palace candy shop (closed on Saturdays).



#### APRÈS SKI

Head to "The Vault" at Philipsburg Brewing Company (housed in the historic Sayrs Bank building) and imbibe some award-winning Montana craft beer.



#### EAT

Carbs are what's called for after a day on the slopes, and O'Bella! in Anaconda is where you'll find scratch-made modern Italian fare (and a curated wine list).



#### SLEEP

Go off the grid in Anaconda at Sugar Loaf Lodge & Cabins, where a warm Western welcome awaits — bring your snowshoes, too.



#### MUST DO

It's worth reiterating just how good the shortbread chocolate chip cookies in the Discovery lodge are; they're warm, delicious, and world-famous.



## GREAT DIVIDE SKI AREA

This local, family-owned area skis like a huge playground. It boasts 1,500 acres across three peaks, and intermediates and experts have a combined 85% of the course. Great Divide serves Helena and the surrounding communities, but the outer valleys are only open on the weekends, which bodes well for the weekend skiers. When the night skiing lights turn on Fridays from 4 to 9 p.m. (and Saturdays in January), tickets are a mere \$15. Along with live music, grills and kegs, this place is transformed into a dance party on snow. Great Divide is your greatest decision yet.

7385 Belmont Drive, Marysville, MT 59640

**TICKETS:** [skigd.com/plan-your-visit/tickets-passes/lift-tickets](https://skigd.com/plan-your-visit/tickets-passes/lift-tickets)



GREAT DIVIDE SKI AREA

### ESSENTIALS



#### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Take a stroll through Reeder's Alley and explore the shops, galleries and eateries on Last Chance Gulch (including the Helena Walking Mall) and Great Northern Town Center.



#### APRÈS SKI

Soak up the magic in nature's hot tub at Broadwater Hot Springs and then pull up a chair for some craft brews and bites at Mt. Ascension Brewing Co..



#### EAT

Head on over to Helena's newest steakhouse for Montana's favorite food: steak. The Union is part wood-fired grill, part butcher shop and all local meat. A true pasture-to-plate experience.



#### SLEEP

Take your pick of places to lay your head in Helena at the Lamplighter Cabins & Suites, The Great Northern, or a local B&B, like The Carolina, which is as charming as it gets.



#### MUST DO

Two words: night skiing. Catch "Nights Under the Lights" on Fridays (and Saturdays in January). Stick around for live music at the Missing Lynx Saloon.





# LOOKOUT PASS SKI & RECREATION AREA

Straddling the Idaho/Montana border, Lookout Pass boasts the single distinction of being one of the snowiest resorts in both states. The steep, cone-shaped mountain offers skiing on three sides: the Idaho side, Montana side and north side. It's also one of the easiest resorts to access — a snowball's throw away from Interstate 90 — and within a 1.5-hour drive of Missoula, Coeur d'Alene and Spokane. An expansion into the St. Regis Basin, mostly in Montana, has doubled the size of the ski area, increasing it to 1,660 feet vertical, 52 trails and 1,023 acres of skiable terrain, all served by a second quad chairlift. In addition to wildly fun events all season long, you can find your ski legs here with group and private lessons. Lookout is a local treasure.

I-90 Exit 0, Mullan, ID 83846  
**TICKETS:** [skilookout.com/lift-tickets](https://skilookout.com/lift-tickets)



📍 LOOKOUT PASS SKI & RECREATION AREA

## ESSENTIALS



### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Immerse yourself in pure Montana bliss at Quinn's Hot Springs Resort, with five natural hot springs, two warm, salt-treated pools and a cold plunge.



### APRÈS SKI

Lookout's Loft Pub & Grub is what's on tap after a day on the slopes. Don't miss their signature slow-cooked bratwurst, served alongside panoramic views.



### EAT

Enjoy a post-ski, post-soak dinner in the aptly named town of Paradise at the Harwood House or Quinn's Tavern.



### SLEEP

Quinn's Hot Springs Resort has two lodges and 25+ cabins, so you can wisely make this slice of paradise your ski vacation home base.



### MUST DO

Ski the new Eagle Peak Expansion and then head down the mountain for a huckleberry milkshake at the St. Regis Travel Center, no matter how cold it is outside.



📍 LOST TRAIL SKI AREA



# LOST TRAIL SKI AREA

Situated in the Bitterroot Mountains on the border of Montana and Idaho, about 90 miles from Missoula, Lost Trail is truly a place you go to unplug, unwind and reconnect with your favorite people. It's a family place through and through, but don't let that mislead you: There are plenty of cliffs to jump in Hollywood Bowl, as well as wide-open terrain on South Face and Thunder. After your runs, nearby Jackson Hot Springs is the place to unwind and gives you a front-row seat to the undiluted sky, so full of glittering stars that you'll have difficulty finding the Big Dipper. The spirit of skiing is alive and well at Lost Trail. And when you come here, yours will be too.

9485 U.S. Highway 93 South, Sula, MT 59871

**TICKETS:** [losttrail-com.3dcartstores.com](https://losttrail-com.3dcartstores.com)



## ESSENTIALS



### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

A day on the mountain should end with a soak at Jackson Hot Springs. Don't forget to look up: Montana's star-studded night sky is clearest in winter.



### APRÈS SKI

Bitter Root Brewing is worth the trek, or just make Hamilton your Lost Trail basecamp and take in all this lively little mountain town has to offer.



### EAT

When you can't decide between pizza and burgers, make your way to Little Blue Joint in Darby, where they make both and they make 'em right.



### SLEEP

Get cozy in a cabin. It's the Montana way. Book one in Sula at A Lil' Bit of Heaven or, if you're staying in Hamilton, book a SkyWater Cabin.



### MUST DO

Since the mountain's not open Monday to Wednesday, it's tradition for powder hounds to head up on "Powder Thursday" for fresh tracks (if luck and storm systems align).





MAVERICK MOUNTAIN

## MAVERICK MOUNTAIN

In Southwest Montana, 40 miles from Dillon, Maverick Mountain is skiing as it used to be: People from all walks of life come to the slopes for the sheer thrill of sliding downhill. The base lodge at Maverick Mountain rocks the same shag carpet it's had since the '70s, when it was cool to nail it to the walls and ceiling, too. A double chair accesses 2,020 vertical feet of all kinds of terrain. Elkhorn Hot Springs, just up the road at the base of the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway, offers ski-and-stay packages, so you can enjoy being in the middle of nowhere without having to drive somewhere at the end of the day. But the best thing about this place is the smiles you'll see on everyone's faces — this might be the friendliest place you'll ever ski.

1600 Maverick Mountain Road, Polaris, MT 59746

**TICKETS:** maverick-mountain.square.site



### ESSENTIALS



#### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Soak up some Montana magic just a few miles from the mountain at Elkhorn Hot Springs, or drive a little farther to Jackson Hot Springs.



#### APRÈS SKI

Pull up a stool at Maverick's Thunder Bar, where live tunes and friendly conversation will have you feeling like a local.



#### EAT

The Den Steakhouse & Bar in Dillon doesn't just serve amazing steaks, they've got made-from-scratch burgers and pizzas, too.



#### SLEEP

Overnight in Polaris at the Grasshopper Inn B&B, a local mainstay that'll make you feel right at home. Or, make Dillon your home base.



#### MUST DO

Bannack State Park's ice skating pond and warming house provide a genuine taste of small-town life in Montana.



## MONTANA SNOWBOWL

Two things stand out at Montana Snowbowl: Its terrain is the real deal — rocky chutes, steep pitches, rowdy tree shots, 2,600-foot vertical — and its base lodge bar, cozy and warm, with a wood-fired pizza oven and friendly crowd, is one of the best in skidom. Plus, the bloody mary might be the best in the world. Just a half hour from Missoula, a cool college town teeming with craft breweries and art galleries, Montana Snowbowl has both a laid-back and cultured vibe. Its locals are understandably loyal, but so much so that they'll take you right to their favorite stash, eager to share how good this place really is.

1700 Snow Bowl Road, Missoula, MT 59808

**TICKETS:** montanasnowbowl.com/lift-tickets



MONTANA SNOWBOWL

### ESSENTIALS



#### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Nordic ski, snowmobile or even snowshoe into Garnet Ghost Town, Montana's best preserved abandoned mining town.



#### APRÈS SKI

Head downtown, wander around and stumble into whatever calls to you — in Missoula, you're bound to find an après adventure that suits your mood.



#### EAT

Plan ahead with a reservation at The Camino for real Mexican cooking, and be sure to try the ceviche. Take note: They also make a mean brunch.



#### SLEEP

Lodge in style at The Wren or the AC Hotel, where you'll be perfectly positioned right in downtown Missoula as to not miss a thing in this eclectic mountain mecca.



#### MUST DO

The great outdoors are truly something, but so is Rockin' Rudy's, a funky little record store meets gift shop that you really shouldn't miss if you're anywhere near Missoula.





# RED LODGE MOUNTAIN

It's not an uncommon story: Those who stumble upon Red Lodge en route to Yellowstone National Park fall in love with the place and return year after year. The town is charming, and just hip enough to have great coffee shops (Coffee Factory Roasters), lively bars (Snow Creek Saloon) and foodie-friendly eateries (Ox Pasture) without losing its country roots. When it comes to the mountain, riders get 1,635 skiable acres with an impressive 2,400-foot vertical, not to mention views from the top of the Grizzly chair that stretch all the way from the Beartooth Mountains to Wyoming. Hit the Palisades lift to see the famed Palisades rocks — giant limestone plates that jut out from the ridge like a stegosaurus' spine. And the fun doesn't end when winter does: Skiers pack the campgrounds around nearby Beartooth Basin — North America's only summertime ski area — as soon as Beartooth Pass opens in the spring.

305 Ski Run Road, Red Lodge, MT 59068  
**TICKETS:** [redlodgemountain.com/lift-tickets](https://redlodgemountain.com/lift-tickets)



📍 RED LODGE MOUNTAIN

## ESSENTIALS



### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Get up close and personal (safely) with non-releasable bears, bobcats and bison on a guided wildlife tour at Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary.



### APRÈS SKI

Mosey on up to Snow Creek Saloon for a post-ski pint and rack up for a game of pool while you're at it. If you're lucky, there'll be live music.



### EAT

A 2022 James Beard Foundation nominee ...what more do you need to know about PREROGATIVE Kitchen? If the bison ravioli is on the menu, order it.



### SLEEP

The historic Pollard Hotel is the place to stay in Red Lodge, and their house-made doughnuts are darn near the best you'll ever have. Ask about the hauntings.



### MUST DO

Red Lodge is pure heaven for those who ski the deep and steep. The Beartooth Mountains boast bragworthy backcountry fields and fresh-powder chutes.



📍 SHOWDOWN MONTANA



# SHOWDOWN MONTANA

Deep in the woods of the Little Belt Mountains, Showdown Montana has been spinning lifts for the Great Falls region since 1936 and is now owned and operated by three generations of one local family — nearly all of whom work on the slopes. There's no artificial snow here — the real stuff is one of Showdown's hallmarks, along with affordable prices (\$30 lift tickets on Thursdays), the hot cocoa at King's Hill Grille up top and the cheese fries at the base lodge. The skiers who frequent Showdown come in all kinds, from cowboys in Carhartts to terrain park kids in under-helmet goggles and baggy pants. Come New Year's Eve, the locals all gather together to watch the torchlight parade and celebrate their own history in this pristine and wild corner of the world.

2850 U.S. Highway 89, Neihart, MT 59465  
**TICKETS:** [showdownmontana.com/lift-tickets](https://showdownmontana.com/lift-tickets)



## ESSENTIALS



### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Thaw out at Spa Hot Springs in eclectic White Sulphur Springs. These praised mineral waters are some of nature's finest.



### APRÈS SKI

Hit up the Hole-in-the-Wall Saloon at the Showdown base lodge. This local hangout touts live music and the best bartenders around.



### EAT

Rub elbows with the locals at Bar 47, where signature cocktails and grown-up milkshakes pair well with comfort food, like pulled pork mac & cheese.



### SLEEP

Tuck in for the night at The Edith Hotel in White Sulphur Springs — freshly renovated lodging with unique décor.



### MUST DO

Ski or board the trees on Dynamite and Gun Barrel trails and then head to the lodge for the best tacos and cheese fries around.





📍 TETON PASS SKI RESORT



## TETON PASS SKI RESORT

Located just east of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and west of Choteau on Montana's jaw-dropping Rocky Mountain Front, Teton Pass possesses some of the most stunning views, diverse terrain and untracked snow of any ski hill around. This local fave covers 400 acres and has 43 downhill runs, with incredible access to backcountry skiing and boarding for those who like to shred the way back. Folks come here for the deep snow, good soup, cold drinks and relaxed vibes. Those in the know return season after season, relishing in the warm Montana welcome every time. Pond skim, anyone?

2906 Teton Canyon Road, Choteau, MT 59422

**TICKETS:** skitetonmt.com/Daily-Lift-Tickets



### ESSENTIALS



#### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

The Rocky Mountain Front is one of the prettiest places on the planet, and this winter wonderland was meant to be explored. Grab your snowshoes and hit the trails.



#### APRÈS SKI

One of the best watering holes in Choteau, The Livery Saloon (located in the Stage Stop Inn) has a cold beer with your name on it.



#### EAT

Choteau's iconic Wagon Wheel Bar just got a whole new look and it's better than ever, now with a full grill for a full Montana meal.



#### SLEEP

The Stage Stop Inn is a warm and friendly place to call it a day, and the heated pool is the post-adventure soak you need.



#### MUST DO

Choteau offers incredible access to backcountry skiing and boarding. Gear up and get out into that powder.



## TURNER MOUNTAIN

Turner Mountain was made for a chairlift — the mountain is a perfectly symmetrical 2,110-vertical-foot mound with a double chair running right up the center and gorgeous matching glades on either side. This nonprofit area is 85 miles away from Kalispell and mostly serves the local Libby, Montana, population: Everybody knows everybody, which is all part of its charm. A big day at Turner Mountain is roughly 125 skiers, which means the skier density remains lower than the density of the Montana cold smoke powder you'll find if the storm systems align. Its sole lift serves 22 runs, most of which are expert and intermediate. If you go, be sure to order a burger and hand-cut fries at the Day Lodge — they're rumored to be the best in Libby.

Pipe Creek Road, Libby, MT 59923

**TICKETS:** skiturner.com/tickets-passes



📍 TURNER MOUNTAIN

### ESSENTIALS



#### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Power up with the Lincoln County SnoKats and Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club to explore 350 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in the Kootenai National Forest.



#### APRÈS SKI

Warm up at Cabinet Mountain Brewing, aka "Libby's Living Room." Savor an award-winning Yaak Attack IPA at this women-owned brewery.



#### EAT

Enjoy the locally farmed and house-made modern Mediterranean cuisine of chef Seth Black at The Black Board Bistro.



#### SLEEP

There's R&R to be had at "Libby's finest," The Venture Inn, where you'll find a full-service restaurant, pool and hot tub.



#### MUST DO

Snag some snowshoes and trek to frozen Kootenai Falls or venture to Ross Creek Cedars Scenic Area for a walk among the giant western red cedars.





# WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT

Let's start with the powder: When it's there, you'll find smooth, creamy goodness bonded to layers underneath, making 4 inches feel like 8, and it transforms the trees into the snow ghosts for which this place is known. When the views of Whitefish Lake and Glacier National Park appear, it's downright magical. Add in a genuinely welcoming town easily accessed by the S.N.O.W. Bus — a free shuttle that runs between downtown and the resort — and Whitefish becomes a seamless vacation destination. Whitefish Mountain Resort offers a world-class resort experience. Yet because it's Whitefish — on the edge of Glacier National Park, not far from the border of Canada — its laid-back vibe and long-standing traditions remain untouched. Take the Frabert Clod of the Week awards at the Bierstube, in which ski patrol roasts the employee who made the week's biggest blunder. Be sure to belly up at Hellroaring Saloon, where the memorabilia will help you understand this place — and the people who keep it real. If you're here on a weekend or during the holidays, night skiing is a go.

1015 Glades Drive, Whitefish, MT 59937

**TICKETS:** [skiwhitefish.com/tickets](https://skiwhitefish.com/tickets)



📍 WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT

## ESSENTIALS



### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Hop on a fat bike and pedal to your heart's content along one of the winter-friendly, multi-use paths — a new way to take in the town.



### APRÈS SKI

Montana Tap House is the place to go for Montana-made beers in a chill setting downtown. Bonus: Order a pie from the pizza kitchen.



### EAT

Beloved Fleur Bake Shop moved to bigger digs and expanded its menu. Stop by for Black Coffee Roasters brew and house-baked pastries.



### SLEEP

Hang your ski helmet at the Firebrand Hotel in downtown Whitefish, right in the heart of downtown's many shops, restaurants and bars.



### MUST DO

Whether you're skiing or not, grab lunch at the Summit House atop Chair 1 for tasty eats and expansive Glacier National Park vistas.

# HOT SPRINGS RESORTS



📍 YELLOWSTONE HOT SPRINGS

## FORGET YOUR WORRIES, BUT NOT YOUR BATHING SUIT.

Après ski, hit the hot springs for a relaxing, post-adventure soak. You'll find these hot spots throughout Montana — from hidden local treasures to



- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Alameda's Hot Springs<br>Hot Springs, MT    | 6. Chico Hot Springs<br>Pray, MT        | 11. Lost Trail Hot Springs<br>Sula, MT                 | 16. Symes Hot Springs<br>Hot Springs, MT               |
| 2. Big Medicine Hot Springs<br>Hot Springs, MT | 7. Elkhorn Hot Springs<br>Polaris, MT   | 12. Norris Hot Springs<br>Norris, MT                   | 17. Spa Hot Springs Motel<br>White Sulphur Springs, MT |
| 3. Boulder Hot Springs<br>Boulder, MT          | 8. Fairmont Hot Springs<br>Farimont, MT | 13. Pipestone Village and Hot Springs<br>Whitehall, MT | 18. Yellowstone Hot Springs<br>Gardiner, MT            |
| 4. Broadwater Hot Springs<br>Helena, MT        | 9. Jackson Hot Springs<br>Jackson, MT   | 14. Quinn's Hot Springs Resort<br>Paradise, MT         |  |
| 5. Bozeman Hot Springs<br>Bozeman, MT          | 10. Lolo Hot Springs<br>Lolo, MT        | 15. Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs<br>Saco, MT           |  |



# FOUR-DAY WARM + COZY GETAWAY IN SOUTHWEST MONTANA

**TOTAL DISTANCE:**  
Approximately 187 miles

**TRIP DETAILS:** Norris Hot Springs > Butte > Anaconda > Jackson Hot Springs + Elkhorn Hot Springs

You can't get more Montana than this winter getaway featuring snowshoeing, Nordic skiing and small-town exploration bookended by hot springs — the perfect winter warm-up. Immerse yourself in Montana's enchanting winter landscape and enjoy comfort food and cozy lodging.

To complete this itinerary as designed, you'll need snowshoes, cross-country skis and ski poles.

- DAY 1 Soak at Norris Hot Springs
- DAY 2 Explore Butte
- DAY 3 Explore Anaconda
- DAY 4 Soak at Jackson Hot Springs + Elkhorn Hot Springs



Scan for full itinerary or go to [visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/thats-how-you-montana/warm-and-cozy-in-southwest-montana](https://visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/thats-how-you-montana/warm-and-cozy-in-southwest-montana)



📍 BUTTE, MONTANA



📍 NORRIS HOT SPRINGS



📍 ANACONDA, MONTANA



📍 JACKSON HOT SPRINGS

# THREE-DAY SNOW + ICE ADVENTURE IN EASTERN MONTANA

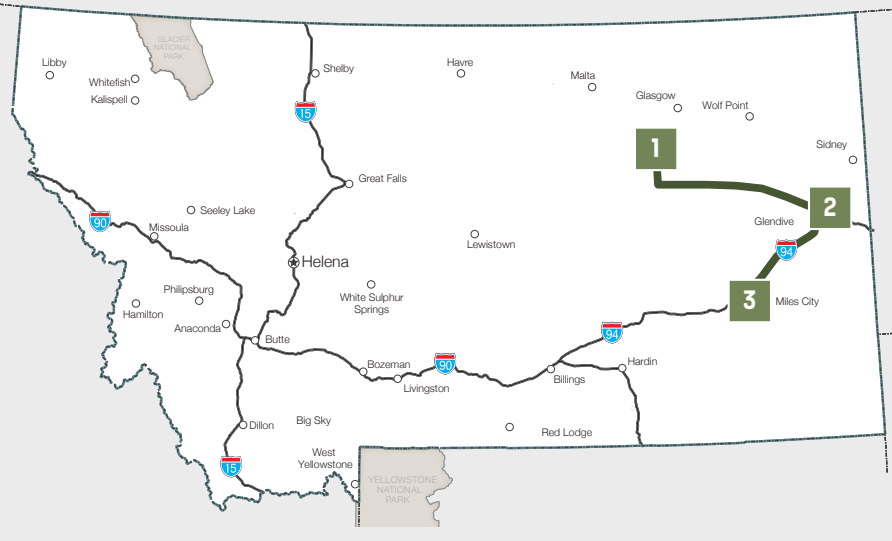
**TOTAL DISTANCE:**  
Approximately 220 miles

**TRIP DETAILS:** Fort Peck Lake > Makoshika State Park > Miles City

Discover the great outdoors in the quiet of an Eastern Montana winter. From ice fishing for trophy walleye to snowshoeing the badlands, your adventures await — and so does a warm and friendly place to lay your head at the end of a day well spent (three days, in fact).

To complete this itinerary as designed, you'll need ice fishing gear and snowshoes or boots and hiking spikes.

- DAY 1 Ice Fish on Fort Peck Lake
- DAY 2 Snowshoe at Makoshika State Park
- DAY 3 Ice Fish in Miles City



Scan for full itinerary or go to [visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/thats-how-you-montana/snow-and-ice-in-southeast-montana](https://visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/thats-how-you-montana/snow-and-ice-in-southeast-montana)



📍 FORT PECK LAKE RESERVOIR



📍 MAKOSHIKA STATE PARK



📍 FORT PECK LAKE RESERVOIR



# FOUR DAYS OF WINTER EXPERIENCES

**TOTAL DISTANCE:**  
Approximately 385 miles

**TRIP DETAILS:** Seeley Lake > Darby > Big Hole Valley > Maverick Mountain > Elkhorn Hot Springs > Bannack State Park > Philipsburg

On this four-day sampler of Montana winter fun, somewhere among the exhilarating snowmobiling and downhill skiing, the cozy cabins and hot springs and the one-of-a-kind sights and welcoming towns, it'll hit you: You're having the best winter ever.

To complete this itinerary as designed, you'll need a snowmobile, cross-country skis, downhill skis and ski poles.

- DAY 1** Snowmobile and Sleigh in Seeley Lake
- DAY 2** Explore Darby and the Big Hole Valley
- DAY 3** Ski Maverick Mountain and Soak at Elkhorn Hot Springs
- DAY 4** Explore Bannack State Park and Philipsburg

Scan for full itinerary or go to [visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/thats-how-you-montana/four-days-of-winter-experiences](https://visitmt.com/plan-your-trip/trip-ideas/thats-how-you-montana/four-days-of-winter-experiences)



MAVERICK MOUNTAIN



SEELEY LAKE, MONTANA



ELKHORN HOT SPRINGS



PHILPSBURG, MONTANA



BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA



PHILIPSBURG, MONTANA



MAVERICK MOUNTAIN



CHIEF JOSEPH PASS



SULA, MONTANA



# MONTANA

IS FOR WINTER PEOPLE