

# THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ROADWAY IN AMERICA

Given this name by *On the Road* correspondent Charles Kuralt, the Beartooth Highway climbs to an astounding 10,947 feet above sea level. Since its completion in 1936, the Highway has awed millions of visitors with its astonishing views of one of the most rugged and wild areas in the lower 48 states.

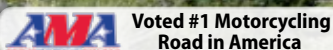
As it winds its way between the northeast entrance of Yellowstone National Park and Red Lodge, Montana, the Highway traverses through lush lodge pole pine forests and alpine tundra. At the highway's summit, travelers find themselves in a sky-high world of glacial cirques, clear alpine lakes and snow that lingers through the summer months. In late spring, the fragile tundra blossoms in a lavish display of wildflowers.

With 20 peaks over 12,000 feet in elevation, the Beartooth Mountains lie within the 943,377 acre Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Grizzly and black bears make their home here, as do elk, deer, moose, bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goats, mountain lions and bobcats.

Plan on at least 2 hours driving time to make the trip between Red Lodge and Yellowstone – more if you really want to experience the beauty of America's ultimate high-country route – the Beartooth Highway.

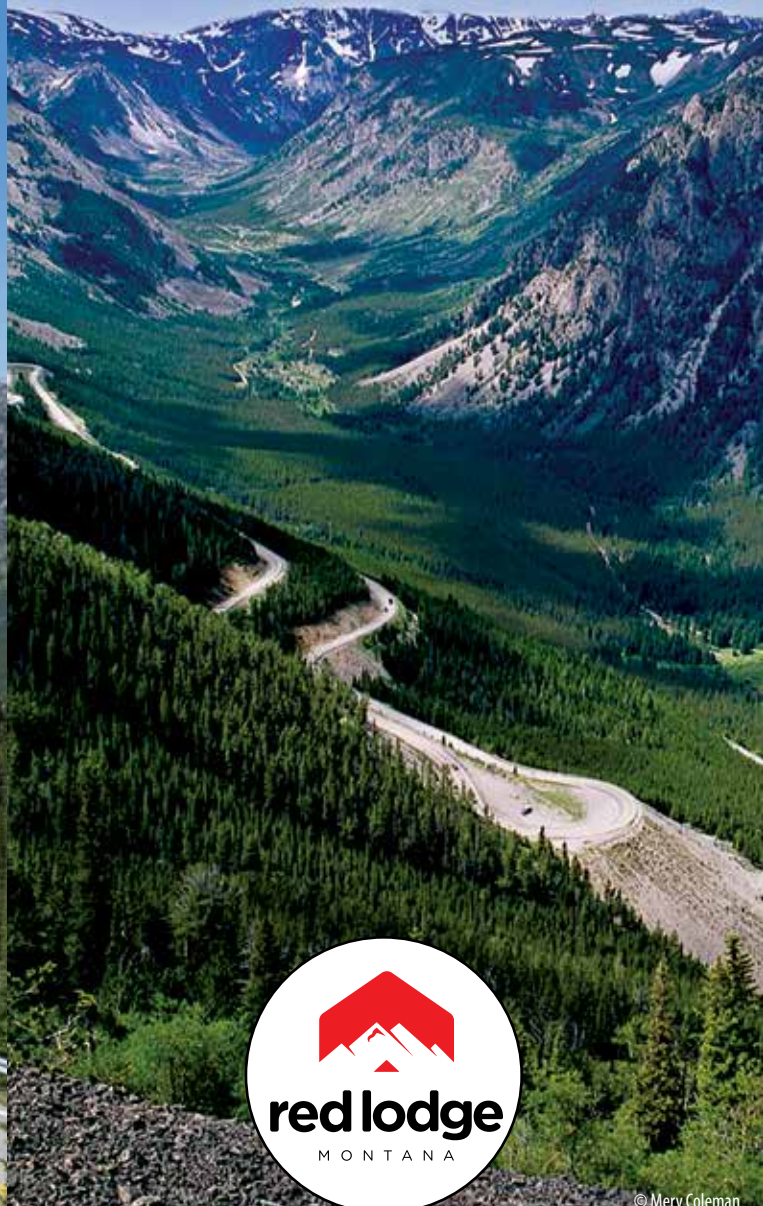


For more information go to [www.beartoothhighway.com](http://www.beartoothhighway.com)



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# Red Lodge, Montana to **YELLOWSTONE** over the Beartooth Highway



© Merv Coleman



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**Welcome to Red Lodge**, a town that gracefully balances the old and new west. Downtown is an eclectic collection of locally-owned shops and restaurants staffed by friendly and knowledgeable people who'd be happy to tell you about the skiing conditions and hiking trails.

Home to music festivals and art shows, traditional cowboy rodeos and motorcycle rallies, Red Lodge offers something for everyone. From whitewater rafting to fly-fishing, alpine and Nordic skiing to sightseeing, you'll find plenty of ways to fill your calendar with 365 days of fresh air and fun.

For more information go to [www.redlodge.com](http://www.redlodge.com)



## RED LODGE ACCOMMODATIONS

- AAA Red Lodge Vacation Rentals ..... 406-425-2125  
[www.aaaredlodgerentals.com](http://www.aaaredlodgerentals.com)
- Alpine Lodge ..... 406-446-2213  
[www.alpineredlodge.com](http://www.alpineredlodge.com)
- Basin Property Management ..... 406-579-4245  
[www.basinpropertymt.com](http://www.basinpropertymt.com)
- Beartooth Hideaway Inn & Cabins ..... 406-446-2288  
[www.beartoothhideaway.com](http://www.beartoothhideaway.com)
- Chateau Rouge ..... 406-446-1601  
[www.chateaurouge.com](http://www.chateaurouge.com)
- Gallagher's Irish Rose Bed & Breakfast ..... 406-446-0303  
[www.irishrosehost.com](http://www.irishrosehost.com)
- Inn on the Beartooth ..... 406-446-1768  
[www.innonthebeartooth.net](http://www.innonthebeartooth.net)
- Island at Rock Creek – A Creekside Development ..... 831-334-8477  
[www.islandatrockcreek.com](http://www.islandatrockcreek.com)
- Lupine Inn ..... 406-445-3301  
[www.lupineinnmt.com](http://www.lupineinnmt.com)
- The Pollard Hotel ..... 406-446-0001  
[www.thepollardhotel.com](http://www.thepollardhotel.com)
- Quality Inn of Red Lodge ..... 406-446-4469  
[www.choicehotels.com/hotel/MT010](http://www.choicehotels.com/hotel/MT010)
- Red Lodge Inn ..... 406-446-2030  
[www.redlodgeinnmt.com](http://www.redlodgeinnmt.com)
- Red Lodge Rentals ..... 406-425-1975  
[www.redlodgerentals.com](http://www.redlodgerentals.com)
- Red Lodge Reservations ..... 406-446-3603  
[www.redlodgereservations.com](http://www.redlodgereservations.com)
- Yodeler Motel ..... 406-446-1435  
[www.yodelermotel.com](http://www.yodelermotel.com)

For more information go to [www.redlodge.com/stay](http://www.redlodge.com/stay)



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© MT Tourism



© Carbon County Steakhouse



© The Pollard Hotel



LEAVE NO TRACE

THAT'S HOW YOU MONTANA

**REDLODGE.COM**  
BASE CAMP TO THE BEARTOOTH

LEARN HOW TO  
LEAVE NO TRACE  
IN MONTANA



### 1 RED LODGE

**Elevation 5,555** Nestled against Montana's highest mountain peaks, Red Lodge is a place of extraordinary beauty, world-class outdoor recreation, romantic getaways and family fun. You're sure to find plenty of accommodations, eateries, entertainment and genuine western-style hospitality. [www.redlodge.com](http://www.redlodge.com)

### 2 ROCK CREEK SWITCHBACKS

Seven miles of switchbacks offer stunning views to the peaks and glaciers of the Beartooths, the sweeping tundra of Hellroaring and Silver Run plateaus and in the canyon below, the tumbling water of upper Rock Creek.

### 3 VISTA POINT REST AREA

**Elevation 9,190** A fully developed rest area, Vista Point provides outstanding views of upper Rock Creek Canyon and interpretive panels explaining the natural history of the area and the story of the Highway's construction, all along a wheelchair-accessible path. Vista Point is twenty-one miles from Red Lodge. Emergency phone available.



### 4 HELLROARING PLATEAU

Topping 10,000 feet above sea level, Hellroaring Plateau is an awesome wind-swept expanse of alpine tundra, glaciated canyons, and jewel-like lakes. Accessible by a primitive mining road originating from Parkside Campground, Hellroaring Plateau offers fabulous opportunities for hiking, fishing and wildlife-viewing.



### 5 45TH PARALLEL

As you cross the 45th parallel, keep in mind that you are precisely halfway between the North Pole and the equator.

### 6 BEARTOOTH BASIN

**Elevation 10,737** Established in the mid-1960's, Beartooth Basin is one of North America's oldest alpine ski training areas. Once a private camp, Beartooth Basin is now open to the public (snow and weather dependent) and staffed with professional ski patrol and lift attendants.



[www.beartoothbasin.com](http://www.beartoothbasin.com)

### 7 GARDNER LAKE PULLOUT

**Elevation 9,841** Also the trailhead for the Beartooth Loop Trail, this unmarked pullout provides a beautiful display of the glaciated basins and lakes of the Beartooth Plateau. On early summer days, you might find backcountry skiers testing their skills on the glaciers.

### 8 THE BEAR'S TOOTH

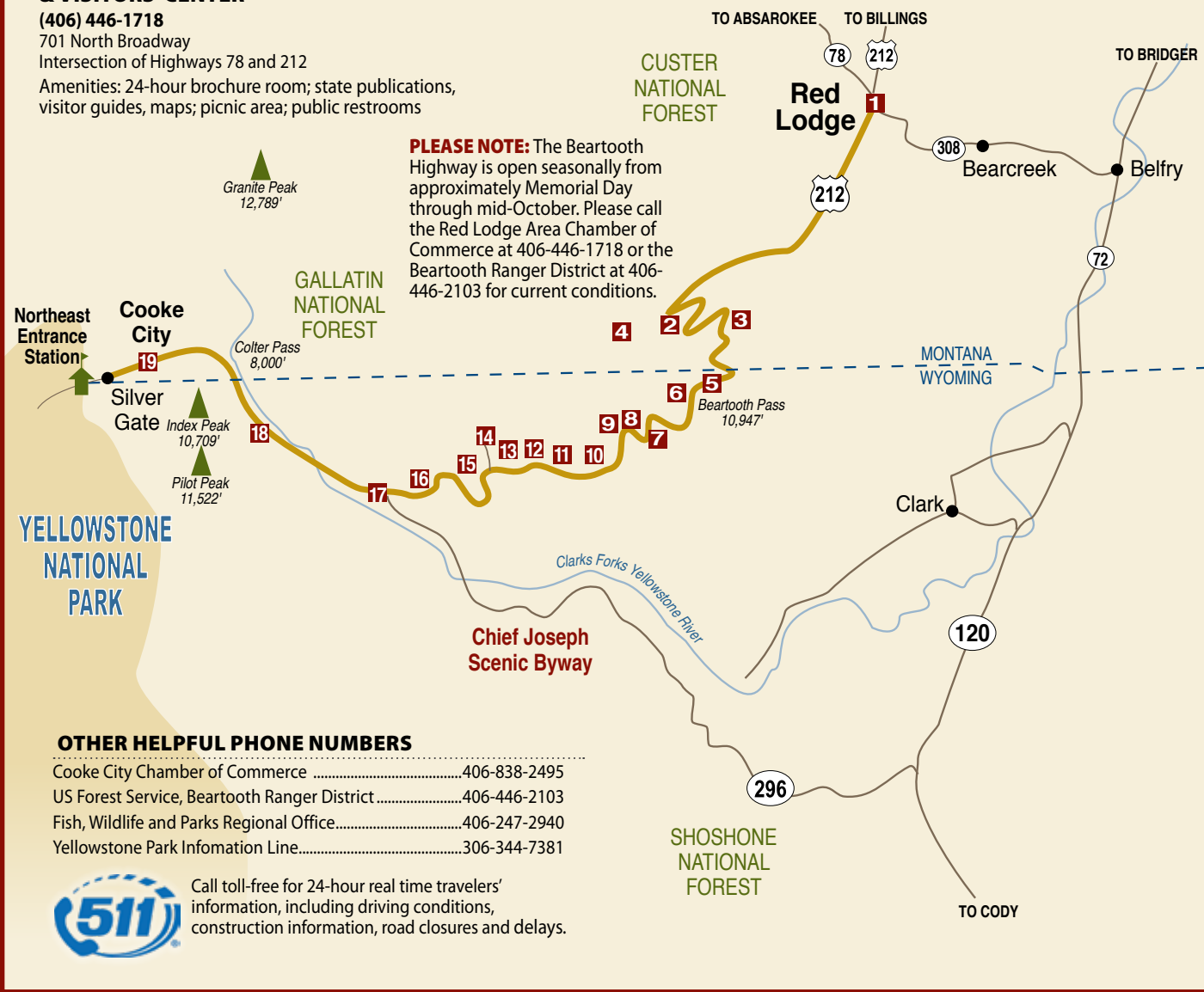
Names "Na Piet Say," meaning "the bear's tooth," by the Crow Indians, this narrow, pyramidal spire was carved by glaciation and is the namesake of the Beartooth Mountains.



### RED LODGE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS' CENTER

**(406) 446-1718**  
701 North Broadway  
Intersection of Highways 78 and 212  
Amenities: 24-hour brochure room; state publications, visitor guides, maps; picnic area; public restrooms

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Beartooth Highway is open seasonally from approximately Memorial Day through mid-October. Please call the Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce at 406-446-1718 or the Beartooth Ranger District at 406-446-2103 for current conditions.



### OTHER HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Cooke City Chamber of Commerce .....	406-838-2495
US Forest Service, Beartooth Ranger District .....	406-446-2103
Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Office.....	406-247-2940
Yellowstone Park Information Line.....	306-344-7381



Call toll-free for 24-hour real time travelers' information, including driving conditions, construction information, road closures and delays.

### 9 WEST SUMMIT OVERLOOK

**Elevation 10,947** Experience 360° views of the Beartooth Plateau and surrounding mountain peaks.



### 10 ISLAND LAKE

**Elevation 9,518** A popular boating, fishing and camping destination, this campground offers gorgeous views of Island Lake and the Beartooth Range. Trails originating from the campground lead to other high mountain lakes and into the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

### 11 TOP OF THE WORLD STORE

Thirty miles from Red Lodge, the Highway reaches its highest point at 10,947 feet. Here you feel like you are truly on top of the world. Indeed, very near the summit, you'll find the Top of the World Store, offering fuel, food and accommodations to weary travelers. [www.topoftheworldresort.com](http://www.topoftheworldresort.com)

### 12 BEARTOOTH LAKE

**Elevation 8,901** At the base of Beartooth Butte, this popular campground offers excellent fishing and boating in the waters of Beartooth Lake. Several hiking trails radiate from the campground.



### 13 BEARTOOTH BUTTE

**Elevation 10,514** Bands of sandstone give evidence that the Beartooth Butte sat at the bottom of an inland sea hundreds of millions of years ago. The sedimentary deposits that top Beartooth Butte today once covered the entire Beartooth Plateau; thousands of years of glaciation eroded the plateau until all traces of the sedimentary rocks were removed, except for Beartooth and Clay Buttes.

### 14 CLAY BUTTE LOOKOUT

**Elevation 9,811** The three-mile drive to Clay Butte Lookout is unpaved but easily negotiable during summer months. An old fire lookout, Clay Butte offers panoramic vistas of dozens of mountains over 11,000 feet, including Montana's highest peak, Granite Peak, and the Beartooth Plateau. Open in July and August, the lookout also features interpretative displays of the 1988 "Yellowstone" wildfires.



### 15 PILOT AND INDEX PEAKS OVERLOOK



**Elevation 8,718** Stop here for a fine view of Pilot and Index Peaks, volcanic remnants more than 11,000 feet high. As you take in the peaks, keep in mind that you're looking at the northeastern edge of the Absaroka Range, an eroded mass of lava, ash, and mudflows that began forming 50 million years ago. With its high vantage point,

this pullout also provides panoramic views into the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area and the Clarks Fork Valley.

### 16 LAKE CREEK FALLS

**Elevation 7,329** A 200-yard hike will take you to a footbridge over the cascading water of Lake Creek Falls. Off-highway parking is available.

### 17 CHIEF JOSEPH SCENIC BYWAY

Named for the last chief of the Nez Percé Indians, the Chief Joseph Highway intersects with the Beartooth Highway near Lake Creek Falls. With interpretive signs telling the tragic tale of the legendary flight of Chief Joseph's band of Nez Percé, this scenic byway also contains important archaeological sites, evidence of the occupancy of the region by prehistoric Native Americans. The byway offers a remarkable diversity of views, from the rolling ranchland of the Clarks Fork Valley to dramatic red rock mesas and deep gorges.

### 18 CRAZY CREEK

**Elevation 6,920** Crazy Creek Campground offers picnicking and camping facilities. A pullout on the east side of the road provides access to Crazy Lakes Trail with its impressive views of the rumbling water of Crazy Creek – best viewed in June when area streams reach the height of runoff levels.

### 19 COOKE CITY

**Elevation 7,600** Four miles from the Northeast Entrance of Yellowstone National Park lies the tiny hamlet of Cooke City. Founded in the 19th century as a mining camp, today Cooke City primarily serves as a summer rest stop for tourists in route to or from Yellowstone. In the winter months, the town's streets fill with snow banks and snowmobiles.

[www.cookecitychamber.org/](http://www.cookecitychamber.org/)