MONTANA

The BIG SKY Country

1966 HIGHWAY MAP

State Highway Commission of Montana
Helena, Montana

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FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

Cover Photograph
(St. Mary Lake, Glacier Park)
and Back Cover
(Sunset over Flathead Lake)
by Ernst Peterson

Greetings from Montana . . .

The Bitterroot Mission Range in the Rocky Mountains towers toward the BIG SKY of Western Montana. Photograph by Ross Hall

Montana, a state which fastens enormous pride in its tradition of the West, looks to the future with genuine enthusiasm.

As an outdoor vacationland, Montana is unsurpassed. Lakes and streams lure the trout fisherman, deer, antelope and elk at every turn. Gamebirds and waterfowl are in abundance attract the hunter, bewildering in winter, skiers from all parts of the country, upside to sightseers and campers. Called the Big Sky Country, Montana is the state where rivers begin and where the crisp, clean air adds zest to living. Fine highways cross our state, leading travelers to world famous Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, as well as Custer Battlefield, Virginia City, Lewis and Clark Caverns, Helena, to historical growth. State promotion efforts in this field have been rewarding and the state economy is sound.

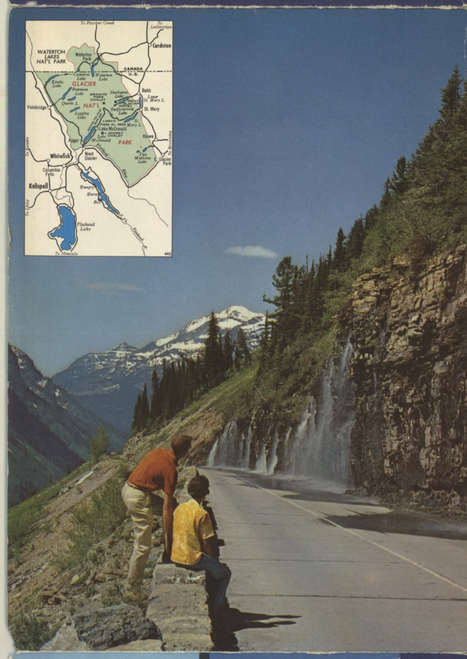
We invite you to visit Montana often, as a vacationer or as a prospective resident of our friendly state.

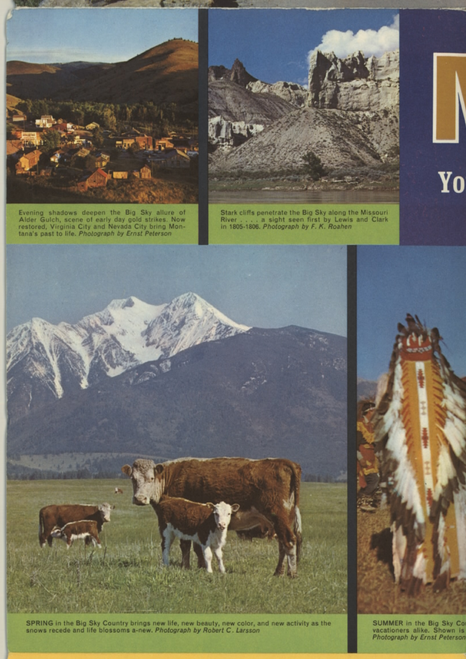
Ask all the questions you like. You'll find our people and our state agencies obligingly willing to answer them.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Babcock

Tim Babcock, Governor





Glacier NATIONAL PARK

above photo . . . Many Glacier *Hotel by Marion Lacy*

The history of Glacier National Park begins with the Blackfeet Indians who lived under the spell of the majestic mountains. Regarding the mountain vastness with awe they entered this abode of spirits only to fast or to cross to the Flathead country.

The park, lying in a rugged section of the Montana Rockies, is named not from the 60-odd glaciers of today, but because huge Ice Age glaciers carved the rugged scenery of what is now Glacier National Park. Here two hundred glacial lakes stud the valleys or are set like jewels in rocky cirques. Streams of crystal clear water offer good fishing . . . and no fishing license is required. Fields of brilliant mountain wildflowers, cascading waterfalls, sheer cliffs, dense forests, inquisitive bears, friendly marmots and proud mountain goats make up its changing panorama.

Going-to-the-Sun Road, a spectacular 50-mile drive running east and west through the park, crosses the Continental Divide at Logan Pass and traverses the towering Garden Wall. Much of the park is accessible by auto and more than a thousand miles of trails lead deep into untouched wilderness or to isolated mountain chalets. Some of the glaciers are visible from the roads; others are easily accessible on foot or horseback. Saddle horses are available; riding experience is unnecessary.

Warm sunny days and cool starry nights are the rule throughout the summer. Early season visitors find waterfalls at their most glorious and mountain peaks still covered with winter snows. In the fall, deciduous trees display brilliant colors, highest peaks glisten with their first white dusting of snow and skies deepen to a startling blue.

Going-to-the-Sun Road, open about the first week in June, remains open well into October. All year around accommodations are conveniently located on the park's fringes. Accommodations in the park are available from about June 10 to September 15.

This million acre alpine wonderland was established by Congress as a national park on May 11, 1910, and is the United States section of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

Three of the five entrances to Yellowstone, the largest and oldest of all the national parks, are in Montana: (1) the north entrance at Gardiner is reached by the historic Yellowstone River route through beautiful Paradise Valley and Yankee Jim Canyon. (2) the northeast entrance is reached by the spectacular Beartooth Highway which climbs via a series of amazing switchbacks to nearly 11,000 feet in Montana's rugged Beartooth Mountains. (3) West Yellowstone, Montana, gives entrance to Yellowstone National Park on the west . . . . reached by two scenic highways along the picturesque Gallatin River and the world-famed Madison River . . . . the trout fisherman's paradise . . . . . the river which feeds earthquake-created Quake Lake.

Yellowstone National Park was first discovered by a frontiersman, John Colter, in the winter of 1807-1808, but his friends refused to believe the tales of the fantastic land he had seen. Twenty years later, Jim Bridger, a rugged Montana trapper and scout, gave similar descriptions of the area, and eventually explored the Yellowstone country extensively.

Often termed "nature's wonderland", Yellowstone is renowned for spouting geysers, brilliant pools, bubbling mud caldrons, mountains, canyons, streams and lakes, forest and waterfalls . . . 2,221,000 acres of scenic beauty. Park wildlife includes buffalo, moose, elk, deer, antelope, Big Horn sheep and—favorite of all—the grizzly and black bear. Fishing is excellent in the park waters . . . . and NO fishing license is required.

Congress established Yellowstone National Park on March 1, 1872, after the Washburn-Doane Expedition, headed by H.D. Washburn, Surveyor-General of Montana.

Accommodations are available all year at the Montana entrances and from about May 1 to October 31 in the Park.

right photo . . . . Yellowstone Bears
courtesy Yellowstone Park Company

left photo . . . Glacier Park
Weeping Wall by Ernst Peterson

right photo . . . Old Faithful Geyser from Observation Point
Union Pacific Railroad Colorphoto

Evening shadows deepen the Big Sky allure of Alder Gulch, scene of early day gold strikes. Now restored, Virginia City and Nevada City bring Montana's past to life. *Photograph by Ernst Peterson*

Stark cliffs penetrate the Big Sky along the Missouri River . . . a sight seen first by Lewis and Clark in 1805-1806. *Photograph by F. K. Hoahen*

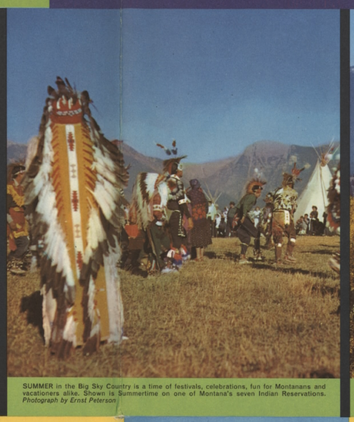
MONTANA

Your Four-Season BIG SKY Vacationland

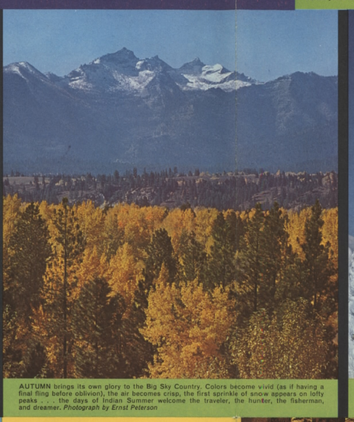
Giant native western Cedars often reach 200 feet Big Skyward in the Ross Creek Scenic Area off Highway 200 south of Troy. Many are believed to be 500 years old. *Photograph by Ross Hall*

Big Sky Country is rich wheat land . . . with the average ranch (latest official figures) comprising 2,213 acres. *Photograph courtesy Montana Power Co.*

SPRING in the Big Sky Country brings new life, new beauty, new color, and new activity as the snows recede and life blossoms a-new. *Photograph by Robert C. Larsson*



SUMMER in the Big Sky Country is a time of festivals, celebrations, fun for Montanans and vacationers alike. Shown is Summertime on one of Montana's seven Indian Reservations. *Photograph by Ernst Peterson*



AUTUMN brings its own glory to the Big Sky Country. Colors become vivid (as if having a final fling before oblivion), the air becomes crisp, the first sprinkle of snow appears on lofty peaks . . . the days of Indian Summer welcome the traveler, the hunter, the fisherman, and dreamer. *Photograph by Ernst Peterson*

WINTER in the Big Sky Country beckons ski enthusiasts to exhilarating sport on incomparable powder snow runs. Beginner or expert, you'll find skiing Montana a memorable experience. *Photograph courtesy Great Northern Railroad*

The Treasure State

Montana, for centuries the home of Indians and buffalo, was first seen by white men—the Verendryes, French fur-traders—in 1743.

In 1805-1806, Lewis and Clark explored the area, then part of the Louisiana Territory.

In 1807 Manuel Lisa, a fur-trader, built Montana's first trading post.

The first permanent white settlement was St. Mary's Mission at Stevensville, founded in 1841 . . . still standing today.

In 1862 a rich gold strike at Bannack brought a rush of prospectors. With gold discoveries at Virginia City and Helena, thousands more followed. Outlaws flourished in the surging gold camps until the Vigilantes organized and dispensed justice.

The great cowboy era began in 1866 when the first herd of longhorn cattle was trailed in from Texas.

The growing intrusion of white men into the Indians' homeland, the disappearance of buffalo and failure of white men to keep their treaties, brought the Indian wars of the '60's and '70's. Custer's Last Stand occurred in 1876. A year later the major battles ended with Chief Joseph's surrender at the Battle of the Bear's Paw.

The fourth largest state, Montana averages 550 miles in length and 275 miles in width. The Continental Divide runs north and south through the western section. The highest point is Granite Peak, 12,799 feet; the lowest is 1,820 feet on the Kootenai River at the Idaho Line.

Climate varies with topography and altitude. Average annual rainfall throughout the state is 15" and varies from a minimum 9.69" to over 100" on some mountain tops. Average daytime temperatures vary from an average 28° F in January to 84.5° in July.

Nine railroads, ten bus lines and four air lines serve Montana; 10,293 miles of paved urban, secondary, primary and interstate highways cross the state.

Vast lands suited to cultivation and grazing, water, minerals, and timber are Montana's most valuable resources.

The value of income from farms and ranches totals over $430,000,000 annually. Major crops are winter and spring wheat, hay, barley, sugar beets, corn, oats, potatoes, safflower, alfalfa seed, mustard seed, flax seed, beans and cherries. Principal livestock are cattle and sheep. Montana is a large supplier of stocker and feeder cattle.

The State's mineral resources offer important sources of employment and income to the State. Annual mineral production averages around $185,000,000 chiefly from petroleum and copper production. Other leading minerals are sand and gravel, zinc, silver, building stone, lead and gold.

The timber industry is highly important to Montana's economy and contributes approximately $130,000,000 annually. Products include lumber, plywood, pulp and paper, and manufactured wood products. Four million or more Christmas trees are harvested each year and marketed widely throughout the country.

Most of the power in the State is generated hydroelectrically by the Federal dams located at Fort Peck, Hungry Horse, and Canyon Ferry (Yellowtail Dam near Hardin is under construction); by the Montana Power Company with Kerr Dam, Holter Dam and 11 other sites, and by the Washington Water Power Company with its dam at Noxon Rapids. There are five steam generating plants in the State using coal as a fuel source. The largest, located at Sidney, is operated by the Montana Dakota Utilities Company.

Manufacturing in Montana is primarily based on the processing of its abundant raw materials including refining of copper, zinc, aluminum, and petroleum, production of elemental phosphorus, wood products and cement. Sugar refining and flour milling are also very important to the State's economy. The value added by manufacturing approximates $220,000,000 annually.

Additional Information

Wherever you may be in Montana, on-the-spot information is conveniently available to you when you stop at a local Chamber of Commerce office. There you will find timely, reliable information about local highlights.

For additional Montana vacation information, write to the Advertising Department, Montana Highway Commission, Helena, Montana 59601

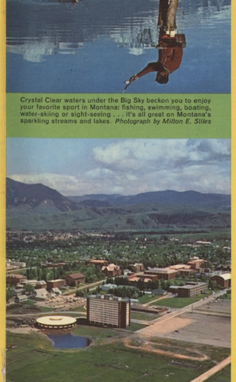
State Bird
The Western Meadowlark

State Flower
The Bitterroot

State Tree
The Ponderosa Pine

State Flag
with State Seal and Motto,
"Oro y Plata"—Gold and Silver

Crystal Clear waters under the Big Sky beckon you to enjoy your favorite sport in Montana: fishing, swimming, boating, water-skiing or sight-seeing . . . it's all great on Montana's sparkling streams and lakes. *Photograph by Milton E. Stiles*



Montana's University System takes pride in the modern Montana State University campus. Under the Big Sky in Bozeman, you see the MSU campus including the 13,000 seat fieldhouse and the new hi-rise 11-story Hedges Hall (men's dormitory). *Photograph courtesy of Montana State University*

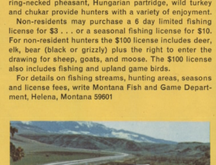
Fishing and Hunting

MONTANA offers some of the best trout fishing in the nation. Four major watersheds—the Missouri, Yellowstone, Kootenai and Clark Fork—with their many tributaries reaching into the high mountain areas, give the angler a wide choice. Montana's many lakes and streams provide plenty of fish, including the brown, rainbow, cutthroat and lake trout, Dolly Varden, whitefish, the rare grayling, pike, perch, bass, paddlefish, ling and kokanee (sockeye). In addition, Montana's vast reaches of native wilderness provide outdoorsmen and nature lovers with a look at untouched country as it was many decades ago. Herds of antelope, deer, elk, Big Horn sheep, plus moose, mountain goats and grizzly bear have continued to thrive due to careful management. In eleven national forests and eight wilderness areas, natural conditions provide hunting of the highest quality.

For the bird hunter, a variety of upland game is available. Species such as the sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, blue grouse, Franklin's grouse, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, wild turkey and chukar provide hunters with a variety of enjoyment.

Non-residents may purchase a 6 day limited fishing license for $3 . . . or a seasonal fishing license for $10. For non-resident hunters the $100 license includes deer, elk, bear (black or grizzly) plus the right to enter the drawing for sheep, goats, and moose. The $100 license also includes fishing and upland game birds.

For details on fishing streams, hunting areas, seasons and license fees, write Montana Fish and Game Department, Helena, Montana 59601



Modern highways stretch from horizon to horizon under the Big Sky, leading you from the Eastern plains to the Western mountains, from the Canadian Border and Glacier Park on the North to the entrances to Yellowstone Park on the South. *Photograph by Chet Dreher*

Lewis and Clark Caverns are an underground delight in Big Sky Vacationland. The largest limestone caverns in the northwest, they provide an exciting 90-minute tour. *Photograph by Chet Dreher*

Lewis and Clark Caverns STATE PARK

LEWIS and CLARK CAVERNS. Montana's featured state park, are the largest limestone caverns in the Northwest. Located in the heart of Montana's vacationland between Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, Lewis and Clark Caverns are easy to reach and FUN to explore.

The colorful stalactites, stalagmites, clusterites and flowstone, produced by a million years of natural processes, form interesting and unusual sights and provide more variety of typical cavern formations than any other single group of caverns in the nation.

The caverns are all electrically lighted, and are safe and comfortable to visit. An open-air jeep railroad runs along the hillside from park headquarters to near the caverns entrance and an electric tram completes the trip.

Inside the caverns, where natural air-conditioning maintains a year-round temperature of 46°, well constructed walks lead through the caverns.

Guided tours last 90 minutes. Admission charge (including jeep railway and tram ride) is $1.00 for adults; 50c for children.

Tours operate at frequent intervals daily as follows:
May 1 - June 15: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
June 15 - Labor Day: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Labor Day - September 30: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free picnicking and camping facilities are provided.

National Historic Landmarks

Bannack
Charles M. Russell Original Studio, Great Falls
Fort Benton
Hagen Site near Glendive
(Pre-historic Indian Village dating about 1600 A.D.)
Lolo Trail, Lolo National Forest
Missouri River Headwaters State Monument
Pictograph Indian Caves, Billings
Pompeys Pillar, northeast of Billings
(landmark for the Lewis and Clark expedition and early settlers)
Virginia City

State Parks and Monuments

Bannack State Monument
21 miles west of Dillon off U.S. 91

Bitterroot Lake State Park
20 miles west of Kalispell and 5 miles north of Marion off U.S. 2

Canyon Ferry Recreation Area
20 miles southeast of Helena off U.S. 12

Chief Joseph's Battlefield of the Bear's Paw
16 miles south of Chinook off U.S. 2

Chief Plenty Coups Memorial State Monument
35 miles south of Billings

Clark Canyon Reservoir Recreational Area
20 miles south of Dillon on Interstate 15

Deadman's Basin Recreation Area
20 miles east of Harlowton off U.S. 12

Flathead Lake State Park
13 miles north of Polson on U.S. 93

Fort Owen State Monument
At Stevensville off U.S. 93

*Hell Creek State Park
38 miles north of Jordan off Montana 20 on Fort Peck Reservoir

Hoppel State Park
At Lincoln on Montana 20

James Kipp State Park
95 miles north of Lewistown on U.S. 191

Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park
13 miles east of Whitehall on U.S. 10

Lone Pine State Park
3 miles southeast of Kalispell off U.S. 2

Lost Creek State Park
6 miles north of Anaconda off U.S. 10-A

Makoshika State Park
3 miles south of Glendive off U.S. 10

Medicine Rocks State Park
12 miles north of Ekalaka on Montana 7

Missouri River Headwaters State Monument
3 miles east of Three Forks and 2 miles north of U.S. 10

Nelson Reservoir Recreation Area
23 miles northeast of Malta off U.S. 2

Painted Rocks Reservoir Recreation Area
25 miles south of Hamilton off U.S. 93

Rock Creek State Park
35 miles south of Fort Peck on Fort Peck Reservoir

Thompson Falls State Park
3 miles west of Thompson Falls off U.S. 10-A

Tiber Dam State Park
18 miles south of Chester on Tiber Reservoir

West Shore State Park
35 miles south of Kalispell on U.S. 93

Yellow Bay State Park
20 miles north of Polson on Montana 35

Whitefish Lake State Park
At Whitefish on U.S. 93

*Make local inquiry before traveling into these areas

Eastern Montana is noted for its famed Makoshika State Park . . . a freak of nature unique in this part of the world. Pronounced Ma-KO-sha-ka, the name is Sioux Indian for "Hell Cooled Over." The park provides sightseers and photographers view after view of unforgettable Big Sky drama. *Photograph by Ernst Peterson*