The Treasure State

MONTANA, the nation's fourth largest state, averages 550 miles in length and 275 miles in width. The Continental Divide runs through the western third of the state. The highest point is Granite Peak, 12,799 feet; the lowest is 1,820 feet on the Kootenai River at the Idaho line. Climate is 15 inches, varying from 3 feet in the mountains to 8 inches in the plains. Average daytime temperatures vary from 28° in January to 84.5° in July.

MONTANA was first seen by French fur traders in 1743. Lewis and Clark explored the area as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1805. Fur trapping was the first industry, while the first permanent white settlement was St. Mary's Mission founded in 1841, still standing today. Gold prospectors came in 1852 to Bannack, Alder Gulch, Virginia City and Helena. The first herd of longhorn cattle was trailed from Texas in 1866. The Indian wars ended with Custer's Last Stand Battle in 1876 and a year later Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perce Indians was captured. Montana became a territory in 1864 and the 41st state in 1889. Today 6 railroads, 10 bus lines and 4 airlines serve Montana's 1,000,000 people. There are 3 primary, 3 secondary, primary and interstate highways cross the state.

MONTANA has a land area of 93,157,662 acres richly endowed with natural resources. In addition to millions of acres of ideal range and crop land, other prominent commodities include lumber, plywood, pulp and paper products, copper, timber, coal, lead, oil and natural gas. Livestock is by far the most important agricultural product ... but Montana is also a leading producer of wheat, barley, hay, potatoes and sugar beets. Agricultural production is $285,000,000. Oil and gas top this field with $711,630,000 while the latest estimated value of mineral production is $285,000,000. Oil and gas top this field currently under construction. The annual value added by manufacture in Montana is more than $330,400,000 based primarily on processing of raw materials and agricultural commodities.

The timber industry harvests about 1.4 billion board feet annually. Products include lumber, plywood, pulp and paper products, poles, posts, pilings, shingles and Christmas trees. Most of the state's power is hydroelectric, but there are six steam generating plants using coal as fuel.

MONTANA
The Big Sky Country

Official 1974 Highway Map

For FREE Distribution

Montana Welcomes YOU

A warm welcome awaits you in Montana.
And wherever you go in our state — you'll discover a year-round treasure of
Big Sky Country adventure and fun.
And there'll be many lasting and happy memories for you to bring home.

Thomas L. Judge
Governor, Montana

Governor Judge and his family enjoy an outing on a clear Montana autumn day.

Montana Department of Highways
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

Cover Photo: Annual Buffalo Roundup
National Bison Range
... Gerry Wunderwald Photo

MONTANA...BETWEEN GLACIER AND YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARKS

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Three of the five entrances to Yellowstone, the largest and oldest of all the National Parks, are in Montana: (1) Gardiner on U.S. 89, (2) the Cooke City entrance on U.S. 212 and (3) the West Yellowstone on U.S. 287. Often termed "nature's wonderland", Yellowstone is renowned for spouting geysers, brilliant pools, bubbling mud caldrons, mountains, canyons, waterfalls, lakes, rivers, and thousands of other wonders of scenic beauty. Park wildlife includes buffalo, moose, elk, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, grizzly and black bear; new regulations now prohibit feeding or approaching bears and other wildlife. Snowmobile trips in Yellowstone operate mid-December to mid-March from West Yellowstone and Gardiner. Montana Accommodations are located in the park at Mammoth Hot Springs and Lake. Year round accommodations near Old Faithful Geyser at Snow Lodge. Year round accommodations also available at Cooke City and Gardiner. Congress established Yellowstone National Park on March 1, 1872, after the Washburn-Doane Expedition, headed by H. D. Washburn, Surveyor-General of Montana.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Living in a rugged section of the Montana Rocky Mountains, Glacier National Park has approximately 40 glaciers and 200 glacial lakes. Glacier National Park is one of the most rugged and beautiful areas required. Fields of brilliant mountain wild flowers, cascading waterfalls, sheer cliffs, dense forests, black and grizzly bears, marmots and proud mountain goats are some of the wonders you will see in Glacier Park. Going-to-the-Sun Road, a spectacular east-west 50-mile drive crosses the Continental Divide at Logan Pass and travelers the towering mountains and valleys. Many of the park's 200 lakes are accessible by well into October. Much of the park is accessible by car and nearly a thousand miles of trails lead deep into back country or to isolated lakes. Lake McDonald Lodge and Many Glacier Hotel are located reached only on foot or horseback. Warm sunny days and cool starry nights are typical in the park during the summer. Other accommodations are available on the park's fringes. Accommodations in the park are open from about June 10-September 10. This million-acre wonderland of lakes, glaciers, and mountains was established as a park in 1910 and is the U.S. section of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Beargrass in Glacier National Park
Robert Lansdale Photo

Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness
Rick Gerharter Photo

Yellowstone National Park
... Gerry Wunderwald Photo

INDIAN PARTY
... C. M. Russell Watercolor

YELLOWSTONE TREASURE COUNTRY

Surrounding the three Montana entrances to Yellowstone National Park is Yellowstone Treasure Country, the last great frontier of the western U.S. ... southwestern Montana. It is a blend of the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains. Ghost towns, relics of historic mining towns, sapphire diggings and gold panning streams, clear fresh lakes and blue ribbon trout streams, wildlife, scenic wonders, Indian lore, Lewis and Clark trail, underground caverns, rugged high country and hot springs. Guide service and outfitters are available for the asking. Fall is a mighty earthquake. Come, winter ... snowmobiling, cross country skiing, ice fishing, ice skating, ice boating and ice hockey. The year ... see Yellowstone ... then stay to play some more in MONTANA's Yellowstone Treasure Country.

ENJOY ALL 5 GREAT COUNTRIES OF MONTANA

MONTANA is a vast wonderland of vacation experiences ... Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter. Each part of the state has its own particular charms and attractions. Visit the great Rocky Mountains west to the great plains and historic battlefields of the southeast. Hunt, fish, water-ski, go rockhounding or ghost-town exploring ... go camping or backpacking. All is in MONTANA. Go-cart ride or just relax by a cool mountain lake to get away from it all. Name your pleasure ... it's here in the Big Sky Country. For more information including a 64 page full color guide to Montana's best hunting, fishing spots, points of interest, museums and national forest playgrounds write: Montana Department of Highways, Advertising Unit, Helena, Montana 59601.

Wild Horse Stampede,
Wind River Ranch
... C. J. Ferguson Photo

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

The Missouri River has played an important part in the discovery, exploration and development of Montana. The Missouri is born in Montana's Gallatin Valley and flows through Montana offering recreation opportunity as it winds its way north and east before leaving the state. The Missouri reaches the peak of magnificence in the Great Falls area. Lewis and Clark spent 31 miles behind Fort Peck Dam, one of the world's largest. Enjoy the Missouri River country for its scenic beauty, boating, fishing, fossil hunting and wild game viewing. Visit a wild life refuge or a major Indian reservation ... and only a few miles southeast of Great Falls, visit the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Or near another great river (the Yellowstone) it's here for your enjoyment ... MONTANA's Missouri River Country.

Annual Reenactment, Custer Battlefield National Monument
Gerry Wunderwald Photo

CUSTER COUNTRY

In 1876, Lt. Col. George A. Custer and every member of his command died at the hands of the Sioux and Cheyenne Indian warriors at the battle of the Little Bighorn. Today that battlefield in southeastern Montana is a National Monument memorializing the last stand of Custer and his men and the last major victory of the white man's civilization. At the Custer Battlefield you'll see the spot where Custer fell and the markers that mark the comfort of your own car - visit the museum and see actual battle relics. Nearby you can visit two Indian reservations with a major Sioux Indian population and see the Indian way of life today. Captain William Clark carved his name in 1806. It's an area of rugged beauty and a fascinating history. Come to Custer Country for a different vacation experience.

Josephine Lake, Glacier National Park
Gerry Wunderwald Photo

GLACIER COUNTRY

Welcome to the Crown of the Continent ... a land of snow-crested peaks, gleaming lakes, sparkling waterfalls and mile upon mile of wilderness and primitive areas. Escape to Glacier National Park, giant Flathead Lake or Whitefish Lake ... hike, backpack into primitive areas and canoe across lakes. Enjoy a grove of ancient giant cedars and cherry orchards. Christmas is a forest of lumber mills. Watch the antics of deer; elk; bear; bison, mountain sheep and goats in their natural habitat. Autumn adds its majesty with magnificent colors ... winter offers some of the best skiing in the Rocky Mountain West. Name your pleasure ... it's here in MONTANA's Glacier Country.

Skiing at Big Sky of Montana
... Gerry Wunderwald Photo

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Prepared by National Park Service
Key numbers refer to locations on the highway map

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