Travel Wyoming’s Black Hills to Yellowstone route with Wyohistory.org

Since before Wyoming paved its roads, travelers have enjoyed the route between the Black Hills and Yellowstone National Park for its spectacular scenery — and its history. Here are some stops that will allow the tourist to become a time traveler, too—from prehistoric eras through the colorful 1800s to the present.

Use the QR codes on the following pages with your mobile phone or tablet or visit www.wyohistory.org/yellowstone for in-depth articles, maps, directions and photo galleries—all with info on these historic sites and landmarks.

1. Vore Buffalo Jump

Five hundred years ago, American Indian tribes began driving bison into a natural sinkhole bordering the northern Great Plains and the Black Hills. This perfect trap allowed the people to acquire large amounts of meat and hides to be used for their own survival.

2. Devils Tower

Rising 1,267 feet above the Belle Fourche River, Devils Tower is hard to miss. In fact, the formation of this distinctive rock figures prominently in the sacred legends of several American Indian groups who know the tower as Bear Lodge or Bear’s Tipi, among other names.

3. Campbell County Rockpile Museum

The museum in Gillette owns a collection of more than 8,000 historic photographs. Exhibits include rifles, saddles, Indian artifacts, fossils, quilts and more.

4. Fort Phil Kearny

The largest of the three forts built along the Bozeman Trail, Fort Phil Kearny was established on July 15, 1866, near present-day Story, Wyo.

5. Fetterman Fight

Near Fort Phil Kearny in December 1866, Lakota Sioux and Cheyenne warriors ambushed and killed Capt. William Fetterman and his entire command of 79 men.
Wagon Box Fight

On Aug. 2, 1867, a large force of Oglala Sioux attacked woodcutters near Fort Phil Kearny. Soldiers assigned to protect the woodcutters took cover behind a ring of wagon boxes.

Trail End Historic Site

The Trail End State Historic Site, consisting of the Kendrick mansion and the Carriage House Theatre, occupies 3.8 acres of land on a hilltop overlooking Sheridan.

Coal Camps of Sheridan County

After the Burlington Railroad reached Sheridan in 1892, coal camps—company towns for miners and their families—were established next to a series of mines north of the town.

Medicine Wheel

The Medicine Wheel, a ring of limestone boulders 80 feet in diameter with 28 spokes radiating from a central cairn, lies on a wide, treeless mountaintop in the Bighorn Mountains. Researchers believe the wheel was constructed over a period of centuries from about 1,500 to about 500 years ago.

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

The Heart Mountain Interpretive Center stands on the grounds of the World War II internment camp where more than 10,000 Japanese Americans were held from 1942 to 1945.

Buffalo Bill Center of the West

The Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody houses five museums rich in Wyoming and western history, natural history and art.

Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone National Park, the world’s first national park, was established in 1872 and continues to enthral visitors who flock to see its striking scenery, topography, wildlife and amazing thermal features.