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AMONG **SYDNEY'S**
URBAN CHARMS

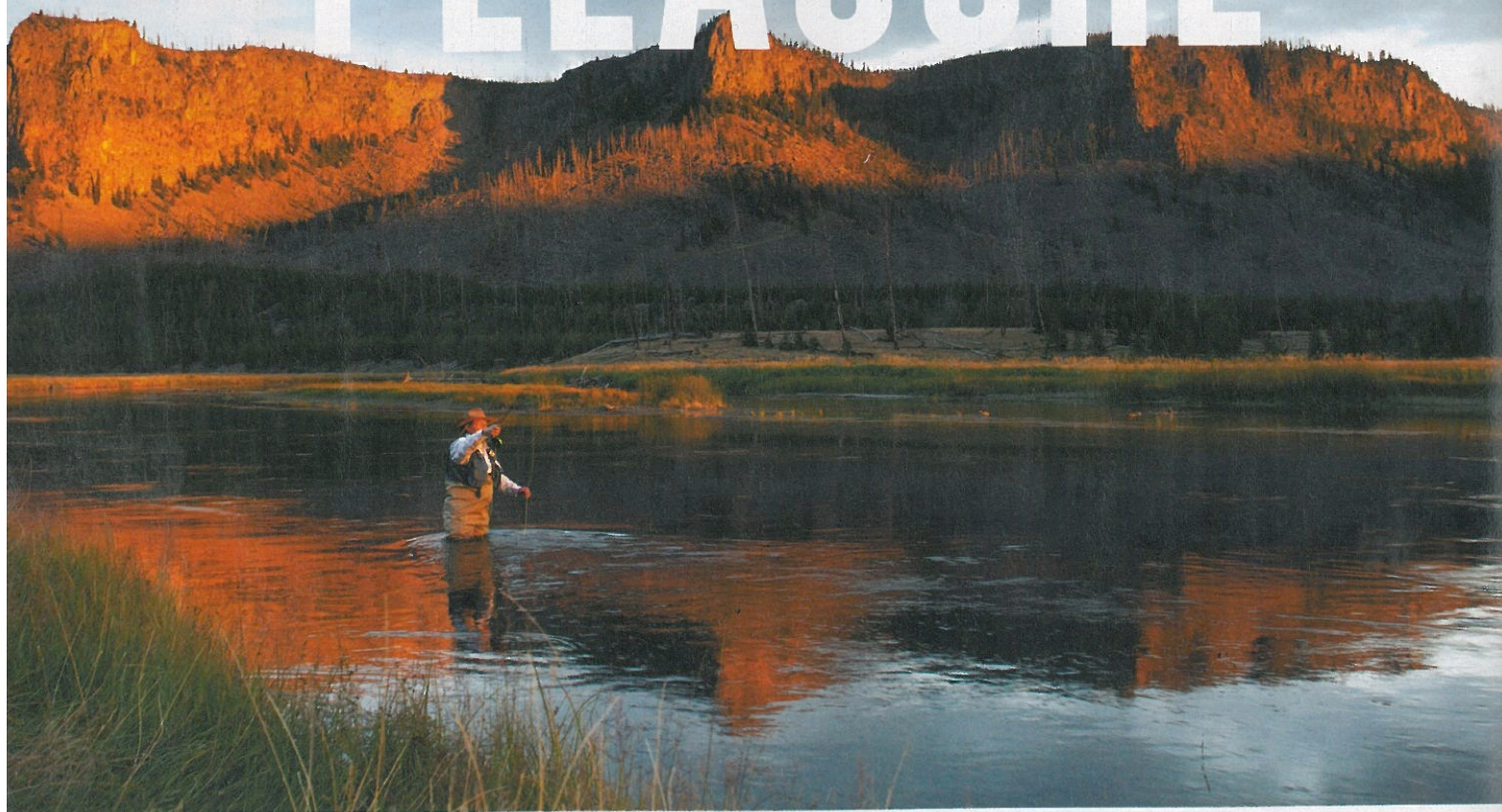
SEIZING
OPPORTUNITY
IN AMERICA'S
MOTOR CITY

GAME ON, DETROIT

AUGUST 2014

Pick Your

PLEASURE



In Montana, the problem isn't what to do—it's figuring out how to do it all.

BY
MYATT MURPHY

Montana is no hidden secret. The state's riches—in landscape, culture, history and more—have been celebrated in works of literature and art that span centuries. While the word may be out, visitors will find their own unique adventures under its vast blue skies and towering mountains.

Crafting an itinerary forces a few tough decisions, given the abundance of experiences Montana has to offer. Aficionados of arts and culture will find a host of festivals, an abundance of galleries and museums

and, alongside it all, exceptional dining. Sportsmen can try their hand at fishing iconic rivers and enjoy the pursuit of big game. Thrill-seekers can bike, hike, raft or horseback ride into untouched backcountry and, in the winter, schuss down legendary ski runs.

Try it all or pick a few favorites—it won't take long to understand why no one could keep Montana a secret.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Art appreciators relish Montana's many magnificent galleries, ranging from Missoula's **Montana Museum of Art & Cul-**



From left, clockwise: Fly-fishing the Madison River; Kayakers on Brennan's Wave in Missoula; Fresh Flathead cherries from Glacier Country; Blackfoot dancer; Red Ants Pants Festival.

ture—home to one of the most prominent fine-art collections in the Rocky Mountain West—to **The Yellowstone Art Museum** in Billings, Montana's largest contemporary art museum. Between them, in Great Falls, resides the **C.M. Russell Museum**, which occupies a full city block and showcases more than 12,000 pieces of American Western art and artifacts.

But Montana's cultural offerings come in other forms, too. Dig into prehistoric Montana at Bozeman's **Museum of the Rockies** (home to the largest collection of fossils in the world), step back in time at the state's most beautifully preserved pre-1900

mansion—the grand **Conrad Mansion Museum** in Kalispell—or reconnect with nature at either the **Tizer Botanic Gardens** or the **Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge**, the second-largest refuge of its kind in the lower 48 states.

SCENIC DRIVES

Almost every highway in Montana offers picturesque panoramas that will leave visitors elated, but there are a few drives that still stun even the most seasoned locals. The most notable by far is the **Beartooth Highway**. The National Scenic Byway All-American Road is the highest elevation

MY MONTANA

Andie MacDowell

Montana resident, L'Oreal Cosmetics spokesmodel and star of Hallmark Network's *Cedar Cove*

LOCAL ROOTS: I moved to Montana when my oldest child was just turning 4 and bought a ranch in a little valley outside of Missoula that's surrounded by national forest. We have every kind of wildlife around us, from wolves and mountain lions to elk and moose.

DINE HERE: In Missoula, there's the Buttercup Market And Cafe in the historical university district, the Burns Street Bistro and Lisa's Pasty—if you're looking for a hardy Montana meal, they serve up the best classics around.

MUST-DO: Weir Creek Hot Springs is one of the most beautiful natural hot springs in the region. It's extremely accessible, and the secluded rock pool fits maybe a dozen people.

TRY THIS: Huckleberries! They have more of a spark to them than blueberries and they only grow on the west side of the Continental Divide.





From upper left: Grand Prismatic Spring in Yellowstone National Park; Fishing on Yellowstone River; Bison in Yellowstone National Park.

highway in the Northern Rockies, offering unforgettable views of the Beartooth Mountains and alpine plateaus peppered with glacial lakes, waterfalls, wildflowers and wildlife.

Other routes relished by tourists and residents include **Pintler Veterans' Memorial Scenic Highway** (a 64-mile drive that weaves through pastoral farmland and conifer-filled mountains), the 81-mile **Gallatin Corridor** that runs from Bozeman to West Yellowstone Drive through the Gallatin River Canyon, and the **Going-to-the-Sun Road**, which spans the width of Glacier National Park—this spectacular 50-mile two-lane highway has been hailed as one of the most scenic drives in the United States.

EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

Montana's nickname, the Treasure State, feels very appropriate when considering its top two tourist destinations: **Yellowstone National Park** and **Glacier National Park**, both of which offer unparalleled opportunities for open-air exploration.

Yellowstone, the world's first national park, at 2.2 million acres, boasts more than 1,100 miles of hiking trails, 10,000 thermal features ranging from hot springs to geysers (including Old Faithful) and one of the most diverse collections of wildlife found in the United States.

Glacier National Park is smaller, at 1 million acres, but equally stunning, with pristine mountain lakes, flower-filled meadows, craggy peaks, more than 700 miles of trails and, of course, its 25 glaciers. It's only a 45-minute scenic drive from Kalispell, and once in the park, visitors can easily take in popular activities such as the hike to Avalanche Lake, a paddle across Lake McDonald or a Red Bus Tour to Logan

Pass—the highest point on the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

The big two aren't the only options in Montana. Those who crave adventure on two wheels can bike ride through the Badlands in **Makoshika State Park** in Glendive (the largest state park in Montana). Or for a more relaxed outing, picnic at **Giant Springs Heritage State Park**, the site of one of the largest natural freshwater springs in the United States.

ONLY-IN-MONTANA EVENTS

Visitors come from all around for the world-class musical performances at the **Montana Folk Festival** in Butte, the classical music concerts at the **Amadeus Festival** in Whitefish and Bozeman's **Sweet Pea Festival** (the event's parade is one of the largest and most popular parades in the state). A part of the summer festival circuit since 2011, the annual **Red Ants Pants Festival** in White Sulphur Springs brings more than 10,000 people together in July for four days of top-caliber music.

Plan a visit for next August to partake of the state's two largest happenings: **Crow Fair**, the largest modern-day American Indian encampment in the nation, and **Montana Fair**, where nearly 10,000 exhibitors and a quarter-million attendees enjoy



Glacier National Park

MY MONTANA

Brent Musberger

Sports broadcasting legend, SEC Network lead game commentator and Montana resident

LOCAL ROOTS: I moved to Billings when I was just a baby and was raised there. My parents were both from Montana so I've always retained my roots. I now live south of Missoula.

MUST-SEES: The one thing people probably don't know about Montana is the number of great little hot springs that exist in the state. There is a hotel outside of Livingston called Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa. Swing by the bar—you'll never know what celebrity may wander in.

SPORTS ADVICE: If you're a golfer, the most interesting public golf course in the United States is the Old Works located in Anaconda.

TRAVEL ADVICE: Be prepared to be surprised. A retreat to Montana is a return to when things were much simpler and I think visitors are struck by how friendly most Montanans are—there's still that old charm here.



Dinner at Red Bird in downtown Missoula.

nine days of concerts, rodeos and friendly competition.

Summertime is also packed with other events ranging from Wolf Point's **Wild Horse Stampede** (Montana's oldest pro rodeo) and **The Event at Rebecca Farm** in Kalispell—the latter, a four-day equestrian contest, is one of the most significant of its kind in the nation. Autumn in Montana offers the chance to run alongside hundreds of sheep through the main street of Reed Point during the internationally renowned **Great Montana Sheep Drive**. Or head to Missoula and sample the state's largest collection of Montana-made beer at the **Montana Brewers Fall Festival**.

FOOD AND DRINK

In an agricultural Arcadia like Montana, finding cuisine that stuns the senses isn't impossible—it's inevitable.

For a fine dining experience, sample some of the state's locally grown fare at **Red Bird** in downtown Missoula, **Jake's** steak house in Billings, Livingston's French-infused **2nd Street Bistro** or Whitefish's award-winning **Café Kandahar**. Or for a more casual culinary experience, enjoy a pork chop sandwich at **Matt's Place** in Butte (Montana's oldest drive-in restaurant), try the restaurant at **Buck's T-4 Lodge** in Big Sky for some wild game and great steaks or, if time allows, jump on the **Charlie Russell Chew Choo**—it's a three-and-a-half-hour round-trip full-course dinner at sunset through the rolling hills and ranchlands of central Montana.

A few must-dos include taking a walking brewery tour through Billings, watching "mermaids" wave as they swim behind a glass wall at the **Sip 'N Dip Lounge** in Great Falls and grabbing an Indian taco (taco fixings on authentic American Indian fry bread) at **Custer Battlefield Trading Post** in Crow Agency. But don't leave Montana without trying a **Butte pasty** (a meat-and-potato pie staple of Butte miners) or anything made from the state's indigenous **huckleberries**—both native nibbles

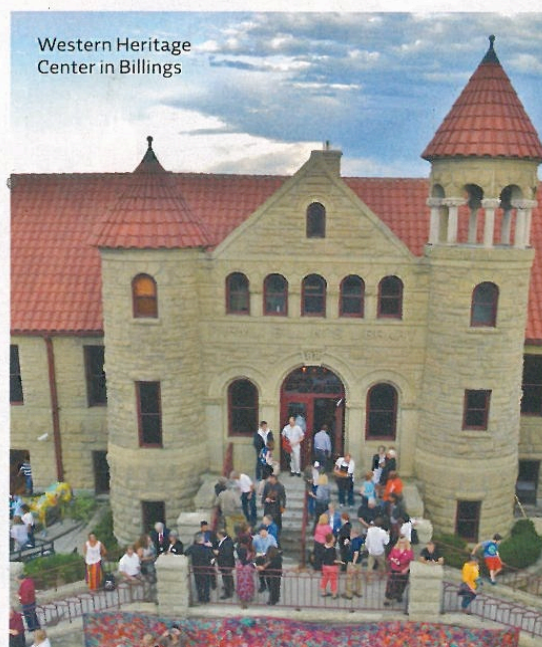
are found statewide.

HISTORY

Few places in the nation have preserved their proud past as Montana has and there are plenty of places to dive in and get a deeper understanding—and appreciation—of the state.

Start with a visit to the **Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center** to learn about the explorers' 8,000-mile expedition, then complete the experience by visiting **Pompey's Pillar**. The national monument—one of the most famous sandstone buttes in America—has Clark's signature carved into it, probably the only remaining evidence of the expedition.

Learn about the history and people of the Yellowstone River Valley at the **Western Heritage Center** in downtown Billings,



Western Heritage Center in Billings

or visit the **St. Ignatius Mission** located at the western base of the Mission Mountains (the first residence of the Sisters of Providence is also home to 58 arresting hand-painted murals along its walls and ceiling).

Those with an interest in military history can see an actual intercontinental ballistic missile at the **Malmstrom Air Force Base Museum and Air Park** in Great Falls (the location of the United States' first Minuteman missile complex), or venture over to Montana's third-most-visited

Getting ready
for a trail ride;
Luxury camping
at The Resort at
Paws Up.



attraction, the **Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument**.

Those who prefer guided tours will enjoy a trek through **Bannack** and its state park—the ghost town is the site of Montana's first major gold strike. Or experience what it was like in the Wild West on the **Havre Beneath The Streets** tour of the century-old underground business district that once thrived below the city of Havre.

RANCH LIFESTYLE

Guest and working ranches statewide offer the chance to learn to ride, rope and brand, but there are a few standouts for those who want to try out cowboy life in serious style.

One of those is **The Resort at Paws Up**, set on a 37,000-acre working ranch outside of Missoula. "Glamping"—glamorous camping—got its start here and guests can kick back in luxury tent suites or wilderness homes after a day of cattle driving, trail riding, fly-fishing, ATV touring and more. The resort also hosts exclusive culinary experiences, including its Montana Master Chefs and Montana Master Grillers events, throughout the year.

Others include **Mountain Sky Guest Ranch**, which sits on more than 8,000 acres of unspoiled wilderness right in the heart of Yellowstone Country and the five-star **Ranch at Rock Creek**, located on the outskirts of Philipsburg, which offer helicopter excursions along the stunning Northern Rockies along with a multitude of ranch activities.

For a smaller taste of wrangler life—minus the overnight stay—in the summer, jump on a horse-drawn wagon tour at the **Grant-Kohrs Ranch** in Deer Lodge (the national historic site operates much as it did back in the 19th century) or stroll through the **Range Riders Museum** in Miles City. The authentic Western town is also known for its world-famous **Bucking Horse Sale**

every May, at which some of the best rodeo stock can be found.

SPORTS AND LEISURE

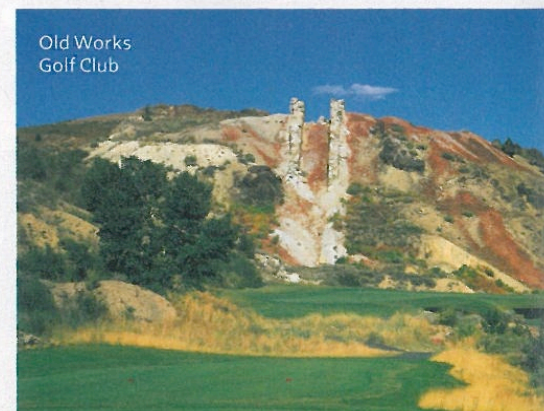
From camping and hunting to hiking and white-water rafting, Montana is ripe with sporting activities.

Cast a line in any of Montana's blue-ribbon fishing spots to snag walleye, trout and bass. Just a few examples include the world-renowned **Big Horn River** near Fort Smith, **Flathead Lake**—the largest natural freshwater lake in the West—and the 1,520-mile shoreline of **Fork Peck Reservoir**. Fans of *A River Runs Through It* can fish the **Blackfoot River** near Missoula—the river featured in Norman Maclean's novella—or the **Yellowstone River** near Livingston, which was shown in the film adaptation. Serious anglers should come in July to compete in the **Montana Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament**—the premier national fishing event awards more than \$75,000 in cash and prizes.

Golf fans love hitting the links at the Jack Nicklaus signature-designed **Old Works Golf Club** in Anaconda and the **Eagle Bend Golf Club** in Bigfork—its 27-hole course is ranked among the top 50 in the nation. Prefer riding two wheels over reaching for a nine iron? Then grab a bike and pedal the **Highwoods Mountain Loop** northeast of Great Falls, the **Sawmill-Cur-**



White-water rafting
on the Gallatin River.



Old Works
Golf Club



Montana State University Snow Science class at Big Sky, taught by Jordy Hendrix.

ry Loop near Missoula or practically anywhere in Helena. The capital city offers more than 75 miles of single-track and access to the **Continental Divide Trail**.

Montana's 16 ski areas vary in size, but

they all deliver on offering endless acres of untouched terrain and soft powder.

Montana's most renowned ski spot is **Big Sky Resort**, the largest ski resort in the United States. Located in southwest Montana between Bozeman and West Yellowstone on Montana 64, off of US Highway 191, Big Sky offers access to more skiing than anywhere in the nation—5,750 acres of skiable terrain, 4,350 feet of vertical drop and 295 marked runs.

A few ski resorts that always earn high praise from beginners to expert-level alike include **Whitefish Mountain Resort**, which offers captivating views of Glacier National Park, Flathead Valley and the

Canadian Rockies, as well as **Discovery Ski Area**, known for having some of the steepest lift-served terrain in the state.

In addition, there are thousands of kilometers of cross-country ski trails statewide, ranging from **Rendezvous Ski Trails** in West Yellowstone (where you're likely to be passed by a few Olympians in training) to public access areas (such as **Mount Haggin** south of Anaconda) and private trails such as **Homestake Lodge**.

Those craving heights of a different kind can chalk up and head to **Hyalite Canyon** outside of Bozeman—the canyon found in **Gallatin National Forest** is revered for its rock climbing (as well as ice climbing), but it's easy to find multiple spots throughout Yellowstone Country that can boast equally challenging climbs. Or hang on tight on a zip line tour in Billings with **Outlaw Canyon Adventures** or through Yellowstone Country—Paradise Valley on the Gallatin River and Big Sky Resort are both breathtaking locations not to be missed. ▼