

Beartooth Highway Points of Interest

1 COOKE CITY

Elevation 7,600 Four miles from the Northeast Entrance Station 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 on route to or from Yellowstone. In the winter months, the town's streets fill with snow banks and snowmobiles.



2 CRAZY CREEK CAMPGROUND

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

3 CHIEF JOSEPH SCENIC BYWAY

Named for the last chief of the Nez Perce 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 and his band of Nez Perce, 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 the dramatic red rock mesas and deep gorges near Dead Indian Pass.

4 LAKE CREEK FALLS

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



5 PILOT AND INDEX PEAKS OVERLOOK

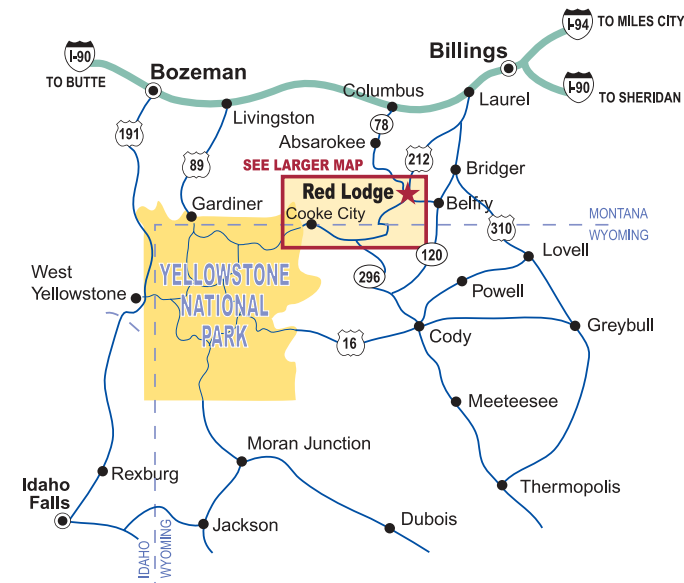
Elevation 8,718 Stop here for a fine view of Pilot and Index peaks – volcanic remnants more than 11,000 feet high. As you take in the peaks, keep in mind that you're looking at the northeastern edge



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.

6 CLAY BUTTE LOOKOUT

Elevation 9,811 The three-mile drive to Clay Butte Lookout is unpaved but easily negotiable during the 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.



RED LODGE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

(406) 446-1718 or 1-888-281-0625, email: information@redlodge.com
601 North Broadway, Intersection of Highways 78 and 212

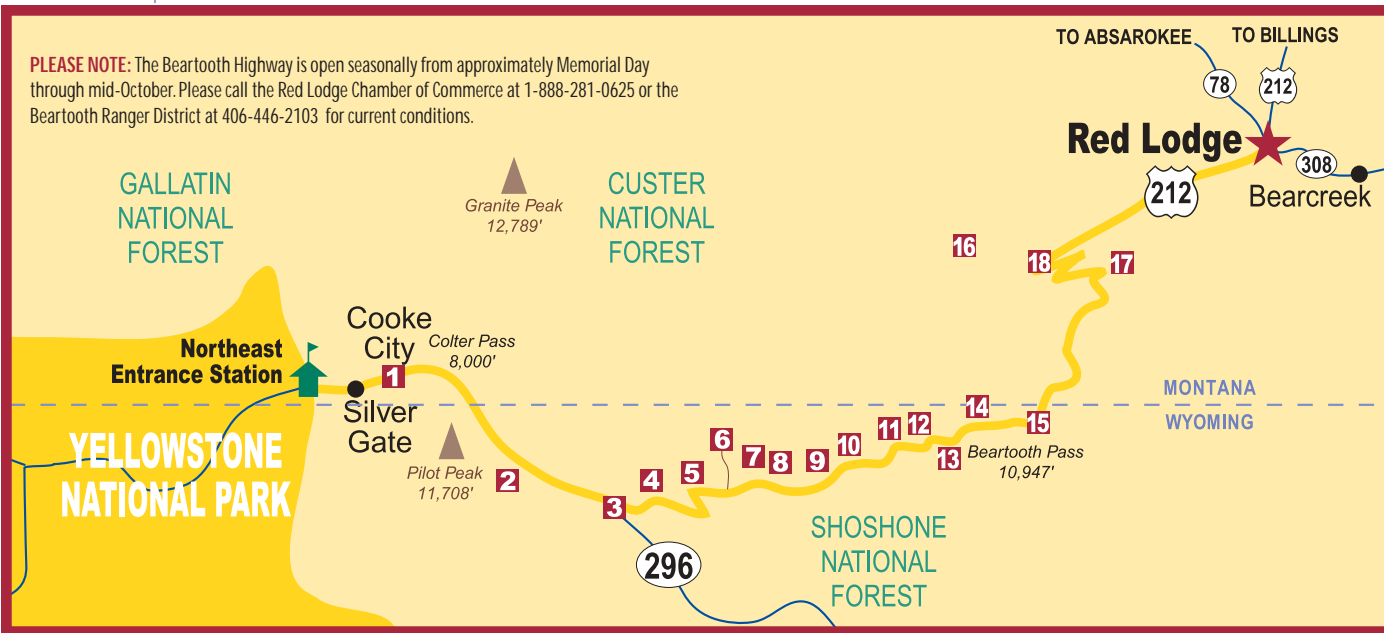
- RV Dump Station
- 24-Hour Brochure Room
- State Publications, Visitor Guides, Maps
- Picnic Area, Public Restrooms, Pay Phone

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	307-344-7381



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



PLEASE NOTE: The Beartooth Highway is open seasonally from approximately Memorial Day through mid-October. Please call the Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce at 1-888-281-0625 or the Beartooth Ranger District at 406-446-2103 for current conditions.

7 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.

8 BEARTOOTH LAKE CAMPGROUND

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.



9 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.

10 ISLAND LAKE CAMPGROUND

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 WEST SUMMIT OVERLOOK

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



12 THE BEAR'S TOOTH

Named "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.

13 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.

14 RED LODGE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SKI AND SNOWBOARD CAMP



Elevation 10,737 One of North America's oldest summer training grounds for talented young skiers, the Summer Ski and Race Camp is open from mid-May through July. Watch skiers negotiate the Twin Lakes headwall, which varies in pitch from 15 to 50 degrees. If you're up to the task, try it yourself. Skiing is open to the public and both guide service and coaching are available upon request. As you pass the ski lift, the Absaroka Range breaks over the southwest horizon in a row of jagged volcanic peaks.

15 45TH PARALLEL

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

16 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.

17 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.

18 ROCK CREEK SWITCHBACKS

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



For more information on the Beartooth Highway visit www.byways.org.