

TOP 10 BUCKET LIST ATTRACTIONS

Evanston — Coming from the West
Evanston’s Historic Roundhouse & Railyards — Built in 1912, the railroad site features a fully intact, four-section Roundhouse with an operational turntable. It is the only structure of its kind on the UPRR mainline. Contact: Evanston City Hall at 1200 Main Street (82930), (307) 783-6300, www.evanstonwy.org.

Bear River State Park & Bear River Greenway — Located off I-80 at Exit 6, Bear River State Park is a free day-use only park with captive bison and elk herds. Contact: (307) 789-6540, wyoparks.state.wy.us. The Greenway features walking trails, wildlife viewing and more. Contact: (307) 789-1770, <https://www.evanstonparkandrec.org>.

Evanston’s Historic Depot Square/Uinta County & Joss House Museums — Located in the heart of downtown Evanston, the square is comprised of several historically significant structures, open spaces, gardens and recreational areas. Contact: (307) 789-8248, uintacounty.com, museum@nglconnection.net.

Bridger Valley (Towns of Fort Bridger, Lyman and Mountain View) — Coming from the East
Lyman Heritage Barn — Built in 1915, the barn was part of the University of Wyoming’s Experimental Farm and included 40 acres of farmland. The barn is located on 44054 Business Loop I-80 (Exits 39 or 48). Contact: (307) 787-6595, www.lymanwy.com.

Fort Bridger State Historic Site/Black & Orange Auto Court — In 1841, the famous mountain man Jim Bridger chose this site on the Blacks Fork of the Green River to build a trading post for emigrants along the Oregon Trail. Located off of I-80 (Exit 34), and are open year-round from 8 a.m. to sunset daily. Summer hours at the museum are from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from May 1 to Sept. 30. Contact: (307) 782-3842, wyoparks.state.wy.us.

Piedmont Kilns — Once numbering five kilns, the three structures that stand today were built by Moses Byrne in 1868. To reach the site, exit onto

Leroy Road (Exit 24), which is approximately 10 miles west of the Bridger Valley.

Kemmerer/Diamondville — Going North
J.C. Penney Mother Store & Museum — James Cash Penney opened a small department store in the mining town of Kemmerer, WY in 1902. Originally called the “Golden Rule,” the store offered quality merchandise at affordable prices with superb customer service. Contact: (307) 877-3164.

Fossil Butte National Monument — Preserving one of the richest fossil deposits in the world, the Fossil Butte park and visitor’s center includes exhibits of nearly 400 fossils. Contact: (307) 877-4455, visit www.nps.gov/fobu, 864 Chicken Creek Rd., Kemmerer. The visitor center is open year-round. Hours vary seasonally.

Hams Fork Recreational Area — This recreational hot spot offers some of the most amazing trout fishing in the West. To reach the Hams Fork

access areas, follow WY 233 seven miles north of Kemmerer and look for signs announcing WGFD Public Fishing Areas, or follow 233 12 miles north of Kemmerer to school section parking. Continue onto 233 10 miles to USDA Forest Service land and campground.

Southwest Wyoming — All Historic Trails (Oregon, California, Mormon, Pony Express, Lincoln Highway) — Covered wagon ruts are still visible along parts of the Oregon, California, Mormon and Pony Express trails, which traverse several parts of Southwest Wyoming in Uinta and South Lincoln Counties. To learn more, please contact FBSHS at (307) 782-3842 or (307) 782-6842, wyoparks.state.wy.us.

Bonus
Periodic Spring — The world’s largest periodic spring is located in the Bridger-Teton National Forest east of Afton. The spring flows intermittently in the early fall in 10 to 20 minute intervals. Head up the Swift Creek Canyon at the east end of Second Ave. in Afton. Contact: (307) 885-2759

TOP 10 BUCKET LIST EVENTS

Pedigree Stage Stop Sled Dog Race — Every winter — Hundreds of sled dog teams and thousands of dogs mush through Southwest Wyoming every enter in a sheer test of endurance. Contact: (307) 734-1163, www.wyoming-stagestop.org, bark@wyomingstagestop.org.

Celtic Festival (Ceili at the Roundhouse) — End of March — This two-day event features the best in Celtic culture, including arts, crafts, food, music and dancing. Contact: (307) 679-2348 or visit www.evanstoncelticfestival.com.

Evanston Bluegrass Festival — Mid June — Each year the 1.5-day festival showcases a large array of regional Bluegrass musicians in Evanston’s Historic Depot Square. The concerts on Saturday run from noon-11 p.m. Contact: (307) 789-8011, www.bluegrassevanston.com.

Fossilfest — End of June — Every year the

communities of Kemmerer and Diamondville host Fossilfest, which celebrates the rich history of the area with food, music, games and entertainment. Contact: www.fossilfest.org.

Wyoming Downs Horseracing — June-August — Just 10 miles north of Evanston, the Wyoming Downs Racetrack bursts to life each summer with horseracing excitement. For more information, visit www.wyomingdowns.com or call (307) 789-7223.

Oyster Ridge Music Festival — End of July — Musicians from around the country take the stage at Wyoming’s largest free music festival held downtown in Kemmerer’s Historic Triangle Park. For details, please visit www.oysterridge-musicfestival.com, call (307) 877-9093 or find on us on Facebook.

Evanston Brew Fest — End of July — In

beautiful historic downtown Evanston, beer enthusiasts can sample a wide variety of brews from around the region at the Evanston Brew Fest. Contact: (307) 783-6320. See cars from every era along Main Street, along with pin-up model contests, live music, auctions, and food vendors. Contact: (307) 679-2707, www.evanstoncarshow.com.

Evanston Roundhouse Festival — August — Held the first weekend in August, the long-running Roundhouse Festival features a model train show, model train vendors, roundhouse turntable rides, a quilt and art show, food, raffles and train rides for kids. Contact: (801) 394-4952 (mmurphy@q.com, or (801) 779-2763, or cordeirotlive.com, or (307) 789-0229.

Evanston Cowboy Days & Rodeo — Labor Day Weekend — More than 80 years strong,

Evanston Cowboy Days is celebration of the rodeo, cowboy and western heritage. To find out more, please log onto www.evanstoncowboydays.com.

Fort Bridger Mountain Man Rendezvous — Labor Day Weekend — This three-day event has become a long-standing tradition in Southwest Wyoming. For more information, please contact the Fort Bridger State Historic Site at (307) 782-3842 or wyoparks.state.wy.us. Also, check out the Bear River State Park Mountain Man Rendezvous the weekend prior to Fort Bridger Rendezvous (third weekend in August).

Bonus
Alpine Mountain Days — Mid June — The three-day event features traditional Native American dancing, a mountain man and pioneer village, family activities, vendor fair, food and more. Contact: (307) 885-2759.

TOP 10 BUCKET LIST ACTIVITIES

Skiing — Both downhill and cross-country skiing options are available during the winter months in the Southwest region. Downhill—The Pine Creek Ski Resort near Cokeville (northeast of Kemmerer) (www.pinecreekskiresort.com)/(307) 279-3201. Cross-Country—In Evanston, visit Bear River State Park/Greenway or Purple Sage (18-hole) Golf Course. In the Bridger Valley, a pathway extends from Lyman, Urie and Mountain View. In Kemmerer, ski at the Fossil Island Golf Course (9-hole). Head south to the Uinta Mountains (30 miles from Evanston) to the Lily Lake trailhead to enjoy miles of scenic ski trails.

Fishing/Tubing/Kayaking — The region is abundant with rivers for a variety of activities during the warmer months. The Bear River traverses Evanston, while Hams Fork River passes through the Kemmerer/Diamondville area, and near the Bridger Valley, outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the Black’s Fork, Smith’s Fork and Ham’s Fork Rivers. The Green River can also be accessed in South Lincoln County. To learn more about the regions rivers, please contact the Wyoming Game & Fish Department at (307) 777-4600 or www.wgfd.wyo.gov.

Scenic Byways/Backways — Experience the

region by journeying along the areas several scenic byways. They include: Mirror Lake (Evanston to Kamas, UT), Big Spring (Kemmerer to Cokeville/Afton to Alpine), Bridger Valley Historic (Fort Bridger to Lyman), Muddy Creek Historic Backway (Lyman to Piedmont Kilns). Scenic byway information is available at Bear River State Park, Bridger Valley State Historic Site, Fossil Butte National Monument and other regional locations.

Lakes & Reservoirs — For outdoor aficionados of all tastes (fishing, camping, boating). Near Kemmerer/Diamondville—Lake Viva Naughton, Hams Fork Recreational Area, Fontenelle Reservoir; Near the Bridger Valley—Meeks Cabin Reservoir, Guild Ranch Reservoir (private); Near Evanston—Sulphur Creek Reservoir, Woodruff Narrows Reservoir.

Hunting/Shooting — Hunters can scout for antelope, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, moose, wild turkey, pheasant, sage grouse, black bear and mountain lion during various seasons. The area also is comprised of several outdoor and one indoor (Evanston Recreation Center) shooting ranges. For more information about hunting in southwest Wyoming, please contact www.wgfd.wy.gov or (307) 777-4600. For more information

regarding shooting ranges, please contact the Evanston Recreation Center at (307) 789-1770 or the Kemmerer Recreation Center at (307) 828-2365.

ATV-ing and Snowmobiling — The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest is a destination location for both ATV-ing and snowmachining enthusiasts. A little further north, the Bridger-Teton National Forest offers ATV/snowmachine enthusiasts an extensive network of groomed and ungroomed pathways. To learn more about the trails, please contact the Evanston Ranger District (Uinta-Wasatch-Cache) at 1565 Hwy. 150, Suite A, Evanston, WY 82930, (307) 789-3194 or the Kemmerer Ranger Station (Bridger-Teton) at 308 Hwy. 189 N., Kemmerer, WY 83101, (307) 877-3933/(307) 828-5115.

Hiking / Biking / Wildlife Viewing — In the Bridger Valley, a hiking/biking trail connects Lyman, Urie, Fort Bridger and Mountain View. Near Kemmerer at Fossil Butte National Monument, visitors can hike/bike a 1.5-mile nature trail or a 2.5-mile historic quarry trail. In Evanston at the Bear River State Park and the Bear River Greenway, recreationalists can explore more than 7 miles of connecting paved and unpaved

pathways. Bear River State Park also features mountain bike trails and a pump track.

Fossil Digging — Beyond Fossil Butte National Monument (FBNM), there are several fossil quarries in the area for those wanting a one-of-a-kind experience. The quarries offer a variety of ‘fossil tours.’ Please contact FBNM for more information regarding the various quarries at (307) 822-4455 or www.nps.gov/fobu

Geocaching — The outdoor recreational activity in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or mobile device (with an App) to hide and seek containers, called geocaches or caches, at specific locations is a popular activity for citizens and visitors to the area. There are over 400 geocaches in and around Southwest Wyoming.

Mormon Trek Tours — Another popular and unique activity in the region are Mormon Trek re-enactments. Several routes can be followed today, but some navigate across private property, and travelers must be sure to get permission when needed. For more information about the Mormon Trail routes, please contact (307)-679-1877 or www.pioneerhandcarttreks.com.

All of the Southwest Wyoming attractions, activities and events are within a 100-mile or less radius of one another. Suggested itineraries are listed below:

If you are in the Bridger Valley and have one to two hours:

- Tour the Lyman Heritage Barn and visit the Bridger Valley Heritage Museum.
- Take a walk/bike along the public walking/ biking trails between Mountain View, Fort Bridger and Lyman.
- Relax at the community parks in Lyman or Mountain View.
- Visit the Fort Bridger State Historic Site and the Black & Orange Auto Court.
- Shop the stores along Lyman’s and Mountain View’s business loop.
- Explore the Piedmont Kilns.

If you are in Kemmerer/Diamondville and have one to two hours:

- Shop and explore the J.C. Penney Mother Store & Museum.
- Check out Fossil Butte National Monument (only two natl. monuments in the state).
- Shop and dine in Kemmerer’s Historic Triangle Park.
- Use Kemmerer’s Recreation Center with a gym and indoor track.
- Golf at Fossil Island (9-hole) course in Kemmerer.
- Hunt for fossils at one of several quarries in the Kemmerer area.
- Fish the Hams Fork River - Cutthroat Slam area.
- Visit Fossil Country Frontier museum.

If you are in Evanston and have one to two hours:

- Tour Evanston’s Roundhouse & Railyards.
- Hike, bike, geocache and nature watch at Bear River State Park.
- Visit the Uinta County Museum.
- Fish and/or recreate at the Bear River and Bear River Greenway.
- Shop and explore Evanston’s Historic Downtown and Depot Square.
- Golf or play at the driving range at Purple Sage (18-hole) Golf Course.
- Swim, walk/run, weight lift, or shoot (indoor firing range) at Evanston’s Recreation Center.
- Picnic at one of Evanston’s community Parks.
- Catch a performance at the Evanston Cultural Center at the Strand Theatre.

If you are in Southwest Wyoming for an extra day:

- ATV/Snowmobile in the nearby Uinta Mountains or Hams Fork Recreational Area.
- Recreate at one of the regions’ many reservoirs, lakes and rivers.
- Partake in one of several festivals, rendezvous, concerts, rodeos or community celebrations.
- Travel a scenic byway, backway or historic trail and highway.
- Downhill ski at Pine Creek Ski Resort.
- Visit Wyoming Downs Horse Racing Track.