

Glendale-Vipond Park Loop Tour

Take Interstate 15 north from Dillon 30 miles to Melrose exit.

Get off of 1-15, turn left into Melrose. Do not take any turns but continue through Melrose, across the bridge over the Big Hole River. Head west on the gravel road approximately 7 miles where you will come to a fork in the road. Take the Canyon Creek Road on the right. Continue approximately 7 miles to the site of the town of Glendale. Just above the townsite, you will find the famous Charcoal Kilns, where coal was made for the silver extraction process. The kilns have been under restoration the past few years by the Forest Service.

In the summer/fall (when roads are dry) you can continue on past the town on the back country by-way through the scenic Vipond Park area that eventually comes out on Hwy 43 near the small town of Dewey. From here you can either return to Dillon by turning right and traveling back to 1-15 or you can turn left and head west on Hwy 43 to Wise River and Wisdom.

Travel approximately 26 miles east to Lakeview and the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Visit the Refuge Visitor Center. (This is an opportunity for great wildlife viewing and photography opportunities). Ask for road conditions and directions at the visitor center to return to Dillon via the scenic Blacktail Road. Elk Lake is also near this area. *Reprinted from Dillon Chamber of Commerce brochure.*

Yellowstone National Park via Virginia City

Leave Dillon on Hwy 41 and travel 28 miles to Twin Bridges. In Twin Bridges turn right on Hwy 287 heading southeast 30 miles to Nevada City and Virginia City. Stop and enjoy both of these towns reminiscent of frontier days in Montana... many displays, exhibits, museums, etc.

From Virginia City, continue on Hwy 287 to Ennis, another fun town to visit with several large sculptures on display along the main street.

From Ennis, go south on Hwy 287, 41 miles to junction on Hwy 87 and Hwy 287. Continue on Hwy 287 around Hebgun Lake. Take time to stop at the Earthquake Area Visitor Center. Continue the 22 miles to the junction of Hwy 287 and Hwy 191. Turn right and go 8 miles to West Yellowstone. Stop at the Visitor Center for information concerning the Park. *Reprinted from Dillon Chamber of Commerce brochure.*

HIKES**Whitehall Boulder Area**

Lost Cabin Lake Trail #150 (National Recreation Trail) Tobacco Root Mountains

The Lost Cabin Lake Trail begins at the west end of Bismark Reservoir. The trail is five miles in length, is well maintained and is on an easy grade. A few sections are steep, but they can be traveled by young persons or older individuals who are in good physical condition. The peaks surrounding the lake reach elevations above 10,000 feet. Mountain goats can often be seen on the cliffs to the south and east of the lake. Depending on snow, the trail is usually open from July 1 to the middle of October. Snow drifts on the trail may be abundant during years of late thaws.

From Interstate 90 take the Cardwell exit seven miles east of Whitehall. Take Montana Highway 359 south for approximately five miles to the South Boulder Road #107. Travel south on Road #107 for approximately 15 miles to the trailhead at Bismark Reservoir. Passenger cars can drive this road, but the last two miles are best traveled by high clearance vehicles.

Louise Lake Trail #168 (National Recreation Trail)

Louise Lake Trail offers very scenic views. This is a new trail 3.5 miles in length and replaces a shorter steeper trail that was hard to maintain and partly located on private land. Louise Lake is a high alpine lake cradled among the 10,000-foot peaks that surround the lake. Mountain goats can often be spotted on the sheer rock faces. The trail is open from July 1 to the middle of October. Snowdrifts on the trail may be abundant during years of late thaws.

From Interstate 90, take Cardwell exit seven miles east of Whitehall. Take Montana Highway 359 south for approximately five miles to South Boulder Road #107. Travel south on Road #107 approximately 15 miles to the trailhead at Bismark Reservoir. This road can be driven by passenger cars, but the last two miles are best traveled by a high clearance vehicles.

Brownback Trail #156

Brownback Trail follows Brownback Gulch, a scenic narrow rocky canyon. The lower portion of the trail is mostly open country covered with grass, shrubs, and a few trees. It offers viewing of wildflowers, occasionally elk, deer, and a variety of other plants, animals, and birds. The trail is four miles long one way, and has an easy grade. The trail is open from mid May to mid November. This is a good trail to hike when the rest of the high country is still snowed in.

From Interstate 90, take the Cardwell exit seven miles east of Whitehall. Take Montana Highway 359 south for approximately five miles to South Boulder Road #107.

Travel south on Road #107 for four miles. Just past the Indiana University Geological Field station turn right on Forest road #5104 and travel one mile to the trailhead. There is parking for several cars and a horse unloading ramp. *Reprinted from U.S. Forest Service pamphlet*

"M" Trail

The "M" that looks down on Montana Tech was constructed in 1910 by students. Since its construction it has been fitted with lights so it can be seen at night. Unlike the "M"s in Missoula and Bozeman, you can actually drive up to the base of this landmark or hike to it from the college. It does provide some excellent views of the city. To get there take the Montana St. Exit on I-90 and head north to Park Ave. Go left to Excelsior St. and turn right. Follow Excelsior to Hornet and go left to the J.F. Kennedy Elementary School on Emmet and Hornet streets. Drive up the hill past the school for about .3 miles to a dirt road which turns to the left. Follow this to the turnaround just below the "M" and park.

Humbug Spires

is 26 miles south of Butte, Montana, along the western foot-hills of the Highland Mountains. It was designated a Primitive Area in 1972. About 8,800 acres of the 11,175-acre Humbug Spires Wilderness Study Area has been recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Humbug Spires is characterized by rolling hills of Douglas fir and lodgepole pines accentuated by majestic granite spires. Lush meadows, dense forests and grassy flats are found throughout the area. Humbug offers many opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The primary uses are hiking, stream fishing, rock climbing, backpacking, wildlife watching, nature photography, hunting, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and horseback riding.

To reach the area, take 1-15 to the Moose Creek interchange and go east about 3 miles along the creek on an improved gravel road. Park at the trail head parking lot. To reach the hiking trail, cross the

Montana Trivia

The six men who discovered Alder Gulch were not real adept at keeping a secret. Their plan was to "sneak" out of Bannack with the horses and supplies they had purchased with their new gold. The discoverers--Bill Fairweather, Tom Cover, Henry Edgar, Barney Hughes, Harry Rogers, and Mike Sweeney--just had that "look" about them and spent a little too freely. When they left town they were followed by 200 men who had been observing their behavior for the past week. Just before reaching Alder Gulch, they realized there was no fooling the followers and confessed to the new find. Not before sending Barney Hughes ahead to secure their claims though. On the trail they called a miner's meeting with the followers to establish some rules. No miner could possess more than two claims. A claim was 200 feet wide in the bed of the gulch or to the center of the stream in wider parts. A miner had to work his claim at least three days a week to retain title to it. Stuart Granville no doubt used a little hyperbole when he claimed "The Alder Gulch diggings were the richest gold placer diggings ever discovered in the world." They were rich. According to Granville "the district extended from the foot of Old Baldy to twelve miles down the creek, and the bed of the creek and the bars on both sides were uniformly rich; the bed rock being literally paved with gold." Virginia City was established here and grew to nearly 10,000 inhabitants before the gold played out.

foot bridge just downhill from rest room and the visitor information board. Humbug's main trail goes northeast from here along Moose Creek, passing through stands of Douglas fir trees more than 250 years old.

After about 1.5 miles, the trail forks. Take the right fork marked by white arrows. The trail continues for .3 miles up a small side drainage over a ridge, and then along the northeast fork of Moose Creek. From this drainage, numerous game trails leading in all directions are available to the adventurous hiker. These trails provide access to the rock spires located throughout the northern part of the area. To reach the "Wedge," one of the more prominent spires, continue 1.3 miles up the main trail along the intermittent creek. The Wedge is about a hundred yards uphill from an abandoned miner's cabin at the head of the drainage.

Given the diverse topography of the heavily timbered terrain, visitors hiking off the designated trail should have topographic maps, a compass, and drinking water. United States Geologic Survey 7-1/2 minute quadrangle maps cover the area and are available locally. You will need the Tucker Creek, Mount Humbug, Melrose and Wickiup quads for full coverage.

Offsite camping facilities are provided at BLM's Divide Bridge Campground, about 2 miles west of the Divide Interchange along Highway 43 on the west side of the Big Hole River. *Reprinted from BLM brochure.*