

## THREE RIVERS

### Captain Lewis, July 28th, 1805:

Both Capt. C. and myself corresponded in opinion with respect to the impropriety of calling either of these streams the Missouri and accordingly agreed to name them after the President of the United States and the Secretaries of the Treasury and state having previously named one river in honour of the Secretaries of War and Navy. In pursuance of this resolution we called the S.W. fork, that which we meant to ascend, Jefferson's River in honor of that illustrious personage Thomas Jefferson. [the author of our enterprise.] the Middle fork we called Madison's River in honor of James Madison, and the S.E. Fork we called Gallatin's River in honor of Albert Gallatin [Gallatin], the two first are 90 yards wide and the last is 70 yards, all of them run with great velocity and th[r]ow out large bodies of water. Gallatin's River is reather more rapid than either of the others, is not quite as deep but from all appearances may be navigated to a consider-able distance. Capt. C. who came down Madison's river yesterday and has also seen Jefferson's some distance thinks Madison's reather the most rapid, but it is not as much so by any means as Gallatin's. the beds of all these streams are formed of smooth pebble and gravel, and their waters perfectly transparent; in short they are three noble streams...

### S Willow Creek Gallery

101 Main St., Willow Creek. 285-3885.  
[www.willowcreekgallery.blogspot.com](http://www.willowcreekgallery.blogspot.com)

The Willow Creek Gallery, a fine arts store, has been located in the same historic Willow Creek building since 1987. Owners and artists Don and Maren Kast welcome you to stop in and browse the collection of artwork, pottery, sculpture, metal work, jewelry, and woodwork offered. They exclusively feature original work by local and southwest Montana artists. Designer ladies' hats created by Maren are also featured. On the fourth Friday of each month during the summer, Willow Creek offers art walks. Additionally, Don was a fishing outfitter for 40 years and invites you to stop in and chat to enjoy free and valuable local fishing information. Willow Creek Gallery is located next door to the Willow Creek Café and Saloon, one of Montana's best restaurants.

## 18.

### T Hyalite Canyon Recreation Area

17 miles south of Bozeman on S. 19th St.  
 587-6920

This is the most used recreation area in the state, and for good reason. A beautiful mountain lake sits at the end of a beautiful drive up the canyon of Hyalite Creek. The dam was constructed in the late 1940s, and the reservoir provides water for the community of Bozeman. Surrounding the lake are several campsites, picnic areas, and hiking trails. Fishing is good here and there is a boat launch with parking.

## 19.

Gas, Food, Lodging

### Gallatin Gateway

Named for its proximity to the entrance of the Gallatin Canyon. The town was originally named Salesville for the Sales brothers who were storekeepers and ran a sawmill in the area in the late 1860s.

## 20.

### T Flying D Ranch: Bison Viewing Area

Just south of Gallatin Gateway.

This is the private property of media mogul Ted Turner. One of the first things he did when he bought the ranch was to remove all of the fences on the 130,000 acres to allow his bison herd (as many as 5,000) to roam as freely as they did in times past. Fortunately for visitors, there is a Forest Service road that traverses his property. The hundreds of "Turner Enterprises" signs along the road are a clear reminder that you are on private property if you leave the road. The road terminates at a trailhead and National Forest Access area.

While following the road, it is highly likely that you will see at least a few of the bison. On a good day, you may see hundreds if not thousands of them on the hillsides. This is probably the closest you will ever come to seeing a herd close to the size of herds that once roamed these areas. If you want to take pictures, do so from your car window. DO NOT get out of your car if bison are anywhere nearby. The car can accelerate from standing still to 50 mph in seconds. They will charge suddenly and be on top of you before you can take your finger off the shutter. Almost every year, a tourist gets gored by a bison somewhere in the state because they got too close.

To find the ranch take Hwy. 191 into the Gallatin Canyon just south of Gallatin Gateway. Immediately after you enter the Canyon, watch for Spanish Creek Road veering off to the right of the paved road. As soon as you pass through the gate just a few yards ahead, you are on Turner property.

## 21. Gas, Food, Lodging



### Big Sky

In 1902, Frank Crail first set foot in the Big Sky area. While hunting elk in the shadow of Lone Peak he fell in love with the beauty of the surroundings. He purchased the land from the original homesteaders and established the first cattle ranch in the area. Today, the original Crail Ranch house still stands in the meadow area by the golf course.

Following his lead, others moved into the area. Cattle ranching was soon superceded by dude ranches. Most of these, The 320 Ranch, Elk Horn Ranch, Lone Mountain Ranch, Covered Wagon Ranch and the Nine Quarter Circle Ranch are still in full operation today. This was the beginning of the Big Sky tourist trade.

Native Montanan Chet Huntley had a dream for the area as well. In 1969, Huntley and a group of investors including Conoco, Burlington Northern, Montana Power, Chrysler Corporation and Northwest Orient Airlines purchased the Crail Ranch land. In 1973, his dream of creating a year round resort community began to materialize with the official opening of Big Sky Ski & Summer Resort. In 1976, the Boyne Corporation acquired the property and began steps to develop and improve the area. Today it is a bustling year round resort community.

The drive to Big Sky through the Gallatin Canyon is arguably the most beautiful drive in the state, and the area surrounding the resort is arguably some of the most beautiful and dramatic mountain scenery found anywhere in the country. From atop the singular and majestic Lone Peak the view is one of endless mountain peaks. To the immediate north are the dramatic Spanish Peaks and the Spanish Peaks Wilderness area. Just 18 miles to the south is the boundary of Yellowstone National Park. Over 3 million acres of pristine land surrounding Big Sky is set aside as wilderness area. Big Sky sits in the middle of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, which has some of the cleanest air and water quality in the world. It's not unusual to see moose, mountain goats, elk, big horn sheep, eagles, bear, deer or coyotes wandering around. The nearby Gallatin river is one of the best blue-ribbon trout streams in the world and was the site where "A River Runs Through It" was filmed.

### Big Sky

|                                   | Jan  | Feb  | March | April | May  | June | July | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  | Nov  | Dec  | Annual |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| Average Max. Temperature (F)      | 31.1 | 35.1 | 43.0  | 51.3  | 61.8 | 69.6 | 77.7 | 78.4 | 68.9 | 55.7 | 38.0 | 29.5 | 53.4   |
| Average Min. Temperature (F)      | 7.4  | 7.3  | 15.3  | 22.7  | 29.6 | 35.7 | 40.0 | 38.3 | 31.8 | 23.2 | 13.3 | 6.1  | 22.6   |
| Average Total Precipitation (in.) | 1.41 | 1.18 | 1.16  | 1.34  | 2.75 | 2.60 | 1.66 | 1.51 | 1.54 | 1.43 | 1.33 | 1.31 | 19.22  |
| Average Total SnowFall (in.)      | 31.8 | 21.2 | 19.6  | 7.1   | 4.9  | 0.9  | 0.2  | 0.0  | 0.2  | 4.7  | 16.9 | 31.7 | 139.5  |
| Average Snow Depth (in.)          | 22   | 28   | 26    | 5     | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 15   | 8      |