

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS

Beartooth Wilderness trips, climbs, and classes are based out of Cody, WY, unless other arrangements have been made with your guide. The closest airport is Yellowstone Regional Airport. Please plan on having your own local transportation; it's a good idea to reserve rental cars as early as possible. For significant climbs, please plan on arriving a day or two before your departure date to acclimatize. There are numerous accommodations and camping options near the Cody office. Jackson Hole Mountain Guides provides most of the food other than drinks and lunch/snacks for multi-day trips (not classes); our office will fill you in on the details before your trip. All supplies must be purchased in town before the trip. If you have a GPS, it may be useful on the plateaus. Cellphones have good coverage up high. The drinking water needs to be treated, either with iodine pills or filters. We practice Leave No Trace camping, hiking, and climbing techniques to leave the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness as pristine as we found it.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are both camping and motel options for the nights before and after trips. Red Lodge has a selection of motels and is within twenty miles of the various departure trailheads. Additional information can be found at www.redlodge.com.

There are numerous places to camp, including five Custer National Forest campgrounds located along the Beartooth Highway, 6-12 miles south of Red Lodge. These campgrounds, Sheridan, Ratine, Parkside, and Limber Pine, have numerous sites and is very affordable; one, M-K has no water and is free. Reservations for these campgrounds can be made by calling the Custer Gallatin National Forest at 406-446-2103.

RED LODGE HOTELS

The Pollard	866.430.2692	SSSS
Chateau Rouge	406.446.1601	SS
The Yodeler	406.446.1435	SS

RED LODGE CAMPGROUNDS

Red Lodge KOA	406-446-2364
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WEATHER & CLIMATE

The Beartooth Range is the second largest contiguous roadless area in Montana, consisting of high granite mountains containing twenty-nine peaks above 12,000 feet. Summers are extremely short at this elevation and snow can cover the peaks on virtually any day of the year. The climbing and hiking season generally occurs during the months of July, August, and September, although some years winter snows don't arrive until the end of October. Intense thunderstorms often occur during summer, and hail and strong winds are not uncommon.

But none of this should scare you off. As the largest contiguous landmass above 10,000 feet in the United States, the Beartooths provide spectacular vistas of nearby Yellowstone National Park and the Absaroka Mountains to the south. Derived from a Precambrian base, the 4 million year old rocks are among the oldest known on earth. This foundation was covered with thousands of feet of sediments and then uplifted 70 million years ago. Thick ice scoured the southern side of the Beartooth Plateau, leaving a rolling landscape that is a climber's dream. The east-west aspect of the Beartooth Range means less summer sun, with lingering snow fields, slow runoff, and lots of swampy areas. Due to micro climates, foothills and canyons along the northwest face of the mountains nurture plants unusual to this eastern side of the Continental Divide. Grassy foothills and parks along the north face of the range provide winter forage for elk, deer and bighorn sheep. Granite Peak is the highest elevation in Montana at 12,799 feet. With names such as Avalanche Peak, Glacier Lake, Froze-to-Death, Thunder, and Hell Roaring Plateau, nearby summits reflect the ever-changing moods of this harsh wilderness area.

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness has more than 640 lakes in the complex and along its high mountain plateau. With an amazing 386 plant species discovered thus far, the Beartooth's has the richest flora of any mountain range in North America. This may be due to the considerable height of the range in combination with its unusual east-west orientation. With an incredible abundance of water, with three-hundred-foot waterfalls, countless cascades, remnant glaciers on the high north slopes, it is an undisturbed watershed for America's longest un-dammed river, the free flowing Yellowstone.