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VISIT CHEYENNE FACT SHEET



ABOUT CHEYENNE

Cheyenne, Wyoming's capital city, embodies the spirit of the Old West. It is considered the nation's rodeo and railroad capital and is home to numerous museums; historic hotels and mansions; a collection of historic steam engines; western-themed attractions and shopping; resorts and ranches; and a thriving art community with plenty of adventure nearby.

LOCATION

Located 90 miles north of Denver International Airport, Cheyenne is in southeast corner of Wyoming near Medicine Bow National Forest. The city is home to more than 63,000 people.



LODGING

Cheyenne offers a variety of hotels, motels, and campgrounds to meet every taste and pocketbook. Top lodging options include:

- **THE HISTORIC PLAINS HOTEL** - A charming 1911 National Historic Landmark Hotel located in the heart of Downtown Cheyenne where tourists enjoy the alluring Western edge. The Plains has played host to notable guests of the past and is designed with Western High Style décor.
- **LITTLE AMERICA HOTEL & RESORT** - In the midst of the vast Wyoming prairie, Little America Cheyenne is an 80-acre oasis of luxury service, surrounded by beautifully groomed grounds, a nine-hole executive golf course and a heated, outdoor swimming pool.
- **ADDITIONAL OPTIONS** Cheyenne is home to a variety of hotel options including major and regional chains, mom and pop roadside motels and plenty of campground options for an RV or tent.

HISTORY

On July 4, 1867, the first tents were pitched on the site now known as Cheyenne. The site was chosen by General Grenville Dodge who was plotting the course of the Transcontinental Railroad, which reached Cheyenne in late 1867. Dodge's associates named it Cheyenne after the Great Plains Native American tribe. By 1869, Cheyenne had grown into a thriving western town and one of the richest cities in the world. It was also home to a wide variety of characters including soldiers from Fort D.A. Russell, cowboys, cattle barons and railroad workers. This unique mix paired with a red-light district and the territorial capital gave Cheyenne its nickname of Hell on Wheels.





WESTERN EXPERIENCES

Cheyenne's slogan, "Cheyenne - Live the Legend," speaks to its rich history seeping with Western culture. Travelers find that there are still plenty of cowboys in the West at the world-renowned Cheyenne Frontier Days and other regularly held rodeo events around the city. Additionally, there are expansive ranches and numerous historic sites that provide a sense of what the Old West was really like. Top western experiences in Cheyenne include:

- **TERRY BISON RANCH** - Located on nearly 30,000 acres of rolling countryside spotted with more than 2,300 bison, Terry Bison Ranch features horseback rides, ATVs, train tours, fishing, camping and more.
- **THE CHEYENNE DEPOT MUSEUM** - This historic museum tells the story of the Cheyenne's beginnings during the construction of the transcontinental railroad.
- **NELSON MUSEUM OF THE WEST** - Home to numerous exhibits full of pieces that encompass Western history, including cowboy and Native American relics.
- **THE WRANGLER** - 13,000 square feet of ranch wear and Western clothing. The sky-lit hat room has a selection of nearly 500 hats and is home to retail since 1892.
- **BIG BOY STEAM ENGINES** - Cheyenne is home to two Big Boy Locomotives. The newly restored Big Boy No. 4014, and Big Boy No. 4004 which is displayed in Holliday Park.
- **CHEYENNE FRONTIER DAYS OLD WEST MUSEUM** - Featuring one of the largest collections of horse drawn carriages in the nation, the Old West Museum tells the story of the west and specifically the story of the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Cheyenne has a wide variety of restaurants, ranging from Asian cuisine to buffalo burgers. The town is also home to several craft beverage producers creating a variety of libations. A few top restaurants and breweries include:

- **THE METROPOLITAN** - Located downtown featuring New American Cuisine with a chef driven menu. Innovative twists on traditional dishes.
- **BUNKHOUSE BAR & GRILL** - A fun place with great food featuring a laid-back atmosphere and the best steak in the West.
- **WYOMING'S RIB AND CHOP HOUSE** - Steaks and seafood in a casual yet refined environment in downtown Cheyenne. Try their bison steak or enjoy dry aged rib eyes and perfectly cooked steaks.

Craft Beverages:

- **FREEDOM'S EDGE TAP HOUSE BREWING CO.** - Cheyenne's first brewery
- **DANIELMARK'S BREWERY** - Calling a historic carriage house home making fresh beer daily.
- **ACCOMPLICE BEER COMPANY** - Located in the Depot, they feature a pour your own beer system
- **BLACK TOOTH BREWING** - Cheyenne's hottest and newest brewery. Anchoring the West Edge of downtown featuring a pilot system with great beer options.
- **CHRONICLES DISTILLERY** - In the historic Asher Building downtown. A fan favorite is the Berry and Barb, which is whiskey infused with strawberry and rhubarb.
- **PINE BLUFFS DISTILLING** - Offering a soil to spirits experience. Grain is malted on site and distilled into vodka and whiskey.

ARTS & CULTURE

Visitors looking for Western-themed art and a variety of cultural activities will not be disappointed when they arrive in Cheyenne. The city offers numerous galleries and museums to view beautiful and historic Western art, as well as theaters and concert venues to see live performances.

- **QUEBEC 01 MISSILE ALERT FACILITY** - A fascinating piece of Cold War history, this site is significant as the only accessible Peacekeeper Missile Alert Facility left in the world and preserves and interprets Cold War history.
- **HISTORIC GOVERNOR'S MANSION** - From 1905 to 1976, the mansion was the residence of 19 Wyoming first families. Governors, First Ladies, their children and pets lived and entertained in the home over the course of 71 years.
- **LIVE ARTS** - The arts scene is exploding in Cheyenne. The Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, Reformation Dance Company, Ballet Wyoming, the Cheyenne Little Theater Players and several live music venues offer many chances to experience the arts.
- **CHEYENNE ART WALK** - The 2nd Tuesday of every month in downtown Cheyenne. A great way to see creative people in creative spaces. Easily walkable, bikeable to drivable.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Home to a myriad of interactive activities and experiences, the city affords the opportunity for an unforgettable family vacation that is both fun and educational. Family-friendly activities include:

- **CHEYENNE STREET RAILWAY TROLLEY TOUR** - For a fully narrated historic tour of Cheyenne, jump on board the Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley. The trolley operates from May through the end of September. Haunted Cheyenne tours are offered in October and Christmas Lights tours in December.
- **CHEYENNE BOTANIC GARDENS** Open year-round with the newly completed Grand Conservatory, the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens are an oasis on the high plains featuring nine acres of different landscapes, gardens and plant collections.
- **PAUL SMITH CHILDREN'S VILLAGE** Showcases and interprets sustainable systems for food production and preparation, water quality, energy production, habitation, and cultural fulfillment. It is open year-round and is free to the public.
- **CHEYENNE BIG BOOTS TOUR** The eight-foot tall cowboy boots have been carefully painted by local artists to show Wyoming's and Cheyenne's history. Attempt a scavenger hunt and find all 23 of the giant boots via the location maps available at The Depot in the visitor's center. Check out the newest boot celebrating the 150th anniversary of women's suffrage in Wyoming dedicated in 2019.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Outdoor adventure is waiting just 30 minutes west of Cheyenne. Three scenic and distinct areas—the Pole Mountain and Vedauwoo areas within Medicine Bow National Forest, and Curt Gowdy State Park—provide a rich playground for both the casual nature lover and the avid outdoor enthusiast.

- **CURT GOWDY STATE PARK** Curt Gowdy State Park lies among the picturesque foothills of the Laramie Mountains. The area features granite towers, rocky soils and timbered slopes. Two small reservoirs form the heart of Curt Gowdy State Park. Fishing, paddle boarding and boating are popular activities on the water. The park also features more than 30 miles of EPIC rated single track mountain biking and hiking trails.
- **VEDAUWOO RECREATION AREA** Visit the ancient rock formations at Vedauwoo Recreation Area, which allows for beautiful sightseeing, rock climbing, bouldering, hiking, camping and mountain biking.
- **POLE MOUNTAIN** - Prior to 1959, this 55,000-acre area was administered by the War Department for military training. It is now home to single track hiking, running, fat biking and mountain biking trails, along with Nordic skiing and snow shoeing in the winter.
- **AMES MONUMENT** - This monument is a 60-foot high granite pyramid located in southeastern Albany County, Wyoming. It is dedicated to Oakes and Oliver Ames, two Massachusetts brothers who were influential in constructing the transcontinental railroad. The monument was placed at the highest point on the railroad serving as a reminder of that great enterprise.

SIGNATURE ANNUAL EVENTS

- **RESTAURANT WEEK** (*April*) Seven days celebrating the culinary scene in Laramie County and Cheyenne. Restaurants offer special menus and special pricing.
- **DEPOT DAYS** (*May*) - Depot Days takes place at the Cheyenne Depot with exhibits and tours of the historic Union Pacific roundhouse and WASATCH RR Contractors. The Sherman Hill Model Railroad Show is at the Frontier Park Exhibition Hall.
- **WYOMING BREWERS FESTIVAL** (*June*) - Serving up two days of great beer, good music and tasty food. More than 75 brews, 30+ regional and national brewers offering specialty beers. 2020 is the 25th anniversary.
- **CHEYENNE FRONTIER DAYS** (*July*) - Cheyenne Frontier Days takes place the last full week of July. The world's largest outdoor rodeo and celebration of western culture includes ten days of rodeos, parades, pancake breakfasts, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, and the hottest concert acts. 2021 will be the 125th edition of the rodeo.
- **COWBOY CHRISTMAS TOWN-USA** (*December*) - Experience the holidays the cowboy way. With events like skijourning, NPX, the Santa Saloon, Outdoor Winter Fest and so much more!
- **NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL DROP** (*December*) - A fully lit ball is suspended 75 feet in the air and drops at midnight. While waiting for the New Year, people gather in the Depot Plaza to enjoy music. Then, when the ball drops, the plaza fills with sounds of Auld Lang Syne and fireworks.



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