

Guide: Montana Cave Weekend Getaway



Discover the underground wonders of Montana in a weekend. This guide covers a two-day journey through Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park, Pictograph Cave State Park, and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.

It's designed for the adventurous spirit, and it includes specific stops for dining, exploring, and resting.

Additional tips

- **Book tours in advance:** Especially for Lewis & Clark Caverns, as they can fill up quickly.
- **Accommodation:** Secure your accommodations ahead of time. Billings offers a range of options suitable for different budgets.
- **Travel preparedness:** Ensure your vehicle is ready for the journey, and pack water, snacks, and sun protection for the day's activities.
- **Check park hours:** Verify the opening times for each park, as they can vary seasonally.

Saturday: Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park

Morning:

- **Start:** Begin your day early at Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park.
- **Breakfast:** Eat at Wheat Montana Bakery & Deli around 7:00 AM for a hearty start.
- **Exploration:** Enter the park by 9:00 AM. Tours can take 2-3 hours, depending on the option chosen. Don't miss the chance to see the stunning stalactites, stalagmites, and unique cave wildlife.

Afternoon:

- **Lunch:** Picnic at the park or head back to Three Forks and grab lunch at Iron Horse Cafe around 1:00 PM.
- **Activities:** After lunch, enjoy some light hiking within the park or visit the visitor center to learn more about the caverns' geology and history.

Evening:

- **Drive to Billings:** Leave for Billings around 4:00 PM. It's a roughly 2-hour drive to Pictograph Cave State Park.
- **Dinner:** Arrive in Billings and have dinner at The Burger Dive around 6:30 PM.
- **Accommodation:** Stay overnight in Billings. The Northern Hotel offers comfort and convenience for travelers.

Sunday: Pictograph Cave State Park to Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

Morning:

- **Breakfast:** Start your day at Stella's Kitchen and Bakery in Billings around 7:00 AM.
- **Pictograph Cave State Park:** Arrive at the park by 8:30 AM. Spend 2-3 hours exploring the cave paintings and trails. The park offers a glimpse into the lives of prehistoric Montana residents.

Afternoon:

- **Drive to Bighorn Canyon:** Depart from Pictograph Cave State Park around 11:30 AM.
- **Lunch on the road:** Grab a quick bite at The Montana Club Restaurant around 1:00 PM. Continue to Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.
- **Exploration:** Arrive at Bighorn Canyon by 3:00 PM. Spend the rest of the afternoon enjoying breathtaking views, wildlife spotting, and possible boating activities.

Evening:

- **Dinner:** Eat at the Brandin' Iron Restaurant around 7:00 PM, a nice place to relax after a day of adventure.
- **Conclusion of trip:** Depending on your home base, plan to stay an additional night in Billings or prepare for your journey back home.