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WYOMING



YELLOWSTONE



BLACK HILLS

www.buffalowyo.com
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Johnson County Tourism Association
PO: Box 152, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834
1-800-227-5122

Welcome to Johnson County



JOHNSON COUNTY is nestled in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains where the rolling plains of the mid-west reach the sister range of the Rockies. It is a land rich with history and natural beauty, once filled with Native Americans, cattlemen, cowboys and shepherders. You can visit the hide out of the infamous outlaws Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid and the Hole-in-the-Wall gang who all took up residence in the red rock country near Kaycee. You can walk into history at the Historic Occidental Hotel and the Virginian Saloon and Restaurant or walk along the historic Bozeman Trail that carried thousands searching for their fortunes in the gold mines of the west. Buffalo, Kaycee and Johnson County offer all of this and more.

So stop in for a day, a night or a week and take in everything that this amazing county has to offer. Whether it's enjoying the beautiful scenery and relaxing atmosphere, taking advantage of the wonderful recreational activities, or learning the important history of the region, you will find what you are looking for in Johnson County. A warm, western welcome awaits you. See you soon.

RESTAURANTS & LODGING

20 Motels • 3 Mountain Resorts • 7 Guest Ranches
2 Bed & Breakfasts • 11 Private Campgrounds
7 Forest Service Campgrounds • 25 Restaurants

For information, contact the
Visitor Centers and Chambers of Commerce in:

Buffalo at 800-227-5122
55 N. Main
Buffalo, WY 82834
www.buffalowyo.com or
info@buffalowyo.com

Kaycee at 307-738-2444
100 Park Avenue
Kaycee, WY 82639
www.kayceewyoming.org or
kayceechamber@rtconnect.net



Wyoming has quite distinct seasons. Spring features delicate wildflowers. Summer brings bright sunshine and clear blue skies. Fall displays vibrant colors and bugling elk while winter turns the countryside into a snowy wonderland. During any of these times, Johnson County has a wide variety of recreational activities to enjoy.

CLoud PEAK SCENIC BYWAY

Highway 16 links the Black Hills and Yellowstone National Park with Buffalo in the middle. The scenic highway takes its travelers into the foothills and then through 60 miles of breathtaking mountain scenery. You'll climb over 5,000 feet to an elevation of 9,666 feet at Powder River Pass, just before descending into Ten Sleep Canyon.

BIG HORN MOUNTAINS

The majestic Big Horn Mountains have a magnetic effect, drawing people to them with their natural beauty and over 900,000 acres of protected forest, including the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area. They're truly an outdoorsman's paradise for hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking, picnicking, snowmobiling, skiing and sledding.

FAIRGROUNDS

Summer in Johnson County is the time for weekly home-grown rodeos at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Buffalo and Harold Jarrard Park in Kaycee. The county fair, the first full week in August, features livestock contests for the local youth involved in 4H and Future Farmers of America. Adults and children alike compete in the arts and crafts portion of the fair with awards for pie making, photography, quilting and cake decorating to name a few. The fair parade and rodeo wrap up the event. Kaycee is home to the Deke Latham Memorial PRCA Rodeo, a pro-rodeo with some of country's best competitors in an up-close arena. And don't miss the Big Horn Mountain Festival the second weekend in July. Some of the nation's best loved and followed blues musicians come to Buffalo for three days of fun and entertainment.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Explore the mountains from a completely different perspective—on horseback. The Big Horns Mountains have trails that take you into the Cloud Peak Wilderness and into the serene and seldom visited backcountry. There are several outfitters that offer half-

day, full day and hourly trips or if you have your own horses, they are welcome too.

LAKE DeSMET

Lake DeSmet, located only five miles north of Buffalo, is a playground for water sport enthusiasts and the serious fishermen alike. It is the perfect spot for waterskiing, boating, canoeing and kayaking. The lake is home to rainbow, brown and Eagle Lake trout ranging from 1 to 15 pounds. There are campgrounds and picnic shelters as well as two boat ramps and a small dock as well as beaches.

FISHING

Johnson County has first class fishing opportunities for all types of fisherman. You can fly or bait fish Lake DeSmet, in the many creeks in the foothills or in the alpine streams and lakes in the Big Horns. Rent a float tube and fins and see the lakes from a new angle and improve your odds of landing the big one. The region offers a wide variety of species including brown and rainbow trout and other fresh-water species. With a day fishing license costing only \$6-12, you can take advantage of some of the best fishing that Wyoming and the west have to offer.

MUSEUMS

Buffalo's Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum houses one of the best collections of artifacts in the American West. The museum contains more than 15,000 artifacts from the region. Items from the Custer/Little Big Horn Battlefield, the Fetterman Fight, the Johnson County Cattle War and personal equipment from famous lawmen and outlaws all reside in the museum.

Kaycee is home to the Hoofprints of the Past Museum, where visitors will find authentic replicas of an old-time school house and one-room jail as well as cowboy apparel and memorabilia.

HISTORIC SITES

Johnson County is full of historic sites including the Bozeman Trail, Fort McKinney and Fort Phil Kearny as well as several key battlefields in the expansion west, such as Dull Knife, Fetterman and Wagonbox. Legendary rustlers and outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid as well as the Wild Bunch called Johnson County home while hiding out at Hole in the Wall near Kaycee. And of course the Johnson County Cattle War that helped shape the west and cattle ranching in the United States.



HUNTING AND BIRD WATCHING

Johnson County offers incredible hunting opportunities for deer, elk, antelope, moose and upland game birds. Area outfitters offer guided hunts or you can choose to go on your own. Landowner permission is always necessary to hunt on private land. Bird watching is also a popular pastime with thousands of species of songbirds and raptors.

SCENERY AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Johnson County has few equals for the spectacular beauty that summer wildflowers and fall colors bring to the country. A special place to watch the seasons at their best is the Clear Creek Trail System.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

The Big Horn Mountains' abundance of powder snow makes it a paradise for cross country skiers. There are miles of groomed trails to explore – Willow Park and Pole Creek offer especially great routes.

DOWNHILL SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING

Strapping on skis and snowboards is a favorite pastime in this area thanks to the blessing of incredible dry snow, perfect for powder hounds. Big Horn Mountain Resort Ski Area offers challenging runs, a hospitable lodge and snowmaking capabilities.

SNOWMOBILING

Ranked by SnoWest Magazine as one of the Top 10 places to snowmobile, the Big Horn Mountains are a paradise for snowmobilers from all over the country. The 132 miles of groomed trails mean endless acres of pure powder. A trail map is available at the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce for directions to specific trails and some lodges offer snowmobile rentals and repairs.

BUFFALO GOLF COURSE

Golf Digest rated the Buffalo Golf Course as a 4-star course. Treasured by regional golfers, the 18-hole, par 72 course offers spectacular mountain vistas and challenging play. Greens fees are still under \$30, clubs are available for rental.

JIM GATCHELL MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Bursting with more than 15,000 pieces from the Old West, this impressive museum celebrates the history-filled area and legendary characters that inhabited it. The museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and the gift shop is open year round.

CLEAR CREEK TRAIL SYSTEM

An incredibly scenic way to take in many of the sights Buffalo offers, a stroll or bike on the Clear Creek Trail is a great way to stretch your legs, get in your daily run, ride your bike or just see the town from a different perspective. Starting at the carousel on the east side of town and traversing to the foothills via historic Main Street, the Clear Creek Trail totals 11 miles from start to finish. You can join it at several points throughout town.

HISTORIC MAIN STREET

There are over a dozen historic buildings downtown, all with a story to tell. A brochure at the Chamber of Commerce has all the tales, including the Occidental Hotel, where Owen Wister's Virginian finally "got his man." In addition, there are nearly life-size bronzes commemorating the Johnson County Cattle War.

RECREATION

The Buffalo City Park touts its status as the home of Wyoming's largest free outdoor swimming pool, making it a mecca for adults and children alike in the summer. The park also has tennis courts and great playgrounds for the kids.





Kaycee gives the visitor a true Old West experience and was home to many of Wyoming's famous outlaws. This is the actual "Hole in the Wall" Country, hideout of the legendary Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid and the rest of the Hole in the Wall gang.

Kaycee is the site of the Kaycee Cabin in the Johnson County Cattle War, one of the most significant events in Old West history. The Bozeman Trail's wagon ruts can still be viewed east of town. In addition, a military post called Fort Reno was established on

the Trail to protect travelers from the Indians.

Agriculture, mining and the oil industry have all helped to develop and support the livelihood of Kaycee. Cattle and sheep drives still occur twice a year on the same stock trails used decades ago, to the mountain in the spring and back down in the fall. Always remember that livestock have the right of way so be prepared to stop.

HOOFPRIENTS OF THE PAST MUSEUM

Kaycee's museum includes an old time school house setting, blacksmith shop, historic general store with post office and many other Old West artifacts. The museum is open from Memorial Day Weekend to October 31.

KAYCEE CHALLENGE, SHEEP INDUSTRY FESTIVAL & DOG TRAILS

These events held in September, provide unique insights into the sheep ranching industry and the art and skills of sheep-herders and their dogs. With only a whistle or a gesture, the dogs herd the sheep by incredible instinct, making the trials thrilling to watch for all ages.

DEKE LATHAM MEMORIAL PRCA RODEO

Kaycee is proud to be the smallest town hosting a PRCA rodeo. Held in mid July, the Deke Latham includes traditional rodeo activities plus steer roping, a barbecue, cowboy poetry gathering and an evening country dance.



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FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

BUFFALO AT 800-227-5122

55 N. Main

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www.buffalowyo.com

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KAYCEE AT 307-738-2444

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