

## **Missoula Arts & Entertainment**

### **Missoula Art Museum (Missoula downtown, Pattee Street) [<https://missoulaartmuseum.org>]**

The Art Museum of Missoula opened its doors in 1975. Just over a decade later, with the growth of the museum's collection, MAM was awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums. The establishment of the MAM endowment followed in 1989, and the museum became a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit in 1995.

From its Carnegie Library roots to a \$5.3 million capital campaign that allowed MAM to seamlessly fuse its 100-year-old building with a contemporary addition, MAM has created the ideal environment for exhibiting, celebrating, and preserving the museum's growing contemporary art collection. And with 45 years on the books, MAM is emerging as the leading contemporary art museum in the Intermountain West. MAM is an exceptional attraction in the heart of Missoula's historic downtown—a fully accessible, free, public museum that boasts eight exhibition spaces, a library, an education center, and an inviting information lounge. The museum recently expanded its footprint outdoors with the dedication of the newly constructed Art Park in 2017.

### **Montana Museum of Art and Culture (UM Campus) [<https://www.umt.edu/montana-museum/>]**

“The MMAC is a free public museum that came into existence in 1894, a year after the founding of the University of Montana, the state's flagship higher academic institution. Today, the MMAC is a teaching museum with a world-class Permanent Collection of close to 12,000 objects, including significant historic and contemporary works of art. It is one of 3 state museums in Montana alongside the Montana Historical Society in Helena and the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman.”

### **Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium (Missoula County Fairgrounds) [<https://www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org>]**

### **Montana Natural History Museum (Milwaukee Trail, Missoula downtown) [<https://www.montanaturalist.org>]**

“The mission of the Montana Natural History Center is to promote and cultivate the appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of nature through education. Founded in 1991, MNHC was the brainchild of a group of educators who were involved in various efforts to educate both kids and adults about the natural history of western Montana, and who decided to unite those efforts into one environmental education organization. MNHC provides nature education programming for people of all ages through summer camps, kids' activities, Visiting Naturalist in the Schools, Master Naturalist certification courses and Field Days, evening programs, *Field Notes* on Montana Public Radio, museum tours, and more. We have a variety of exhibits that focus on the flora, fauna, geology, and ecology of our beautiful state. Please stop by and visit!”

**A Carousel for Missoula** (Hand-carved horse carousel) [<https://carouselformissoula.com>]

Built to provide the community of Missoula a new option for good, old-fashioned fun, the Carousel continues to entertain the children (and the adults) in our area with rides on the beautifully crafted horses as well as with family friendly events. Whether we're helping children celebrate their special day or seeing families come together for a little playtime, we're happy to be part of what makes Missoula so special!

**Fort Missoula Historical Museum** (Fort Missoula) [<https://fortmissoulamuseum.org/>]

The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula was established in 1975 to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Missoula County and western Montana for the education and cultural enrichment of visitors and area residents.

*We are Missoula County's history museum. We offer visitors a place to wonder, reminisce, learn about our county's history, and how our culture's past makes Missoula and our nation what it is today.* The Museum is a 32-acre historic park with over 20 historic structures and maintains a collection of over 50,000 artifacts.

**AFD Visitor Center (Missoula airport)** [<https://flymissoula.com/>]

Dedicated in 1954, the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot is a working fire supply and smokejumper center. Tours of the facility, including the small Smokejumper Museum, and the "Loft" where parachutes are repaired and packed.

**Edgar Paxson murals (Missoula County Courthouse)**

[<https://missoulaartmuseum.org/exhibits/murals-of-edgar-paxson>]

When Missoula County's courthouse, designed by local architect A.J. Gibson, opened for business in July of 1910, Missoulians admired its Neoclassical grace and symmetry but were unhappy with the interior's stock decoration scheme of vegetation references and bland allegorical figures. The people of our fair city demanded that instead, artworks portraying "truly typical Montana pioneer life" be painted by a local artist who understood Montana history. The Missoula Women's Club rallied public support for the project to be given to artist Edgar Samuel Paxson, and in 1912 the county commissioners engaged the beloved local artist and buddy of Buffalo Bill and Charlie Russell, to paint eight murals to be displayed in the courthouse's grand entryway. On June 25, 1914, the completed murals were installed, followed in November by a public reception with 1,000 guests honoring the artist. (Missoula Art Museum)

**Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Visitor Center**

[<https://www.rmef.org/>]

## **Missoula Farmers' Market (the original) Located at the north end of Higgins Ave. Downtown**

[\[https://www.missoulafarmersmarket.org/\]](https://www.missoulafarmersmarket.org/)

The Missoula Farmers' Market was formed in 1972 as a local farm and garden market. We're open all growing season long, from the first Saturday in May to the end of October. In the spring you will find veggie starts and greens, summertime brings tomatoes, huckleberries, cherries, peaches, melons and corn, and fall's bounty includes squash & pumpkins, apples and garlic. Locally grown, raised, gathered and processed meat, eggs and mushrooms are available all season long.

## **Unseen Missoula Downtown Guided Walking Tours**

[\[https://www.missouladowntown.com/unseen-missoula/\]](https://www.missouladowntown.com/unseen-missoula/)

Unseen Missoula, a program of [Heritage Missoula](#) from the Downtown Missoula Partnership, offers education-based, guided walking tours to showcase Missoula's unique history. The program aims to connect Missoulians and guests to our community, foster cultural identity, and promote heritage experiences for all.

Thousands of people have enjoyed the guided tours and connected to the program through social media since its inception. The season begins in April and continues through October. Experience Missoula's heritage through these unique and exciting guided walking tours!

## **Farther Afield**

### **Travelers Rest State Park (Lewis and Clark Campsite, Lolo, MT, nine miles south of Missoula)**

[\[Travelers' Rest State Park | Montana FWP \(mt.gov\)\]](#)

Located at an historic and contemporary crossroads, Travelers' Rest State Park and National Historic Landmark is a place where visitors can say with certainty that they are walking in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark. The Park is at the core of a campsite used by the Corps of Discovery from September 9 - 11, 1805 and again from June 30 - July 3, 1806.

In the summer of 2002, archaeologists uncovered evidence of the Corps of Discovery's visit to the area, including a trench latrine tainted with mercury, fire hearths, and lead used in the repair and manufacture of firearms. The discovery makes Travelers' Rest the only campsite on the Lewis and Clark Trail with physical evidence of the expedition.

For centuries Native Americans also used the area as a campsite and trail junction. Salish, Pend d'Oreille and Nez Perce peoples were among those who traditionally occupied the area. Native American storytellers bring their history, culture and society to life as part of the programming at Travelers' Rest State Park.

**St. Ignatius Mission (St. Ignatius, MT) [info@stignatiusmission.org](mailto:info@stignatiusmission.org)**

<https://stignatiusmission.org/>

The Mission was listed as a national historical site in 1973 and is open 9am to 5pm seven days a week, for self-guided tours.

The Mission in St. Ignatius consists of four buildings: the 1891 church, the original 1854 log church and residence, the 1864 Providence Sister's residence, and the 1960 Rectory. The most predominant of the buildings is the church itself. Construction began in 1891 and took two years to complete. All materials were sourced locally with the bricks made from local clay and trees milled on site.

The interior of the church contains fifty-eight murals painted over a fourteen-month period in 1904-1905. The artist was a Jesuit Brother who served as the Mission cook. Brother Carignano, SJ, (1853-1919), with no professional training in art, completed the paintings between his regular duties as the Mission cook and handyman. The paintings depict scenes from Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament, and the lives of the saints. The triptych behind the main altar show the three visions of St. Ignatius of Loyola for whom the Mission (and town) are named.

**St. Mary's Mission (Stevensville, MT, 27 miles south of Missoula)**

<https://saintmarysmission.org>

**Fort Owen State Park (Stevensville, MT, 27 miles south of Missoula)**

[\[Fort Owen State Park | Montana FWP \(mt.gov\)\]](#)

Fort Owen State Park is the site of many "firsts" in Montana history and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It was home to Montana's first Catholic church founded by Father DeSmet in 1841, and the state's first permanent white settlement. Also located here was Montana's first sawmill, first grist mill, first agricultural development, first water right, and the first school for settlers.

Major John Owen arrived in the Bitterroot Valley in 1850 and established the fort and began trading with the Indians and the growing number of immigrants.

Period furnishings and artifacts are displayed in the restored rooms of the east barracks.

**Hiawatha Scenic Bike Trail**

<https://www.ridethehiawatha.com/>

## **Daly Mansion (Hamilton, MT, 42 miles south of Missoula) [<https://www.dalymansion.org>]**

In 1886 Marcus Daly purchased the existing Anthony Chaffin homestead, including the farmhouse, and had it completely remodeled by 1889. Because the Daly family did extensive entertaining, the Mansion was remodeled again in 1897 to a Queen Anne style Victorian home. This home, when completed, reminded Marcus of a church, so once again, remodeling plans were begun. Marcus Daly died in November of 1900 before the remodeling was started in April of 1909. Mrs. Daly contracted with architect A. J. Gibson of Missoula for the remodeling plans.

The Queen Anne home was to be incorporated into the new Georgian-Revival style home. The remodeling was completed in August of 1910.

The home has over 50 rooms, with 25 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms, as well as 7 fireplaces, 5 of which have imported Italian marble. The home is three stories for a total of 24,000 square feet, plus a full basement. Some of the main rooms include a large living room, music room, formal dining room, sun room, trophy room which was added in 1914, and upstairs sitting room and a third floor billiard hall.

## **Sculpture in the Wild (Lincoln, MT, 80 miles east of Missoula).**

<http://www.sculptureinthewild.com/>

“An outdoor sculpture park celebrating the rich cultural, environmental, and industrial heritage of the Blackfoot Valley.” Sculptures by international and local artists.

## **Hiking opportunities**

For short or long day hikes in the vicinity of Missoula, take a look at “Day Hikes around Missoula, Montana, Including the Bitterroots and the Seeley-Swan Valleys” by Robert Stone. Here is one site with options. There are others.

<https://www.alltrails.com/us/montana/missoula>

## **National Bison Range**

<https://www.bisonrange.org/>