During a visit to Hot Springs County you will want to take in the natural beauty and enjoy all that our community has to offer. Begin your journey with a drive through the stunning geology and scenery of the beautiful Bighorn River on a designated scenic by-way.

The Bighorn River flows through the canyon and you can experience whitewater rafting on Class III and IV rapids. Take a guided fly fishing trip on the Bighorn River or simply float on the river with friends. Thermopolis, Wyoming, offers the very best the Bighorn Mountains have to offer.

The Wyoming Dinosaur Center is dedicated to preserving and protecting Wyoming’s natural history. The center’s history is extensive, spanning generations. The Wyoming Dinosaur Center is located at 110 Carter Ranch Road in Thermopolis. For more information, visit their website at wyomingdinosaurcenter.com or call 807-846-2997 or (800) 455-3456.

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY - WYOMING'S HOT SPOT!

Wyoming Dinosaur Center

In 1990, TMRM Magazine featured the Wyoming Dinosaur Center (WDC) one of the top 50 museums in the world. The WDC provides hands-on geologic and paleontologic experiences that are engaging and enjoyable for visitors of all ages. The WDC's beautiful facility displays one of the largest and most unique fossil collections in the world and its dig sites have some of the richest fossils, including brachylophosaurus, in the western United States.

The WDC's technical staff have found and identified over 130 dig sites. Snowflakes and pickaxes are used to remove soft overburden and break through hard sandstone. Once bone is found, hard straight tools are used to pry around the bone and remove it to the museum, where it is cataloged and placed in the lab to be prepared.

A SuperSaurus named Jumbo, one of the largest and most complete dinosaur fossils ever discovered, and a Supersaurus/Spinosaurus mosaic named Lori, who are both 24 and 30 feet long, are surrounded by a range of other dinosa

One regulation 25-yard pool, wading is Wind River Canyon. During a visit to Hot Springs State Park, you can experience the beauty of the geological timetable that is Wind River Canyon. Mixed with the churning excitement of the rapids.

The trails around Thermopolis and the Hot Springs State Park offer great opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts and the traveling family.

The Super Star 500 is one of the most visited state parks in Wyoming. The trails are open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily.

The Wyoming Dinosaur Center was named one of the world’s coolest places for kids by Popular Science.

The last thing most people think about when they open the door to their Swim Center have the opportunity to "belly up to the bar" at the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang's bar where the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang drank beer and sipped whiskey. After the fair, the bar traveled by train to Thermopolis to Tom Skin

The historic downtown boasts several unique shops from handcrafted goods to antiques to books. There are several hidden gems of town as well as get out and explore. There are also a number of quality restaurants and bars to choose from. There is absolutely something for everyone in Thermopolis!

The natural beauty of the Wind River Canyon offers miniature golf, rock golf, a movie theater, and, of course, the Hot Springs.

The trails around Thermopolis and the Hot Springs State Park offer great opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts and the traveling family.

The Star is open on Saturday and Sunday.

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Merlin’s Hide Out a ‘must see’ treasure

Many years ago, Native Americans slept curled beneath the deep fur hides of buffalos, wrapping themselves up in them to ward off the bitter cold of a Wyoming winter. Today, their soft, rich texture can add a touch of the Old West to any room. In addition to buffalo robes, buffalo coats add a special, premium piece that will last for generations. Each of those steps are done by hand, personally overseen by Merlin, to create a unique, premium piece that will last for generations.

Tarantino considers it one of the more iconic parts of the movie. There are several steps involved in tanning the perfect buffalo robe, and each of those steps are done by hand, personally overseen by Merlin, to create a unique, premium piece that will last for generations.

Harvested in the peak of winter, Merlin’s buffalo robes are thick and luxuriously soft, with natural variations in color indicative of the native plains animal. There are play parks, walking paths, the terraces, snacks, souvenirs, and hats along with a variety of new leather items, including fur mittens and hats along with a variety of new creations.

Watch for upcoming Vacation Destination Guides.

Merlin’s Hide Out at its location on Richards Street in Thermopolis will find a nice variety of beautiful hides. Many years ago, Native Americans slept curled beneath the deep fur hides of buffalos, wrapping themselves up in them to ward off the bitter cold of a Wyoming winter. Today, their soft, rich texture can add a touch of the Old West to any room.

The art of tanning buffalo robes lives on at Merlin’s Hide Out in Thermopolis. Tanning hundreds of different hides each year, owner Merlin Heine takes pride in keeping a personal touch with every piece that passes through his hands.


Visitors to Merlin’s Hide Out at its location on Richards Street in Thermopolis.

Free entrance into Hot Springs State Park

Unlike most other state parks in Wyoming, visitors can enjoy Hot Springs State Park’s state-owned facilities and recreation areas without having to buy a permit. There are play parks, walking paths, the terraces, snacks, souvenirs, and hats along with a variety of new leather items, including fur mittens and hats along with a variety of new creations.

Two Pools

Two Large Slides

Four Hot Tubs

Kiddie Pool

Steam Room & Dry Sauna

Tel: 307-864-9250

Two Pools

Two Large Slides

Four Hot Tubs

Kiddie Pool

Steam Room & Dry Sauna

Take it easy, Have Fun!

like us on Facebook! www.tepeepools.com

307-864-9250

M4 Tepee St

Thermopolis, WY, 82443

Tepee Spa, charge a fee for the use of each of their facilities. There are play parks, walking paths, the terraces, a swinging bridge and more to see in Hot Springs State Park.

Questions? The chamber has answers

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and Visitor’s Center is here to help, so don’t hesitate to stop in. The office is located at 220 Park St., at just U.S. Highway 20 from the state park office. In addition to information such as visitor guides, brochures, calendars and maps of local, regional and statewide attractions, the chamber has maps for ATV roads and scenic drives.

The office is open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., seven days a week. Visit the thermopolischamber.org for more information.

Wind River Canyon

Just south of Thermopolis sits the rocky maw of Wind River Canyon, where 2,500-foot walls of rock swallow the rolling hills of the Big Horn Basin before releasing travelers into the expansive Indian reservation.

Visitors to Merlin’s Hide Out at its location on Richards Street in Thermopolis.

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July 30

is logged in the WDC’s of-digging. Every discovery all the parts of dinosaur WDC staff and assist in on-site!  Work alongside and lunch delivered to you the shade while you work, by your guides. Stay in need to dig are provided “luxury paleontology.” The You just might make our Diplodocus like long-necked plant-eaters dinosaur bones have been on The Hill. Over 15,000 time to the Late Jurassic on the ranch and back in They will drive you out guides, who will be with you for your entire day. Your guides will be with you for your entire day. They will drive you out on the ranch and back in time to the Late Jurassic Period, 150 million years ago. Your fossil site awaits on The Hill. Over 15,000 dinosaur bones have been found here, from massive long-necked plant-eaters like Camarasaurus and Diplodocus, to the terrifying carnivores like Allosaurus. You just might make our next big discovery…

Think of your day as “luxury paleontology.” The tools and training you need to dig are provided by your guides. Stay in the shade while you work, with plenty of ice water and lunch delivered to you on-site! Work alongside WDC staff and assist in all the parts of dinosaur digging. A detailed record of your discovery is logged in the WDC’s official records. Your name will go down in history when you find a dinosaur bone, and you can call the museum at any time to check on the status of your discovery.

After looking for dino-saurs, walk through the Sundance Sea, from a time when Thermopolis was under water and filled with prehistoric sea creatures, like Pleiosaurus and Ich- thyosaurs! Look for squid shells and clams along the hillside, and take some home as a souvenir!

The day concludes with a personal tour of the Wyoming Dinosaur Center. Learn the secrets of the museum, take a look behind the scenes at the newest exhibits, and get a look at the latest “works in progress” in the prepara-
tion lab. You can even see the treasures found on other Dig for a Days, including Morris the Camarasaurus—a 60 foot long real bone skeleton found just ten minutes from the museum. It’s your chance to experience a side of dinosaur discovery that most visitors rarely see.

Digs are offered every day from late May to mid-September, weather per-
mitting, so there are plenty of opportunities to join us for a day of dinosaur discovery.

Come see why the Wyom-
ing Dinosaur Center is the world’s best dinosaur experience — visit our web-
ite and schedule your very own Dig for a Day!

EXCAVATE

For those of you feeling adventurous, participate in the Dig-for-the-Day or Shovel-Ready programs. Families and individu-
als will enjoy a once in a lifetime opportunity to dig up real dinosaur remains. This unique experience allows visitors to unearth fossils which have been encaised in stone for the last 150 million years. The excitement of seeing a bone for the first time creates a memory that will last a lifetime. The program begins June 1 and runs through mid-September, weather per-
mitting.

Another satellite herd is located along the north edge of Thermopolis on the west side of U.S. Highway 20. The range is mostly atop T-Hill, overlooking the golf course.

Roads looping through the pasture of-

f-sightseers a close-up look at the herd. The herd size varies seasonally with newborn calves, prehistoric mid-terms and bulls and calves wanders a large range east of the developed area of the state park on the east edge of Thermopolis.

The main herd of adult bulls, cows and calves wanders a large range east of the developed area of the state park on the east edge of Thermopolis.

The herd size varies seasonally with new-born calves, prehistoric mid-terms and bulls and calves wanders a large range east of the developed area of the state park on the east edge of Thermopolis.

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Legend Rock Petroglyph Site - one of the most impressive displays of petroglyphs in the world. A visitor photographs three of the hundreds of petroglyphs found at the course as well. For more information, call 864-5294.

Most of the petroglyphs are located upstream from the parking area and interpretive center. There is a restroom and interpretive center. Visitors are advised to bring their own drinking water, sign the registration sheet at the visitors center, and wear hard hats or binoculars when walking near the cliffs.

The Thermopolis Golf Course on Airport Highway 120 from Thermopolis to Hot Springs. The site is administered by personnel at Hot Springs State Park.

The Thermopolis Golf Course is a nine-hole course with a putting green and driving range. The course features a putting green and driving range, and the pro shop offers a complete line of accessories and equipment. Cart rentals are also available.

Hours are 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. for summer months. Plenty of on-site parking can be found at the course as well. For more information about the course, call the Pro Shop at 864-5294.

WDC home to early bird fossil

Thermopolis is a member of a rare club, including cities like London and Berlin, as it is home to one of the most significant scientific discoveries in history - Archaeopteryx, “the early bird.”

Archaeopteryx is the “Holy Grail” of dinosaur studies, and has been ever since its discovery in 1861. When the first paleontologists saw this tiny creature lying in the rock, they could hardly believe their eyes. An animal with the sharp teeth, curved claws, and bony tail of a reptile that is covered with bird-like feathers? Impossibly! It was named Archaeopteryx - “ancient wing” - and is the first feathered dinosaur ever found.

Only twelve fossils of this amazing dinosaur have been found in 150 years of searching. The Thermopolis Specimen is the 10th and one of the most spectacular. This specimen, found in the Solnhofen Limestone in Germany, winged its way across the ocean to the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in 2006. It has been one of the museum’s signature exhibits ever since.

Paleontologists from every corner of the globe journey to Thermopolis to unlock secrets still entombed in the rock around Archaeopteryx. Many clues lie in the rock - if you know where to look. In addition to its fantastic feathers, the Thermopolis Specimen reveals new ideas about the connections between dinosaurs and modern birds. In fact, its left foot reveals its closest dinosaur relative - Velociraptor! Both have the same “killing claw” on their second toe.

As more studies are conducted, new and exciting information about this small but incredibly important little creature will be revealed.

But in the meantime, take this exclusive chance to get a closer look at the greatest piece of dinosaur history - the Thermopolis Specimen of Archaeopteryx.

Nine hole golf course

The Thermopolis Golf Course on Airport Highway 120 north of town offers nine challenging holes in the shadow of red and rocky Roundtop Mountain.

The course features a putting green and driving range, and the pro shop offers a complete line of accessories and equipment. Cart rentals are also available.

Hours are 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. for summer months. Plenty of on-site parking can be found at the course as well. For more information about the course, call the Pro Shop at 804-5294.

THERMOPOLIS HARDWARE AND MERCANTILE

A visitor photographs three of the hundreds of pieces of prehistoric artwork at the Legend Rock Petroglyph Site northwest of Thermopolis. The site is administered by personnel from Hot Springs State Park.

Extra security precautions have been added at the site to discourage vandalism. Recently, a land donation was received from Richard Wagner. Working with the Archaeological Conservancy, Wagner’s donation provides further protection of the site.

An archaeological survey showed there are at least 256 glyphs on 92 rock panels. The oldest works date back 10,000 years, the newest ones were carved since the arrival of white men.

To get to Legend Rock, take Highway 120 from Thermopolis toward Meeteetse for 21 miles. Watch for brown and white signs indicating the turnoff at the second Hamilton Dome turnoff (Upper Cottonwood Creek) and stay left. Continue down the hill and around a curve to the site.

From October through April, the site is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and a site host will be available. From May to September, the site is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and a site host will be available at the interpretive center. No key is needed to visit the site during the winter months.

From October through April, visitors must obtain a key from the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. Keys also are available at the Hot Springs State Park headquarters at 51 Highway 20 North, Thermopolis. The site is administered by personnel at Hot Springs State Park.

Serving Breakfast & Lunch All Day

Family owned and operated

Featuring: Buffalo Burgers Homemade Pies & Huge Cinnamon Rolls

Open 7am - 3pm 7 days a week

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Fishing & Hunting Licenses • Camping & Picnic Supplies • RV Supplies • Gifts, Toys, Swim Toys • Sporting Goods

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One of the World’s Largest Water Slides!
A pair of Canadian geese visit the cooling ponds in Hot Springs State Park.
Bighorn River: Where fishing abounds

Do you feel daring? Want the best possible view of the Rainbow Terrace and wildlife in the Bighorn River? Cross the Swinging Bridge in Hot Springs State Park.

The Wyoming landmark has thrulled tens of thousands with its unique view of the blue-green river, terraces, fish, waterfowl, turfs, buffalo, deer and even trains. The first bridge spanned the river in 1916. While the earlier bridges had their dangers, there has never been a reported accident on the current bridge. North Dakota National Guard engineering units built it.

The bridge was originally used to cross the river from a hospital near the highway to the terraces, Big Springs and swimming and soaking facilities. It may be reached via special walkways across the cool ponds and is actually the start of the Riverside Walkway that meanders through the park to just below the Dinosaur Center.

Extant pveewows are visible on the west side of the bridge.

Boysen State Park offers recreation opportunities galore

Spectacular and spacious, Boysen Reservoir and Boysen State Park are located less than 20 minutes south of Thermopolis.

The state operates Boysen State Park, maintaining campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, docks and a marina. Boysen Dam is just above the main east and west entrances, or at toll sites on other roads. A small fee is charged for use of other areas and Bighorn Lake at the north end of the Big Horn Basin. Fees to use other areas are paid at log booths near the main east and west entrances, or at toll sites on other roads. A small fee is charged for resident and non-resident day passes.

Great fishing can also be found at Boysen Reservoir. Record-setting Yellow Perch and Walleyes lurk just below the surface.

Amazing hunting and fishing display

Days Inn’s restaurant is called the Safari Club, and after just one step inside the Park Street facility, there’s no question as to why.

The walls are a variable Noah’s Ark of wildlife. And not all the mounted game walked, flew or swam.

Beautiful fish swim in the glass tanks and the walls and ceiling are covered with photos and taxidermy, including a few vultures and skunks. There are also many prints and photos of tranquilized animals.

There is also an impressive photo display of adventures that took place around the world.

The Day’s Inn Safari Club is located just inside Hot Springs State Park at 115 E. Park Street. For more information, call (307) 864-3131.

Boysen Dam is just above the Knife River gorge. It is 230-feet high and 1,200-foot long. The dam created the lake at the south edge of Wind River. Behind the dam are the blue-green waters of Boysen Reservoir.

There are three varieties of trout found at Boysen Reservoir. Bighorn Dam is just above the Bighorn Lake at the north end of the Big Horn Basin. The northern portion of the Bighorn River is dominated by sauger, walleye, channel catfish and brown trout.

Public access maps can be found at: http://gf.state.wy.us.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has 13 miles of stream easements with 10 fishing access sites along the Bighorn River near Thermopolis.

There are nine additional public access areas between Worland and Bighorn Lake at the north end of the Big Horn Basin.

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Beautiful fish swim in the glass tanks and the walls and ceiling are covered with photos and taxidermy, including a few vultures and skunks. There are also many prints and photos of tranquilized animals.

There is also an impressive photo display of adventures that took place around the world.

The Day’s Inn Safari Club is located just inside Hot Springs State Park at 115 E. Park Street. For more information, call (307) 864-3131.

Boysen Dam is just above the Knife River gorge. It is 230-feet high and 1,200-foot long. The dam created the lake at the south edge of Wind River. Behind the dam are the blue-green waters of Boysen Reservoir.

There are three varieties of trout found at Boysen Reservoir. Bighorn Dam is just above the Bighorn Lake at the north end of the Big Horn Basin. The northern portion of the Bighorn River is dominated by sauger, walleye, channel catfish and brown trout.

Public access maps can be found at: http://gf.state.wy.us.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has 13 miles of stream easements with 10 fishing access sites along the Bighorn River near Thermopolis.

There are nine additional public access areas between Worland and Bighorn Lake at the north end of the Big Horn Basin.
**The swastika-cowboy good luck**

There is no decoration on a piece of cowgirl or cowboy gear that attracts more attention than the swastika, and with good reason. The symbol is widely misunderstood and shunned by the uninformed.

The symbol has roots back to ancient times. Greeks used it as a symbol of prosperity in Onanias it was well-known as Thor’s Hammer, and is widely used today as a religious symbol of Hindus and Buddhists.

At one time or another is was used by most ancient cultures. In North America the Pueblo and Navajo tribes incorporated the symbol for centuries. It was commonly used to decorate buckets, pottery, jewelry and rugs. The Indians saw the symbol “whirling log,” and considered the shape to bring good fortune. The design was widely recognized by the west as Indian “Good Luck.”

The whirling log or swastika was adopted by the white settlers in the Southwestern United States. In the late 1800’s U.S. Highway 20 (the Wind River Canyon Scenic Byway) from their range at the south end of the canyon. Occasionally the bighorn are spotted along the shores by Boysen Lake bosters.

Several rapidly-growing herds of bighorn sheep roam the ridges and peaks of majestic Wind River Canyon. The magnificent animals were returned to their historic range by a successful transplant effort involving state and federal wildlife officials, the Wind River Indian Reservation and the Warm Springs County Museum. The full-size exhibits about the oil industry in Hot Springs County, while outside are derricks, a cable tool rig and a pumping unit from the giant Hamilton Dome oil field. The full-size Burlington Northern caboose is sure to catch your eye.

If you have been traveling to the United States, you may notice that the Ford logo, with its “whirling logs” symbol, is widely used by other companies. The swastika was also very popular decoration with companies catering to the “dude” trade. Manufacturers used the symbol to create bandanas, blankets, poker chips, postcards, bathrobes, hat pins, bar ware and scores of other functional items. Cowboys and prison inmates fashioned handmade gear including hitched horseshoe bracelets and hat bands, chaps, aprons and other equiment with the swastika. Wild West show performers, especially women, used the swastika to decorate riding skirts and vests and wear the swastika until the early part of the 20th century. The swastika had a reversal of image with the Wild West show. Next party and the onset of World War II. The National Socialist Party adopted the swastika as its symbol in 1920 and by the mid 1930s it was synonymous with Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich. With the beginning of the WWI, cowboys set out to awhirl, disfigure and even destroy much of their gear that carried the swastika. Collectors often find saddles with the symbol crossed out with a pocketknife or screwdriver. Chaps with the design will sometimes have part of the swastika removed, leaving only the cross intact. Much of the gear was actually destroyed, making Western swastika items not only rare but scarce.

**Free River Bend Bark Park available.**

This pet exercise area is located near the entrance of Hot Springs State Park. It is on the north side of the road between the Burlington Northern Railroad underpass and the Big Horn River. If you have been traveling through Wyoming and want your dog to stretch its legs before the prime spot, this will be a boon in an area where equipment is specifically designed for animals. Like any pet park, it is the owners’ responsibility to control their pets and clean up after them; bags are available. Fancied animals are also in the area for everyone to enjoy.

**We invite you to our retreat.**

Come and enjoy the Red Ranch private spring and ponds.

Quiet, restful, secluded former family home, converted to a retreat for people interested in as much luck as they could get. Their gear was typically decorated with the traditional shapes of good fortune that included four-leaf clovers, horseshoes and swastikas. The swastika was also very popular decoration with companies catering to the “dude” trade. Manufacturers used the symbol to create bandanas, blankets, poker chips, postcards, hat pins, bar ware and scores of other functional items. Cowboys and prison inmates fashioned handmade gear including hitched horseshoe bracelets and hat bands, chaps, aprons and other equiment with the swastika. Wild West show performers, especially women, used the swastika to decorate riding skirts and vests and wear the swastika until the early part of the century. The swastika had a reversal of image with the Wild West show. Next party and the onset of World War II. The National Socialist Party adopted the swastika as its symbol in 1920 and by the mid 1930s it was synonymous with Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich. With the beginning of the WWI, cowboys set out to awhirl, disfigure and even destroy much of their gear that carried the swastika. Collectors often find saddles with the symbol crossed out with a pocketknife or screwdriver. Chaps with the design will sometimes have part of the swastika removed, leaving only the cross intact. Much of the gear was actually destroyed, making Western swastika items not only rare but scarce.

**Bighorn sheep roam WR canyon.**

Several rapidly-growing herds of bighorn sheep roam the ridges and peaks of majestic Wind River Canyon. The magnificent animals were returned to their historic range by a successful transplant effort involving state and federal wildlife officials, the Wind River Indian Reservation and the Warm Springs County Museum. The full-size exhibits about the oil industry in Hot Springs County, while outside are derricks, a cable tool rig and a pumping unit from the giant Hamilton Dome oil field. The full-size Burlington Northern caboose is sure to catch your eye.

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Wind River Canyon
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Guided Fly-fishing trips available in Wind River Canyon & on Big Horn River year round (weather permitting)
Wind River Reservation and State of Wyoming Fishing Permits

The canyon, named after the Wind River, lies north of Boysen Reservoir and is located on part of the Wind River Indian Reservation (home of the Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes).

WHITEWATER TRIPS:
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• 5-6 Hour Trip with BBQ lunch on the river
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