

Welcome to Crook County!

Discover for yourself a little corner of the Old West, where wildlife is just as abundant now as when the Indian tribes passed through a hundred years ago, and where the sons and daughters of the original settlers still make a living from the land. Here in Crook County friendliness and a helping hand still abide, and a sense of fun can be found in any community activity, whether it's a rodeo, dance, or auction. Here you can discover adventure in the magnificent outdoors, enjoy its beauty, relax amongst new-found friends, or contemplate the story-filled history of this charming region of Northeast Wyoming.

The area is rich in the heritage of "Western Tradition." Created in 1875, the county was named for General George Crook, a famous Indian fighter. General George A. Custer spent four days here in 1874 on his way to discovering gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and you can still see the remnants of the trail through the Bearlodge Mountains between Hulett and Aladdin.

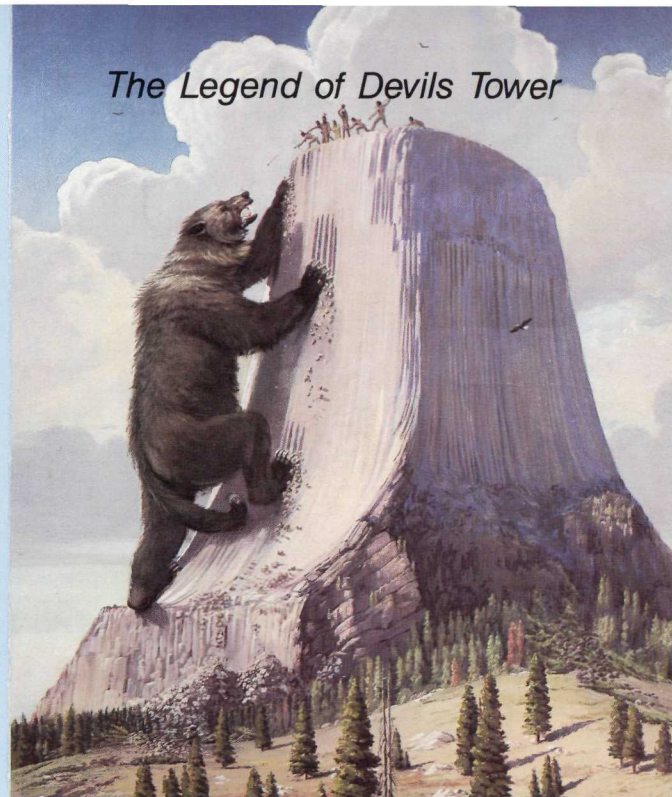
The 1876 gold rush in the Black Hills spilled over into Crook County, and you can sometimes spy a "glory hole" or the remains of a ghost town. Little gold was found here, but people stayed anyway. Beulah and Sundance were established and Crook County's agricultural era began.

The western half of the county was the scene of large cattle drives north from Texas during the 1880's and 1890's. Large ranches were headquartered here to take advantage of the open range. Thousands of cattle grazed on the vast prairies and pine-clad hills, and were shipped to market by rail from Moorcroft.

Even though the open range is gone, the cowboy heritage lives on. While other industries such as oil, bentonite, lumber, and tourism contribute heavily to the economy now, still the cattle and sheep ranches predominate. But the county's greatest asset remains its friendly people. Here you will discover that the western tradition of hospitality lives on.

This brochure produced by Devils Tower Tourism Association and the Wyoming Travel Commission and the Crook County Promotion Board.

The Legend of Devils Tower



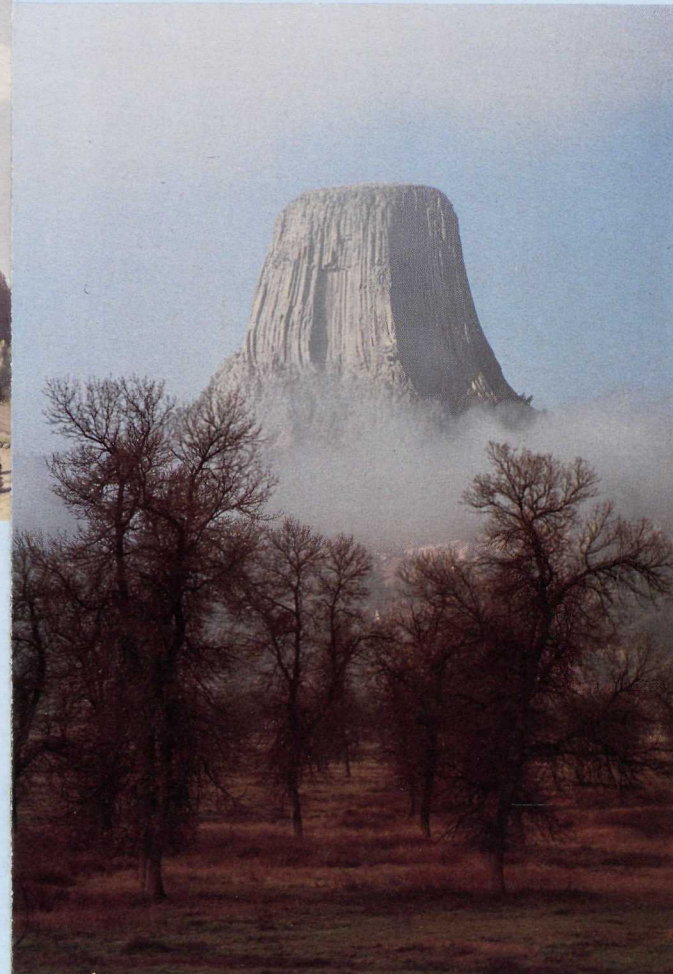
Devils Tower National Monument

The nation's first national monument was so designated by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1906. The natural phenomenon is actually the core of a volcano exposed after millions of years of erosion caused principally by the Belle Fourche River and weather. The talus rock at the base is actually the broken pieces of columns having fallen off the Tower. Various Indian tribes tried to explain this unusual formation through creation of myths, chief among them the story of the bear chasing the Indian maidens. Devils Tower was even featured in the Hollywood movie, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind".

Several nature trails are maintained throughout the Monument area. Here you'll see squirrels, chipmunks, deer, eagles, and a fantastic view of the Belle Fourche River Valley. Just inside the monument area is a large prairie dog town where you can watch the antics of the "dogs." Devils Tower is also known for its difficult climbing routes, requiring technical rock-climbing skills. You can watch the climbers year round scampering up the 800 foot Tower.

The Monument is open year round and an entrance fee is collected. A campground and picnic area are available seasonally as well as restaurants, campgrounds and gift shops nearby.

DEVILS TOWER



and Crook County Wyoming

What To See And Do

From Sundance to Moorcroft, and from Hulett to Pine Haven, Crook County offers much for the traveler to see and do. If you're coming from the east, take Wyo. 111 to Aladdin and visit the general store and the soon-to-be finished restored mining tippie. Continue on Wyo. 24 through some of the most scenic country in the Black Hills, see the ruts of the trail General Custer broke on his journey through the Hills, and visit the Old West town of Hulett.

Hulett

As you travel through the area, you'll enjoy the Bear Lodge Mountains, the scenic red hills, sandstone formations, wildflowers, and Ponderosa pine, cedar, and oak tree clusters. Only ten miles west of Hulett is the nation's first national monument, Devils Tower. The area around Hulett is well-known as a sportsman's paradise for whitetail and mule deer, wild turkey, and antelope. In Hulett, you'll see a vibrant economy based on lumber production, where the locals put on one of the best-known regional rodeos the second weekend in June. The locals are friendly folks, who, when asked, will point out the local Indian caves, Custer's trail, where to fish at Cook Lake, or tell you where to start rafting on the Belle Fourche River.

Moorcroft

After your visit to Devils Tower, continue on Wyo. 24 to U.S. 14, where you can decide to go west to Moorcroft or east to Sundance. If you go west first, the town of Moorcroft offers every convenience to the traveler. Once the largest shipping point for cattlemen in the United States, Moorcroft is located on the banks of the Belle Fourche River where the highway crosses the old Texas Trail. Moorcroft is surrounded by rolling hills and prairie accented by purple sage, pure air, blue skies and magnificent sunsets. It is not unusual to see herds of deer and antelope, flocks of turkeys, prairie dog towns and occasionally red fox and coyotes.

Moorcroft is a bustling town historically based in ranching but which now serves the coal and oil industries as well. Here the culture of the Old West is still evident, and the townspeople are building their own Western Heritage Center, soon to be open to the public.

Your family can enjoy hunting for Indian artifacts, hunting wildlife with a camera, camping, hiking, or horse-back riding.

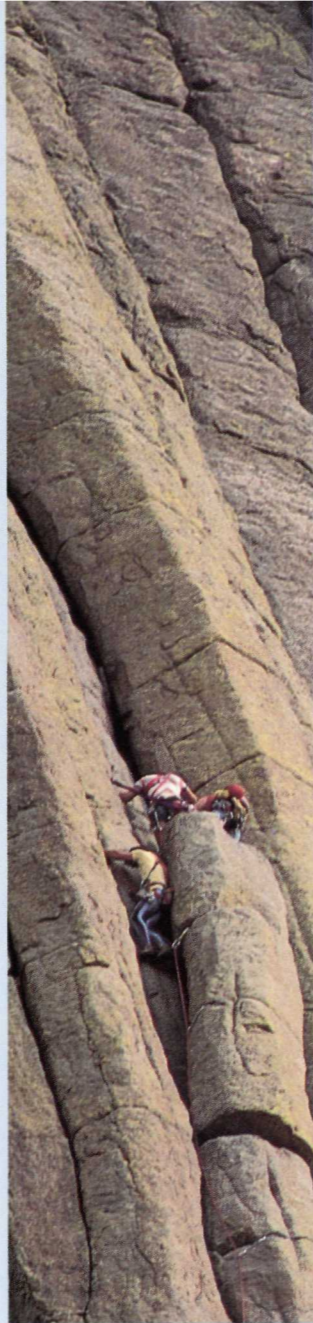
Pine Haven

A must stop on your tour is Pine Haven and Keyhole State Park, which can be reached either by exits off I-90 or U.S. 14. At the marina, you can put your boat in Keyhole Reservoir for a fun day of water-skiing, fishing, and exploring one of the larger lakes in Wyoming. Pine Haven boasts a golf course and country club, open to the public. On the Fourth of July, local volunteer fire-fighters present the largest fireworks display in Crook County, over the lake. The locals put on special events throughout the summer, so be sure to check on what's happening. If you visit in the winter, check out the ice-fishing, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.



Wyoming State Archives And Historical Department

Harry Longabough
Alias the "Sundance Kid"



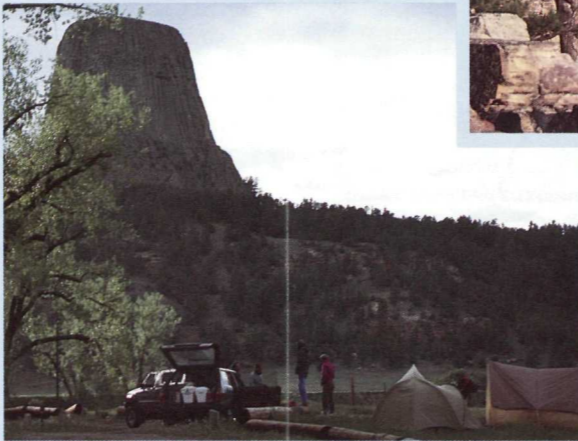
Sundance

After your visit to the lake, head east on I-90 to Sundance, the county seat of Crook County and the county's largest community. The very name of Sundance conjures up pictures of cowboys, Indians, outlaws, and the Old West. Here Harry Longabough, alias "The Sundance Kid", spent 18 months in the county jail for horse-stealing. Just behind the town is Sundance Mountain, or Wi Wacippi Paha, which was used by the Sioux Indians for sacred sundances. Now the mountain is being developed into a skiing area.

Other activities you'll enjoy in Sundance include swimming at the municipal pool, playing on the tennis courts or a round of golf on the nine hole course, or even fishing within the city limits. Avid sportsmen will discover that Sundance is the whitetail deer capital of the world, as well as headquarters for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and bicycling.

Special Events

- Hulett Rodeo, second weekend in June
 - Devils Tower Hospitality Day, mid-June
 - Moorcroft Jubilee Days, first or second weekend in July
 - Sundance Gallery-on-the-Green, early July
 - Maupin Rodeo, late July
 - Crook County Fair and Rodeo, Sundance, early August
 - Aladdin Bronc Match, late August
 - Keyhole Expo, early September
- Check with the locals about ranch rodeos, auctions, community dances, and other special events.



© Jennings Photography



Marvin Garrett
World Champion
Bronc Rider

Accommodations

Sundance, Moorcroft, and Hulett all have motels, restaurants, gas stations, and a variety of retail shops. Devils Tower has campgrounds, both inside the park and just outside the entrance, as well as other concessions open year-round. Keyhole State Park has campgrounds and a marina with concessions. Pine Haven has restaurants and gas available.

Crook County Museum

Located in the basement of the Crook County Courthouse in Sundance, the Crook County Museum and Art Gallery is a "must stop". The Art Gallery offers changing exhibits of Crook County artists, artisans, and collectors. The museum is home to varied and interesting objects and artifacts, including extinct bison bones from archaeological digs, several "period" rooms, a recreation of a country store, two gun collections, and cowboy memorabilia. It also houses the county's original courtroom furniture from the original county courthouse, where the Sundance Kid pled guilty to horse-stealing.

Summer hours are 9 to 5, Monday through Friday. Winter hours are 9 to 12 and 1 to 5, Monday through Friday.

Direct Messages To:

Devils Tower Tourism Association
Box 3, Devils Tower, WY 82714.