

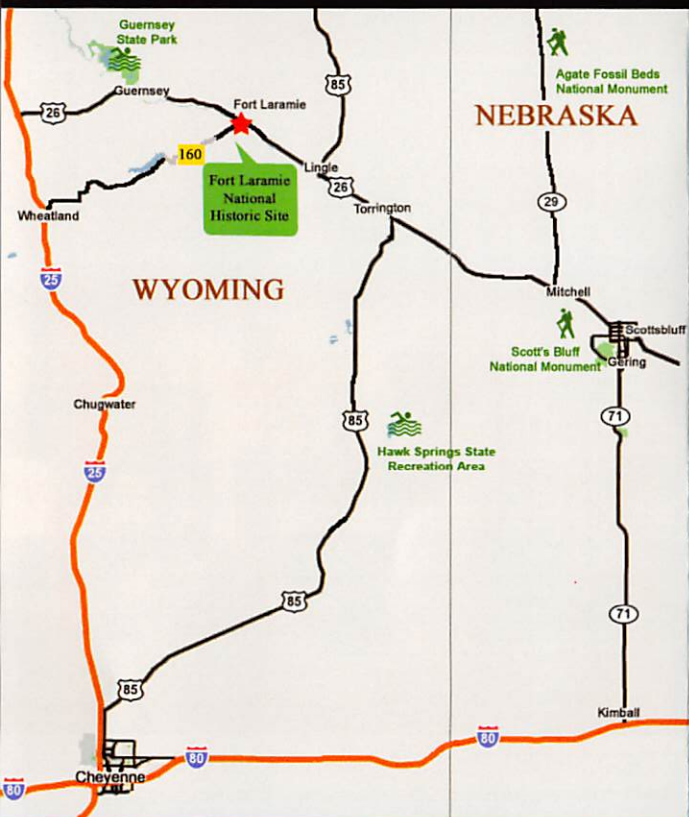
How to Get Here

Things to Do



Fort Laramie

National Historic Site Wyoming



There's a lot to see and do while you're visiting Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

The park is open year round. The grounds are open from dawn until dusk each day. The visitor center is open every day from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. From mid May to mid September, visitor center hours are extended to 7:00 p.m.



Visitor Center

- Exhibits
- Audio Visual Program
- Bookstore & Gift Shop
- Audio Tours
- Visitor Information
- Jr. Ranger Program

Living History

Each summer Fort Laramie comes alive as park rangers, dressed in period clothing, interpret what life was like at this famous military post.



Historic Weapons Demonstrations

Held at 12:30 p.m. each day throughout the summer, depending on availability of staff.



Talks and Programs

Interpretive programs and guided tours are available during the summer season. Check at the visitor center or entrance kiosk for the day's schedule.



For more information on the park, please call (307) 837-2221 or visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/foia.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

It's only a short drive away!

We are only 1 ½ hours north of Cheyenne, Wyoming and one hour west of Scottsbluff Nebraska.

To get here from Interstate 25, take exit 92 onto U.S. Highway 26. Drive east to the Town of Fort Laramie and turn right on State Highway 160 where we are located 3 miles southwest of the town.

To get here from U.S. Highways 26 or 85, turn west on Highway 26 in Lingle. Drive 10 miles west to the Town of Fort Laramie and turn left on State Highway 160 where we are located 3 miles southwest of the town.

This brochure is made possible through a grant from the Goshen County Lodging Tax Board and the Fort Laramie Historical Association.

Front cover, National Park Service; Photographer, Jim Millmoe



Crossroads of a Nation Moving West



For 56 years, the epic story of America's western expansion played out on a grand scale at a place in eastern Wyoming where the Laramie and North Platte Rivers meet. Here Indians, trappers, traders, missionaries, emigrants, gold seekers, soldiers, cowboys and homesteaders would each leave their mark on a place that would become famous in the annals of the American West. That place was Fort Laramie.

The first "Fort Laramie," officially named Fort William, was constructed here in 1834. This small, cottonwood-stockaded fort was established to capitalize on the lucrative buffalo robe trade with the Northern Plains tribes.

In 1841 the deteriorating old log fort was replaced by a new larger adobe structure named Fort John. Fort John was destined to become an important way station for thousands of emigrants who traveled the Oregon, California and Mormon trails seeking the promise of land, gold and religious freedom. Fort John was purchased by the Government in 1849 for \$4000.

Now "officially" named Fort Laramie, the fort grew to become the largest and most important military post on the Northern Plains. Fort Laramie witnessed rapid advances in communications technology as stage lines, the Pony Express, and the transcontinental telegraph passed through.

Fort Laramie hosted several treaty negotiations with Native Americans, the most famous of which were the Horse Creek treaty of 1851 and the still controversial treaty of 1868.

Ultimately, Fort Laramie served as a major base of military operations against the native peoples of the plains. The tribes fought desperately to defend their homeland against further incursions by an ever-expanding nation.

As the Indian Wars came to a close Fort Laramie's importance diminished. The old post was abandoned and sold at public auction in 1890. Slowly deteriorating over the next 48 years, it nearly succumbed to the ravages of time. Preservation of the site was insured in 1938 when Fort Laramie became part of the national park system.

Come visit the past and hear the voices of the many thousands who passed through Fort Laramie. Walk in the footsteps of larger-than-life characters of the old west such as Red Cloud, Spotted Tail, Jim Bridger, Kit Carson, Generals Crook, Sherman and Sheridan, Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane. Come see Fort Laramie... truly the "crossroads of a nation moving west".



Most of the fort's 12 restored buildings are completely refurnished. See what life was like at America's most famous frontier military post.

© Swift Photography, Chase Swift Photographer

