

How to Get Here

Things to Do

Fort Laramie National Historic Site



Fort Laramie National Historic Site It's only a short drive away!

Located only 1½ hours north of Cheyenne, WY and one hour west of Scottsbluff, NE.

To get here from Interstate 25, take exit 92 onto U.S. Highway 26. Drive east to the Town of Fort Laramie, WY and turn right on State Highway 160; drive 3 miles southwest to the historic Fort.

To get here from U.S. Highways 26 or 85, turn west on Highway 26 in Lingle, WY. Drive 10 miles west to the Town of Fort Laramie, WY and turn left on State Highway 160; drive 3 miles southwest to the historic Fort.

This brochure is made possible through joint funding by the Goshen Tourism Promotion Joint Powers Board and the Fort Laramie Historical Association.



FORT LARAMIE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



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 sunrise to sunset each day. Visitor Center winter hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Summer hours, Memorial Day to Labor Day, are 9:00 am to 7:00 pm



Visitor Center

- Exhibits
- Video Program
- Bookstore and 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

Friday through Sunday, throughout the summer, staff will offer a historic weapons demonstration as staffing permits.



Talks and Programs

Interpretive programs are offered daily and are approximately 30 minutes long. Check at the Visitor Center for a program schedule. Self-guided audio tours are available year-round.



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



Wyoming



Photo: NPS, Jim Milmo

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-stocked fort was established to capitalize on the lucrative buffalo robe trade with the Northern Plains Indian 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 Pioneer trails seeking the promise of land, gold, and religious freedom. Fort John was purchased by the United States Government in 1849 for \$4000.

"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 successively.

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

Fort Laramie served as a base of military operations against the native peoples of the Great 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 ensured in 1938 when Fort Laramie became part of the National Park System.

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, and Kit Carson; Generals Crook, Sherman and Sheridan; and Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickock, and Calamity Jane. See Fort Laramie... truly the "crossroads of a nation moving west."



Most of the Fort's 12 restored buildings are completely refurbished. See what life was like at America's most famous frontier military post. Photo: © Swift Photography, Chase Swift

