

# Mountain weekend

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## Wyoming day trip Cheyenne

**Why go now:** This town catches cowboy fever during the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo showdown. **Population:** 55,641

**Elevation:** 6,058 feet **Average July high:** 82° **Dress code:**

Wrangler jeans, Ariat button-down shirts, and a Stetson.

**Come 'n' get it:** The Diamond Horseshoe Café (\$; 404 Central Ave.; 307/638-8255) is far from fancy, but portions are huge and waitresses call everyone "Hon." **Read all about it:** City News bookstore and cafe (1722 Carey Ave.; 307/638-8671) has an enormous selection of magazines—we're talking hundreds of titles. **Worth a wait:** Served only two days a week, the white bean chili at the Bread Basket Bakery (\$; white bean chili Wed and Sat; closed Sun; 1819 Maxwell Ave.; breadbasketbakery.com) has people lining up out the door.

**For green thumbs:** Cheyenne Botanic Gardens (free; 710 S. Lions Park Dr.; botanic.org); early this month, you might be lucky enough to catch prickly pear cactus blooming—they usually blossom only a single day but show off with up to 150 flowers.

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### 1. A cowboy adventure

At the **Bit-O-Wyo Ranch**, the ridgetop trail ride will wind you through aspen groves and views over the high desert from 8,000 feet. Back at the ranch, head to the barn for a cowboy steak dinner accompanied by old-school country music, cowboy comedy, and storytelling. *Rides \$35 per hour; dinner shows \$40 (check website for dates), ages 6 and under free; 470 Happy Jack Rd.; bitowyoranch.com*

BY DINA MISHEV | PHOTOGRAPHS BY CARMEL ZUCKER

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## 2. The steamiest shop

It's easy to get lost in the racks of pearl-snap-buttoned shirts and cowboy-cut jeans at the **Wrangler**, but in the hat room, drool over \$900 Stetsons before choosing from the more budget-friendly selection of felt, straw, and leather hats (think \$40). They'll steam your hat into the shape and size you need. 1518 Capitol Ave.; 307/634-3048.



## Take it home Put your best foot forward

When it comes to cowboy boots, you have a lot of options: ropers or lacers? Cowhide, stingray, gator, or ostrich? Because boots are serious business, head to the **Boot Barn** for the best selection. Hints: You want the ball of your foot at the widest part of the shoe. And a little slipping in the heel is a good thing. 1400 Dell Range Blvd., Ste. 41; 307/638-3009.

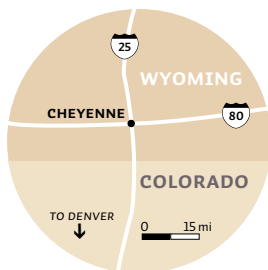
## 3. A cattle baron's tearoom

The original owner of the **Nagle Warren Mansion** had enough cattle to make himself a rich man. Now the 1888 mansion is a 12-room B&B that serves the tastiest tea in town. The signature blend is served with peach nutmeg scones and chocolate-orange tea bread in the Victorian parlor. Tea 2-4 Fri-Sat; \$9.95; rooms from \$158, \$294 during Frontier Days; 222 E. 17th St.; naglewarrenmansion.com



## 4. Mardi Gras for cowboys

During **Cheyenne Frontier Days**, 1,800 professional cowboys and cowgirls storm Wyoming's capital to rope, ride, and race in the largest and longest-running (since 1897) outdoor rodeo in the world. In between the steer wrestling, bull riding, and barrel racing, check out the concert lineup of Kenny Chesney, Taylor Swift, and George Strait; join a chuckwagon cook-off; go to a carnival; and eat your fill of flapjacks at free pancake breakfasts. Jul 17-26; rodeo tickets from \$12, concert tickets from \$23; Frontier Park, 4610 Carey Ave.; cfdrodeo.com



## Getting to Cheyenne

Cheyenne is 100 miles north of Denver, in the southeast corner of Wyoming, at the intersection of I-25 and I-80.

INFO cheyenne.org

## 3 other spots to tip your hat in Wyoming

### SUNDANCE

Sundance didn't have much name recognition until a horse thief and bank robber settled in for a long stay at the town jail. Nowadays, you can find a bronze statue of the outlaw teenager who partnered up with Butch Cassidy. At the **Crook County Museum**, you can see the original courtroom furniture from the Kid's 1897 trial. Closed Sun; free; 309 Cleveland St.; 307/283-3666.

### JACKSON HOLE

Pair your prime rib, chunky applesauce, and campfire baked beans with country music, tall tales, and cowboy poetry. The **Bar J Chuckwagon** dishes out food and entertainment nightly in the shadow of the Tetons. Tickets from \$20, ages 12 and under \$10; 4200 Bar J Chuckwagon Rd.; barjchuckwagon.com

### NEAR BUFFALO

Saddle up at the **South Fork Mountain Lodge & Outfitters** and head into Bighorn National Forest for a two-hour ride. If you have a whole day, trot on into the 190,000-acre Cloud Peak Wilderness, home to the highest of the Big Horn Mountains and the range's only active glacier. Two-hour rides from \$55, daylong \$150; on U.S. 16W; southfork-lodge.com



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