



Cody, Wyoming

Buffalo Bill Country & Yellowstone Gateway

A KALVITRAVEL CITY GUIDE

Hotels • Restaurants • Nightlife • Clubs & Live Music • History • Maps • Itineraries

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Welcome to Cody

Cody offers one of America’s strongest concentrations of Western history, centered on the remarkable Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Summer rodeos, historic hotels, scenic byways and access toward Yellowstone make it both a destination and an engaging road-trip base. This guide is designed for travelers who want context as well as recommendations: how the city developed, which districts fit different travel styles, how to group sights efficiently, and where evenings feel most active. The practical strategy is to choose one primary district for lodging, reserve the few experiences that matter most, and leave room for discoveries. In Cody, the most useful visitor zones are Sheridan Avenue & Downtown, West Strip & Museum District, Old Trail Town & Rodeo Grounds, Wapiti Valley & South Fork. Each offers a different pace, so the best trip does not require seeing everything; it requires matching the itinerary to the traveler.

At a glance

LOCAL FACTS & HISTORIC CONTEXT

- The Bighorn Basin has deep Indigenous history, including ties to the Crow, Shoshone and other Plains peoples
- William F. Buffalo Bill Cody and associates founded the town in the 1890s
- Irrigation, ranching, railroads and tourism supported early development
- Museums, rodeo culture and the route to Yellowstone remain central to Cody's identity

CODY VISITOR ORIENTATION MAP

1 Sheridan Avenue & Downtown

2 West Strip & Museum District

3 Old Trail Town & Rodeo Grounds

4 Wapiti Valley & South Fork

OHIO RIVER

SCHEMATIC MAP - NOT TO SCALE. Use a live navigation app for driving and walking directions.

This orientation diagram identifies visitor districts and relative relationships; it is not a navigation map.

How the city became what it is

The city's modern personality makes more sense when its transportation, geography and migration stories are considered together. The Bighorn Basin has deep Indigenous history, including ties to the Crow, Shoshone and other Plains peoples. William F. Buffalo Bill Cody and associates founded the town in the 1890s. Irrigation, ranching, railroads and tourism supported early development. Museums, rodeo culture and the route to Yellowstone remain central to Cody's identity. These layers remain visible in architecture, street patterns, museums, markets and local traditions. Visitors should treat historic districts as living neighborhoods rather than stage sets: look upward at facades, notice old industrial buildings in new uses, and support independent businesses that sustain the character travelers came to experience.

Visitor districts

1. Sheridan Avenue & Downtown

Sheridan Avenue & Downtown is a useful itinerary zone for historic hotels, restaurants, shops and evening activity. Plan several nearby stops together, then move to another district only when the change supports a clear priority. This cluster-based approach saves time, reduces parking friction and creates room for spontaneous discoveries.

2. West Strip & Museum District

West Strip & Museum District is a useful itinerary zone for Buffalo Bill Center, lodging and visitor services. Plan several nearby stops together, then move to another district only when the change supports a clear priority. This cluster-based approach saves time, reduces parking friction and creates room for spontaneous discoveries.

3. Old Trail Town & Rodeo Grounds

Old Trail Town & Rodeo Grounds is a useful itinerary zone for frontier buildings, rodeo and Western experiences. Plan several nearby stops together, then move to another district only when the change supports a clear priority. This cluster-based approach saves time, reduces parking friction and creates room for spontaneous discoveries.

4. Wapiti Valley & South Fork

Wapiti Valley & South Fork is a useful itinerary zone for ranches, scenic drives, wildlife and mountain lodging. Plan several nearby stops together, then move to another district only when the change supports a clear priority. This cluster-based approach saves time, reduces parking friction and creates room for spontaneous discoveries.

Top attractions

Use this list as a planning menu rather than a race. Confirm hours, timed-entry requirements, accessibility and special-event closures on official websites.

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES
• Buffalo Bill Center of the West
• Cody Nite Rodeo
• Old Trail Town
• Buffalo Bill Dam and Visitor Center
• Heart Mountain Interpretive Center
• Chief Joseph Scenic Byway
• Cody Trolley Tours
• Yellowstone National Park east entrance drive

Buffalo Bill Center of the West

Buffalo Bill Center of the West can serve as one of the day's anchor experiences. Check the official calendar before travel, decide how much time the group realistically wants to spend, and pair it with dining or sightseeing in the same part of Cody. Advance reservations are worthwhile when the experience is central to the trip.

Cody Nite Rodeo

Cody Nite Rodeo can serve as one of the day's anchor experiences. Check the official calendar before travel, decide how much time the group realistically wants to spend, and pair it with dining or sightseeing in the same part of Cody. Advance reservations are worthwhile when the experience is central to the trip.

Old Trail Town

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Buffalo Bill Dam and Visitor Center

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Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center can serve as one of the day's anchor experiences. Check the official calendar before travel, decide how much time the group realistically wants to spend, and pair it with dining or sightseeing in the same part of Cody. Advance reservations are worthwhile when the experience is central to the trip.

Chief Joseph Scenic Byway

Chief Joseph Scenic Byway can serve as one of the day's anchor experiences. Check the official calendar before travel, decide how much time the group realistically wants to spend, and pair it with dining or sightseeing in the same part of Cody. Advance reservations are worthwhile when the experience is central to the trip.

Cody Trolley Tours

Cody Trolley Tours can serve as one of the day's anchor experiences. Check the official calendar before travel, decide how much time the group realistically wants to spend, and pair it with dining or sightseeing in the same part of Cody. Advance reservations are worthwhile when the experience is central to the trip.

Yellowstone National Park east entrance drive

Yellowstone National Park east entrance drive can serve as one of the day's anchor experiences. Check the official calendar before travel, decide how much time the group realistically wants to spend, and pair it with dining or sightseeing in the same part of Cody. Advance reservations are worthwhile when the experience is central to the trip.

Where to stay

Where you sleep shapes the trip. Sheridan Avenue & Downtown is usually the simplest choice for a first visit because it offers historic hotels, restaurants, shops and evening activity. West Strip & Museum District works well for travelers prioritizing Buffalo Bill Center, lodging and visitor services. Old Trail Town & Rodeo Grounds appeals to visitors seeking frontier buildings, rodeo and Western experiences, while Wapiti Valley & South Fork is strongest for ranches, scenic drives, wildlife and mountain lodging. Compare parking, breakfast, resort or destination fees, cancellation rules and late-night noise—not only the advertised room rate. Families may value a pool, connecting rooms and easy breakfast more than a fashionable lobby; couples may prefer walkability and a quieter room; groups should ask about room blocks and motorcoach or multi-car logistics before committing.

HOTEL SHORTLIST
• Chamberlin Inn - historic boutique lodging downtown
• Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel - landmark Western hotel
• The Cody Hotel - polished lodging near major attractions
• Buffalo Bill Village Cabins - convenient historic-style complex
• K3 Guest Ranch Bed and Breakfast - ranch atmosphere outside town

Chamberlin Inn

Historic boutique lodging downtown. Compare the room type, total price, parking and cancellation terms for your exact dates. Ask about construction, event noise, breakfast and connecting-room availability when those details could affect the Cody stay.

Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel

Landmark western hotel. Compare the room type, total price, parking and cancellation terms for your exact dates. Ask about construction, event noise, breakfast and connecting-room availability when those details could affect the Cody stay.

The Cody Hotel

Polished lodging near major attractions. Compare the room type, total price, parking and cancellation terms for your exact dates. Ask about construction, event noise, breakfast and connecting-room availability when those details could affect the Cody stay.

Buffalo Bill Village Cabins

Convenient historic-style complex. Compare the room type, total price, parking and cancellation terms for your exact dates. Ask about construction, event noise, breakfast and connecting-room availability when those details could affect the Cody stay.

K3 Guest Ranch Bed and Breakfast

Ranch atmosphere outside town. Compare the room type, total price, parking and cancellation terms for your exact dates. Ask about construction, event noise, breakfast and connecting-room availability when those details could affect the Cody stay.

Restaurants and local flavor

Dining is part of the destination, not simply a break between attractions. Build variety into the schedule: one signature reservation, one market or food-hall meal, one neighborhood favorite and one flexible choice near an attraction. In Cody, local identity appears through long-running institutions as well as new kitchens. Verify days of operation and reservation policies directly, especially on Sundays, Mondays, holidays and event weekends. Travelers with allergies should speak with the restaurant rather than relying only on an online menu. A sensible evening pairs dinner and nightlife in the same district, reducing parking changes and allowing the group to walk or rideshare responsibly.

DINING SHORTLIST
• Trailhead Bar Grill Wood Fired Pizza - lively contemporary dining
• Proud Cut Saloon - steaks and Western atmosphere
• Cody Steakhouse - classic local dinner option
• Pat O'Hara Brewing Company - pub fare and house beer
• 8th Street at the Ivy - hotel dining with regional flavors
• The Beta Coffeehouse - breakfast, coffee and casual lunch

Trailhead Bar Grill Wood Fired Pizza

Lively contemporary dining. Menus, chefs, hours and reservation systems may change, so use this as a starting point and verify directly. Build extra time around weekend dinner and communicate dietary needs before arrival.

Proud Cut Saloon

Steaks and western atmosphere. Menus, chefs, hours and reservation systems may change, so use this as a starting point and verify directly. Build extra time around weekend dinner and communicate dietary needs before arrival.

Cody Steakhouse

Classic local dinner option. Menus, chefs, hours and reservation systems may change, so use this as a starting point and verify directly. Build extra time around weekend dinner and communicate dietary needs before arrival.

Pat O'Hara Brewing Company

Pub fare and house beer. Menus, chefs, hours and reservation systems may change, so use this as a starting point and verify directly. Build extra time around weekend dinner and communicate dietary needs before arrival.

8th Street at the Ivy

Hotel dining with regional flavors. Menus, chefs, hours and reservation systems may change, so use this as a starting point and verify directly. Build extra time around weekend dinner and communicate dietary needs before arrival.

The Beta Coffeehouse

Breakfast, coffee and casual lunch. Menus, chefs, hours and reservation systems may change, so use this as a starting point and verify directly. Build extra time around weekend dinner and communicate dietary needs before arrival.

Nightlife, bars, clubs and live music

Cody offers evenings ranging from breweries and cocktail lounges to live music, sports, theater and dance venues. The right recommendation depends on age, music taste, desired dress level, mobility and tolerance for crowds. Check age restrictions, cover charges, bag policies, ticket requirements, dress codes and last-entry rules before leaving the hotel. Weekend entertainment may require advance tickets, while early evening is usually calmer. Groups should agree on a meeting point and transportation plan; never assume everyone will have reliable cell service in a crowded venue. Choose a designated driver or use a reputable transportation service, and avoid walking unfamiliar routes late at night merely because two places appear close on a map.

EVENING SHORTLIST
• Cody Nite Rodeo - nightly summer rodeo tradition
• Dan Miller's Cowboy Music Revue - family-friendly Western show
• Cassie's Supper Club - music, dancing and historic atmosphere
• Silver Dollar Bar - central drinks and live entertainment
• Cody Theatre - film and special performances
• Summer gunfight reenactments and downtown events - seasonal evenings

Cody Nite Rodeo

Nightly summer rodeo tradition. Review the current event listing and entry rules for the travel date. For a smoother night, keep dinner and entertainment in one district and arrange transportation before the venue becomes busy.

Dan Miller's Cowboy Music Revue

Family-friendly western show. Review the current event listing and entry rules for the travel date. For a smoother night, keep dinner and entertainment in one district and arrange transportation before the venue becomes busy.

Cassie's Supper Club

Music, dancing and historic atmosphere. Review the current event listing and entry rules for the travel date. For a smoother night, keep dinner and entertainment in one district and arrange transportation before the venue becomes busy.

Silver Dollar Bar

Central drinks and live entertainment. Review the current event listing and entry rules for the travel date. For a smoother night, keep dinner and entertainment in one district and arrange transportation before the venue becomes busy.

Cody Theatre

Film and special performances. Review the current event listing and entry rules for the travel date. For a smoother night, keep dinner and entertainment in one district and arrange transportation before the venue becomes busy.

Summer gunfight reenactments and downtown events

Seasonal evenings. Review the current event listing and entry rules for the travel date. For a smoother night, keep dinner and entertainment in one district and arrange transportation before the venue becomes busy.

Three-day suggested itinerary

Day 1 - Orientation and signature sights

Begin in Sheridan Avenue & Downtown with a walk that establishes the city's geography. Choose one major attraction from the shortlist, allow an unhurried lunch, then continue with a riverfront, lakefront or downtown experience. Return to the hotel before dinner if the evening includes a ticketed show or club.

Day 2 - Neighborhood character

Explore West Strip & Museum District and Old Trail Town & Rodeo Grounds. Visit a market, museum or historic district in the morning, schedule a relaxed lunch, and leave time for independent shops or public art. Make the evening reservation in the same district whenever possible.

Day 3 - Flexible finale

Use the final day for Wapiti Valley & South Fork, a family attraction, a regional side trip or any priority missed earlier. Keep departure logistics in mind and avoid a nonrefundable last-hour activity. End with one locally distinctive meal rather than another long checklist.

Getting around, weather and timing

Yellowstone Regional Airport serves Cody with limited routes. A car is essential for scenic byways and Yellowstone, whose east entrance is about fifty miles away. Park roads and services are seasonal, and wildlife can delay travel. High elevation, sun and dry air make hydration important. Photo: Xerim/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0; cropped for layout. Weather can change quickly in Wyoming, especially around exposed waterfronts, plains and mountain areas. Pack layers, comfortable walking shoes and a compact rain option. Reserve high-priority attractions first, then place meals and secondary sights around them. Event calendars can transform hotel rates and traffic, so check professional sports, festivals, conventions and concerts for the exact dates. Keep confirmation numbers accessible offline, allow buffer time for parking, and avoid scheduling every hour. A well-paced Cody trip normally feels richer with two or three anchor experiences per day than with a checklist of rushed stops.

Families and multigenerational groups

Families visiting Cody should alternate high-stimulation attractions with parks, meals and rest. Confirm height rules, stroller policies, sensory accommodations and re-entry procedures before visiting large venues. Choose lodging that shortens the most demanding travel day. For multigenerational groups, discuss walking tolerance and seating needs before tickets are purchased. A flexible afternoon can protect the entire trip when weather, fatigue or enthusiasm changes the plan. Keep snacks, water and a simple indoor backup available, and assign one adult to hold confirmations while another manages the group.

Accessibility planning

Accessibility varies among historic buildings, entertainment venues, sidewalks and transit. Contact each essential property directly to confirm step-free entrances, elevator access, accessible rooms, roll-in shower configuration, parking and seating. Ask specific questions instead of relying on a generic accessibility symbol. Travelers using mobility devices should allow extra time at crowded attractions and identify restrooms and rest points in advance. KalviTravel can help organize these questions before booking, but final needs should also be confirmed with the operating provider.

Budget and value strategy

The largest Cody expenses are normally lodging, major attractions, parking and evening dining. Save strategically rather than cutting every category: stay close enough to reduce repeated transportation costs, compare attraction bundles only when the included sights match the real itinerary, and use markets or casual lunches to balance a special dinner. Hotel prices are dynamic, and taxes or fees may not appear in the first search result. Calculate the full trip total—including parking, tips, admissions and transportation—before deciding which option offers the best value.

Travel thoughtfully

Travel respectfully by following venue rules, using marked crossings, limiting noise near residences and leaving public spaces clean. Local districts thrive when visitors spread spending among independent shops, guides, restaurants and cultural organizations. Photograph people only with consideration, and never enter private property for a better view. Learn the story behind a neighborhood rather than reducing it to a backdrop. This approach produces a more meaningful visit and helps preserve the places that make Cody worth recommending.

Before you book

Prices, schedules, operating seasons, admission rules and businesses can change. Verify every time-sensitive detail with the provider. Travel protection may help with certain covered events; review the plan documents, exclusions and deadlines carefully.

Why plan with KalviTravel?

A search result can show a room or ticket; personalized planning connects the pieces. KalviTravel helps compare options, organize the traveler's priorities and build a Cody trip around the people taking it—not a generic checklist. Call 508-769-3808 or email KalviTravel@outlook.com to begin.

Research starting points

Official city and destination tourism websites; official attraction, hotel, restaurant and venue websites; National Park Service resources where applicable; Ohio History Connection; local transit and airport websites. Guide prepared August 2026. Recommendations are editorial starting points, not guarantees or paid endorsements.

Let's discover the world... together.