

OUTLAW ADVENTURE



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Travel south to the town of Encampment on State Highway 130 (18 miles from Saratoga). After passing through Encampment, you will be entering the **Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Sierra Madre Mountain Range**. Near Doane Peak, you will be crossing the **Continental Divide**. Water flowing on the east side of this run northbound, and water flowing on the west, flow south.

Note: This seasonal mountain pass is normally open from Memorial Day weekend until about late-October. Highway elevations reach over 9,000 feet.

Be sure to take advantage of the scenic pullouts, especially the **Thomas A. Edison Monument** overlooking Battle Lake. After a day of fishing, Edison created something that changed life as we knew it. What invention do you think it was? The Sierra Madre Mountains contain several abandoned mineral mines. Copper, gold and Iron were abundant during the late 1800's and many mining camps were established.

About 25 ½ miles from Encampment, turn right on Forest Service road 801. A mile in on this dirt road and you find yourself in the middle of **Aspen Alley**. This stretch of road is famous for its shadowing of aspen and is particularly beautiful in the fall. Photographers from all over the region don't miss it.

From Encampment to Baggs, you will travel 52 miles on the State Highway 70 passing through the town of **Savery**. Stop at the **Little Snake River Valley Museum**. This is home to Mountain Man Jim Baker's hand-hewn cabin and trading post.

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Continue 4 miles on to **Dixon**. One block north of Hwy 70 is where you will find the Dixon Town Hall, listed on the National Historic Register.

Another 7 miles and you'll arrive in **Baggs**. Turn north on Highway 789 to Main Street. Famous outlaw **Butch Cassidy** and his gang visited the Ivy Pearl Mathews Gaddis log cabin often. It served as a dance hall and boarding house and has been restored and preserved and is now call the "**Cassidy House**". Also in Baggs is the Bank Club Bar, one block west of Hwy 789 (also on the Nat'l Historic Register).

Stop for a **picnic lunch** at either the Dixon Town Park or the Baggs Park. After a great morning exploring the history of the Little Snake River Valley, return to Highway 70 and travel east.

A nice alternative to Hwy 70 for the trip back is via the **Jack Creek Campground** on Forest Service Roads 801 and 830 and 452. Go back to the turn off for Aspen Alley (FS 801), turn left (north) and enjoy the Sierra Madre Mountains. Watch for beautiful wildflowers, and various wildlife such as deer and elk. Take FS 830 (right turn) as it winds through the forest to FS 452. Take a left and pass the Jack Creek Campground and Jack Creek. After you exit the Forest on this road, you will descend in elevation and join County Road 500. It's just another 26 miles from the Jack Creek Campground to Saratoga. Antelope and Sage Grouse are abundant along **this** stretch.

