

SNOWY RANGE SCENIC



www.saratogachamber.info

From Saratoga, travel south on State Highway 130 for eight miles to the "Snowy Range Road" turnoff. Straight driving time from one forest boundary to the other is about an hour. The total mileage from Saratoga to Laramie is 80 miles. You may also want to stop at the Visitor Center at the east entrance to the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest. The highway has some construction at the turn off, but the construction ends well before the forest boundary.

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

Along the "**Snowy Range Scenic Byway**", you will be taken from sagebrush prairie to a high-altitude alpine environment. You will pass the small settlement of Ryan Park. Be looking for the many species of wildflowers, such as Indian Paintbrush, Wyoming's State Flower. Be sure to stop at **Lake Marie** for spectacular views of the snow-capped mountains. A short hiking trail can be accessed across the highway to the east. It is a nice chance to stretch your legs and get a "sampling" of the forest. "**Libby Flats**" is another chance to take a short interpretive hike. Notice the unique krumholz trees, shaped by the blustering winds. Enjoy listening to the ground hogs "chirping" at your presence. Continuing, you will pass Barber Lake and Libby Creek as well.

Keep descending from the forest boundary to the quaint community of **Centennial**. The **Nici Self Museum** is located on the east edge of town and is open July 4 thru Labor Day, weekends only from 1-4 p.m.

Telephone: 307-742-7158 or 742-8612

This is a nice place to stop for **lunch**—either a picnic or at one of the restaurants or ice cream shops. Did you notice the police force vehicle?

Just another 28 miles to Laramie, continue on State Highway 130 from Centennial to Laramie. Turn left where Hwy 130 joins State Highway 230. Pass under Interstate 80. **Wyoming Territorial Park** is on your left. This Park is centered around the restored Wyoming Territorial Prison of the 1870's. You might run into Calamity Jane herself, or even Buffalo Bill here!

Telephone: 307-745-6161

Or you may want to head on into town and visit **The Laramie Plains Museum** at the Historic Ivinson Mansion. Continue on the same street. After crossing the railroad, turn right on 3rd Street. Historic downtown is on your right (2nd street) where you'll find many great retail shops and coffee houses. Continue just a few blocks south, turn left on to Ivinson Avenue, and travel east until 6th street. The museum is located at 603 Ivinson Avenue.

Telephone: 307-742-4448

Open year round, guided tours, nominal admission fee

If you are an art patron, you'll want to see the the **Univ. of Wyoming Art Museum**. To get there, travel south on 6th street and turn east on Grand Avenue. Follow this and you will pass right by the University of Wyoming, home of the Cowboys. Take a left (north) on 22nd street. You will see the gallery on your left on Willett Drive. This architecturally interesting building houses nine formal galleries an outdoor sculpture garden and exhibitions change regularly.

Telephone: 307-766-6622

Free admission

Open Mon-Sat 10 am – 5pm, and in summer months Sun 12-5 pm

Have dinner at one of the many unique restaurants of Laramie before heading back to Saratoga on the byway. At dusk, you will likely see various wildlife, such as deer, porcupine, raccoon, moose, and maybe an elk feeding before bedding down.