

# **Boulder Area Activities**

Boulder, the county seat of Jefferson County, Montana, is centrally located and offers a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational activities including hiking, biking, rock climbing, fishing, hunting, camping, swimming, skiing, and horseback riding.

## **Jefferson County Courthouse**

The courthouse is centrally located in Boulder. It was finished and dedicated in 1889 and is listed in the National Record of Historical Places. The courtroom is impressive with elaborate woodwork, stenciled walls and wooden gallery seats that feature a place for cowboy hats.

The courthouse is open Monday through Friday, 8am – 5pm every day except holidays.

## **St. John's The Evangelist Catholic Church**

The Boulder Valley Catholic Church is located a few miles out of Boulder on Highway 69 and holds mass one Sunday every month all summer long. The headstones in the cemetery bear names of many of the area's original settlers. More can be learned about the history of Boulder Valley at the Heritage Center on Boulder's Main Street or at the community library.

Call St. Catherine's Parish at 406-225-3222 for further information and dates for summer mass.

## **Heritage Center**

The Heritage Center, also known as the Jefferson County Genealogy & Heritage Corp., is dedicated to preserving Jefferson County genealogy, history, and culture. The museum-like center has a photo history, as well as items, related to the history of Jefferson County and the various people that settled here.

Located at 210 N. Main in Boulder and is open 7 days a week from 11 am - 4pm. (406)-422-9879  
<http://theheritagecenter.yolasite.com/>

## **Boulder River Carousel**

The historic carousel originally made by and for residents of the State School for the Developmentally Disabled in Boulder was originally build in 1960. It has since been moved to the Jefferson County Fair Grounds and, at this time, is available for rides on July 4<sup>th</sup> and during the fair/rodeo weekend. Cost of riding the carousel is 25 cents. The carousel is also available for rental.

Call Donna Gilmer at 406-459-4318.

### **Boulder Farmers Market**

Fresh produce, pottery, homemade goodies, art and other wares are some of the items found at the local Farmer's Market.

Every Thursday after July 4 through the last Thursday in September, from 9 am – 2 pm.

Boulder Veteran's Park located at the north end of Main Street in Boulder (park with log cabin).

For more information call 406-225-3288 or 406-439-6364.

### **Tizer Botanic Gardens & Arboretum**

Tizer is one of only three internationally accredited arboreta in the United States that is privately owned and Montana's only full-time operated Botanical Garden and Arboretum. Beautiful gardens, walking trails, garden center, and event venue are some of the highlights. There are special events offered throughout the summer and fall.

Open daily from Mother's Day (weather permitting) through October (weather permitting) from 10 am to 6 pm.

Exit I-15 at Jefferson City and follow the signs for 1.2 miles. For more information call 866-933-8789 or visit [www.tizergardens.com](http://www.tizergardens.com).

### **Jefferson County Museum**

The Jefferson County Museum is off Interstate 15 at the Clancy exit. Drive into town and the museum is in the red schoolhouse across from the post office. The museum features permanent displays of a late-19<sup>th</sup> century schoolroom, a hand-built frontier town and a wind-up phonograph, as well as an extensive exhibit about the Jefferson County mining community of Elkhorn.

The museum is open from 1:00 pm - 5pm on Fridays, and 10:30 am – 4:00 pm on Saturdays.

Special visits or tours can be arranged by calling 406-224-5106. Admission is free.

### **Comet and Elkhorn Ghost Towns**

**Comet** was first mined in 1880, it produced lead, zinc, iron, copper, silver and gold ore and was one of the richest mines in the district. By the 1900s it had peaked and was formally vacated in 1940. Comet is still one of the most intact ghost towns and has not been formally restored or preserved.

The town is located on private land, but is open to the public.

Comet is located 10 miles south of Boulder on Interstate 15 off of the High Ore exit.

**Elkhorn** was booming in 1870 when silver was discovered. Most of the building and other property in Elkhorn are still in private ownership so if you visit, enjoy your stay, but do not disturb the residents. Be sure to travel on through the town to the cemetery. There are also hiking trails leading from the cemetery area and picnic and camping areas just below the town. A display about Elkhorn can be found in the Jefferson County Museum in Clancy.

Elkhorn is located about 18 miles from Boulder. Travelling south on highway 69 about 4.5 miles from Boulder is a well-marked turn off to Elkhorn. Turn left onto a dirt road, then just after crossing the Boulder River, turn right. At all other junctions keep left for about 12 miles.

<http://stateparks.mt.gov/elkhorn/>

### **Montana Shakespeare in the Parks**

The mission of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks is to make quality, live theatrical productions of Shakespeare and other classics accessible to communities in Montana and surrounding states. All performances are free. MSIP performs in Boulder at the fairgrounds as well as nearby in Helena and Butte. For more information on the plays and a complete tour schedule, visit <https://shakespeareintheparks.org/season/full-schedule>.

### **Ringin' Rocks**

The rocks in this unique geologic area chime when tapped lightly with a hammer. It is believed that the ringin' is a combination of the composition of the rock and the way the joining patterns have developed as the rocks have eroded away. If a boulder is removed from the pile, it doesn't ring. This is one of two places in the world where ringin' rocks are found. The other place is in Pennsylvania.

For further information on this unusual site, visit:

<https://www.visitmt.com/listings/general/landmark/ringin'-rocks-point-of-interest.html> or [http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/butte field office/recreation.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/butte_field_office/recreation.html).

This unique geological formation is located approximately 18 miles east of Butte and north of I-90. Travel is on a gravel, windy road. Exit 241 (Pipestone) from I-90, travel east on a gravel road (parallels the interstate) for about ¾ mile, then turn north on a gravel road, cross the railroad tracks and continue north for approximately 3.5 miles. A high clearance vehicle is recommended, particularly for the last ½ mile. Follow the #2 signs.

## **Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park**

Known as the most colorful caverns in the Northwest, these caves are lined with a variety of vibrant stalactites, stalagmites, columns and helictes. Besides touring the caves, there are hiking and bike trails with scenic views of the Jefferson River valley. There are also informative interpretive programs and ranger talks as well as the guided tours of the caverns.

The cavern tours are conducted daily May 1 through September 30, and are a 2-mile, 2-hour walk with some stooping and bending required. The trail to the cave entrance gains 300 feet in elevation. Inside the caverns, there are 600 descending stairs. The cave temperature is 50 degrees.

Park admission is free for Montana registered vehicles, while fees apply for out-of-state visitors. Guided daily tours are offered. The state park also offers year-round camping.

Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park is located south of Boulder on highway 69 on the other side of I-90. Call (406) 444-3750 or visit <https://fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/lewis-and-clark-caverns/>.

## **Fishing Information**

Fishing season open in May and lasts through November for rivers and streams. Lakes and reservoirs are open to fishing year round. A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing in Montana and you must have your license with you while fishing.

For more information about a specific fishing district and dates of the fishing season, visit <https://fwp.mt.gov/fish>.

## **Jefferson County Fair & Rodeo**

“A Fair of the Heart”, the Jefferson County Fair, is an old-fashioned county fair featuring live music, exhibits, contests, concessions and carousel rides. There is a parade on Saturday at 1pm plus a baked goods auction, barbecue and barn dance later in the day. Friday is the In-County Rodeo with contestant from Jefferson County. Saturday and Sunday feature the action-packed NRA rodeo with top contestants competing on the professional circuit.

For further information, dates and fees for the rodeo and fair, contact Jefferson County Fair (406) 225-4039, or <http://jeffersonmtfairrodeo.org/>.

## **Annual Classic Car Show**

The Annual Classic Car show is scheduled the same weekend as the Jefferson County Fair & Rodeo. The show is held at Veteran’s Park on Main Street on Saturday of the fair (August).

## **Boulder Music & Arts Fest**

The Boulder Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the Boulder Music & Arts Fest the first weekend in September. The event, free to the public, features local and regional musicians, Montana artists and authors, children's activities and food and beverages.

For further information check [www.bouldermtchamber.com](http://www.bouldermtchamber.com) for event details.

## **Skijoring**

Skijoring, the Norwegian word for "ski driving" is a competition in which horseracing meets skiing. Held every February at the Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds.

Call (406) 640-1601, or email questions to [skijoringthebigrock.org](mailto:skijoringthebigrock.org).

## **Radon Health Mines**

- Free Enterprise Radon Health Mine  
Located at 149 Depot Hill Rd in Boulder  
406-225-3383  
[www.radonmine.com](http://www.radonmine.com)  
Open April 15 - November 15
- Sunshine Health Mine, Artisan Studio & Gift Gallery  
130 Galena Gulch, Boulder  
406-465-5465  
[www.sunshinehealthmine.com](http://www.sunshinehealthmine.com)  
Open May - October
- Earth Angel Health Mine  
Basin, MT  
406-225-3516  
Open year round  
[www.earthangelmine.com](http://www.earthangelmine.com)
- Merry Widow Health Mine  
15 Frontage Road  
Basin, MT  
406-225-3220  
Open March 1 - November 15  
[www.merrywidowmine.com](http://www.merrywidowmine.com)