

## Welcome

Pompeys Pillar National Monument encompasses 51 acres on the banks of the Yellowstone and is within the 432-acre Pompeys Pillar Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). ACECs require special management to protect important and relevant values. The massive sandstone outcrop itself covers about two acres at its base and rises 120 feet toward Montana's Big Sky.

Located at a natural ford in the Yellowstone River and the only major sandstone formation in the area, Pompeys Pillar has been a celebrated landmark and outstanding observation point for more than 11,000 years of human occupation. Hundreds of markings, petroglyphs, and inscriptions left by visitors have transformed this geologic phenomenon into a living journal of the American West.

The Interpretive Center relates the journey of Captain William Clark and his detachment down the Yellowstone River Valley in 1806. It also addresses tribal culture, flora and fauna, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the historic legacy of Pompeys Pillar through the changes of the 1800s.

## National Conservation Lands

Pompeys Pillar National Monument is a component of the BLM's National Conservation Lands and was created to preserve an important landmark in American history. The BLM manages these public lands for the benefit of current and future generations, supporting conservation as a part of the BLM's multiple-use and sustained yield mission.

## Help us protect this national treasure



Leave what you find. Allow others a sense of discovery by leaving rocks, plants, archeological artifacts and other objects of interest as you find them.



Pets must be on a leash at all times and are not allowed in the Interpretive Center or on the boardwalk up the Pillar. Please clean up after your pets.



Visitors are welcome to use the grounds during daylight hours, but overnight camping is prohibited.



Shooting or hunting is prohibited within the monument boundary; seasonal hunting restrictions apply in areas outside the monument.



Fires and fireworks are prohibited.



Defacing rocks or other resources is punishable under federal law.

Please treat the Monument and its resources with respect. Do not deface any tree, shrub, rock, or ancient Indian artifact. Do not touch petroglyphs or remove any artifact. Not only is this illegal, but it erases evidence of past generations and deprives others of the knowledge about these sites.



3039 Highway 312  
Pompeys Pillar, MT 59064

Phone: 406-875-2400

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/montana-dakotas/pompeys-pillar>

### May through September

Interpretive Center: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Main Gate: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closed October-April

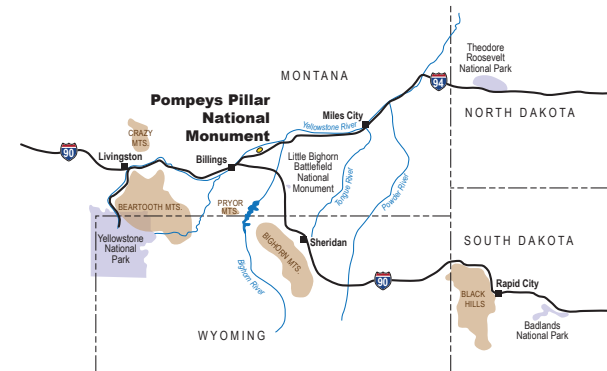
**Walk-in: dawn to dusk all year**

Admission: \$7/vehicle

Additional fees for groups larger than six.

All valid federal recreation passes will be honored.

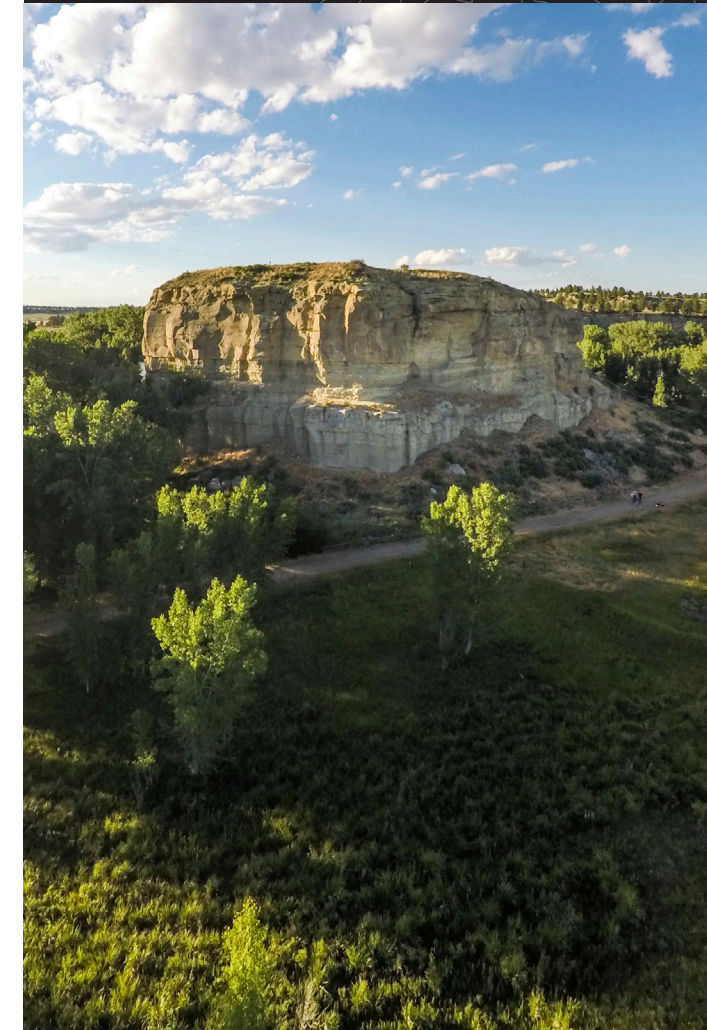
The Pillar overlooks the Yellowstone River about 25 miles east of Billings, Montana. The area is easily accessible from Interstate 94, using exit 23, or from Montana Highway 312.



NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS

# Pompeys Pillar

National Monument





# Pompeys Pillar - Past and Present

Pompeys Pillar has long been a significant site for several American Indian tribes of the Northern Plains who have gathered here for more than 11,000 years to hunt, live, trade and perform rituals.

Pompeys Pillar is within the homeland of the Apsaalooke or "Children of the Large-Beaked Bird," now known as the Crow Tribe. One Crow name for the Pillar is lishbiiammaache, or "The Mountain Lion's Lodge."

On July 25, 1806, Captain William Clark, Sacagawea, her 18-month-old son (nicknamed "Pompey"), and a crew of six men stopped near the rock outcropping on their return trip from the Pacific Coast. Clark carved his signature and the date into the rock. In his journal, he noted *"The nativs have ingraved on the face of this rock. The figures of animals &c near where I marked my name and the date of the month and year."*

The historic inscription is one of the few remaining pieces of physical evidence still visible on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

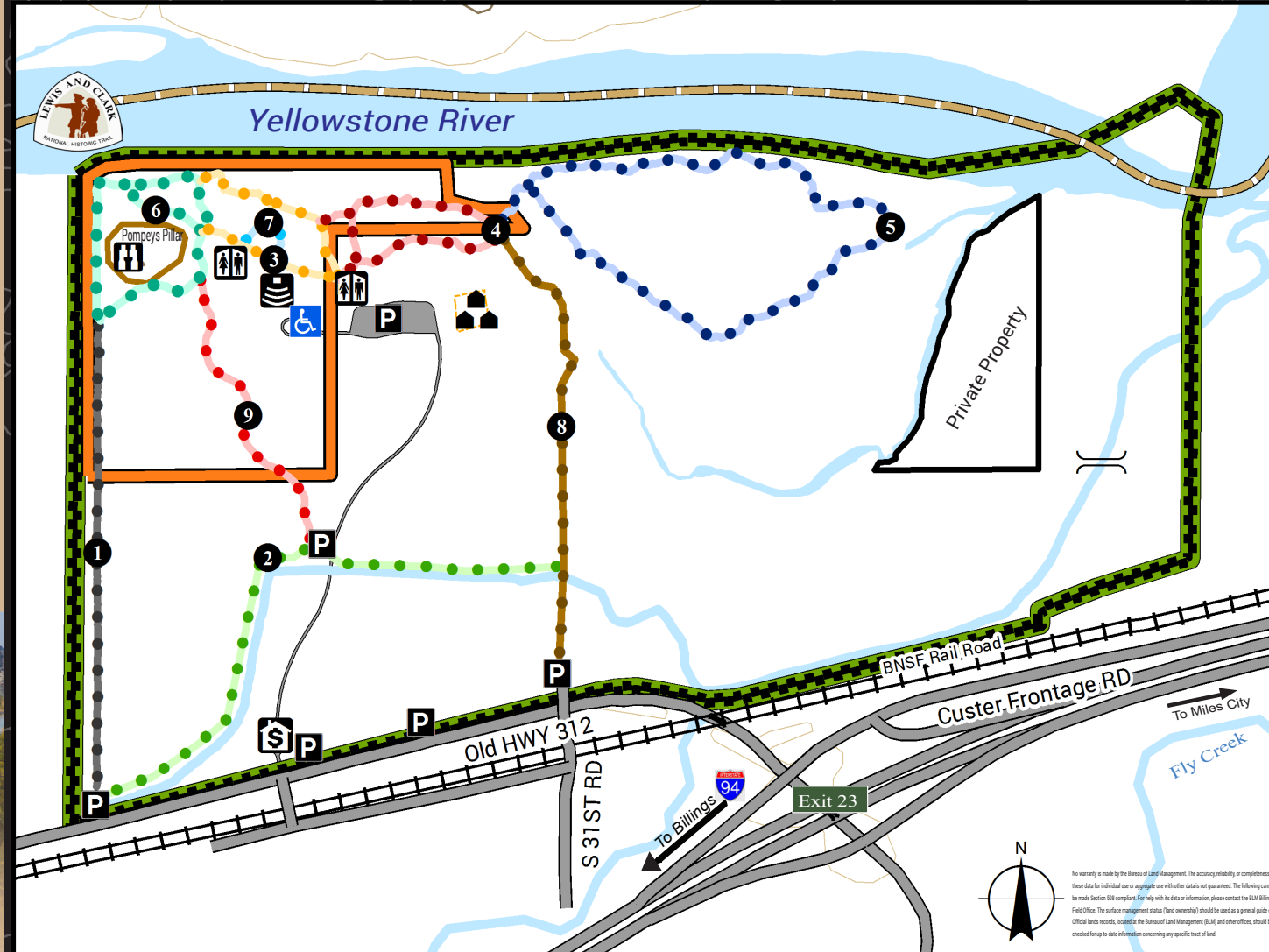
# Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

The Lewis and Clark NHT is about 4,900 miles in length and extends from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to the Pacific Ocean. It follows the historic outbound and inbound routes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804 to 1806. Pompeys Pillar is one of many significant sites along that trail.



# Pompeys Pillar National Monument

This is **YOUR** public land, managed by the Bureau of Land Management for your enjoyment



## Map Legend

### Facilities

- Bridge
- Building or Shed
- Handicap Parking
- Interpretive Center
- Fee Station
- Parking
- Scenic Overlook
- Toilet

### Trails and Distances

Hiking trails - non-mechanized trail use only

- Boundary Trail, .48 mi
- Canal Trail, .67 mi
- Discovery Trail, .35 mi
- Cliff View Trail, .43 mi
- Elk River Trail, .1.01 mi
- Landmark Pass, .44 mi
- Marmot Trail, .12 mi
- Northern Harrier Track, .47 mi
- Pompeys Prairie Trail, .37 mi
- Lewis and Clark Nat'l Historic Trail

### Boundaries

- ACEC Boundary, 432 acres
- National Monument Boundary, 51 acres

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