



Insider's Guide **TO GORGE COUNTRY**



SET OUT FOR ADVENTURE ALL YEAR LONG

Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, commonly known as “Gorge Country,” offers spectacularly beautiful and geographically diverse views that include high desert, canyon and forest lands.

The region is shared between residents of and visitors to both Wyoming and Utah, who can enjoy virtually unlimited recreation and wildlife watching throughout every season of the year.

Choose between seasonal activities to get started exploring one of Sweetwater County’s most impressive natural assets:

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SPRING & SUMMER



BOATING, FLOATING & PADDLING

Gaze up at the 1,000-foot walls of the Flaming Gorge while navigating the reservoir's 91 miles by boat; just choose your preferred speed. A great place to start is at one of the area's three marinas: **Buckboard Marina** in Wyoming, **Cedar Springs Marina** on the southernmost end in Utah, and **Lucerne Valley Marina** on the border. All three offer boat rentals, lake tours, guided fishing trips and camp sites; the latter two have restaurants — The Snag Bar & Grill and The Lucerne Lakeside Grille, respectively — that are open in the summer and accessible by boat. Paddle sports enthusiasts won't be left on land, either. Many of the area's marinas and lodges offer kayak, raft and stand up paddleboards rentals, as well.



WORLD-CLASS FISHING

Anglers can fish year round here, but the biggest catches happen during warm weather months. The Flaming Gorge Reservoir holds 11 state and two former world fishing records and is renowned for its trophy lake trout. Meanwhile, the lower Green River is a world-famous tailwater fishery. A lesser known spot for adventurous fly-fishermen? Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge along the upper Green River.



FLAMING GORGE BY FOOT

Easy: Bear Canyon, 1.5 miles to overlooks

Moderate: Dowd Mountain Trails, 11 miles; or Tamarack Lake, 2.8 miles

Challenging: Elk Park Trail, 18 miles

MARVELOUS MOUNTAIN BIKING

The extensive **Wilkins Peak Trail System** was named the Best Mountain Bike Trail in Wyoming by Singletracks.com.

See as far as 100 miles from the **Cherokee Trail** off the old Currant Creek Ranch Road (County Road 33).

Green River Bike Park offers several trails for riders of all levels to polish their skills, including a Pump Track and Jump Trail.

FALL & WINTER

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING & SNOWSHOEING

Set out into a winter wonderland on the seven-mile **Swett Ranch Loop**, the four-to-seven-mile **Red Canyon Rim Trail** or the three-mile **Bear Canyon Trail**. Need skis? Try **Flaming Gorge Resort**. Snowshoes? Try **Red Canyon Lodge**.



WILDLIFE WATCHING

The 200+ mile **Flaming Gorge Scenic Byway** doesn't close, and one of the best times for wildlife watching along it is during the fall and winter. When temperatures drop, big game animals that stick to higher elevations during the summer months venture down, so people are more likely to see herds of elk, moose and other creatures who tend to be elusive when it's warm.



BREAK THE ICE

There's nothing dead about the fishing scene in the dead of winter at Flaming Gorge Reservoir, where dozens of lanterns and headlamps light the night as anglers fish for burbot, trout and kokanee. There are many ice fishing tournaments, too, the largest among them being the **Burbot C**, which awards thousands in prize money every year.

DON'T MISS

Excellent snowmobiling can be had on the 60-mile **Don Hatch Memorial Snowmobile Trail System**.

The seven-mile **Little Hole National Scenic Trail** along the river is a family favorite year round.

Winter visitors to the **Red Canyon Rim Trail** get the treat of seeing the rams return to the resident herd of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

Check out flaminggorgecountry.com for more tips.