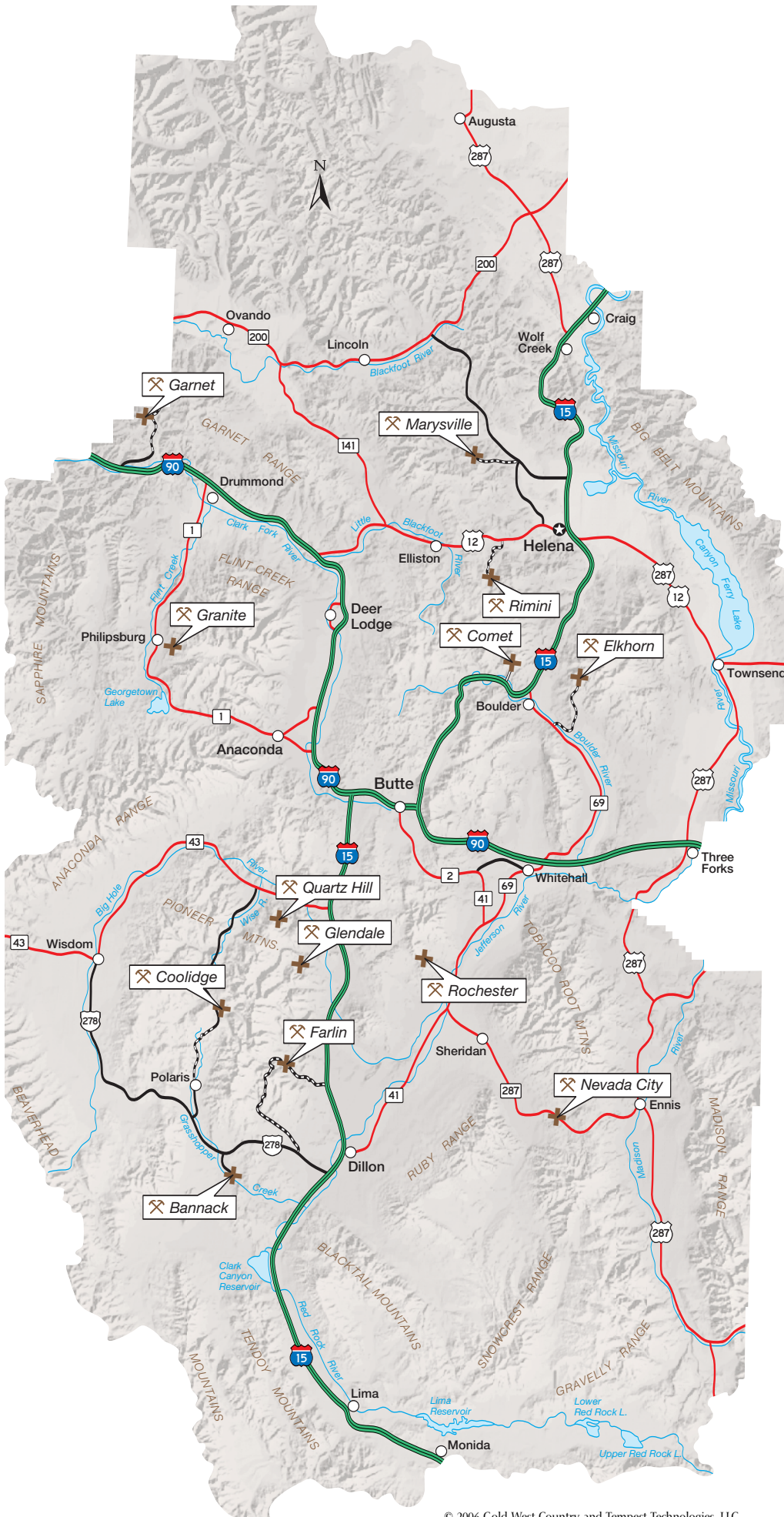


MONTANA'S GOLD WEST COUNTRY

GHOST TOWNS



WITH SUCH A RICH HISTORY
OF MINING IN THE AREA,
GOLD WEST IS HOME TO UNTOLD
NUMBERS OF GHOST TOWNS.



Bannack State Park

Bannack is one of the best-preserved ghost towns in the country. Once home to the infamous sheriff Henry Plummer and his gang of outlaws. Site of the first major gold rush in Montana and the first Territorial Capital. Over 50 buildings still stand at Bannack. The Visitor Center is open from May through October. Guided town tours, mill tours, living history, gold panning and Saturday entertainment programs are scheduled from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Bannack Days, a celebration of pioneer life, takes place on the third weekend in July. The park and campgrounds are open all year. Bannack is located 25 miles southwest of Dillon, just off Highway 278. 406-834-3413

Charter Oak Mine and Mill

The Charter Oak Mine and Mill was a lode mine and mill active off and on from 1916 to 1955. It is located near the Little Blackfoot River south of the community of Elliston. It contains standing buildings and mining-milling buildings and equipment. The mine has been stabilized and interpreted, and is open for public visitation on select summer weekends. 406-449-5201

Comet

The mine was developed in the 1880s and a large mill was built in 1926. During this period it is reported that Comet had 22 saloons. The town is on private property but is now open to the public. Located approximately 5 miles north of I-15 on High Ore Road between Boulder and Basin. 406-225-3381

Coolidge

Located in the east Pioneer Mountains above 7,000 feet, Coolidge was the last silver boomtown in Montana. A narrow gauge railroad was built to the mine but the quantity of silver ore did not justify the expense of the rail line or the huge mill that was built. Reached by a good gravel road at Mono Creek along the Pioneer Scenic Byway. 406-683-3913

Elkhorn

Rich silver deposits were discovered here in 1870, and the population reached nearly 2,500 inhabitants. Much of the remaining town site is owned by private individuals so be sure to heed the no trespassing signs. Fraternity Hall and the adjacent Gillian Hall are managed by Montana State Parks. From I-15 take the Boulder exit, seven miles south on Montana 69, then 11 miles north on country road. 406-444-3270

Farlin

The boom years for Farlin were 1905 and 1906 when the Indian Queen produced half a million pounds of copper. Farlin had its own post office and school. Today a few cabins remain along the Birch Creek road and the schoolhouse is a short hike up a side gulch. Take the Birch Creek exit between Glen and Dillon and go west six miles. 406-683-5511

Garnet

Gold was discovered at the Nancy Hanks Mine in 1898. Garnet's population boomed to nearly 1,000 people but by 1950 the town was deserted. More than 30 buildings have been preserved here. Garnet offers a Visitor Center, interpretive signs and self-guided trails. I-90 west to Exit 154 for Drummond. Follow the Frontage Road from the west end of Drummond for approximately 10 miles to the Bear Gulch Road. Turn onto Bear Gulch Road at the sign for Garnet and proceed 11 miles up the gravel road. Please note the gravel road is not recommended for trailers or motorhomes. 406-288-0003

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1-800-879-1159

Glendale and Canyon Creek Charcoal Kilns

Once a thriving smelting town, little remains of Glendale today. The old stone Confederated office building, a smelter stack and a few other buildings remain. During the boom period of the 1880s the town boasted a population of 2,000. In order to supply charcoal for the smelter the Canyon Creek charcoal kilns were built about five miles up Canyon Creek beyond Glendale. Numerous beehive shaped kilns still remain. Take the Melrose exit off of I-15 and head west on the Trapper Creek road for five miles to Glendale. To reach the kilns turn right on the Canyon Creek road at Glendale and travel about five miles. 406-683-3913

Gold Coin Mine and Mill

The mill is set against a hillside dotted with trees and surrounded by several sheds and workshops, on the Pintler Scenic Route between Drummond and Anaconda, north of Silver Lake. This mill is not completely deserted. Inquire at Georgetown Lake on Highway 10-A. On private property but may be viewed from the highway. 406-563-2400

Granite

This was the richest silver mine on earth, which yielded \$40 million worth of silver. The shell of the Miners' Union Hall still stands. A few other buildings in poor repair still stand. West of Helena on Highway 12, follow I-90 until the Highway 1 exit. Inquire at Philipsburg. 406-859-3388

Marysville

Once a thriving gold camp, now a small community with several buildings listed on the National Historic Register. There is a lot to see here in this almost-ghost town. The town is not deserted and some mining still goes on. The Catholic church and general store still serve the community. 406-442-4120

Nevada City

A town-sized open-air museum with over 100 buildings from the gold rush era. Experience this 1800s town with thousands of artifacts, living history and gem mining every weekend throughout the summer. 406-843-5555 • 800-829-2969

Pony

Named after Tecumseh "Pony" Smith, discoverer of the placer gold deposits in 1867. Although Pony has seen better days, this picturesque little town refuses to die. Many old abandoned buildings remain including the Morris State Bank and the Morris Elling stamp mill. Located six miles southwest of Harrison on route 283. 406-685-3386

Quartz Hill - Vipond

Discovered in 1868 the Vipond brothers built a road to Dewey in 1872 to transport the rich silver ore. The Quartz Hill mining camp can be reached via the Quartz Hill Road about 1 mile northwest of Dewey. Numerous old buildings and mining sites are found in the area. 406-832-3300

Rimini

History has it that Rimini was either named after a city in Italy or a drama production that traveled through during its formative years. Several of Rimini's old buildings are inhabited today and make up the Rimini community. Southwest of Helena off Highway 12. 406-442-4120

Rochester

The Watseca gold mine was discovered in 1869 and the town of Rochester sprang up. The Watseca mine was operated until the 1980s. A few stone buildings, a wooden head frame, a modern gold mill (now abandoned) and the old cemetery remain. Located about eight or nine miles from Twin Bridges. 406-684-5416

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