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Take a Hike, Bike or Horseback Ride in Honor of American Hiking Society's National Trails Day June 4, 2011.

Wind River Country, WY - Enjoy a local hike, bike or horseback ride in Wind River Country in honor of National Trails Day, June 4th, on one of many great trails in Fremont County, depending on access due to the spring snow conditions.

For road bikers, there are a number of loops that can be made through Wind River Country ranging in length from the leisurely 13-mile Squaw-Baldwin Creek loop popular with the lunchtime crowd in Lander, to a 100-mile circuit that links Lander, Riverton, and Sweetwater Station.



Highway 287 from Togwotee Pass through Dubois and Lander and then on to Rawlins by way of Jeffrey City and the Sweetwater Rocks area is part of the [TransAmerica Bike Tour Route](#), a 4,247-mile transcontinental bike route established for the Adventure Cycling Association's celebration of the U.S. bicentennial. The route, which continues to be the most popular way to cross America by bicycle

today, includes ocean coastline, lush forests, high deserts, mountain passes, snow-capped peaks, sweeping vistas, fertile farmland, rolling hills and wide rivers. Transcontinental riders are frequently seen traversing Wind River Country along this route every summer.

For bikers who prefer dirt to pavement, many of the trails that traverse Wind River Country's millions of acres of public land are multiple use and open for mountain biking. Check in at Bob's Bike Corral in Dubois, Out Sportin' in Riverton or [Gannet Peak Sports](#) in Lander for ideas on rides. You'll find there's something suitable for all ability levels from easy two-track tours in the desert, to technical challenges on rocky terrain in the mountains.

If you prefer to celebrate our trails on horseback this year, there are twenty-five Dude/Guest ranches and backcountry outfitters offering all kinds of riding options from short day-trips to week-long stays. Check out the entire list available in [Wind River Country](#).

There are four accredited [Volksmarches](#) in Wyoming's Wind River Country. In the spirit of European noncompetitive hikes through gorgeous country settings, the American

Volkssport Association Volkswanderung, German for “people’s walk,” began more than four decades ago to promote health and fellowship. The walks are not races, and they are designed to accommodate walkers of all athletic abilities.

In the South Pass area, stroll past historic gold mines on one of the two Volksmarches in Atlantic City. There is also a sanctioned Volksmarch at South Pass City State Historic Site and Sinks Canyon State Park near Lander. For more information, contact <http://www.minersdelightinn.com/Volksmarch.htm>

Another short hike in the Shoshone National Forest with a variety of scenery is the 4.4 miles (roundtrip) trail to Lake Louise south of Dubois. The hike begins at the Trail Lakes and Glacier Trail trailhead parking lot. This popular, moderate hike starts off in a desert-like area but quickly changes to mountain vegetation ending in a zone of granite outcrops-perfect Bighorn Sheep country. Plan to spend some relaxing time at this destination - an alpine lake framed by peaks and cliffs.

For serious and experienced backcountry hikers, The Cirque of the Towers is a remote, strenuous but impressive 16-mile hike from Big Sandy Trailhead into the heart of the southern Wind River Range and the Bridger Wilderness. There’s an option to take a shorter hike (11 miles) to Sandy Lake. The lake trail parallels the Big Sandy River so plan on fishing during your hike! If you continue on to Jackass Pass, where you will view the Cirque of the Towers, you will travel a very rocky steep trail. It will be worth it though as you enjoy one of the most spectacular alpine scenes in the US!

A fun, easy hike near Lander in the Shoshone National Forest brings you to the glorious Popo Agie Falls. The short trail, 3 miles (roundtrip) starts at the beginning of the Loop Road at Bruce Picnic Area and follows along the Middle Popo Agie River. Once you reach the falls, there are more paths to explore before you unpack your picnic.

An even easier hike, 1.4 miles (roundtrip) with big views is Blue Ridge Lookout off the Loop Road through the Shoshone National Forest. Here, at around 8000’, you can admire the southern Wind River Range, and to the east, the high Wyoming plains, plus Fiddlers Lake and the Absaroka Mountain Range.

Hikers should have a good map, wear good shoes and a hat, carry water and snacks, be bear-aware and consider the elevation and weather as they travel in the Wind River Country’s high-altitude beauty. Contact the Shoshone National Forest offices in Dubois and Lander, and the Bureau of Land Management offices for maps and local information about the trails.

To learn more about what Wind River Country has to offer, or to request a vacation packet, please visit us at <http://www.wind-river.org> or call 800-645-6233. You can [fan us on Facebook](#) at Wyoming's Wind River Country, [follow us on Twitter](#) under WindRiverWY, and [watch us](#) on YouTube.

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