



Laramie, WY



Laramie, Wyoming, was named for French Canadian fur trader and mountain man Jacques La Ramee, who arrived in the Wyoming area in 1815. The advent of the Overland Stage Line in 1862 brought a permanent European presence; however, Native Americans had used the Laramie Plains as a summer hunting ground. Laramie began as an “end of the tracks” town. Numerous tent houses and log buildings were built to accommodate railroad workers as Union Pacific Railroad tracks arrived in 1868.

Many museums are located on the campus of the University of Wyoming in Laramie. The University of Wyoming Art Museum exhibits some of the finest art collections in the state; the adjoining American Heritage Center serves as a repository for manuscripts, rare books, and official archives. A full brontosaurus skeleton, along with the bones of many other prehistoric behemoths, is exhibited at the University of Wyoming’s Geological Museum. The University of Wyoming Insect Museum houses more than a quarter of a million specimens. The UW Planetarium offers shows for the public. Native American materials from the Plains, Rocky Mountains, Southwest, and Arctic regions and the material culture and artistry from other continents are displayed at the University of Wyoming Anthropology Museum. The University of Wyoming Archaeological Repository contains more than a million items from at least 25,000 sites found throughout the state.

Other local museums include the Wyoming Territorial Prison, which once housed over a thousand inmates, including the notorious Butch Cassidy. Exhibits include furnished cells, the prisoners’ dining area, guards’ quarters, infirmary, women’s quarters, laundry room, warden’s office, and various other galleries. The Wyoming House for Historic Women honors Louisa Swain, who was the first woman in the United States to cast a ballot, and 12 other distinguished “first” women in Wyoming history. The Laramie Plains Museum is located in the historic 30-room Ivinson Mansion, which was saved from demolition in 1972 and has been fully restored and filled with donated items. The Laramie Railroad Depot is the only remaining building left from the once large Union Pacific presence in Laramie and currently houses a small museum of railroad memorabilia and is also used for various community functions.

Two monuments are located near Laramie. The Ames Monument, a 60-foot tall granite pyramid erected in 1882 by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, marks the highest point on the original Transcontinental Railroad. The Lincoln Monument, an enormous bronze sculpture of Abraham Lincoln’s head, was completed in 1959 to honor the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Professional theatrical and musical performances are held at several performing arts venues, including the Laramie Community Theatre, Ivinson Mansion, and Laramie Plains Civic Center. Professional and student theatrical and musical performances are held at other venues located on the University of Wyoming campus: Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall, Arts and Science Auditorium, and Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts Thrust Theatre.

Laramie Jubilee Days is a week-long celebration of Wyoming’s statehood held annually in July.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Laramie offers residential options that include apartments and condominiums located in commercial establishments and detached single-family homes.

The Laramie University Neighborhood District, known locally as the “tree area,” encompasses a substantial portion of the residential area south of the University of Wyoming. Located close to the downtown area, the development of this neighborhood spanned 80 years (1870 through 1950) and contains such housing styles as Gothic Revival, Prairie, and Moderne. Many houses were designed by Wilbur Hitchcock, a Laramie architect who also designed many buildings on the University of Wyoming campus.

Primarily built in the 1960s near LaPrele Park, the Corthell Hill neighborhood features mid-century modern ranch-style homes. Located adjacent to the Jacoby Golf Course, the Alta Vista neighborhood was developed primarily in the 1970s and features custom-built, single-family homes in ranch and two-story traditional styles; additional homes were built in the 1990s. Indian Hills is contiguous and was developed in the 1980s. This neighborhood predominantly consists of single-family detached homes in ranch and two-story traditional styles, but also has townhomes, duplexes, and apartments. Richard’s Park is a planned unit development consisting of custom ranch and two-story houses built in the 1990s.

Many neighborhoods in Laramie are currently under development,

including Indian Ridge, Coughlin Pole Mountain, Grand View Heights, and The Meadows. Indian Ridge features custom homes in a mix of two-story and ranch styles. Coughlin Pole Mountain has a combination of single-family and twin homes in ranch and two-story styles, with lots available for new construction. Grand View Heights is a planned unit development that offers single-family and twin homes, with lots still available. Laramie’s trail system is incorporated into the subdivision’s parks and open space. The Meadows will be a small neighborhood that will consist of 14 custom homes.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Laramie is home to 16 city parks that feature a variety of amenities, including a seasonally stocked fishing pond, a skateboard park, a splash pad, a wading pool, jogging and biking paths, and playgrounds. Washington Park features 12 lighted horseshoe pits, the Edgar J. Lewis Bandshell, a 0.78-mile walking/jogging path, playgrounds, a 15-station fitness circuit course, a basketball court, a sand volleyball court, soccer fields, and a wading pool. LaBonte Park has a variety of amenities that include a skate park, soccer fields, community gardens, a basketball court, a fitness course, and walking/jogging path. LaBonte Park has a shade structure that allows parks users to play, rest, read, and picnic while having a break from the sun. A disc golf course can be found at LaPrele Park, which also has a handicap-accessible dock on Huck Finn Pond, native grass areas, and a playground. A splash pad, tennis court with lights, half basketball court, lighted sand volleyball courts, and a playground are available at Undine Park.

Spread over 5.75 miles, Laramie River Greenbelt Park offers the Laramie River Greenbelt Trailhead, a walking/jogging path, opportunities for river fishing, a dog run area, and a playground.

The Medicine Bow and Routt National Forests provide year-round recreation opportunities that include hiking, biking, camping, horse riding, off-highway vehicle riding, climbing, fishing, and hunting. At an altitude of 8,000 feet, Vedauwoo is a secluded rocky oasis within the forest and is best known for its varied rock climbing options. The Snowy Range offers opportunities for climbing, hiking, camping, and fishing.

EDUCATION

Albany Country School District #1 educates approximately 4,100 students in Laramie and the surrounding areas in 10 elementary schools, a middle school, a kindergarten through grade 8 school, a kindergarten through grade 12 school, and 2 high schools.

Higher education is available at the University of Wyoming, which offers undergraduate and graduate academic programs focused in six broad areas: science and technology, arts and humanities, environment and natural resources, life sciences, and professions critical to the state and region.

WyoTech’s Laramie Campus specializes in automotive technology and auto body work.

HEALTH CARE

Laramie is served by Ivinson Memorial Hospital with 99 licensed beds.

CITY STATS

2015

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| City Population | 32,271 |
| Micropolitan Statistical Area Population | 37,956 |
| Per Capita Personal Income, Laramie, WY, MSA | \$39,052 |