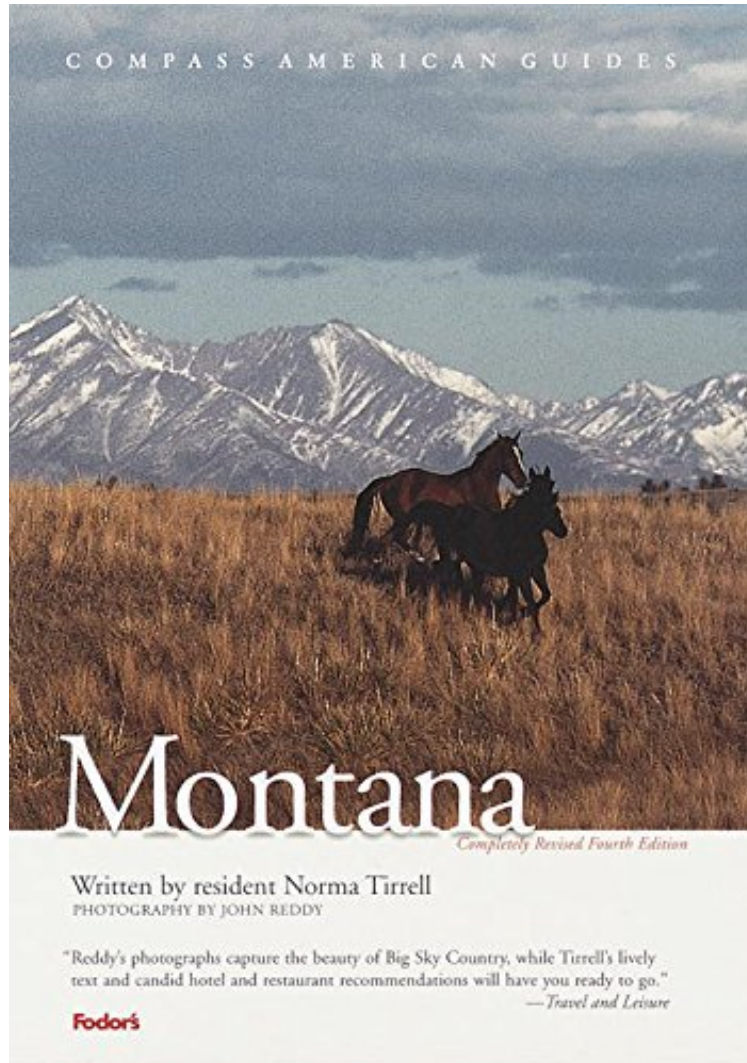


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Compass American Guides: Montana, 4th Edition

Norma Tirrell

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Norma Tirrell : Compass American Guides: Montana, 4th Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Compass American Guides: Montana, 4th Edition:

2 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Quite Informative By A Customer This book told me all I needed and wanted to know about Montana

Created by local writers and photographers, Compass American Guides are the ultimate insider's guides, providing in-depth coverage of the history, culture, and character of America's most spectacular destinations. Covering everything there is to see and do as well as choice lodging and dining, these gorgeous full-color guides are perfect for new and

longtime residents as well as vacationers who want a deep understanding of the region they're visiting. Written and photographed by local residents Knowledgeable advice on hiking, fly-fishing, camping, and other recreational opportunities Spectacular color photography and archival images Lively essays on ghost towns, rodeos, the Battle of Little Bighorn, and cowboy artist Charlie Russell Comprehensive lodging and dining listings, including the best of Montana's guest ranches Literary extracts by nature writers and cowboy poets Scenic road trips, with detailed, full-color maps ABOUT THE AUTHOR Born and raised in Montana, Norma Tirrell brings to this guide a native's firsthand knowledge of the state and an insider's view of its travel industry. For six years, as publications specialist for Travel Montana, a division of the Montana Department of Commerce, she wrote and produced the state's official travel guides. She is a partner of Q Communications Group, a Helena-based graphic design and communications agency. A graduate of the University of Montana School of Journalism, her first book, *We Montanans*, was published in 1988 by American and World Geographic Publishing. She and her husband, Gordon Bennett, enjoy exploring Montana from their home in Helena, centrally located on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains. ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER John Reddy, based in Helena, has been photographing landscapes and people since 1974. Reddy earned a degree in photography from Montana State University's Film and Television Production Department in Bozeman and subsequently lectured there for two years. He is widely published in Montana. His work has been seen in publications such as *American Heritage*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *Pacific Northwest*, *Sunset Magazine*, the *Smithsonian Guide to Historic America*, and various books published by National Geographic. Reddy has many commercial clients, but prefers working on books and magazines featuring outdoor subjects. In his free time, he enjoys spending his time with his family and continually strives to capture on film the many splendors of his beloved Montana outdoors.

From the Inside Flap Created by local writers and photographers, Compass American Guides are the ultimate insider's guides, providing in-depth coverage of the history, culture, and character of America's most spectacular destinations. Covering everything there is to see and do as well as choice lodging and dining, these gorgeous full-color guides are perfect for new and longtime residents as well as vacationers who want a deep understanding of the region they're visiting. Written and photographed by local residents Knowledgeable advice on hiking, fly-fishing, camping, and other recreational opportunities Spectacular color photography and archival images Lively essays on ghost towns, rodeos, the Battle of Little Bighorn, and cowboy artist Charlie Russell Comprehensive lodging and dining listings, including the best of Montana's guest ranches Literary extracts by nature writers and cowboy poets Scenic road trips, with detailed, full-color maps ABOUT THE AUTHOR Born and raised in Montana, Norma Tirrell brings to this guide a native's firsthand knowledge of the state and an insider's view of its travel industry. For six years, as publications specialist for Travel Montana, a division of the Montana Department of Commerce, she wrote and produced the state's official travel guides. She is a partner of Q Communications Group, a Helena-based graphic design and communications agency. A graduate of the University of Montana School of Journalism, her first book, *We Montanans*, was published in 1988 by American and World Geographic Publishing. She and her husband, Gordon Bennett, enjoy exploring Montana from their home in Helena, centrally located on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains. ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER John Reddy, based in Helena, has been photographing landscapes and people since 1974. Reddy earned a degree in photography from Montana State University's Film and Television Production Department in Bozeman and subsequently lectured there for two years. He is widely published in Montana. His work has been seen in publications such as *American Heritage*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *Pacific Northwest*, *Sunset Magazine*, the *Smithsonian Guide to Historic America*, and various books published by National Geographic. Reddy has many commercial clients, but prefers working on books and magazines featuring outdoor subjects. In his free time, he enjoys spending his time with his family and continually strives to capture on film the many splendors of his beloved Montana outdoors. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Land and Space, Mountains and Sky Driving across eastern Montana -- from, say, Sidney to Lewistown -- can be an uneasy, or an exhilarating, experience. Uneasy if you find comfort in crowds; exhilarating if space is what you seek. The trip will take the better part of a day, and still you will be only halfway across the state. You will travel through all or part of five counties (roughly the equivalent of driving from Maine to New York) with a total population of fewer than 30,000. Of those counties, Garfield has 1,410 residents scattered over an area about the same size as Connecticut, with its 3.3 million people. If you are open to a new perception of beauty, the lunar landscapes of eastern Montana can be endlessly absorbing. This is the Earth itself speaking, but if you have been conditioned to the babel of humanity, you may not hear it. So pack along a cassette tape of High Plains Music by Montana native, Phil Aaberg. His high-spirited and haunting piano celebrates the landscape and beckons you to the uninterrupted stretch of highway ahead. Soon, you will realize that you are surrounded not by emptiness, but by space. In Montana, there is a difference. Eastern Montana space is filled with the subtlest forms of beauty. Shifting light and shadow play on coulees, badlands, and breaks. Western meadowlarks remind you with one astonishing trill that it's good to be alive. Neutral earth tones of ocher and sage magnify a 180-degree backdrop of sky that broods and shimmers in primary colors. Driving south from Lewistown, the space becomes more immediate, more dramatic. It is defined by solitary mountain ranges that appear

as islands in an ocean of grass -- the Big Snowies, the Little Belts, the Castles, and the Crazyes. Keeping to themselves in the distance, these isolated ranges are your signal that the landscape is about to change dramatically. From Plains to Mountains Turning west at Big Timber, you might as well be in a different state. In fact, you have reached Montana's mid-point. Yet to come are the mountains that gave Montana its name. First, the Absarokas and the Bridgers, then the Madison Range, the Tobacco Roots, the Pioneers, the Sapphires, and on and on, range after range, until they meld into one hazy ridge floating on the horizon. These views need no introduction; you've seen them on movie screens and travel posters. This is the Montana that outsiders know about: the mountains and trout streams, guest ranches and ski resorts, national parks and wilderness areas. You may have missed where the Dakota plains ended and the plains of eastern Montana began, but the imprint of the Northern Rockies will stay with you forever. Scooped out of each range of mountains is a glaciated valley fed by rivers and streams that begin as snowfall on peaks that range from 7,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level. But for an occasional town or small city, these timbered valleys and granite ranges are the domain of wildlife -- abundant populations of elk, deer, moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, waterfowl, upland birds, and trout. The roster includes endangered and threatened species like the bald eagle, gray wolf, and grizzly bear. A popular Montana guest ranch offers this comparison to illustrate the company Montanans keep and the space they enjoy: Per Square Mile in Montana 1.4 elk or antelope 3.3 deer 896 catchable-size trout 6 people The conventional view of a remote, sparsely populated state like Montana is that there is nothing going on out here. Just land and space. In his *Montana: High, Wide, and Handsome*, Joseph Kinsey Howard wrote: "Montana is a remote hinterland about as well known to the average eastern seaboard citizen as East or West Africa. But it is this space that defines Montana and shapes the outlook of its residents." The newsman and historian also said of this place: "This sums up what I want in life -- room to swing my arms and to swing my mind. Where is there more opportunity than in Montana for creation of these broad margins, physical and intellectual? Where is there more opportunity to enjoy the elemental values of living, bright sun and clean air and space? We have room. We can be neighbors without getting in each other's hair. We can be individuals." The fact that there is still a place like Montana, where humanity does not dominate the landscape, is immensely important in a world that is overrun with people and their impact. Space and an unspoiled landscape are increasingly hard to come by, and herein lies Montana's appeal. Lifestyle