

SOUTHWEST MONTANA



TOWNSEND TO OVANDO

In Townsend (1), sit and watch as a puddle of molten crystal is blown into its final form at Goose Bay Handblown Glass. Products range from goblets to vases and bowls, candles, rondelles, lamp shades, and more.

Continue on to Helena (2) and take a ride on the Great Northern Carousel, a world-class, hand-carved work of art, or experience the nearby Exploration Works, an interactive museum of science and culture. A visit to The Parrot is as rich as the heaping trays of chocolates, brittles, mint wafers and roasted nuts that adorn the candy counter. The Parrot's original soda fountain still serves up caramel cashew sundaes, cherry phosphates, and homemade ice cream.

Take Route 279 over remote Flesher Pass (3) to Lincoln (4) on Highway 200. See the mounted grizzly bear display at the local Helena National Forest Service Ranger District office. Be sure to sample the upscale fare at Montana's first gastropub, Logs Gastropub at the Hotel Lincoln.

Continue on Highway 200 for a scenic drive to Ovando (5). Visit this charming small town and eat at local diners like the Stray Bullet or Trixi's at the turnoff into town. Even though they're on dirt roads, birders and wildlife enthusiasts should drive a few miles off the highway to Browns Lake or Upsata Lake for bird and wildlife watching.

For more detailed information and vacation planning assistance, visit southwestmt.com

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