GOLD WEST COUNTRY IS CONSIDERED A TREASURE CHEST FOR ROCK COLLECTORS BECAUSE OF ITS SOIL RICH IN GEMS, MINERALS AND FOSSILS.

WWW.GOLDWEST.VISITMT.COM
1–800–879–1159
Anaconda Area  
Old tailings of scheelite and epidote at Cable Mountain, northeast of Georgetown Lake. Argillite and quartzite can be found west of Georgetown. For information, call 406-563-7020.

Boulder River Barite  
Nice cubic crystals of barite can be found about five miles west of the Whitehouse campground along the Boulder River. Take the Bernice exit off I-15 between Basin and Butte. It is about five miles to the campground. For information, call Montana Tech at 406-496-4395.

Butte Area  
Smokey quartz and amethyst can be found in the porphyry deposits in the Delmoe Lake area. Take the Delmoe Lake exit off of I-90 on Homestake Pass east of Butte. For information, call Montana Tech at 406-496-4395.

Calvert Hill Mine  
The Calvert Hill area west of Wise River is noted for epidote, aquamarine and garnets. The area is reached by driving about six miles west of Wise River on Highway 43 to the campground on the south side of the Dickey Bridge. From there it is about eight miles on a gravel road to the mine area. The minerals can be found in the country rock and mine dump. For information, call Montana Tech at 406-496-4395.

Crystal Park  
Crystal Park is a unique recreation area at 7,800 feet in the Pioneer Mountains. Open to the public, you are welcome to dig for quartz crystal here if you follow the posted rules. There is a $5 per vehicle fee charged to help maintain the facilities. Brilliant amethyst and smokey quartz crystals can be found in the normal form as well as scepter, double terminated and Japanese Law Twin forms. Open from May 15 through October 15 weather conditions permitting. From the town of Wise River take the Pioneer Scenic Byway and drive 17 miles to the site. For information, call the Forest Service at 406-683-3900.

Helena Area  
The Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine and Gold Fever Rock Shop is the place to mine for beautiful Montana Sapphires. Located near the Missouri River, the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine allows digging for a fee and will rent the proper equipment to you if you don't have your own. For information, call 406-227-8989.

Philmissburg Area  
Search the dumps and tailings of old mining sites for tiny crystals of manganese minerals. Beautiful Montana sapphires can be “mined” year-round indoors at the Sapphire Gallery on Philipsburg's main street and during the summer months at Gem Mountain off Highway 38. For information, call 406-859-3388 • 800-525-0169.

Ruby Reservoir  
Calcite, opalite, and garnets are found south of Alder. Some people find gem quality almandine garnets by screening the gravel along the shores of the reservoir. For information, call 406-843-5555.

Sheridan Area  
The area near Indian Creek offers white and banded masses of calcite. For information, call the Forest Service at 406-684-3972.

Virginia City Area  
Flecks of gold still sparkle in tailings between Virginia City and Alder. Pan for gold at the River of Gold and visit Alder Gulch Mining Museum. For information, call 406-843-5555 • 800-829-2969.