



HISTORIC SITES TOUR II

With Sheridan as your base, this historic tour takes you to several Indian War sites in Montana and others within Sheridan County. It is a minimum three day tour and well worth the experience if you have the time to spend at the various historic sites.

The 1876 Campaign of General George Crook was one of the best known military actions against the Plains Indians.

See Crooks Campsite on Historic Tour I

Crook was camped where the Little and Big Goose creeks unite in Sheridan. It was here that he received word that there were large villages of Crazy Horse's people camped on the Rosebud.

(1) ROSEBUD BATTLESITE

Located approximately 30 miles northeast of Sheridan off Hwy 314. The Rosebud Battle - On June 16, 1876, Crook and his men moved toward the Rosebud. The next morning while they were camped at the head of Rosebud Creek, shots rang out and his men turned to meet the Indians on the ridges above them. The battle raged for three hours; nine men were killed, 30 seriously wounded. They remained and camped for the night. The next morning after burying their dead they withdrew to the camp on the Goose Creeks.

Crazy Horse had his victory. He had stopped the expedition and had protected his villages. His warriors returned victorious.

(2) GARRYOWEN

Located approximately 75 miles north of Sheridan off I-90. Garryowen is the location of Sitting Bull's village and the area of the Reno fighting area during the battle of the Little Bighorn. The routes of the Northern Cheyenne and Oglala Sioux in their attack on Custer are located near Garryowen. There is also a museum located here.

(3) LITTLE BIGHORN NATIONAL MONUMENT

90 miles north of Sheridan off I-90. With the western expansion came the white man. The Sioux, of what is now South Dakota, refused to give up their land to the white man for the ensuing gold rush in to the Black Hills. This expansion interfered with the "Indians patterns of land use. With the white man or any other Indian tribe moving in, the game would be killed and families would starve." Survival was the reason that they fought so hard to preserve their lifestyle and their use of the land.

George Armstrong Custer, who had a reputation for doing as he pleased, received information that Indians were camped on the Little Bighorn. On June 25, 1876, without authorization from his superior officer, Custer led his men into an ambush which killed

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more than 250 men and Custer himself. It was a crucial engagement as it was the last major Indian victory in North America.

This site has a museum and historic interpretations of this battle.

(4) CONNOR BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Located in Ranchester of I-90, this was the site of the Battle of Tongue River between the Army and the Arapahoe tribe. It was the singlemost important engagement of the Powder River Expedition of 1865, and caused the Arapaho to ally with the Sioux and Cheyenne at the Fetterman Fight a year later. The park has picnic areas, a playground, overnight camping facilities, fishing access as well as historic interpretations.

