

Stepping Out of Bounds

On the road to Billings...and beyond!

By Lynette Reagan

Getting to the AVA convention in Billings, Montana will put everyone on an adventuresome driving course—including national monuments, scenic highways through three states with small towns full of history and the highlight: Walking trails to remember!

Many walkers will begin their drive to Billings from Crazy Horse in South Dakota. This fantastic walk always draws thousands of walkers—volkmarchers as well as those who enjoy the history and the challenge of the 10K trek up onto the Crazy Horse Monument.

When you leave South Dakota, you will head 191 miles west to Buffalo, Wyoming--the first convention walk on Monday, June 5! There is a variety of reasonably priced motels/hotels in Buffalo, some of the popular chains and others locally owned. You can always check TRIPADVISOR.com for the range of prices and availability. Buffalo is a small town, so distance to the start location will not be a problem. Need a campsite? You are probably well versed in the campsite directories for the USA, but if you need additional help, check out RVPARKREVIEWS.com.

The second convention event on Tuesday will be 92 miles away at Crow Agency, Montana—Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument. Not many hotel/motel choices in this very small town, so you may want to head directly to Billings and the convention hotels [reasonable rates too] and then do the 75-mile drive back to Little Big Horn early on Tuesday morning.

Billings—Billings—Billings! Yes! Three walks, a bike and a swim will fill Wednesday through Friday with outdoor events! Meetings and workshops will fill the rest of the times. Check out the 2016 June/July Wanderer or go to the convention website [<http://2017AVAConvention.org>] for convention details!

On Saturday, the sixth convention walk will be 61 miles from Billings in Red Lodge, Montana. What a beautiful little Montana town! Two hotels in town know that AVA walkers will be arriving either Friday or Saturday for the Saturday walk! Contact either Yodeler Motel [406-446-1435] and talk with the friendly staff to make your reservation. They have a variety of room choices from \$69 to \$100 – no breakfast included. This is a local motel and the staff is anxious to welcome our walkers! Another choice in Red Lodge is Comfort Inn [406-446-4469] with pool, indoor hot tub and breakfast available for \$121 per 2 persons. To get this rate you must reserve before May 9th.

The seventh and final convention event on Sunday will be in Cody, Wyoming, 63 miles from Red Lodge. Stay in Red Lodge on Saturday night and drive to Cody on Sunday morning for more reasonable motel rates. Rates for national chain motel/hotels in Cody are posted today at \$160 and above and many are already sold out!

Enjoy the drive, the towns and the South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana countryside! See you along the scenic byways!