

CRAFTED FOR THE COLD

**KEEPING IT COOL GUIDE TO
WINTERING LIKE YOU MEAN IT**



While Billings can be pretty darn cold during the winter months, it also can be pretty darn cool... especially if you're familiar with the necessary survival skills to winter like you mean it here at the Trailhead of Chill.

So as the official Keepers of the Cool, we've compiled this handy, very official field manual of insights and tidbits to help you navigate the unrelenting coolness of Billings during the winter months.

To make sure this had the credibility of an actual survival guide, we made up an author to write it for us. Horus Witherfork, if he were a real person, would be a survivalist and travel "expert," but with no real, tangible skills. If he were actually an author, Horus would have written such works as *Dachshunds at the Iditarod*, *Things You Can and Cannot Touch at the Louvre*, and *Don't Eat that Berry*; a collection of nonsensical haikus.

Horus, take it away.



PORTRAIT OF
HORUS WITHERFORK
(IF HE WERE REAL)



COMMUNING WITH MONTANA WILDLIFE

Millions travel to the Billings region every year to discover and examine the stunning Montana wildlife cavorting about its rugged Western habitat. But you needn't track a majestic gazelle or stately moose through snowy passes and peaks of the Northern Rockies to get an up close look at wildlife in Billings during the winter season. Actually, that sounds just downright exhausting.

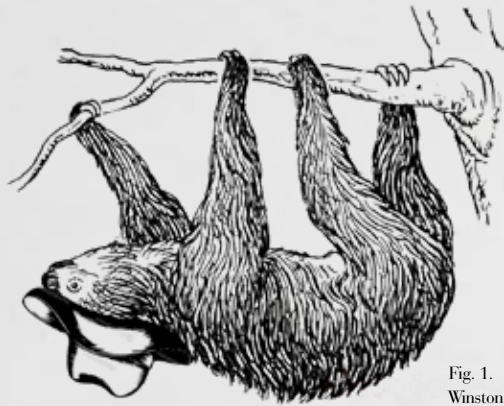


Fig. 1.
Winston prepares for a night out

Instead, head over to ZooMontana and visit with a diverse taxonomy of brilliant wildlife in a more comfortable environment, requiring much less survival gear. Have a thrilling encounter with a relatively energetic Hoffman's two-toed sloth, observe a group of wolves in search of a new member for their pack (could be you!), and marvel at a small herd of bison searching for patches of green to fill their dual stomachs.

Many of the animals live in the moderate climate known as "indoors." But some ZooMontana residents do live outside among the natural elements. Fear not though, for there are plenty of places where you can find warmth, shelter and sustenance along your journey.

MOSS MANSION

As you are trekking about Billings, stop by the Moss Mansion. Built in 1903 for Billings entrepreneur Preston Boyd Moss, the Moss Mansion offers a glimpse into the lives of one of the city's most influential families who braved many winters in Billings. Mansions make for excellent shelters in cold weather.

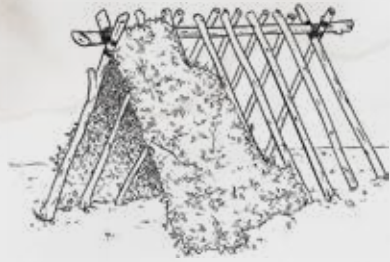


HOW TO MAKE A SMOKED OLD FASHIONED

- 1 Befriend a mixologist at one of Billings' fine establishments
- 2 Ask for a Smoked Old Fashioned
- 3 Enjoy

#HIBERNOPE

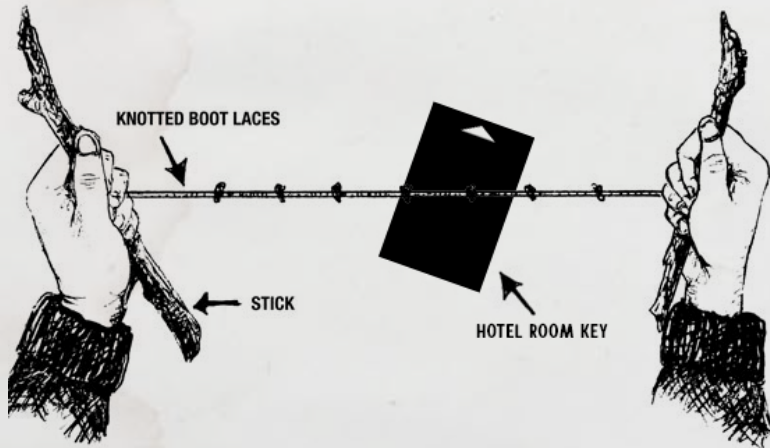
A hashtag used routinely by the peoples of Billings, #HIBERNOPE describes the attitude of welcoming whatever winter throws at you. Use this in your social media posts to blend in with locals.



SHELTERING IN THE COOL

Winter nights in Billings can see temperatures drop to as low as -19° Fahrenheit, so finding a place to safely shelter in the evenings is of paramount importance.

I know you're probably tempted to build a lean-to or some other structure, gather some dry firewood and kindling, and bed down for the evening on some soft foliage. I do not recommend this approach. I tried it once and that's why I have only one toe on my right foot.



Instead, just reserve a room at one of Billings' handsomely appointed hotels, all of which include heat, bedding and warm water in their prices. Many even have restaurants on site where you can forage for foods and beverages to help you sustain your energy levels for the next day's adventures.

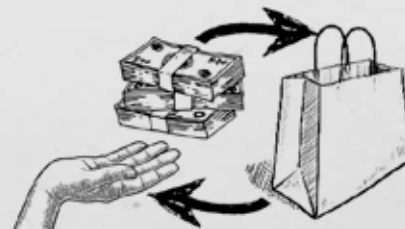
DISCOVER THE SOUNDS OF WINTER

Winter in Montana has many unmistakable sounds. Wind gusting through barren trees and across snow-swept plains. Wildlife howling at a full moon in a clear night's sky. And the crescendo of horns, strings, woodwinds and percussion instruments filling the Alberta Bair Theater in Downtown Billings.

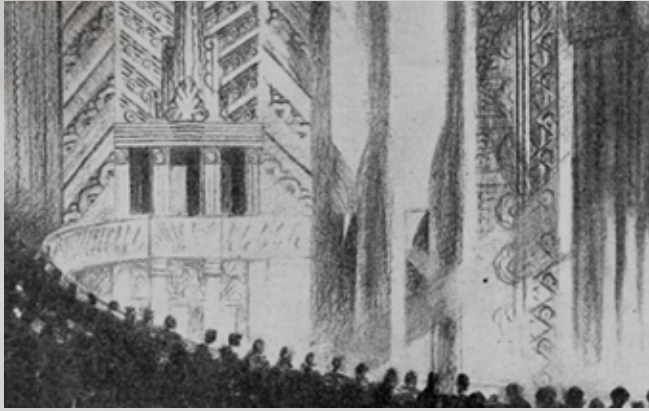


Of all the sounds one can experience on a frigid winter night, I prefer those I can experience indoors, in the warmth, on a cozy seat with perhaps a bag of salted or candied almonds in hand. And the Alberta Bair Theater is the perfect venue to do just that. With symphony performances, pop and country music concerts and comedic acts, there's no end to the harmony of winter in Billings.

HOW TO FORAGE FOR SUPPLIES



- 1 Visit any of the shops or boutiques that line the streets of Billings
- 2 Exchange currency for goods
- 3 Take your supplies



ALBERTA BAIR THEATER

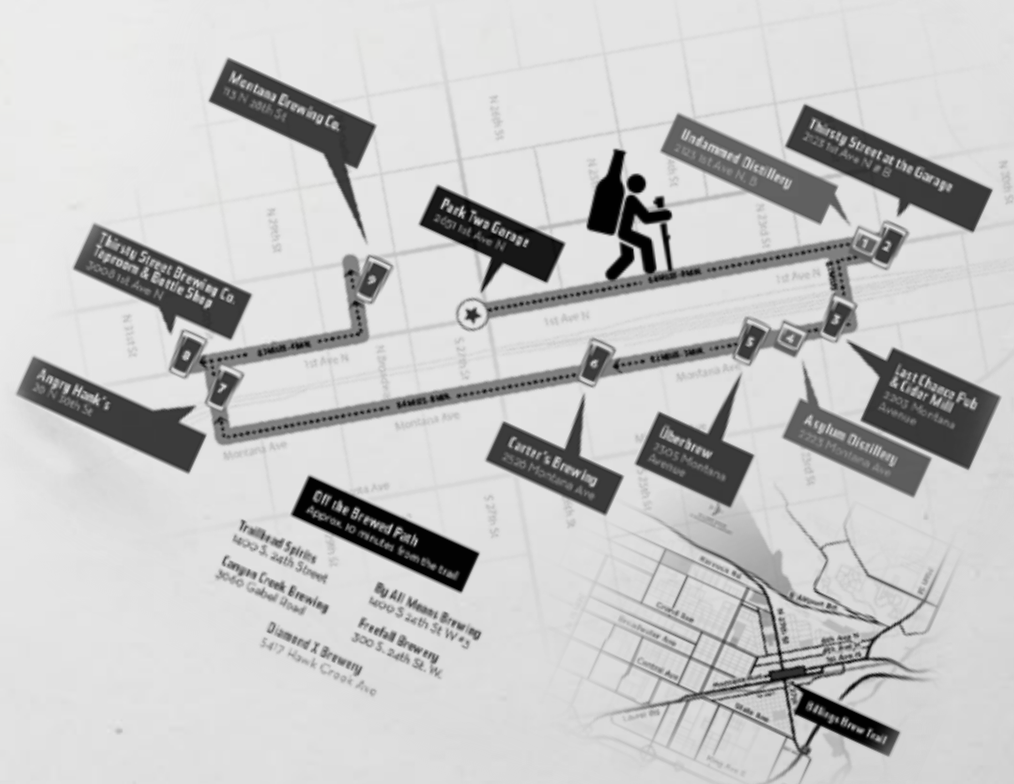
When it opened in 1931, the interior was green, rose, and gold mixed with marble surfaces and plush red and blue carpeting. Hand-painted motifs of hunters pursuing gazelles covered the chandelier adorned ceilings. Today, while they can't promise gazelle hunters on the ceilings, the newly renovated Alberta Bair Theater is just as stunning!

EMBARK ON AN EPIC WINTER HIKE

There are many scenic trails in and around Billings, where one can gaze out over the Montana landscape and ponder one's place on the planet. But one of the best trails to explore during the cooler months is what locals call "The Billings Brew Trail." It's a 1.5 mile loop trail through Downtown Billings and is rated for beginners, given its relatively flat elevation and paved walkways.

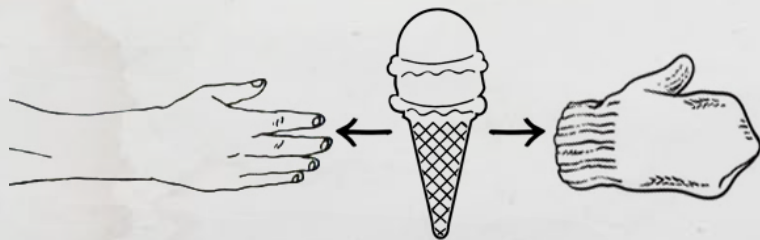
The trail introduces explorers to nine breweries and two distilleries that make Billings home, and nothing warms you up on a frigid winter day like a cold beer in a frosty mug.

It's been said that the Billings Brew Trail is Montana's only walkable beer trail. I wonder how other beer trails are explored, if not by foot ... Maybe something for a future guide.



HOW TO STAY WARM WHILE EATING ICE CREAM

- 1 Remove gloves
- 2 Order an ice cream cone
- 3 Head back inside



EPILOGUE

We hope that with the expert survival advice from Horus Witherfork presented in this field manual, you are prepared to take on Billings this winter and discover all that the Trailhead of Chill offers explorers during the coolest months of the Montana year.

If you would like to keep informed of all the ways you can explore Billings no matter the time of year, sign up for our newsletter. We can't promise additional articles from Horus (he was pretty expensive), but our newsletter gives you all you need to know about awesome adventures that await here in Montana's Trailhead 365 days per year.



HIBERNATE? WE SAY HIBERNOPE.

THIS IS BILLINGS, AND WINTER IS KIND OF OUR THING.



VISITBILLINGS.COM

