

AA-MAA-LAA-IILA-DA

STORY TRAIL

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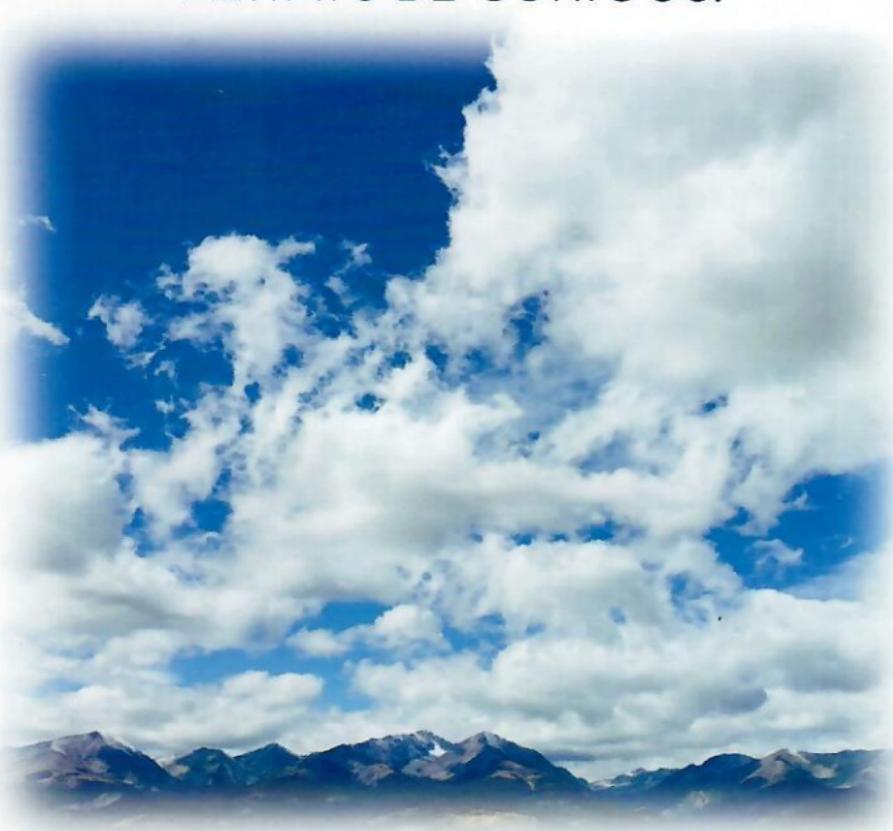
PLANET: EARTH **GALAXY:** MILKY WAY

NORTH STAR: FROM HERE A HOP-AND-A-SKIP TO
VEGA'S STORY TRAILS IN THE CONSTELLATION LYRA



All landscapes teach. As you walk Story Trail, enjoy this "Wild Sacred Land". In Crow, Aa-Maa-Laa-lila-Da. Along the way, as you discover each initialed plaque, to learn something of the 'meaningful intangibles' linking those represented from other times and landscapes.

ALWAYS BE CURIOUS.



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MEANINGFUL INTANGIBLES

Borrowing from C.S. Lewis' "Miracles," "Everything is connected with everything else, but not all things are connected by the short and straight roads that we expected." And so while landscapes and the Natural Worlds that inhabits each may teach, the life lessons learned by those living amongst them - "Meaningful Intangibles" - may also instruct. Here are some:

TO WILL'S CABIN

Honor the Process



HDT

Henry David Thoreau

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not

learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

JM

John Muir

"The grand storm continues. The wind sings gloriously in the pine trees. Snow is falling on icy Shasta, snow on snow, treasuring up food for forest and glaciers and for the thousand springs that gush out around its base ..."

CPC

Chief Plenty Coups

"I decided to go afoot to the Crazy Mountains, two long day's journey from the village. The traveling without food or drink was good for me, and as soon as I reached the Crazies, I took a sweat bath and climbed the highest peak."



EA

Edward Abbey

"But for the time being, around my place at least, the air is untroubled, and I become aware for the first time today of the immense silence in which I am lost."

ED

Emily Dickinson

"One note from one bird is better than a million words." And, "I dwell in possibility."

CH

Crazy Horse

"We do not want your civilization! We would live as our fathers did, and their fathers before them."

JL

Jack London

"The gray cub's eyes had not been opened long, yet already he could see with steady clearness. And while his eyes were still closed, he had felt, tasted, and smelled. He knew his two brothers and two sisters very well."



RK

Rudyard Kipling

"If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'"

JN

John Noel

"If you had lived, as they had lived and died in the heart of nature, would you, yourself, wish for a better grave of pure white snow?"

NO

Noel Odell

Who more honored the process of getting up Chomolungma than being the first to stand on top.



RM

Ruth Mallory

"It is his life that I loved and love"

GLM

George Leigh Mallory

"Darling I wish you the best I can - that your anxiety will be at an end before you get this ... Great love to you, Ever your loving, George"

TN

Tenzing Norgay

"Thuji Chey, Chomolungma. I am grateful."



DT

Dave Tollaakson

"To the top!" And who understood you can't get up the mountain unless you get out of the tent in the morning.

WS

Wongchu Sherpa

"Slowly sir, slowly."



BI

ASP

Amundsen • Shackleton/Perry

Persistence is the antidote for failure.

CLAE

Charles Lindbergh • Amelia Earhart

Over sand and sea below - and sun and stars above - lonely flew the brave.

GLEH

George Lowe • Edmund Hillary

Forever friends, and graciously, from Ed Hillary: "In my view Mallory will always go down in history as the great man of Everest - the man who made those first great footsteps which some of us later followed."

M7A11

Mercury 7 • Apollo 11

"From the Earth to the Moon". And from Tom Wolfe: "Then came demanding levels, one after the other, formation flying, instrument flying, jet training, all-weather flying, gunnery, and at each level more were washed out and left behind. By this point easily a third of the original candidates had been, indeed, eliminated...from the ranks of those who might prove to have the right stuff."



LCS

Louis and Clark • Sacagawea

"About five miles above the mouth Shell River, a handsome river about fifty yards in width discharged itself into the river on the starboard or upper side. This stream we called Sah-ca-ger-we-ah or "Bird or Bird Woman's River", after our interpreter, the Snake Woman." "Undaunted courage."

JB

Jim Bridger

On finding Hugh Glass mauled by a grizzly: "But now, moved by the helpless old man's agony, young Jim cleared his throat: "I reckon I'll stay."

G

Geronimo

"Question authority."



CSLTM

C.S. Lewis • Thomas More

From “A Man for All Season’s”: “For Wales. Why Richard, it profits a man nothing to give his soul for the whole world, but for Wales?”

LD

Lonesome Dove

“Call dug the grave with a little hand shovel. In his condition it took most of a day; at one point he grew so weak that he sat down in the grave to rest, sweat pouring off him—if there had been anyone else to shovel he would have been inclined to be buried there himself. But he pulled himself up and finished the work and lowered Augustus in. “There,” he said. “This will teach me to be more careful about what I promise.”



WLJS

“It’s A Wonderful Life” • Jimmy Stewart

“No man is a failure who has friends. Thanks for the wings.”

ALGA

Abraham Lincoln • Gettysburg Address

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal ... “The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.”

VVG

Vincent van Gogh

“Theo, I want the sun. I want it in its most terrific heat and power. I’ve been feeling it pull me southward all winter, like a huge magnet. Until I left Holland I never knew there was such a sun. Now I know there’s no such thing as painting without it.”

B7

Beethoven’s 7th Symphony

“battle, charge, and victory symphony.” Listen - as George Mallory and Andrew Irvine on June 8, 1924 might have - climbing to be the first to the planet’s summit. And in *honoring the process* for this life’s every noble pursuit.

THE ROUTE

Spring-Fall: About 3 hours Winter: Longer
NORTHERN ROCKIES FLORA & FAUNA

Beginning at Base Camp Cabin, cross Big Timber Creek to gain the south shore. Caution: from spring to fall, a hand-held walking pole is mandatory to maintain balance. A roped crossing may also be advisable. **Do not proceed by yourself or where water is too fast and high during these seasons.**





Then, walk mostly south to cross the creek estuary - and then to reach the fixed rope - below the steeper trail incline. Follow the fixed rope to the broader trail above. Proceed southeast through the forest to a clearing - where you will find a bench to rest. From there, resume south, down a short incline and then up a longer one to a trail junction that will angle west. Follow a mostly flat trail to another junction and turn south.

Proceed up a gentle slope - and out of the forest - to Sage Flat. There, find a picnic table to rest. Then, follow the trail west to Will's Cabin. Overnight accommodations include the indoor shelter, wood stove, stored water, gravity shower. Also, an outhouse. **No outdoor fires.** Please keep this camp clean.

To continue, head west from the back of Will's Cabin, where you will re-enter the forest at an elk clearing. The trail will proceed for about a half mile - mostly along the southern edge of the forest canopy - and slightly below an open sage plateau.

You will emerge from the shade of the forest onto a rocky ridge. There, you will see another picnic table to rest. The eastern escarpment of the Crazy Mountains are before you. To the south, Raspberry Ridge. Beyond, is Montana's highest mountain range - the Beartooth's.

Gravity is with you in heading mostly north - after you regain the trail at an opening near the picnic table - and then down the heavily forested slope.

Soon, you will find another fixed rope to navigate a steeper section of the trail. Be cautious of fallen timber.

Near the bottom of the fixed rope, you will find a mostly flat slope. Proceed slightly east. A series of switchbacks will lead north - and east - to another nearly flat slope. The sound of Big Timber Creek will return.

Continuing north, the edge of the forested slope - and creek below - will become visible. Slide down the last few feet of the slope to the southern bank of the creek's south channel. To cross - Caution: from spring to fall, a hand-held walking pole is mandatory to maintain balance. A roped crossing may also be advisable. **Do not proceed by yourself or where water is too fast and high during these seasons.**

Ford the creek. On reaching shore, continue north. You are now on an island - separating the southern and northern channels of Big Timber Creek. Across the north channel, are a series of sandstone steps. A wooden footbridge may be available to gain the northern shore where you may reach the sandstone steps.

At the top of the stairs, walk east. In about a quarter mile you will reach a full view of Big Timber Creek's 'Horseshoe Bend' - with Big Timber Peak's summit - just visible to the west. Walk east to another set of rock steps. At the bottom - continue east across the meadow to Base Camp Cabin. CONGRATULATIONS - YOU'VE COME FULL CIRCLE. **May this earth and waters - wind and sky and stars - serve as symphony in welcoming your safe return. On to Lyra, and Vega's Story Trails.**

In winter, orienteering by compass may be necessary.

Crampons, snow shoes, insulated boots - are advisable. Temperatures can be well below zero - and also accompanied by wind chill.

ALWAYS BE CURIOUS.



PRP

Paul Raymond Pfau

B24 Pilot-Lt. "I can't wait to come home to see my new son." Until his "Miss America" crew's "last full measure of devotion" over Budapest, Hungary April 13, 1944. Then speaking to us still: "We'll Meet Again."

TO BASE CAMP CABIN

Exploration Begins in the Imagination



G

Galileo

Discoverer and 'Father of Modern Science'. Condemned by the Church as heretic for his worldview of Copernicus. But from his daughter Sister Maria Celeste: "I believe good philosophers, like eagles, fly above, not in flocks like starlings."

HGW

H.G. Wells

"No one would have believed, in the last years of the Nineteenth Century, that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's and yet as mortal as his own;"

JV

Jules Verne

"Captain Nemo," said I to my host, who had stretched himself upon a couch, "This library would do credit to a palace; and I am fairly astounded when I reflect that it can be equally available at the bottom of the sea."