

## **FOLLOW THE PIONEERS**



[www.saratogachamber.info](http://www.saratogachamber.info)

Travel 10 miles north of Saratoga on State Highway 130 to the pullout for the historical marker designating the **"Overland Trail"**. Wagon wheel ruts are still visible.

Continue northeast to Rawlins on Interstate 80, taking the second exit/6th Street. Go over the Union Pacific Railways, continuing north to Walnut Street. Turn right and park along the street.

The **"Old Pen"**, as the **Wyoming Frontier Prison** is affectionately called today, is "haunted by history" around every corner. You can stand inside the dark tiny cells, sit in the gas chamber or electric chair and fill your senses with the history of the Wild West. Inmates were housed here from 1901 until 1981. Tales of great train robbers, wily escapes and of women driven to crimes of passion are told on the regularly scheduled guided tours. The Old Pen Gift Shop offers souvenirs and western gifts, group tours and off-season tours are also available.

Telephone: (307) 324-4422, [www.wyomingfrontierprison.org](http://www.wyomingfrontierprison.org)

Open daily May-October, For tour times/dates November-April check the website.

You'll be needing a breath a fresh air, so walk on down the street to the **Carbon County Museum**. It is located on 9<sup>th</sup> and Walnut. Exhibits include western saddles, newspapers and sheep wagons. Famous visitor Thomas Edison's expedition and Dr. Lillian Heath, Wyoming's first woman physician, are chronicled in the archives. Local legend and infamous "Big Nosed George" is also a popular display.

Telephone: (307) 328-2740, [www.carboncountymuseum.org](http://www.carboncountymuseum.org)

Summer Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 6 pm

Winter Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 1-5 pm

Back in your car, take Walnut Street east to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street noting the **Ferris Mansion**. Travel south five blocks to Cedar Street. Take some time to enjoy the historic downtown Rawlins by having **lunch** at one of the many wonderful restaurants. Then head back out to the interstate via Cedar Street. Travel east on I-80 exiting at the historic town of Sinclair.

**Sinclair** was once named Parco, standing for the Producers and Refiners Corporation, the original builder of the large refinery here. Sinclair Oil purchased the business in 1934 and re-named the company town. Many of the town sites are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Be sure to see the **Parco Hotel** and the **Parco/Sinclair National Historic Museum**, open year round and is free.

Back on the Interstate, just a few miles on your left (exit #228) is a rest stop and the **Ft. Fred Steele Historic Site**. You can also enjoy a snack in the company of the North Platte River. Travelers are invited to visit the remains of this U.S. Army frontier post. Due to a fire, very few structures are intact, but many of the remaining foundations are visible. Fort Fred Steele was established in 1868 and was occupied for about twenty years. Soldiers were sent to guard the railroad against attack from Indians. See the cemetery for soldiers and their families, the stone corrals, and hike the short interpretive trail.

Head back to Saratoga and complete your trip by visiting the **Saratoga Museum**. The Saratoga Museum is housed in the town's original c. 1915 Union Pacific Railroad Depot. The museum opened in 1980 and provides an opportunity to explore the Platte Valley. They also feature one of Wyoming's largest and best gem and mineral display, including their newest exhibit of Wyoming jade with hundreds of specimens.

