

Online casinos in wyoming



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Short Summary: This page looks at the different forms of gambling in the State of Wyoming, discusses the legality of online gambling and gives a detailed listing of all of the casinos in the state.

Our final stop (in the alphabet) for our United States listings pages is in Wyoming. It's perhaps fitting as Wyoming (which has grown a little based on census estimates) remains the least-populous of the fifty United States. Wyoming also has the distinction of being one of the two states smaller (in population—the other is Vermont) than the nation's capital, Washington D.C..

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Similarly, of the 48 continental United States, Wyoming has the least population density (which will probably remain true after the population increase is accounted for) with the only state with less population density being Alaska.

The point of all of this is that there's not much in the way of casinos (or much else other than monuments and national parks) in Wyoming. Why would there be? There wouldn't really be many people there to take advantage of the services that a major resort property would have to offer.

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Wyoming is known as the "Cowboy State," a moniker that immediately conjures images of rugged individuals who live by their own set of rules. When it comes to gambling within the state, Wyoming does its best to live up to the more individualistic days of the past, although certain restrictions remain in place.

Of course, for the many folks to have relocated to Wyoming in the last fifty years—that's what they like about it—maybe not the lack of casino activity specifically, but the scenic beauty and relative solitude compared to major metropolises (many of which are more populated than the state of Wyoming—New York City has more than 14x as many citizens!)

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For those who have been in Wyoming this whole time, if you're not into the outdoors, then you're probably planning to get the heck out of Dodge as soon as possible!

I could spend hours describing the scenic beauty of the state and its many terrains—but the good news is we're here to talk about their gambling, so this should only take a few minutes!

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Historically, while perhaps not registered as Libertarians per se, Wyoming has often operated with a sort of, "Live and let live," Libertarian sort of view. Despite its Republican leanings in national Presidential votes and small, rural setup—Wyoming pretty much allows for every form of gambling. While it's true that they don't have state licensed, regulated and operated commercial casinos, they do have Tribal Casinos and any other form of gambling you could imagine!

Online Gambling is not legal in the State of Wyoming, as you can see here.

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- (a) A person who engages in gambling commits a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, a fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), or both.
- (b) A person who engages in professional gambling commits a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than three (3) years, a fine of not more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00), or both.

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Basically, any form of gambling that is not specifically authorized by the state, which online gambling is not, constitutes unlawful gambling. "Professional Gambling," is basically defined not as being a professional player, but being the entity or operator that hosts a game (for online, the website) in which there is a house edge.

While individuals playing online would technically find themselves running afoul of section (a), we can uncover no instance of someone actually being charged for the offense of gambling online within their own homes. We believe that it is extremely unlikely for that to ever occur, but we must state that it does violate the letter of the law.

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Social Gambling is perfectly legal in the State of Wyoming, here it is.

- (E) Any game, wager or transaction which is incidental to a bona fide social relationship, is participated in by natural persons only, and in which no person is participating, directly or indirectly, in professional gambling;

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One thing to keep in mind is that the state uses an unusual definition for professional gambling:

- (A) Aiding or inducing another to engage in gambling, with the intent to derive a profit therefrom; or

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- (B) Participating in gambling and having, other than by virtue of skill or luck, a lesser chance of losing or a greater chance of winning than one (1) or more of the other participants.

(ix) "Profit" means benefit other than a gain, which is realized or unrealized and direct, including benefits from unequal advantage in a series of transactions but does not include benefits of proprietorship or management of a business wherein a game, wager or transaction described in W.S. 6-7-101(a)(iii)(E) occurs;

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It seems like it would be open to having many other casino-type games in one home, you just have to figure out the rules such that there is no house edge. Roulette, for example, you could play and the way to do that would be very simple—no betting on 0 or 00 and 0 and 00 are completely ignored if that is the result of the spin.

It even sounds like a business could host poker games, such as a bar, provided that they are only making their money from the sale of food and beverage—and not off of the poker game directly.

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Please keep in mind this is to the best of this writer's understanding, so if you do intend to host something other than a no-rake home poker game (which is definitely permitted), then you might want to consult with a licensed attorney in the state.

That brings us to Charitable Gambling, of which there are a few types permitted by law. Same source from above, here are the laws as relate Bingo and Pull Tabs:

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- (D) Bingo games conducted, or pull tabs sold, by charitable or nonprofit organizations where the tickets for the bingo are sold only in this state and the pull tabs are sold only on the premises owned or occupied by the charitable or nonprofit organization provided that:
- (I) Bingo games and pull tab games shall only be conducted by charitable or nonprofit organizations, which have been in existence in this state for at least three (3) years;

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(II) In conducting bingo games and pull tab games the organization shall use only volunteers who are bona fide members of the charitable or nonprofit organization or employees or contractors who are paid by the organization to assist in the operation of the game;

(III) Players of bingo games or pull tab games shall be eighteen (18) years or older;

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(IV) At least sixty-five percent (65%) of all gross sales shall be redeemed as winnings each month. The net proceeds after payment of winnings shall be restricted as follows:

(1) No more than forty percent (40%) of net proceeds shall be paid to distributors or manufacturers of supplies or equipment necessary to conduct the game; and

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(2) Seventy-five percent (75%) of the net proceeds remaining after payment for all costs and supplies shall be donated within one (1) year by the organization to a bona fide charitable or benevolent purpose.

(V) The charitable or nonprofit organization conducting the bingo game or pull tab game may purchase supplies or equipment necessary to conduct the game from a distributor or manufacturer at a price based on a per card or pull tab basis subject to the limitations provided in subdivision (D) (IV)(1) of this paragraph.

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If you are a charitable or non-profit organization who has been in the State of Wyoming, you can have Bingo and sell pull tabs (only within the state and pull tabs ONLY on the premises of the charity) as long as you have operated in the state for at least three years.

And...that's it! No licensing, no cut going to the State...none of it! Of course, you'll have to keep your financial records neatly to show where all of the money is going should the state ever look into your operation, but other than that, you're good!

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That's it. If it's charitable, then you can do it. No license, no fees, no percentage...have a raffle and donate the revenues to charity after deducting your expenses for the raffle tickets. No minimum prizes, maximum prizes, maximum ticket cost...do what you want!

This is great! I'm thinking about renting a U-Haul and joining the throngs of people who have been flocking to The Cowboy State!

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Wyoming is, of course, home to a state lottery. As much as I may personally loathe state lotteries, I'm inclined to give Wyoming a pass since they don't take a cut of Charitable Gambling revenues. Good job, Wyoming!

Okay, so we're going to look at the results for the end of their 2020 Fiscal Year (which ran June 2019-June 2020). Fiscal Year 2020 is available, but includes some Covid-19 related dropoff. Unfortunately, this seems to be the only full report available online, otherwise, I'd have preferred to look at the 2019 annual report. Of course, there are quarterly reports that I could add up...but that's a little annoying.

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One thing that's nice about this Annual Report is that revenues and payouts are listed by each individual game, which is something most lotteries don't do. They separate drawing games, instant games and drawing game types—sometimes.

In any event, Wyoming is a participant in the national huge jackpot PowerBall lottery as well as Mega Millions—and is also one of the few states in which that is NOT their most profitable game. Nope, their most popular game is Cowboy Draw:

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*When it comes to Mega Millions and Powerball, you see just how awful the lottery can be over a small sample size. Granted, these games typically have a return-to-player (based on other lottery reports) of under 50%, but Wyoming residents got absolutely brutalized, particularly on Mega Millions. My guess would have to be that they had very few of the second-highest prizes hit (compared to expected) for either game.

—So, the result is that the lottery got absolutely SLAUGHTERED on that drawing. You love to see it! They still had an okay year, though. With \$12,741,951 in Gross Revenues and something along the lines of 578,759, the lottery made about \$22.02/resident on the year. That's obviously on the low end, but again, you've got the lowest population density of the continental 48.

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The first thing that we want to get out of the way is that Wyoming is not a greyhound racing state, in fact, it's illegal there and has been for sometime—or maybe even forever. The only two states that are expected to have Greyhound Racing going into 2023 (unless they close the tracks by then) are Texas and West Virginia.

It should come as no surprise that a few horse racing tracks can be found in the state, as well as several off-track betting (OTB) locations. Some of these locations are also home to the electronic, "Historic horse racing," terminals for instant play.

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We will list a few of the horse tracks with active racing in the casinos section.

The Tribal Casinos in the State of Wyoming actually have it pretty good considering the verdict of the Northern Arapaho Tribe v. Wyoming.

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Basically, the Northern Arapaho Tribe wanted to have the full gamut of gambling options available to it, as in the case in states such as Nevada, as well as many others.

The State of Wyoming essentially argued that there are no Commercial Casinos that are operated within the state, and that being the case, that the state was under no obligation to negotiate a compact between themselves and the tribes that would allow for Class III, "Vegas-style," gaming.

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The court (and was upheld on appeal) ruled in favor of the Northern Arapaho Tribe on the grounds that the State of Wyoming DOES allow for those sorts of games for social purposes, therefore, Wyoming cannot say that such games are categorically illegal within the state. Because of that, the court determined, they were required to negotiate with the Tribe in good faith.

Here's an example of a Wyoming Tribal Compact, this one with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe.

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As we can see, the State of Wyoming does not appear to charge the casinos anything, on direct.

According to Wyoming Statute 6-7-101, private residents can legally own any slot machine that's more than 25 years old. This age definition would qualify the games as antiques and make them little threat to the local gaming industry.

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In addition, these games must be kept within the home for personal use, and a profit cannot be generated by the owner. This is meant to restrict these devices to small-scale fun and prevent unlicensed backroom casinos from popping up in the suburbs.

NOTE: We will also be listing Wyoming's Commercial racetracks in this section due to the fact that Wyoming does not have very many casinos to list. We will start with the racetracks:

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Located in Gillette, Wyoming, on the grounds of Morningside Park, Energy Downs is home to both instant wagering as well as simulcast wagering.

Morningside Park hosts a number of events on its grounds, including rodeos, so live horse racing is not a major feature of the property. With that being said, Energy Downs is home to live horse racing a few days of the year in the second half of May as well as weekends in June.

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Again, the only reason any racing takes place here is because of the simulcast wagering as well as the instant historical racing that is available, otherwise, they'd be out of business—and were, prior to those things. For this year, (2021) only one live race meet is scheduled at this time.

This is another location that had shuttered prior to the agreement with the state to be able to offer historical horse "Instant" racing as well as simulcast wagering.

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In terms of live racing, this is the most active live racing horse track in the state as the horses can be found running on select dates throughout June, July and August.

***In case it's not clear, the only reason that they run any live racing dates at all is so that they can have the historical horse racing machines. Otherwise, it would not be a profitable enterprise and all three tracks would still be out of business.

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****In addition to these tracks, there are a handful of small locations scattered throughout the state (but associated with the tracks) that are permitted to offer simulcast wagering as well as a small number of the historical horse racing machines.

Located on Highway 789 in Riverton, Wyoming, this location is a combination gas station, convenience store, smoke shop and small casino.

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The casino at this location consists of about 200 combined slot, video poker and video keno machines that can be presumed to be of the Class II and Class III variety. Denominations range from pennies to \$25 per credit.

While the casino is not home to a hotel, truckers passing through shouldn't have much of a problem as this location is home to a truck stop. Wind River Casino & Hotel is also located elsewhere in Riverton, as are a few chain hotels, so you shouldn't have much of a problem if you're absolutely determined to play the machines here.

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This property is home to one eatery called The 789 Grill, which serves all three throughout the day, breakfast, lunch and dinner. The menu is very casual and, though it terms itself a, "Deli," this is very much what you would call diner food elsewhere. It's reasonably priced, if not cheap and they have many grab & go options available.

If you win big at this casino, located in Ethete, Wyoming, is it fair to maybe say that you broke a, "Little Wind?" (What an immature joke! I'll see myself out.)

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This casino is also owned by the Northern Arapaho Tribe and is called, "Little Wind," simply because it is a smaller casino than is Wind River Casino—which they also own.

Little Wind lives up to its name as it is home to only 160 combined slots, video poker and video keno games. They make it a point to call them, "The same as in Vegas," so it can be assumed that all of these are Class III machines, at least, according to their website. Their Facebook page says that they have 160 machines, but then the paragraph right under that says 170 machines, so we can't give an exact count. I'm certainly not going to go to the place and count them one by one!

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At one time they had five Table Games, but that is no longer true (as of the time of this writing), so perhaps there are 170 machines now if they were put in to replace where the tables were.

Morning Star Restaurant is this property's eatery, is open from 8:00a-10:00p as of the time of this writing, and serves all three meals of the day in a casual menu similar to a diner.

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Wind River Casino is located in Riverton, Wyoming and is owned and operated by the Northern Arapaho Tribe. We are going a little bit out of alphabetical order here simply because we might as well list all three owned by Northern Arapaho in a row—since there is only one other casino in the state.

Wind River Casino is home to a hotel that consists of 90 guest rooms, of which three are suites. All guest rooms include complimentary wireless internet, 48" flat screen TV's, microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker, so the amenities are pretty good for the price. The rooms themselves are a bit dated in terms of furniture and aesthetics, but are pretty clean and have the types of amenities that would enable you to stay comfortably for a few days.

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Wind River Casino has nine guest rooms that allow for pets, albeit with a \$25 fee. The suites come with a desk, living room, three televisions and a small kitchen area. If you want one of the suites, then you must call the property to make your reservation as they cannot be booked online.

Other notes include a guest computer, the fact that all rooms are non-smoking, that the front desk is unstaffed from 2:00a-8:00a., and that the hotel is home to a small fitness room.

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This property is also home to an RV Park, so if you're touring around the country you're in luck! Just make sure that you call and reserve your spot in advance because there are only thirty of them.

The Northern Arapaho Experience Room is located just off of the hotel and features paintings, photographs and stories all related to the history of the tribe, so that can be something fun to do. During the Summer months, and as of the time of this writing, singers and dancers from the Northern Arapaho Tribe will perform traditional songs and dances on Tuesdays, followed by storytelling...that sounds like something worth seeing if you happen to be passing through the area during such times!

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The casino floor is home to nearly 1,000 Class III slot machines that include video poker, video keno and slots ranging in denomination from pennies to \$25/credit. Additionally, there are twelve Table Games which include Blackjack and Three Card Poker. We recommend calling ahead for general operating hours if you want to play Table Games; availability probably depends on the season and how busy they are on a given day.

This casino is also home to an eight-table poker room and hosts the annual Wyoming State Poker Championship, so that's pretty neat! Table Games and Poker are mostly on weekends, as of the time of this writing, but the casino sometimes has poker tournaments midweek. The casino spreads mainly, if not entirely, Texas Hold 'Em.

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One thing about this casino is that the colors are pretty Earthy and the house is extremely well-lit, so it doesn't have the sort of vibe that you might get from a Downtown Vegas or major casino on The Strip. Even though this casino is of about average size (nationally-speaking, not counting Atlantic City or Las Vegas), it almost feels more like a hangout.

There are two eateries on this property. One of them is Red Willow Restaurant which opens in the late morning hours seven days per week and serves lunch and dinner. Red Willow is basically what you might think of when you think slightly upscale casual, but nothing too fancy. The other eatery is the Cee Nokuu Café, which is open from 8:00a-2:00p as of the time of this writing, is ultra-casual and serves all three.

It's the biggest casino in Wyoming, but that's about all there is to this one. In most other states, this would basically be an average-size locals casino with below average offerings on the Table Games side, but this is Wyoming, so you're dealing with a sparsely-populated state that isn't exactly a tourist mecca.

That said, it's a perfectly nice property and a serviceable casino, especially on weekends when Poker and Table Games might be going. The Northern Arapaho Experience sounds pretty cool and the hotel at least makes a longer stay comfortable with the amenities. All things considered, if you're heading to that area of Wyoming anyway, it's worth a look.

"The best slots in Lander, Wyoming," proclaims the website of this hotel and casino property owned by the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, and we would think so, because they have the ONLY slots in Lander, Wyoming.

This property was closed for some amount of time, but is scheduled to reopen on May 7th, 2021, which as of the time of this writing, is only a few days away.

This property is home to a hotel consisting of sixty guest rooms and suites. Their website says, "Over sixty," and not giving an exact number is pointless and silly, they're closed so I can't call, so we are calling it sixty rooms.

These rooms are a bit more modern aesthetically and in furnishings than those of Wind River Casino, this hotel is also home to a small indoor pool, so if you're only ever going to stay at one casino-hotel in Wyoming as long as you live—we'd probably have to recommend this one, if pressed.

Although, this casino only has machines—so if you want poker and table games, then you're back to Wind River being your best bet.

The Northern Arapaho Experience also sounds really cool, if I'm honest, so I think I would probably stay at Wind River.

This casino floor is home to about 300 machines including slots, video poker and video keno.

Deka-Guy Hee is one of the property's two eateries and is apparently Shoshone language and means, "The Eating House." That's fair enough as they open at 8:00a.m, seven days per week and serve all three in a casual environment. As far as a comparison, it's basically Applebee's, except serves breakfast and the lunch/dinner menu has less selection. That might not be a bad thing, it's usually best if restaurants only do a few things, but do them well.

The Snack Bar isn't so much an eatery as it is a concession stand, but it's located just off of the casino floor and serves quick lunch and dinner foods.

This place is worth a stop if you happen to be going through the area anyway, and if you need somewhere to stay overnight, we would definitely

recommend considering it. With that said, it's basically just a locals' slot machine casino, so even though the hotel is marginally nicer than Wind River (only in our opinion), we'd have to suggest that you go to Wind River if you're only going to visit one casino in the state.