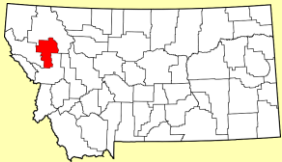


Enjoy the Polson Lifestyle

Welcome to our community! Polson's small town charm, recreational opportunities, and arts and culture make it a great place to live, work, and play. We have access to great health care facilities, an excellent school system that offers quality education for children, and a welcoming business culture that is devoted to the success of our community. Polson is currently in a growth phase and we expect to see many business opportunities present themselves in the coming years.



Polson, Montana is located in the Northwest section of the state. Polson is the county seat of Lake County and is the 19th largest city in the state. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population of Polson is 4,488¹. Polson is located on the Flathead Indian Reservation, which is the home of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the fourth largest reservation in Montana.²

In addition to having a local airport located just one mile from downtown (4,195 ft. long runway, fuel and aircraft ground support available), Polson is also situated nicely between two international airports – Missoula International Airport (MSO) just 64 miles south on Highway 93; and Glacier Park International Airport (GPI) located 60.5 miles north of Polson.

Recreation: Polson sits on the shores of Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River. Flathead Lake provides numerous recreational opportunities, including, boating, kayaking, fishing (ice-fishing too), bird watching, sailing, swimming, picnicking, and exploring the lake islands. Wild Horse Island, the largest island in Flathead Lake, is a state park where wild horses still roam and there are ample opportunities for hiking and wildlife viewing.

For additional adventures, such as floating and whitewater rafting, the Flathead River is minutes away. Just outside of Polson are the Mission Mountains. They provide breathtaking views as well as access to the Tribally-owned, pristine wilderness area. If you are seeking to play golf while enjoying the fantastic views of Flathead Lake, look no further than the Polson Bay Golf Course. City parks and trails systems provide the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Through support from the entire Lake County community, Polson is now home to the Mission Valley Aquatic Center, featuring an eight lane pool as well as a therapy pool.



Other area attractions include the National Bison Range and Kerr Dam. Visitors to the National Bison Range can walk, picnic, view wildlife, and take scenic drives of the area. Kerr Dam is located at the natural outlet of Flathead Lake and is 205 feet high. It is co-operated by PPL Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.³ Blacktail Mountain Ski Area is 50 miles away and offers beginner, intermediate, and expert runs on 100% natural snow.⁴

Polson also boasts an expanding system of community walking/running/biking paths for residents and visitors to use year-round. There are also active enthusiast groups to enjoy social workouts with, including a community running workout each week from March - October, a biking group, yoga studios and workout centers, and a masters swim team.

¹ *Community Facts: 2010 Demographic Profile*, [American Fact Finder: U.S. Census Bureau](#)

² "Reservation Data," Research & Analysis Bureau, Montana Dept. of Labor & Industry

³ PPL Montana

⁴ Blacktail Mountain

Arts, Culture, Festivals & Events: Polson is home to museums, the Port Polson Players, and concerts. One of the new signature events in the winter is the Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC). The summer season is kicked off by the opening of the Polson Farmers' Market, which features Montana grown and made products. The Sandpiper Art Gallery hosts an annual Art in the Park. Additionally, the Polson Main Street Flathead Cherry Festival, the Cruisen By the Bay Car Show, the Flathead Lake Basketball Tournament ("Hoopfest"), rodeos, the Flathead Lake Blues Festival, and the Polson Triathlon provide a variety of opportunities to enjoy this beautiful town on the lake.



The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' influence offers a rich cultural experience to both residents and visitors alike. The Elmo pow-wow, the Arlee Celebration, and the People's Center are some of the opportunities for experiencing this heritage.

Education & Health Care: Polson has two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high-school, as well as a private Christian school. Recently, Polson High School was listed in the top ten percent of best-performing high schools in the nation.⁵ Polson is a Graduation Matters Community, where the school system, students, families, businesses, and the community collaborate to ensure that students are graduating more prepared for college and careers.⁶ Additionally, Salish Kootenai College (located in Pablo) provides opportunities for career and personal development. SKC is a tribally owned college that offers Associate and Bachelor degrees, as well as certification in some programs. St. Joseph Medical Center, part of Providence Health and Services operates a



full-service hospital as well as a medical and walk-in clinic. Providence/St. Joseph Hospital received an award for National Top Performer for Surgical Care by the Joint Commission on Accreditation for the last two years. There are only 5 of 65 hospitals in Montana who share the honor of this special award this year. St. Luke Community Healthcare, based in Ronan, operates a Community Clinic in Polson. This full-service clinic provides care for a range of needs, including, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgeries.

Weather: Polson is characterized as a north Pacific type climate with milder winters, more evenly dispersed precipitation, and lighter winds than the eastern part of Montana. The warmest month of the year is July and the coldest month is December. On average, June is the month with the most precipitation, with 2.41 inches of recorded precipitation in 2012. The coldest temperature for Polson was -30° F, recorded in 1950 and the highest temperature of 104° F was recorded in 1960. The average low temperatures for 2012 ranged from 22° F in January to 53° F in July and the average high temperatures ranged from 32° F in December to 82° F in July and August.⁷

⁵ Daily Interlake online

⁶ Graduation Matters Montana

⁷ Western Regional Climate Center