

## St. Patty's in a Party Town Called Butte (SAMPLE ARTICLE)

Butte, America has long been known as a party hub. With a long history of Irish immigration, wiry miners with a taste for beer, and the birthplace of the renegade Evel Knievel, it is only expected to put on a fantastic Saint Patrick's Day event. They schedule everything from parades to hurling, and with an unending flow of green beer, it is an essential check off the list of St. Patty's Day destinations.

Upon entering Butte, one first notices the enormous man-made hole set into the earth. Its browned and tiered opening stretches toward the sky as if praying for rain, or perhaps a slug of beer. Meanwhile, thousands of old mining homes surround the pit, dwarfed by the gaping hole. They appear to be older versions of our now quaint and cute cookie cutter neighborhoods, but they sit with far less awe and undoubtedly uneven foundations.

From there though, if one dares to venture further, there is indeed a downtown worth exploring. Irish heritage shops, knick-knack stores, historical locations, and drinking holes galore dot the many streets that ramble precariously up the steep hills. The inclines are at times almost reminiscent of a small San Francisco, but with much less traffic to run into on icy winter nights. The best part of Butte though is that the bars and breweries happen to be some of the friendliest places around.

Although Butte is technically considered a "city," one cannot shake the small town feel. Even on an event night such as St. Patrick's Day, you are bound to run into people you've met and take a shot or two with a newfound friend. The locals are friendly, the bar staff is eager to please, and everyone is there ready to partake in at least the same level of fun. As it is so nennt over a round of Irish Car Bombs, "getting silly" is encouraged, and the chance to undertake such endeavors is not to be surpassed by the true haver of fun.

Now before heading off to this unique and friendly town of Butte, be aware that it has its downside. It just so happens to be one of the coldest places in America. Dry, cold, and very very snowy, it tends to see warm weather much later than the rest of us. A spring forecast to the outsider may sound wonderful, but to a Butte local anything not involving snow and thirty degrees is still in that category.

So, arrive prepared! Pack for all seasons, and expect some whiskey to warm your toes because Saint Patrick's Day is taken seriously there. There WILL be green beer, and it WILL be celebrated no matter how the weather turns out. After months of grueling cold and snow, it is no wonder that by the time St. Patty's comes around the locals are begging for some fun with a little springy green spirit!