

Rising to over 11,000 feet just north of New Castle are the magnificent Flat Tops Mountains. This easily assessable area features a resilient volcanic lava cap, giving this region its tabletop appearance. Part of the White River Plateau, the area is the product of geologic uplift beginning more than fifty million years ago. More recently, ice age glaciers melted off, leaving craggy cliffs and amazing ravines. In the northern realm of the flattops lies the Flat Tops Wilderness, a 235,214 acre underdeveloped area open to hiking, backpacking and fishing. The Wilderness area alone features over 100 lakes, and dozens more lie south of the Wilderness, closer to New Castle.

New Castle, as Gateway to the Flat Tops, welcomes visitors from everywhere to enjoy the clean air, stunning views, and blazing sunsets. Whether camping, hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, bird watching, plein air painting, or photography is your passion, New Castle is your jumping off point for high elevation adventure. We advise taking a map, water, and sunscreen, and following 243 (Main Elk) or 245 (Buford) roads from the northwest edge of town.

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