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# YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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# WELCOME

Home to more than two million acres of lakes, waterfalls, geysers and panoramic vistas, the world's first national park has hosted millions of visitors from around the world for 150 years! They come to see its renowned natural wonders and the diversity of animal life that thrives in its boundaries, much as it has for millions of years.

To celebrate the Yellowstone's 150th anniversary, the NPS and partner organizations will host a variety of virtual and in-person activities in the park and nearby gateway communities throughout 2022.

Follow **@YellowstoneNPS**, **#Yellowstone150**, and check out upcoming anniversary efforts at [nps.gov/yell/get-involved/150-years-of-yellowstone.htm](https://nps.gov/yell/get-involved/150-years-of-yellowstone.htm). Details will be added and updated throughout the year, so check back often!

Yellowstone National Park closely monitors and responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the park may modify in-person activities. Due to COVID-19, the park does

not currently have large in-person events planned; however, this may change as the year progresses.

Every season brings special wonders and the park's many varied landscapes offer a range of exciting experiences for all ages. The NPS protects this unique resource (which includes six national historic landmarks) and its visitors. The NPS and concessioners, including Yellowstone National Park Lodges-Xanterra, work together to ensure that your visit to Yellowstone is a memorable one.

This *American Park Network* guide is provided by Yellowstone National Park Lodges to enhance your appreciation and enjoyment of this magnificent park. It is made possible by the support of sponsors whose messages appear inside. Please respect the park and minimize your impact so that its natural resources will be protected and preserved for future generations. After all, the parks are for everyone. **Enjoy your visit and please come back!**



## FUN FACTS

**Established:** In 1872 Congress passed legislation to make Yellowstone the world's first national park.

**Land Area:** 2.2 million acres of forests (80 percent), grassland (15 percent) and water (5 percent). Although 96 percent of Yellowstone National Park is in Wyoming, small portions of the park also lie in Montana (3 percent) and Idaho (1 percent).

**Popular Activities:** Enjoy sightseeing tours, fishing, boating, wildlife watching, cross-country skiing and horseback riding in the park.

**Hiking:** There are more than 1,000 miles of backcountry trails. Roads and facilities take up

less than three percent of the park; the rest is wilderness.

**Number of Plant & Animal Species:** The park is home to seven species of conifer trees, more than 1,000 species of native vascular plants, 67 species of mammals (including grizzly bears, wolves, bison, moose and elk) and more than 320 bird species!

**Popular Sights:** Yellowstone's geysers and hot springs; Yellowstone Lake; waterfalls; and iconic sights like Gallatin Range, Hayden Valley, the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, Morning Glory Pool and Old Faithful Geyser.



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# YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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**Cover:** Bison in Summer Roaming Free  
Teresa Otto | iStock Photo

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# WHAT'S NEW!

## PARKS UNITE US



***"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle."***

—Plato

Growing up in an urban environment, the parks I was exposed to as a child were mostly concrete, with swings vs. hiking trails. Everything was familiar and everyone was from the neighborhood. My world was quite small. Things have changed a lot. We're all connected now in ways that would have seemed like science fiction in my childhood. Also, as a New Yorker, I'm exposed (IRL) to the most diverse group of people on earth. Ironically, I experience this same amazing diversity when visiting our nation's parks and public lands.

I remember one of my first business trips to a national park. It was a quick visit, with more time spent traveling than in the park. Fortunately, I set aside two hours to go for a hike. I selected a steep switchback trail for a good workout and great views, and ended up with a whole lot more. About half way up, I passed a small nook in a rock formation, where a group was sitting in the shadows, just a few steps off the trail. As I approached, they waved me over. It was an isolated spot, so I cautiously took a step forward. They asked me if I had water, not because they wanted some but because they hiked there regularly and brought extra. You see, this group knew from experience how easy it was to underestimate the physical demands of the trail and the dangers of becoming dehydrated. They shared that they always stopped to rest in the same shady spot on their way down, to make sure people on their way up had enough water

to continue on safely. I couldn't believe they actually carried extra pounds – literally gallons of water – just to give it away!

I quickly learned to call such people "trail angels," and that angels don't always appear as one might expect. Based on first impressions, this disheveled group, slightly hidden from view in an isolated spot, might seem more threat than salvation. With a snap judgement, it would have been easy to keep on walking, perhaps even quickening my pace. Fortunately, I took a leap of faith and, in return, received a lasting memory and had a valuable lesson reinforced. Simply put, we're all more similar than initially meets the eye. Technology has rendered the world a smaller place, but it also seems to be a more divided one. Parks create common ground, where it's easy to discover hidden powers that unite us. These magical places somehow compel total strangers to graciously share and be kind to others. Let's hold onto that wonderfully positive spirit derived from time spent in nature, and use it when we return home to better help each other, regardless of how different we may appear on the surface. By working together and embracing our differences, we're much better equipped to conquer the universal challenges we all face... together!

**Founder & Editor-in-Chief**

[mark@americanparknetwork.com](mailto:mark@americanparknetwork.com)



**Check First.** Please be sure to check the park's website, ask a ranger or stop by a visitor center to find out about current conditions and regulations, as well as potential changes in operations.



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# PLAN YOUR VISIT



## GETTING TO YELLOWSTONE

**Park Entrances:** Yellowstone is accessible from five major entrances during the summer: **North** (U.S. 89) from Gardiner, Montana; **West** (U.S. 20) from **West Yellowstone**, Montana; **South** (U.S. 89) from Jackson, Wyoming; **East** (U.S. 20-16-14) from Cody, Wyoming; and **Northeast** (U.S. 212) from Silver Gate and Cooke City, Montana.

### Seasonal Road and Entrance

**Closures:** The North and Northeast entrances are open year-round, as is the road from Gardiner, MT and the North Entrance to Cooke City, MT at the Northeast Entrance. In the winter, visitors must return to Gardiner to drive back to Interstate 90 and destinations beyond. *All other park entrances and interior roads close to the public November 1st.* They reopen to tracked, over-the-snow vehicles from mid-De-



cember through mid-March and begin to reopen for wheeled vehicles in mid-April.

**Construction:** For current road construction and conditions, call the NPS at **(307) 344-2117** or visit [nps.gov/yell](https://nps.gov/yell). Sign up to receive text alerts about Yellowstone's road closures and conditions by texting **"82190"** to **888-777**.

## FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASSES

A federal recreation pass is helpful if you plan to visit many national parks, forests or other federal lands. For information, call **(888) 275-8747** or visit [store.usgs.gov/pass](https://store.usgs.gov/pass).

Type	Cost	Availability	Details
Annual Pass	\$80 \$20	General Public Seniors (62+)	This one-year pass is available on site, by phone or online (see above).
Senior Pass	\$80	U.S. residents age 62+	This lifetime pass is available on site, via mail order or online. ID required. A 12-month pass is available for \$20.
Military Pass	Free	U.S. active military and their dependents	This one-year pass is available on site. ID (CAC Card or DoD Form 1173) required.
Access Pass	Free	U.S. residents with permanent disabilities	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. ID and documentation required. Plus \$10 for handling.
Volunteer Pass	Free	250 volunteer service hours with NPS	Inquire locally to obtain information about this one-year pass.





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## TRANSPORTATION

**Air:** Commercial air service is available to Billings (129 miles), Bozeman (77 miles) and West Yellowstone (three miles) in Montana; to Jackson (57 miles) and Cody (53 miles) in Wyoming; and to Idaho Falls (112 miles) in Idaho. Air service to West Yellowstone is only available in summer. *Note: Distances are measured from the nearest park entrance.*

**Bus:** Greyhound serves Bozeman, MT, West Yellowstone, MT, Cody, WY and Jackson, WY. Yellowstone National Park Lodges offers shuttle service from Bozeman to Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel in the winter. Reserve in advance by calling **(307) 344-7311** or by submitting a request form found on their website [yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://yellowstonenationalparklodges.com). Additional bus companies that serve the region include: Karst Stage, Salt Lake Express, Wind River Transportation Authority, Express Arrow, Southern Teton Area Rapid Transit, and Alltrans Charter Service.

**Tours:** Explore the incredible natural wonders of Yellowstone National Park guided by a knowledgeable park professional. Book land, water and horseback adventures at [Yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/adventures/](http://Yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/adventures/). Custom private guided tours are available with transportation.

Call **307 344.5282** to learn more and book. Educational family tours, hiking and/or wildlife tours may be booked through Yellowstone Forever [www.yellowstone.org](http://www.yellowstone.org).

**Rental Car:** Cars may be rented at some airports and in major towns near the park.

**Train:** There is no direct rail service to the park. The closest Amtrak service is Salt Lake City, Utah.

## ENTRANCE FEES

The entrance fee is \$35 for a private, non-commercial vehicle with up to 15 passengers; \$30 for a motorcycle; or \$20 for each visitor 16 and older entering on foot, bike, ski, etc. This fee provides the visitor with a seven-day entrance permit. Remember to keep your admission receipt in order to re-enter the park.

To streamline entry during peak season, digital passes for select federal public lands including Yellowstone National Park are available at [www.recreation.gov/pass/](http://www.recreation.gov/pass/) or in the **Recreation.gov** app.

An annual Yellowstone pass is \$70. Visitors entering Yellowstone's South Entrance will be traveling through Grand Teton National Park first; separate entrance fees are charged, or Annual Passes may be used at both parks.

Entrance fees are waived if you have an annual or lifetime national park pass. Annual



## GENERAL STORES

Grab a bite to eat or a souvenir at one of 12 Yellowstone General Stores located throughout the park. You'll find groceries, gifts, apparel, sandwiches and tasty grab-and-go items that you can enjoy quickly and get back to exploring. From retro '50s-inspired counter service to casual cafeterias, hand-dipped ice cream parlors and self-serve frozen yogurt bars, there are a variety of dining experiences. The stores are also convenient places to rest, refuel and enjoy one-of-a-kind shopping. For more information, call **(406) 586-7593** or visit [yellowstonegift.com](http://yellowstonegift.com).





passes are \$80; \$20 for those 62 and older. Senior lifetime passes are \$80 and do not expire. Both passes cover the pass owner and three accompanying adults age 16 and older. There is no fee for children 15 and under. Annual passes are free for current military families and US military veterans at [store.usgs.gov/MilitaryPass](https://store.usgs.gov/MilitaryPass). Purchase digital, annual and seven-day entrance passes to Yellowstone at [yourpassnow.com](https://yourpassnow.com) and see [www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.htm](https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.htm) for free entrance days.

## EVERY KID OUTDOORS

To help engage and create our next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates, the Every Kid Outdoors initiative was launched in February 2015—and the Every Kid Outdoors Act was signed into law in 2019. The immediate goal is to provide an opportunity for every fourth grade student across the country to experience their federal public lands and waters in person.

All kids in the fourth grade have access to their own free Every Kid Outdoors pass at [everykidoutdoors.gov](https://everykidoutdoors.gov). This pass admits the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle to the park. You can obtain the pass by visiting [everykidoutdoors.gov](https://everykidoutdoors.gov) and you must print it and present it at the park. Educators can download activity guides and get one pass for each of their fourth-grade students. The Every Kid Outdoors pass is valid until August 31, 2022.

## PARK NEWSPAPER

Pick up a copy of *Yellowstone*, a free NPS publication, at visitor centers and park entrances or online at [yellowstone.net/news-paper](https://yellowstone.net/news-paper). It offers news and current information about park facilities and programs.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For park information, call the NPS visitor information line at **(307) 344-7381**. For lodging, camping, activity and dining



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information, contact Yellowstone National Park Lodges at **(307) 344-7901** (general information); **(307) 344-7311** (reservations) or visit **[yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://yellowstonenationalparklodges.com)**.

## WEATHER

Yellowstone's weather is always unpredictable. Storms can come up suddenly, causing a drop in temperature or resulting in precipitation. Always wear layers, pack plenty of water and carry extra clothing when hiking.

## ALTITUDE

Most areas that people visit in the park are above 7,500 feet. Take time to acclimate—drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration from altitude and dry climate.

## WHAT TO WEAR

Always be prepared by dressing in layers. Don't forget a jacket or sweater, rain gear, sunscreen and sunglasses.

## PARK HEADQUARTERS

Located at Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park Headquarters is the historic site of Fort Yellowstone where, from 1886 to 1918, the U.S. Army was in charge of protecting the park from poachers, vandals,

robbers and whatever lawlessness threatened the park and its early tourists. Now the old army buildings house the park's administrative offices and the Albright Visitor Center. You can take a self-guided walking tour of the fort.

## VISITOR CENTERS & RANGER STATIONS

**Visitor centers**, the park's main information hubs, are conveniently located near most lodging complexes. Stop by to purchase books, maps and other publications, and obtain information about how to best explore the park. Opening and closing dates vary, but most have shortened hours of operation (or are closed) between September and late May. See the park newspaper, *Yellowstone*, for current hours of operation. **Ranger stations** are located in most developed areas.

**The Albright Visitor Center**, located within the historic Bachelor Officers Quarters at Mammoth Hot Springs, has park and trip-planning information, a bookstore, exhibits on the park's history and wildlife, park rangers available, restrooms and free Wi-Fi. For more information call **(307) 344-2263**.

The **Old Faithful Visitor Education Center** offers immaculate views of the geyser and provides park information, souvenirs



## YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Yellowstone Forever is the official education and fundraising nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park. They partner with the NPS to create opportunities for all people to experience, enhance and preserve Yellowstone forever.

Educational programming, products and services help people enjoy, understand and appreciate the wildlife, geology and cultural history of the park, while the opportunities Yellowstone Forever provides for volunteerism and community relations develop and

engage new stewards for the park. Through thoughtful cultivation and stewardship, Yellowstone Forever is building a network of philanthropic supporters dedicated to preserving the park.

Yellowstone Forever's mission of engagement and support through education and fundraising will ensure Yellowstone remains for generations to come. For more information or to join the community, contact Yellowstone Forever at **[yellowstone.org](http://yellowstone.org)** or call **(406) 848-2400**.



and an exhibit hall of the park's natural wonders. It is expected to be open mid-April to November 1st, and then again for winter visitors Dec 15-March 15. For more information call **(307) 344-2750**.

The **Canyon Visitor Education Center** contains a variety of engaging exhibits explaining Yellowstone's geologic story with particular focus on the volcano beneath the park. Films are shown throughout the day. The Canyon Visitor Education Center is expected to be open mid-April to November 1 and then reopens as a warming hut only with access to restrooms from December 15 to March 8. Call **(307) 344-2550** for more information.

Exhibits at the **Grant Village Visitor Center**, on the west shore of Yellowstone Lake, tell the story of the 1988 Yellowstone fires. A film about the historic fires is shown regularly. Call **(307) 344-2650** for more information.

**Fishing Bridge Visitor Center** houses exhibits about Yellowstone's birds and wild-

life. A scale model of Yellowstone Lake reveals the amazing geology of the lake bottom. The Visitor Center, a National Historic Landmark, is open from early June through mid-October. At the time of writing, the opening date for Fishing Bridge Visitor Center is to be determined. Call **(307) 344-2450** for more information.

**Norris Geyser Basin Museum & Information Station**, another National Historic Landmark, is located in Norris Geyser Basin and houses exhibits on geysers, hot springs, mud pots and steam vents. It is open mid-May through mid-October. Call **(307) 344-2812** for more information.

The **Museum of the National Park Ranger**, located at Norris Campground, is part of the Fort Yellowstone National Historic Landmark District. Exhibits focus on the Army's administration of the park, and the evolution of the NPS ranger profession. It is open from late July through early September. Please call **(307) 344-7353** for more information.

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**Madison Information Station/Junior Ranger Station**, located at Madison Junction in the Madison Picnic Area, provides park information, and Junior Ranger activities. Madison Information Station will be closed for 2022. For more information, please call **(307) 344-2821**.

The **West Thumb Information Station** provides park information and a bookstore, and also serves as a meeting place for interpretive walks and talks during summer. It's open late May through late September. For more information call **(307) 344-2650**. The **West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center**, located just outside the park on U.S. 20 in West Yellowstone, is open year-round (weekends in winter). For information, please call **(307) 344-2876**.

*Note: Check the Yellowstone National Park App for open and close dates, as well as descriptions of available services.*

**OUTSIDE THE PARK**

The **West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center** is located at 30 Yellowstone Ave. in West Yellowstone.



The **Montana Historical Society** in Helena, Montana, has exhibits related to Montana's history, culture, art and landscape.

The **Museum of the Rockies**, in Bozeman, houses one of the world's largest collections of dinosaur skeletons, permanent exhibits on Western history and American Indians, the Martin Children's Discovery Complex and a planetarium.

Interest in fine art and wildlife can be explored at the **National Museum of Wildlife Art** in Jackson, Wyoming.

The **Buffalo Bill Center of the West** in Cody, Wyoming, tells the story of the American West in five museums under one roof, including The Draper Museum of Natural History, which takes you on an interactive journey through the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. At the **Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center** near Cody, you can look straight down a 353-foot drop to the Shoshone River.

In Pinedale, Wyoming, the **Museum of the Mountain Men** focuses on the life of Jim Bridger and tells the story of other fur trappers and early explorers. The museum has a \$10 entry fee and open from May 1 to October 31. Children under 12 are free.

	<b>IMPORTANT NUMBERS</b>
Emergency	<b>911</b>
NPS General Information	<b>(307) 344-7381</b>
Road Updates	<b>(307) 344-2117</b>
Park Tip Line (to report crime)	<b>(307) 344-2132</b>
NPS Campground Update (recorded message)	<b>(307) 344-2114</b>
NPS TDD	<b>(307) 344-2386</b>
NPS Accessibility Coordinator - 	<b>(307) 344-2314</b>
Sign Language Interpreters for NPS programs (3 weeks in advance)	<b>(307) 344-2251</b>
Yellowstone National Park Lodges (Lodging, Dining, Camping/RV Park, Activities)	<b>(307) 344-7901</b>
Reservations	<b>(307) 344-7311</b>
TDD	<b>(307) 344-5395</b>



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# LODGING & DINING



Reflecting the natural surroundings of Yellowstone, televisions, radios and air conditioning are not available at in-park lodging. Wi-Fi is available for a fee at some lodging/dining facilities in the park; free Wi-Fi is available at the Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs. There is limited cell phone service at Old Faithful, Mammoth, Grant Village, Yellowstone Lake and Canyon areas.

Due to modified park operations, the park may not be offering scheduled ranger programs this season. When visiting the park, please check at the local visitor center or message boards to see what activities are being offered. Guided tours and private custom trips are available with transportation at [www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com). Wheelchair-accessible accommodations are available on a limited basis.

**Pets** are allowed in the park and can stay with guests in cabin-type accommodations only for a fee, must be on a leash, and are not allowed on boardwalks, hiking trails, in the backcountry, or in thermal areas. All park accommodations are **non-smoking**.

Yellowstone National Park Lodges, Yellowstone's principle concessioner, offers dining at hotels and lodges in the park, ranging from historic, full-service dining rooms to casual cafeterias and quick-service outlets. Due to workforce shortages, Yellowstone National Park is modifying their food service as well as operating dates and times at various locations. Details can be found at [www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/alerts](http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/alerts).

**Children's menus** are always available. Suggested dress is casual. Dinner **reservations** are required at some dining rooms; breakfast and lunch seating is first

come, first-served. Deli lunches to go are available from dining rooms throughout the park. Place your order the day before.

**Quick-service** options are also available at cafeterias, fast food outlets and Yellowstone General Stores, located throughout the park.

Lodging, dining and activity reservations are strongly recommended. For reservations, call **Yellowstone National Park Lodges** at **(307) 344-7311** or visit **[yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://yellowstonenationalparklodges.com)**. If you are already at Yellowstone, front desk staff at park lodges can make additional lodging and activity reservations for you. Be sure to ask about availability and openings, as some dining options have modified operations this season. American Express, VISA, MasterCard, Diners Club, Discover, Carte Blanche and JCB are accepted.

**Roosevelt Lodge Cabins** These historic, rustic cabins are located in a favorite area of Theodore Roosevelt. The Roughrider Cabins have wood-burning stoves, but no private baths. The Frontier Cabins are heated and have private baths. **Roosevelt Dining Room** In keeping with the cowboy atmosphere, specialties include mouth-watering baby back ribs, Roosevelt baked beans and crispy fried chicken. **Roosevelt Old West Dinner Cookout Ride** out to Yancey's Hole on horseback or wagon to enjoy Western entertainment and a hearty dinner of steak, corn, coleslaw, cornbread muffins, homemade Roosevelt baked beans, watermelon and fruit crisp. At the time of this writing, Roosevelt dining hours are still to be determined. Dinner Cookouts to begin service on on June 4th.

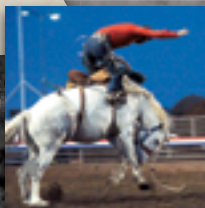
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**Grill & Lounge** Full service restaurant and bar with soup, salads, and traditional American fare, with a lounge offering drinks and appetizers. Meals are all first-come, first-served. **Canyon Lodge Eatery** Quick, hot entrées that are customizable, with a focus on local ingredients. **Canyon Lodge Ice Creamery** Montana-made ice cream from Big Dipper Ice Cream, out of Missoula. At the time of this writing, all Canyon Lodge dining facilities are closed, with the opening dates to be determined.

























overnight in-park lodging and campground guests. Guests with reservations at the Old Faithful Inn can make reservations up to 60 days prior to arrival. Guests with reservations at other Yellowstone National Park lodges and campgrounds can make reservations up to 30 days prior. Guests will receive an email communication with additional information within the booking time frame that includes an exclusive link for access to make dinner reservations online. Non-lodging guests are able to visit the host stand for same-day availability. Breakfast and lunch are first-come, first-served. **Bear Paw Deli** is perfect for on-the-go options—sandwiches, salads and ice cream for the road. Both lodging and dining services will become available May 6. **B I D**       


Open summer and winter, this award-winning hotel boasts 100 lodge rooms, while nearby Frontier and Western Cabins offer modern cabin-style accommodations. All have private baths. **Obsidian Dining Room** Beautiful custom chandeliers accent this dining room where hearty meals are served. Dinner reservations are required in the winter. **Geyser Grill** Breakfast sandwiches, burgers and deli selections. Lodging and dining are available starting April 29. **BLOD**

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snowshoe enthusiasts. Recently renovated facilities include hotel rooms and cabins with private baths. The first four-star green restaurant in the National Park system, the **Mammoth Hotel Dining Room** is known for its value-priced entrees with occasional views of elk and bison grazing nearby. Dinner reservations accepted only in winter. Swing by the **Mammoth Terrace Grill** for breakfast sandwiches, fast food, soup, salad and ice cream and stop at the **Mammoth Hotel Map Room** for a full selection of espressos, coffee, and tea. In the evening, enjoy a signature or classic beverage from the full bar. Mammoth's dining options open on April 29th. 


**Grant Village** This lodging complex is comprised of six two-story buildings, each with 50 rooms. All rooms have private baths. The village is situated on the southwestern shore of Yellowstone Lake, about 20 miles from Old Faithful. NPS visitor center and Yellowstone Lake are nearby. **Grant Village Dining Room** Enjoy a buffet breakfast, sandwiches and salads for lunch, and a range of value-priced dinner items like smoked bison bratwursts and wild Alaska fish & chips. Reservations are required for dinner only. **Grant Village Lake House** Enjoy casual dining and a view of Yellowstone Lake.

At the time of writing, Grant Village Lake House Restaurant's opening date is to be determined. 

### Lake Yellowstone Hotel and Cabins

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 2015, this property is a Colonial Revival masterpiece. Facilities include classically appointed hotel rooms and comfortable cabins. All have private baths. **Lake Hotel Dining Room** Specialty sandwiches and entrée salads are served at lunch, while dinner includes fresh and savory entrees. Menu focuses on local and sustainable cuisine. Dinner reservations required. **Lake Hotel Deli** Sandwiches, soup, snacks, desserts and Starbucks coffee.

**Lake Yellowstone** Dining Room and Deli available May 13. 

**Lake Lodge Cabins** The lodge's porch affords a rocking-chair view of shimmering reflections of the mountains on Yellowstone Lake. Cabins with private baths are grouped nearby. The **Lake Lodge Cafeteria** offers hot entrees, salads, sandwiches and to-go items. **Wylie's Canteen at Lake Lodge** is newly remodeled and serves lunch and dinner. At the time of writing, Wylie's Canteen is set to open June 10. 

KEY					
	Breakfast		Lobby bar		Interpretive Sightseeing Tours
	Lunch		Stage Coach Rides		Post Office
	Dinner		Guided Trail Rides		Wheelchair Access
	Open in winter		General Store		Espresso service
	Reservations required		ATM		Medical Clinic
	Lounge		Public Laundry		Service Station
RESERVATIONS		(307) 344-7311		yellowstonenationalparklodges.com	



# PARK REGULATIONS & SAFETY



Make the most of your visit by planning ahead and becoming acquainted with these safety precautions and park rules.

## PARK REGULATIONS

Carefully read park regulations listed here, in park newspapers and posted at visitor centers and ranger stations.

### DRONES

Drones are strictly prohibited in the park.

### FIREARMS

Firearms regulations vary by park. Check with the NPS at the park you plan to visit before your trip for most up-to-date information.

### FIRES

Campfires are restricted to designated campgrounds and picnic areas with permanent fire grates. Backcountry campfires require special permits. You may use any dead, downed and detached material as firewood. Chainsaws are prohibited. Some campgrounds sell firewood. Please use extreme caution with all fires and smoking materials. You must completely extinguish fires before leaving an area.

### SPEED LIMIT

The maximum speed limit in the park is 45 mph, or slower where posted, or as conditions warrant. Use caution especially in late evening and early morning, and during rain or snow, when wildlife is more difficult to see. Always err on the side of caution.

### INVASIVE SPECIES AND BOATING

All watercraft must be inspected for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) before entering Yellowstone's

waters. Motorized boats are only allowed on Lewis and Yellowstone lakes. Boats intended for use on Yellowstone Lake must have a permit and undergo inspection. Motorized and non-motorized watercrafts can obtain permits and inspections at Bridge Bay Ranger Station, Grant Village Backcountry Office or Lewis Lake Ranger Station. Angler float tubes can go to West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center, Bechler Ranger Station, North Entrance or the Northeast Entrance. Inspection station contact information: Grant **(406) 581-9040**; Lake **(406) 823-9006**.

### PERMITS

Permits are required for boating, fishing, overnight hiking or camping in the backcountry. Permits are available from visitor centers or ranger stations. To ensure safety, read the accompanying information you receive with the permit. Talk to park rangers about trail conditions, bear sightings, wildlife migrations, weather warnings and stream crossings.

### PETS

Pets must be leashed at all times and are prohibited on trails, in the backcountry and at all thermal areas. Pets are allowed in campgrounds and cabin units of the park's lodging facilities, but may not be left unattended. There are no kennels in the park. Guests are charged a one-time \$25 fee for each unit occupied by an animal during the stay. For information about pets in park lodging, visit **[yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/pets.htm)**.

### SWIMMING

Bathing, wading or swimming in any thermal feature or stream whose waters flow exclusively from thermal features is prohibited because it can damage the hydrothermal system. The NPS



discourages swimming in park rivers, streams and lakes due to extremely cold temperatures and the risk of hypothermia.

## TECHNICAL CLIMBING

Park mountains are not well suited for climbing due to loose and broken rock. For your safety, climbing is discouraged. Climbing in Yellowstone's Grand Canyon is illegal.

## VANDALISM

It is illegal to deface, damage or remove any plants, animals or minerals. With your help, Yellowstone can be protected.

## WILDLIFE

Feeding wildlife is strictly prohibited. Do not tease, crowd or frighten animals. Startled animals may charge—bison can sprint 37 miles per hour! Stay at least 25 yards from most animals and 100 yards away from bears and wolves.

## STAYING SAFE

In wilderness areas, remember that you will experience the land on its own terms. Talk with park rangers before hiking to learn about survival and seasonal hazards. Be alert and know your limits. For hiking safety tips, see the "Walking & Hiking" chapter; for bear safety tips, see the "Nature & Wildlife" chapter. *Note: Staying overnight in the backcountry requires a permit.*

## BLISTERS

To prevent blisters, wear comfortable shoes or boots that suit your needs and the terrain. Likewise, wear quality outdoor socks to cushion and protect your feet.

## FALLING TREES

Avoid areas with dead trees, including areas that have burned. Dead trees may fall without warning, especially on windy days. Heed

park rangers' warnings about areas to avoid and be alert, even in your car and especially on windy days.

## GEYSERS AND SCALDING WATER

All thermal pools are near or above boiling temperature. Venturing off marked trails or boardwalks is hazardous and prohibited; the thin crusts around thermal features may suddenly break. Scalding hot water inflicts serious and possibly fatal burns. Keep small children safe in these areas.

## GIARDIASIS

**Giardia lamblia** is present in streams and lakes at Yellowstone, and renders water non-potable unless boiled or treated. If you develop symptoms such as diarrhea, cramps and bloating, consult a physician. Carry adequate filtered or bottled water for short hikes and, on longer trips, boil water for at least one minute before drinking or for use in cooking.

## HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia is a potentially fatal condition that occurs when you are so cold your body can no longer warm itself. You can even experience hypothermia if you are tired and wet on a breezy summer day. If you find yourself shivering and feeling disoriented, seek shelter and drink warm liquids. This serious condition may require medical assistance.

## LIGHTNING

If you see a storm developing while hiking, retreat to a lower elevation to reduce your risk of being struck by lightning. Avoid water, ridges, isolated trees and boulders. If you feel the tingle of an electrical charge building up, crouch down, lean forward and place your hands on your knees. Do not seek refuge under rock overhangs.



# VISITOR SERVICES



Park facilities begin opening in early May, with all services open by early June. Services and facilities begin closing after Labor Day. Please contact NPS or visit [nps.gov/yell](https://nps.gov/yell) for current dates and hours.

## BANKING SERVICES

ATMs are located at Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Lake Yellowstone Hotel, Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Grant Village, Canyon Lodge and general stores throughout the park. There are banks in Gardiner and West Yellowstone in Montana, and in Jackson and Cody in Wyoming.

## CAMPING SUPPLIES

Yellowstone General Stores has camping and fishing equipment, groceries, sundries and souvenirs. The Mammoth Hot Springs store is generally open year-round. The Fishing Bridge RV Park also carries a limited stock of RV supplies. For more camping information, see the "Camping" chapter.

## DINING & SERVICES

Yellowstone National Park Lodges' hotels, restaurants, cafeterias and quick service outlets have food service. Opening and closing dates are subject to change based on future conditions and public health guidance. Yellowstone General Stores operate several snack bars and sell groceries and grab-and-go items. The Kids Activity Book, full of games and puzzles, as well as valuable coupons for parents, is available at all Yellowstone National Park Lodges dining rooms. See the "Plan Your Visit" chapter for more lodging and dining information. Download the free National Park Service app (and offline content)

before you arrive in the park for interactive maps, self guided tours, and information on food, restrooms, and shopping.

## EMERGENCIES AND MEDICAL SERVICE

Dial 911 for emergency, fire, medical or **ranger assistance** or to report accidents or injuries. To contact a park ranger, call **(307) 344-7381**. The NPS emergency medical technicians and park medics are on duty 24 hours a day, year-round.

Medcor, Inc. operates three patient-care facilities within the park. Patients requiring advanced medical care are transported to area hospitals or medical centers.

**The Mammoth Hot Springs Clinic** is open weekdays with limited Friday hours, year-round and seven days a week from June to September. Please call **(307) 344-7965** for more information. The **Old Faithful Clinic** is open seasonally from mid May to October 1. For appointments or assistance, please call **(307) 545-7325**. **Lake Clinic**, located at the north end of Yellowstone Lake, is open seasonally from late May to mid September. For more information, call **(307) 242-7241**.

## GIFT SHOPS

Gift shops are located throughout the park at all lodging facilities and at Yellowstone General Stores. Yellowstone National Park Lodges' gift stores, located in the hotels, sell apparel, gifts and souvenirs. Inspired by nature and shaped by history, exclusive products reflect the park's heritage. Convenience items such as camera memory cards, videos, sundries and regional books are also available. Regional specialties, including pottery, carvings, gourmet foods and art prints,



focus on the Yellowstone lifestyle. At Old Faithful, **artists-in-residence** display their work, which is available for sale.

At Mammoth Hotel, an award-winning gift store (for its devotion to the impact of climate change) focuses on locally sourced, regional products, “Made in USA,” and sustainable and upcycled merchandise. Book signings, food tastings and artist demonstrations are scheduled at various locations throughout the summer. Pick up an *Experience Planner* for a list of stores and their locations in Yellowstone.

Visit the Yellowstone General Store in Grant Village or *Yellowstone Adventures* in Canyon Village for camping and fishing gear, hiking apparel and footwear. At the historic Yellowstone General Store in Fishing Bridge, the *Spirit of Yellowstone* showcases Native American and Western jewelry, artwork, curios and gifts. Note that gift shops will open in coordination with their corresponding lodging. See [www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/shop/in-park-shopping](http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/shop/in-park-shopping) for dates.

## LAUNDRY AND PUBLIC SHOWERS

In summer, Grant Village Campground, Fishing Bridge RV Park, Canyon Campground and the Old Faithful area offer coin-operated laundries and pay showers. Lake Lodge and Old Faithful Snow Lodge have laundry only and Old Faithful Inn and Mammoth Hot Springs have showers only. In winter, Old Faithful Snow Lodge has laundry facilities.

## LOST AND FOUND

You can turn in or trace lost and found articles at any visitor center, ranger station or hotel front desk. **Call (307) 344-5387** to report or retrieve items lost in lodging facilities; call **(307) 344-2109** to report

or retrieve items lost in other parts of the park.

## POSTAL SERVICES

The park's main post office is located at Mammoth Hot Springs. In summer, there are post office facilities at Old Faithful, Lake Village, Canyon Village and Grant Village.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Religious services are held at many in-park locations and in nearby communities during summer and on religious holidays. For times and locations of in-park services, ask at visitor centers or lodging front desks.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

The official NPS app includes up-to-date accessibility information for facilities and trails. Download it for free before you arrive. Visitors can request a printed accessibility guide at [nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm](http://nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm). For trip planning information, contact the **Park Accessibility Coordinator**, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190; **(307) 344-2314** or visit [nps.gov/yell](http://nps.gov/yell).

## SERVICE STATIONS

Yellowstone Park Service Stations operates seven full-service gas stations and four auto-towing and repair shops in the park. Gas, auto accessories, tire repairs, oil changes and routine maintenance are available only during summer. LP propane gas bottle-filling plants are at Grant Village and Fishing Bridge. Towing and repair facilities are located at Old Faithful, Grant Village, Fishing Bridge and Canyon Village. Repair services are only available from the end of May to beginning of September. **Call (406) 848-7333** or **(307) 344-7381**.



# HISTORY & CULTURE



Throughout its dynamic history, Yellowstone has inspired awe in all its visitors—American Indians, mountain men, explorers and modern-day travelers.

## THE EARLIEST HUMANS IN YELLOWSTONE

The human history of the vast Yellowstone region goes back more than 11,000 years. How far back has yet to be determined, but their presence probably coincided with the end of the last period of ice coverage, approximately 12,000 years ago. Human occupation of the greater Yellowstone area seems to follow environmental changes of the last 15,000 years. Glaciers covered most of what is now Yellowstone Park. They receded and left behind rivers and valleys that people likely followed in pursuit of Ice

Age mammals such as the mammoth and the giant bison.

The first people arrived in this region sometime before 11,000 years ago. Archaeologists have found little physical evidence of their presence other than distinctive stone tools and projectile points. From these artifacts, scientists surmise that they hunted mammals and ate berries, seeds and roots.

As the climate in the Yellowstone region became warmer and drier, the animals, vegetation and human lifestyles also changed. Large Ice Age animals that were adapted to cold and wet conditions became extinct. People, who could no longer rely on large mammals for food, depended on smaller animals, such as deer and bighorn sheep. Plants such as bitterroot and prickly pear also became important staples.

## HISTORIC TRIBES

Tribal oral histories indicate extensive use of the Yellowstone area during the Little Ice Age. **Kiowa** stories place their ancestors here from around A.D. 1400 to A.D. 1700. Ancestors to contemporary Blackfeet, Cayuse, Coeur d'Alene, Bannock, Nez Perce, Shoshone and Umatilla, and other tribes continued to travel the park on the already established trails. They visited geysers, conducted ceremonies, hunted, gathered plants and minerals and engaged in trade. Some tribes used the Fishing Bridge area as a rendezvous site.

The **Crow** occupied the country generally east of the park, and the **Blackfeet** occupied the country to the north. The **Shoshone**, **Bannock** and other tribes of the plateaus to





the west traversed the park area annually to hunt on the plains to the east. Other Shoshonean groups hunted in open areas west and south of Yellowstone.

In the early 1700s, some tribes in this region began to acquire horses. Some historians believe the horse fundamentally changed lifestyles because tribes could now travel faster and farther to hunt bison and other animals of the plains. The horse, however, does not seem to have changed the tribes' traditional use of the Yellowstone area.

## THE “SHEEP EATERS”

Some groups of Shoshone who adapted to a mountain existence chose not to acquire the horse. These included the Sheep Eaters, or Tukudika, who used their dogs to transport food, hides and other provisions.

Sheep Eaters acquired their name from the bighorn sheep whose migrations they followed. Bighorn sheep were a significant part of their diet, and they crafted the carcasses into a wide array of tools and implements. For example, they made bows from sheep horn made pliable from soaking in hot springs. The tribe traded these bows, clothing and hides to other tribes.

## THE EXPLORERS

The written history of Yellowstone dates back to a vague and superstitious journal entry written by **William Clark** when he interviewed an American Indian after his return to St. Louis nearly 200 years ago: “There is frequently heard a loud noise like thunder, which makes the earth tremble, [Indians] state that they seldom go there because [their] children cannot sleep—and conceive it possessed of spirits, who were adverse that men should be near them.”



American Indians laugh at this; they were not afraid. Explorers Lewis and Clark did not venture into the land, even for a look, during their expedition across the northwest region of the continent from 1804 to 1806.

A member of their expedition, **John Colter**, however, hadn't had his fill of the wilds when Lewis and Clark headed back to St. Louis, Missouri, after their epic journey. He spent a full winter, probably during 1807–1808, trapping and wandering through what is now the park, looking for American Indian trading partners. Three years later, he related his discoveries in St. Louis, but his stories of the region were mocked and called “mad hallucinations.”

Talk of this strange, almost alien, landscape resisted verification. Most of the eyewitnesses, fur trappers and traders, gave up their profession when the beaver hat went out of style around 1840, and Yellowstone was abandoned by the European Americans again and left to the American Indians.



Recounting doubtful tales of wonder became a mountain man's game, a form of pure entertainment far removed from the serious matters of daily life.

No one seemed to enjoy the storytelling more than the notorious trapper **Jim Bridger**. His very real contribution to the mapping of the West was often a side note to his many outrageous "Bridger Stories," which still live on as part of Yellowstone's legendary past.

After the Civil War, people turned their attention once again to the western frontier where gold miners were just giving up their mostly futile search for gold in Yellowstone. Called lies or delusions of drink, the miners' tales nevertheless fanned curiosity in the local saloons. A group of eager adventurers, **Folsom, Cook** and **Peterson**, tired of the speculation and determined to experience it all for themselves. Upon seeing the eruption of the Great Fountain Geyser, "We could not contain our enthusiasm; with one accord we all took off our hats and yelled with all our might."

## NATIONAL PARK STATUS

Fortunately, one of the friends of those early adventurers would become the park's first superintendent, **Nathaniel P.**

**Langford**. Recalling Bridger's tall tales, he rallied a distinguished group of local leaders, including the surveyor general of Montana, and set out the next year, in 1870, to sort fable from fact. These men, in awe of the landscape, plotted out the campaign that would help protect this magical place from private ownership and exploitation. At their urging,

**Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden**, director of the U.S. Geological & Geographical Survey of the Territories, mounted an official exploration. Knowing Congress would have to see proof to believe it, Hayden brought along **Thomas Moran**, a renowned artist, and **William Henry Jackson**, the famous landscape photographer. Their visual accounts and a 500-page land survey confirmed the incredible truth. Congress voted to set aside 2.1 million acres for Yellowstone National Park on March 1, 1872.

The establishment of Yellowstone marked a revolution in the human relationship with nature. For the first time, preservation of America's most remarkable landscapes became a common national and international goal. Exhibits at the **Albright Visitor Center** bring the fascinating story of Yellowstone's history to life.



## YELLOWSTONE THE FIRST 150 YEARS



***Yellowstone National Park: The First 150 Years***, by author and park employee, Jeff Henry, is the perfect book to dive into the park's history through photographs and classic art through accompanying narrative that traces the history of the area from its Native American inhabitants to the present day.



# PRESERVATION



Finding a workable balance between preserving a unique ecosystem and accommodating its visitors is, at best, a trial and error process. NPS management is based upon agency mission, guided by science, and balanced with visitor experience goals.

During the park's early history, laundries were sometimes located near the geysers and hot pools. At one time, visitors tried injecting soaps to set off geyser eruptions. Predators were hunted and roads were built. The balance had tipped, all in good faith, toward a public amusement park.

Gradually, the NPS moved toward minimal interference with the park's natural state.

Yellowstone, as large as it is, is not a self-contained ecosystem. It is dynamically related to an area far beyond its boundaries. **Three massive river systems**, the Snake, the Yellowstone and the Missouri, originate in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. The underground geologic structure and processes that sustain the complex hydrothermal features in the park extend beyond park borders. Animals also migrate through adjacent public and private lands in search of food and water.

Programs were initiated to better protect the park, its wildlife and its resources. Park programs, exhibits and literature educated visitors about the park's fragile ecosystem.

Boardwalks help to preserve the delicate hydrothermal areas and wildlife management programs protect bears, trout and trumpeter swans. Regulations that protect natural and cultural resources also keep visitors safe.

The process of maintaining the balance of nature, however, is an ongoing one. Park officials, scientists and others continue to study Yellowstone for clues that will help them preserve what may be one of the last wildland ecosystems remaining in the world's Temperate Zone.

## FIRE—A NATURAL PROCESS

In 1988, the park experienced the greatest ecological event in the history of national parks. With raw, unbridled power, several fires raged in and around the park, affecting an area of 793,880 acres in the park. The extent of the 1988 fires focused worldwide attention on Yellowstone.

In its aftermath, forests began to regrow and other fires have occurred. Most biologists and naturalists believe that naturally caused wildfires are inevitable processes, part of the complex and intertwined natural forces that recycle nutrients back into the earth.

Fires broke out in the early 1700s and the mid-1800s, and evidence shows that this has happened 300 times in the last 10,000 years. There are programs and publications about fires at the visitor centers. The exhibit, "Yellowstone and Fire," can be viewed at Grant Village Visitor Center. Stop by—it's an amazing story.

## RECYCLING

Yellowstone National Park recycles aluminum and steel cans, plastic containers, glass and paper products. Please place recyclable materials in marked receptacles located in most developed areas, all lodges areas and campgrounds.



## FUN FACTS



### Q. WHEN WERE WOLVES REINTRODUCED INTO YELLOWSTONE?

- A. Wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone in the 1990s. The wolves that were reintroduced flourished and there are now over 300 of their descendants living in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

## SUSTAINABLE LODGING & DINING

Yellowstone National Park Lodges is committed to providing “Legendary Hospitality with a Softer Footprint” in all of its operations. This commitment is embodied through Our Softer Footprint, its Environmental Management System, and aims to reduce environmental impacts as a result of its business practices. Our Softer Footprint focuses on saving energy and water, reducing fossil fuel use, promotion of alternative energy sources and increasing healthy and sustainable cuisine offerings throughout the Park.

Recently, Yellowstone National Park Lodges has been able to divert more than 60 percent of its waste from landfill disposal through innovative recycling, composting, reuse and source-reduction programs. Additionally, more than 50 percent of its total food purchases are sustainable—including locally sourced, third-party certified and sustainably harvested ingredients and products.

## DO YOUR PART IN THE PARK

While visiting the park, you can help protect Yellowstone’s fragile environment. Please recycle, take advantage of the linen reuse program, turn down the heat, turn off the lights and make sure all water faucets are shut off before leaving your room. When dining in park restaurants, consider ordering one of the many sustainable menu items. In gift shops, look for products made in the USA and for labels which denote sustainable products.

Stewardship does not end at national park borders. You can help protect Yellowstone and other national parks from the impact of climate change and pollution by adopting green practices at home. Visit [yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/sustainability/](https://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/sustainability/) for a list of green-living tips and more information about climate change in the national parks.

## THE WOLVES OF YELLOWSTONE

Following an absence of more than 70 years, wolves once again inhabit the park. In March of 1995 and again in 1996, a total of 31 gray wolves were released in Yellowstone National Park. The goal of the wolf restoration program is to maintain 30 breeding wolf pairs with an equitable distribution throughout the three Rocky Mountain recovery areas including greater Yellowstone, central Idaho and northwest Montana.

Winter Wolf Discovery Package—  
*Join a Yellowstone Forever Educator* for an opportunity to spot wolves in the Lamar Valley. Package includes 4 nights lodging, all meals, and expert instruction by a Yellowstone Forever Field Educator. For more



information, visit [yellowstonenational-parklodges.com](http://yellowstonenational-parklodges.com) or call (307) 344-7311.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Each year Yellowstone welcomes full-time volunteers from the **Student Conservation Association (SCA)**, a national non-profit organization. The volunteers, who may be high school or college students or other adults, assist with vital activities from trail maintenance or bear management to backcountry patrol or assisting park visitors. In return, they receive valuable training and experience, have some expenses paid and are able to live and work in one of America's premier national parks. For information about the SCA program, call (603) 543-1700 or visit [thesca.org](http://thesca.org).

The **Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)** is a

summer employment program for young people ages 15-18. Through work projects done in the park, this program provides enrollees with a better understanding of their environment and management of our natural resources, and introduces them to the spectrum of career possibilities with the NPS. This residential program runs from June through August, and is based at Mammoth Hot Springs. YCC gives participants opportunities to explore park wilderness while working on projects focusing on rehabilitation of trails and backcountry areas, bridge reconstruction, and resource management, maintenance and research. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/yccjobs.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/yccjobs.htm).

For information about the **NPS Volunteer Program**, and other volunteer opportunities, visit [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov).

do it for your  
**FAMILY**





# THINGS TO DO



Listen to the sound of long summer days calling you to experience adventure in Yellowstone's mountain wilderness. The backcountry beckons anglers to streams teeming with fish, and hikers to trails winding through meadows undulating with wildflowers. Whether fishing on the Madison River, taking a guided tour or riding horseback through fields of wildflowers, you will enjoy exploring all the park has to offer.

## WHAT TO WEAR

When preparing for any outdoor activity, program or guided tour in Yellowstone, dress in layers, wear comfortable walking shoes or boots, always carry a jacket or sweatshirt and bring rain gear and plenty of water and extra food.

## PARK PROGRAMS

Yellowstone Forever is the park's non-profit partner for education and operates the Yellowstone Forever Institute, a field school that offers year-round learning adventures on subjects such as geysers, wildlife, photography and park history. Courses are based at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch Field Campus, the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus, at park hotels and in the backcountry. They also offer private tours including wildlife watching, day hiking and geology exploration.

Due to modified park operations, the park is not offering any scheduled ranger programs. When visiting the park, please check at the local visitor center or message boards to see what activities are being offered.

## FIELD SEMINARS & PRIVATE TOURS

Many **authorized guides and outfitters** are ready to show you the wonders of Yellowstone—there is truly something for everyone! Contact the National Park Service at **(307) 344-7381** or visit **[nps.gov/yell](https://nps.gov/yell)** to learn more.

## BICYCLING

Pedaling through Yellowstone can be a memorable, but potentially dangerous, experience. Very few bike paths exist, there are no bicycle lanes along roadways, and bikes are prohibited on boardwalks and backcountry trails. Wear safety gear, including a helmet and high-visibility clothing, because park roads are narrow and winding. Be especially mindful of mirrors protruding from campers and RVs that may pass you from behind. A rear-view mirror on your bike and a helmet can be life-saving essentials. Bicycle rentals are available at Old Faithful Snow Lodge, where you can bicycle on roads and paths in and around the Upper Geyser Basin.

## FISHING

Understandably, fly fishing is popular throughout the park on Yellowstone's crystal-clear lakes, rivers and streams. The fishing season begins the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and continues through the first Sunday in November. (Certain park waters have different seasons or regulations; learn more at park visitor centers.) All anglers ages 16 and older must possess a valid Yellowstone National Park fishing permit (\$40 for three days) to fish in the park; **state permits are not valid**. Anglers ages 15 and younger may



either fish under direct supervision of an adult who has a fishing permit or obtain a free permit and fish without supervision. Fishing permits may be obtained at ranger stations, visitor centers, Yellowstone General Stores and Bridge Bay Marina. You can purchase fishing tackle from Yellowstone General Stores throughout the park.

## BOATING

Bridge Bay Marina on Yellowstone Lake is the hub of boating activities. Lake cruises, boat rentals, guided charters, boat slips, marine supplies and ranger services are available. The Scenic-Cruiser boat tours on Yellowstone Lake run from mid-June to mid-September. You can rent a rowboat or motorboat, or charter a guided boat to take up to six passengers to cast a line at the hottest fishing spots or explore the expansive and beautiful Yellowstone Lake. Rentals are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note, guided fishing/sightsee-

ing charter boats are not bookable online. Please contact Central Reservations at **(307)-344-7311** between the hours of 7am and 7pm Mountain time, 7 days a week. Fishing rods and tackle are provided on charters.

Boats, canoes, kayaks and rafts are not allowed on park rivers and streams, with the exception of the waterway between Lewis and Shoshone lakes, where only hand-propelled vessels are permitted. Launching facilities are located at Lewis Lake and on Yellowstone Lake at Bridge Bay Marina and Grant Village Campground. All water vessels (including float tubes) must have a permit, which can be obtained at Bridge Bay Marina or at ranger stations in the lake area. Non-motorized vessels are \$20 for 7 days or \$30 for the season. Motorized vessels are \$40 for 7 days or \$60 for the season. Each person on a vessel must have a Coast Guard-approved “wearable” personal floating device. Boating season begins the

do it for your  
**DAUGHTER**





Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and extends through October 31.

## WILDLIFE WATCHING

During spring, summer and fall, wildlife is best spotted in the early morning and evening. In summer, **bears, bison** and **coyotes** are often seen in Hayden Valley, while mule deer inhabit the southern regions of the park. **Elk** often wander through meadows in Mammoth Hot Springs, the Upper and Midway geyser basins and the Lewis River area. Bighorn sheep sometimes congregate in the Gardner River Canyon. You may also see **beavers, weasels, foxes, marmots** and other animals. **Wolf-watching** is a popular activity in Lamar Valley.

You will see more of an animal's natural behavior and activity if you are sensitive to its need for space. Don't approach wildlife, especially those with offspring. View them from the safety of your vehicle. If an animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.

Each year a number of park visitors are injured by wildlife when they approach animals too closely. Always stay at least 100 yards (91 meters) away from bears and wolves and at least 25 yards (23 meters)

away from all other large animals—bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose and coyotes.

## INTERPRETIVE SIGHTSEEING TOURS

Various interpretive sightseeing tours and activities are available through Yellowstone National Park Lodges, including photo safaris, wildlife tours, lake cruises, horseback trail rides, stagecoach adventures, tours in refurbished historic Yellow Buses and old west cookouts. Most tours and activities can be reserved in advance.

For information about all tours and activities, including schedules and rates, visit **yellowstonenationalparklodges.com** or call **(307) 344-7311**.

## SUMMER ADVENTURE PACKAGES

Yellowstone National Park Lodges also offers a series of packages that offer well-planned itineraries that include many of the park's popular tours and activities, along with lodging and meals. Packages include *Yellowstone for Families*, *Yellowstone Couples Adventure* and *Discover Yellowstone Adventure Package*. These can be booked by calling **(307) 344-7311**.

## RAFTING, ZIPLINE & TUBING

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# WINTER ACTIVITIES



Visit Yellowstone in winter to enjoy a truly spectacular landscape where snow blankets the park and geysers spout towering plumes of steam and water through cold, crisp air. Enjoy snowy scenery on snowcoach and snowmobile tours, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and many other winter park programs. All snowcoach and snowmobile access is through guided tours only; individual snowmobiles or snowcoaches are not permitted in the park.

## WHAT TO WEAR

Winter temperatures can range from well below 0°F throughout the day, to occasional highs in the 20s to 30s. Guard against frostbite by dressing warmly. When preparing for any park activity, dress in layers and wear a hat, gloves, sunglasses, sunscreen and comfortable boots.

## ROAD INFORMATION

All park roads are restricted to tracked, over-snow vehicles like snowmobiles and snowcoaches, except for the road from the North Entrance to Cooke City and the part of US 191 that passes through the park's west side, which are open year-round. Yellowstone National Park Lodges offers shuttle service between Bozeman and Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel. *(See information below.)*

## WINTER LODGING AND SERVICES

**Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel:** The only winter lodging accessible by car, the hotel features a dining room, espresso cart and lounge, ski shop, ski and snowshoe rentals, lessons, ski supplies, guided snowmobile tours and ice skating. Special events include Sunday breakfast buffets, a New Year's Eve dinner and themed dinners in January and February (like a chocolate buffet, wine tasting with tapas and brewmaster's dinner).

As of fall 2019, the hotel's newly remodeled rooms now feature private baths.

**Old Faithful Snow Lodge:** This award-winning lodge is accessible in winter by over-snow vehicles only. A full-service dining room, the Geyser Grill quick-service restaurant, the Firehole Lounge, a gift shop and ice skating are available. Special events include Christmas and New Year's Eve dinners. The full-service Bear Den ski shop rents ski equipment and snowshoes, and offers ski guides, lessons and a repair shop. Snowcoach excursions run daily.

## WINTER ADVENTURES

Whether you decide to join knowledgeable guides or explore the park on your own, you will treasure your memories of Yellowstone in winter. For details and rates on guided activities, contact Yellowstone National Park Lodges or pick up a *Winter Rates and Packages* brochure at any park hotel. Call **(307) 344-7311** to book.

### Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing:

There are machine-groomed and skier tracked trails throughout the park. Miles of trails wind through the Old Faithful and Mammoth Hot Springs areas, where skiers can see hot springs, geysers, elk and bison. Ask at lodge ski shops for information about shuttles to and from trails. Ski rentals, waxes, trail maps and other equipment are available at both hotel ski shops. In addition to regularly scheduled guided ski tours, there are also private and group lessons and ski tours. Ski maps are available at ski shops, visitor centers and hotels.

**Ski Tour:** Journey by snowcoach with opportunities for viewing wildlife to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. A guide will lead you to the frozen, sculpted Lower



Falls where glistening snow dusts the golden canyon walls. Custom ski trips available with advance notice.

**Snowshoe Tours:** Certain sights are best enjoyed via the quiet strides of snowshoes. Even with no previous experience, “shoeing” over a glistening snowfield seems effortless. Feast your eyes on the unearthly plumes of geysers, stunning scenery and wild creatures. Tours visit the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone or the backcountry and thermal basin of Old Faithful. Snowshoes are available at Old Faithful Snow Lodge.

**Snowcoach Tours:** Yellowstone National Park Lodges’ heated over-snow vehicles transport you into the heart of this snowy paradise of frosty bison, sculpted ghost-trees, steamy thermal pools and angelic trumpeter swans, while your guide reveals the various chapters of the park’s winter story. Choose between wildlife tours or day trips through Yellowstone’s iconic landscapes.

**Snowcoach Shuttles:** Round-trip snowcoach transportation is available daily between Mammoth to Old Faithful Snow Lodge and can be reserved through the reservation office by calling **307-344-7311**.

**Ski/Snowshoe Shuttles:** Vans and snowcoaches from Old Faithful Snow Lodge provide convenient shuttles to other areas of the park. Snowcoach reservations: online or call **(307) 344-7311**. Ski Conditions Hotline: **(307) 344-5699**.

## LODGING & LEARNING PACKAGES

Active and engaging Lodging & Learning Packages allow you to explore the park with a knowledgeable instructor from the Yellowstone Forever Institute by day and then return to historic park hotels at night, where you can enjoy excellent meals, comfortable accommodations, and evening programs provided by Yellowstone National Park Lodges. Choose between the Old Faithful Winter Expedition or the Winter World Discovery Packages. All packages include transportation, accommodations, meals and instruction by a naturalist guide. To learn more about these award-winning programs, please visit **[www.yellowstone.org/experience/lodging-learning](http://www.yellowstone.org/experience/lodging-learning)** or call **(307) 344-7311**.

## WARMING HUTS

Warming huts are located throughout the park for snowshoers, skiers, and snowcoach and snowmobile travelers. Snacks, sandwiches, hot items and beverages are available at Madison, the only staffed warming hut. Vending machines and restrooms are located at the Canyon Visitor Education Center. There are no services at the Indian Creek and West Thumb warming huts.

## PARK PROGRAMS

At the time of this writing, ranger-led programs are not being offered. When visiting the park, check locally at visitor center bulletin boards, the park newspaper, *Yellowstone*, or at **[nps.gov/yell](http://nps.gov/yell)** for updates and a potential schedule of programs and activities.

## RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION

For advance lodging, dining, tour, activity and airport shuttle reservations, contact **Yellowstone National Park Lodges at (307) 344-7311** or visit **[yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://yellowstonenationalparklodges.com)**. **Yellowstone National Park Lodges now accepts lodging reservations up to 13 months in advance, specifically, on the 5th of each month for the same entire month of the following year.** If you are staying in the park, the front desk staff at park lodges can assist you.



# SIGHTS TO SEE



During the summer, visit Yellowstone's most popular sights during the quieter times of the day, in the morning, or late afternoon and evening. You'll streamline your visits (and see even more) if you take advantage of the park's interpretive sight-seeing tours. And though many of the most popular sights that follow will be on your must-see list, don't overlook the many park attractions just off the beaten path. Inquire at any hotel front desk or visitor center for information about park activities.

## GRAND PRISMATIC SPRING

Yellowstone's largest hot spring, at 370 feet in diameter, can be accessed by taking the Midway Geyser Basin boardwalk. The deep blue color of the pool and the rings of yellow- and orange-colored thermophiles surrounding it combine to produce a beautiful prism effect. For views above Grand Prismatic, take Fairy Falls Trailhead to The Grand Prismatic Overlook Trail.

## HAYDEN VALLEY

This broad, rolling valley is a remnant lake bed formed when glaciers created a dam that backed up water, flooding the valley. The Yellowstone River meanders through the valley, forming marshes where you may see swans and Canada geese. Elk, deer and bison graze in the meadows and sagebrush flats, while bears and wolves patrol the area in search of prey.

## MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS

Few of Yellowstone's hydrothermal features have the sheer grace and beauty of **Mammoth Hot Springs**. Mineral-laden

hot water from beneath the Earth's crust finds its way to the surface and builds tier upon tier of terraced travertine deposits. The sculpting of the terraces continues as thousands of gallons of water well up and deposit travertine daily.

## MORNING GLORY POOL

This thermal pool got its name because of its resemblance to the morning glory flower. Unfortunately, it is no longer as profoundly blue as it was in the past because debris thrown by visitors has clogged its vent.

## NORRIS AND FIREHOLE RIVER GEYSER BASINS

Norris Geyser Basin, 21 miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs, and **Upper, Midway and Lower geyser basins**, located along the Firehole River, have the largest display of geysers. Steamboat Geyser, at Norris, is the world's tallest active geyser (a new record was set in 2018!) and has infrequent, unpredictable eruptions reaching 300-400 feet. Echinus Geyser, once predictable, now varies widely. When it does erupt, it can spray the viewing platform.

## PETRIFIED FORESTS

Yellowstone's "forests of stone" contain well-preserved specimens of ancient plants and standing trees. Volcanic eruptions buried subtropical plants and cold-climate trees like spruce, fir and sequoia, petrifying them in the process. To view petrified redwoods, take the Petrified Tree spur road 1.5 miles west of Tower Junction.





## GRAND CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE

The turbulent Yellowstone River roars and foams for 20 miles through the **Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone**. The most colorful sections of the Canyon are found near the Canyon Village area and at overlooks along the road near Tower Junction. At 109 feet and 308 feet respectively, Upper and Lower falls are truly emblematic of the power of nature.

## OLD FAITHFUL

Of the 10,000 or so hydrothermal features in the park, the best known and most recognizable is **Old Faithful** Geyser. Thousands of gallons of steaming water thunder into the sky with each eruption. The time between eruptions varies from 51 to 120 minutes; on average, the geyser erupts every 92 minutes. Old Faithful is easy to access, located adjacent to the Lodge named for it.

## WEST THUMB GEYSER BASIN

Located on Yellowstone Lake's shore, this thermal area holds lakeshore geysers, hot springs and bubbling paint pots. **Fishing Cone** is one of many lakeshore geysers submerged here until the water level drops in late summer. Fishing Cone gets its name from the fact that visitors used to catch trout here and then promptly drop them into its boiling waters to cook.

## YELLOWSTONE LAKE

**Yellowstone Lake** is the largest high elevation lake in North America. The shoreline is 141 miles long! The lake is so large that it can even create its own weather, forming cumulus clouds during the day that often shower the area by evening. A portion of the lake sits within a large caldera that was formed by a volcano and then carved and filled by glaciers some 14,000 years ago.



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# CAMPING



Of Yellowstone's 12 campgrounds, only 10 will be open for the 2022 season (see chart). Campsites operated by the NPS can be reserved through [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Five other campgrounds, encompassing more than 1,400 sites, are operated by Yellowstone National Park Lodges and may be reserved up to 13 months in advance. In addition, Fishing Bridge RV Park has more than 300 RV sites, all with full hookups. This RV park is restricted to hard-sided vehicles only. For campsite or RV park reservations, visit [yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](https://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com) or call (307) 344-7311.

## REGULATIONS

Since food and odors attract bears, items such as cooking stoves, utensils, coolers, trash bags, food and toiletries may not be left outside or in tents or tent trailers, unless they are in immediate use!

Food must be stored in bearproof lockers or in a hard-sided vehicle. All campers must adhere to storage regulations. Do not disturb wildlife and vegetation. Only dead, downed and detached wood may be used for campfires; firewood is sold at some campgrounds from mid-May through mid-September.

## FACILITIES

Yellowstone campgrounds have tables, fire grills, drinking water, garbage cans, and flush or pit toilets. The five campgrounds operated by Yellowstone National Park Lodges have restrooms, fire grates, flush toilets and some tables accessible to persons with disabilities. Fishing Bridge RV Park does not have fire grates or picnic tables.

## RESTRICTIONS

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds (this includes backcountry

campsites). You may camp at any combination of campgrounds for up to 14 days total between July 1 and Labor Day (first Monday in September), and up to 30 days the rest of the year. This rule does not apply to the Fishing Bridge RV Park.

## BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Yellowstone has implemented an overnight backcountry permit fee to defray the program's costs. Anyone obtaining a backcountry permit to stay in one of the more than 300+ backcountry sites between Memorial Day and September 10 will have to pay a per-person, per-night permit fee for all individuals 9 years of age or older—\$5 per person, per night plus a \$10 non-refundable reservation fee (if the reservation is a walk up and not booked through the lottery system). A \$10 non-refundable application fee is charged for all applications to the Early Access Lottery regardless of success.

Stock users (limited to horses, burros, mules, ponies, and llamas) can obtain their free permits on the park's website or by calling the Central Backcountry Office. You must possess proof of a negative Coggins test performed within the last 12 months for all equine entering Yellowstone. An annual Backcountry Pass, which covers the per-night backcountry fees for the pass holder is available for \$50. Pass holders are exempt from the \$5 per-person, per-night permit fee.

Reservations for backcountry campsites are available on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). All overnight hikes and camping require backcountry permits. Call (307) 344-2160 for more information. See "Nature & Wildlife" for details about being responsible in the backcountry and reducing your risk of bear encounters.



# YELLOWSTONE CAMPGROUNDS

Campground Operating schedule • Location	FEE	NUMBER OF SITES	FIREWOOD SOLD	FLUSH TOILETS	DISPOSAL STATION	BOAT ACCESS	PAY SHOWERS
<b>Indian Creek</b> June 10 to September 10 • Eight miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs	\$20	70					
<b>Mammoth</b> Year-round, partial closure for winter • Mammoth Hot Springs	\$25	85	•	•			
<b>Norris</b> Closed for 2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Madison*</b> May 5 to October 16 • Madison	\$29	278	•	•	•		
<b>Bridge Bay*</b> May 20 to September 5 • Three miles southwest of Lake Village near Bridge Bay Marina	\$29	432	•	•	•	•	
<b>Fishing Bridge RV Park*</b> May 27 to October 8 • One mile east of Fishing Bridge Junction; hard-sided camping units only—no tents	\$83	310		•	•		•
<b>Grant Village*</b> June 3 to September 11 • Southern end of Yellowstone Lake	\$33	430	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Lewis Lake</b> June 15 to October 14 • Off South Entrance Road	\$20	85				•	
<b>Pebble Creek</b> June 15 to September 25 • Off Northeast Entrance Road	\$20	27					
<b>Slough Creek</b> June 14 to October 10 • Ten miles northeast of Tower-Roosevelt Junction	\$20	16					
<b>Tower Fall</b> Closed for 2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Canyon Village*</b> May 27 to September 18 • 0.25 miles east of Canyon Village	\$34	273	•	•			•

Rates are subject to change. Tax and utility fees may apply. \*Plus tax; operated by Yellowstone National Park Lodges; call **(307) 344-7311** for reservations. Rates at Fishing Bridge RV Park, Grant Village and Canyon Village include two showers per site per night.





More plants and wild animals live in Yellowstone, in their natural habitat, than anywhere else in the lower 48 states.

## PLANTS

**Lodgepole pine** (*Pinus contorta*), the most common tree in the park, is tall and straight, reaching up to 75 feet in height. Some American Indians used it to make frames for their teepees or lodges, hence the name. In thick groves, only treetops have branches; trees that stand alone often have lower branches because sunlight can reach their entire length.

**Engelmann spruce** (*Picea engelmannii*) and **subalpine fir** (*Abies lasiocarpa*) grow in the park, although lodgepole pines, which thrive in the rhyolitic soil not suited to spruce or fir, monopolize more than 80 percent of Yellowstone's forests.

The **Wyoming paintbrush** (*Castilleja linariaefolias*) is one of more than 200 species of Indian paintbrush found in America. The yellow monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) thrives in wet areas, such as the channel run-offs near hydrothermal features. The shape of the flower's bloom resembles a monkey's face.

## BEARS

Black bears and grizzlies live in the park. Look for **bear signs** like overturned or torn apart logs, excavated burrows, broken branches, claw marks on trees, scat (droppings) or tracks. **Be cautious and alert. Make noise** by talking or singing, as to not surprise bears. Hikers in bear country should carry **bear pepper spray**, have it within reach, and know how to use it.

## IF YOU SEE A BEAR

If you spot a bear, **do not approach it**. Female bears with cubs or bears defending a carcass are especially dangerous.

**Do not run** or make abrupt moves. Bears are hunters and instinctively chase anything that flees. A bear may "**bluff charge**" and stop short of touching you. If possible, stay still until the bear calms down, then slowly back away. If you cannot detour, wait until the bear moves away from your route. If the bear knocks you down, curl into a ball and protect your stomach and neck.

**Report bear sightings** to a park ranger. The safety of others may depend on it!

## DON'T FEED THE BEARS

A fed bear is a dead bear. When bears become accustomed to eating human food and garbage, their role in the natural environment is altered. They can become annoying or aggressive intruders who must be killed if they become a threat to visitors. Be responsible and safe by bear-proofing all food and related supplies. **To protect yourself and the bears:**

- Never leave food, trash or other scented items unattended.
- Store all food and odorous items in storage boxes where provided, sealing items in air-tight containers to minimize odors. This includes grocery bags, garbage and scented articles like soap, sunscreen, hairspray and toothpaste. Clean fire grills and picnic tables after use.
- Follow all park rules on bear-proofing your food. For more information about bear safety, ask at any visitor center.



# WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



## BISON

Often referred to as buffalo, bison can be seen in the Firehole River and Old Faithful thermal basins and in the Lamar and Hayden valleys. Each August, males charge each other, banging heads in competition for mates. Stay well out of a bison's way, especially during this time. •

**Height** up to 6.6 ft • **Length** up to 10 ft • **Weight** 900-2,200 lbs.



## ELK

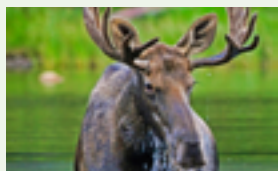
The second largest member of the deer family, elk live in and near forests, feeding on leaves and other plants. During the rut (mating season), the bull elk bugle a combination of shrill whistles and grunts in an effort to attract females. Elk are most active at dusk and dawn. •

**Weight** 450-1,090 lbs • **Size** 6.5-10 ft long • **Active** in winter.



## OSPREY

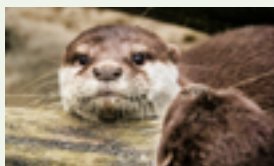
Osprey feed almost entirely on fish, using their barbed talons, nostrils and reversible toes to capture prey. Osprey usually mate for life and take part in five-month partnerships to raise young. They have white heads and their wings are dark brown on top and white below. • **Size** 21-24 in long, six ft wingspan • **Active** in winter.



## MOOSE

These reclusive animals are most active at dusk and dawn. Moose eat aquatic vegetation and woody plants. They are excellent swimmers and can stay under water for more than 30 seconds. With few natural predators, moose can live up to 20 years! Look for them near lakes and rivers

• **Weight** 700-1,400 lbs • **Size** 6-9 ft long • **Active** in winter.



## RIVER OTTER

Often seen sliding down snow banks or riding waterfalls, it may seem otters don't have a care in the world. But they must avoid predators like bald eagles, and keep their hard-caught fish from coyotes. Near the rivers, they're safe—in the frigid water, otters are the top of the food chain. • **Length** 2-3.5 ft • **Weight** 6-31 lbs • **Active** year-round.



## TRUMPETER SWAN

This snow-white bird can be seen gliding over streams, trumpeting its horn-like call, an unforgettable sound that resembles a French horn. These are some of the most imperiled birds in the park, and the swans are very sensitive to humans—be cautious near nests. • **Weight** 22-26 lbs • **Size** 60-72 in • **Active** in winter • Migratory



# IDENTIFYING YELLOWSTONE'S BEARS

## GRIZZLY BEAR

## BLACK BEAR



### Prints



**front**



**rear**



**front**



**rear**

### Color

Grizzly Bears vary from blonde to black in color. They are typically medium to dark brown. Their long guard hairs often have a lighter tip, giving the bears their 'grizzled' appearance.

Black bears actually vary in color from black to brown, cinnamon, or blonde, and have a distinctive tan snout.

### Size

Males weigh 500 pounds on average (225 kg) and can weigh up to 900 pounds. Sows average 375 pounds.

Males weigh between 210-315 pounds (95-143 kg), sows between 135-160 lbs (61-73 kg).

### Height

3.5 feet (1 m)

3 feet (0.9 m)

### Body Shape

The grizzly has a distinctive shoulder hump that is actually muscle mass.

Black bears lack the grizzly's hump and their rumps are higher than front shoulders.

### Face

Grizzlies have a concave profile with a depression between the eyes and the end of the snout. Ears are round and proportionately small.

Black bears have a straight facial profile with a relatively long muzzle. Ears are long, pointed and prominent.

### Claws

Grizzly claws are long, between 2-4 inches (5-10 cm), and formidable. They are often clearly visible in the tracks.

Black bear claws are less than two inches long, usually dark colored, sharp, curved, and good for climbing.

### Life Expectancy

15-20 years in the wild; more than 30 years in captivity.

15-20 years in the wild; more than 30 years in captivity.

### Behavior

- Usually more aggressive than black bears. Females will aggressively protect cubs.
- Day beds in dense vegetation are used to rest and escape the summer's heat.
- Mostly active during dusk and dawn, although can be active any time of day.
- Strength is exceptional. They routinely roll huge rocks and logs looking for food.
- Powerful digging ability allows them to feed on roots, bulbs, and rodents and dig dens on steep mountain slopes.

- Usually less aggressive than grizzly bears.
- Often den in open spaces under tree roots and rocks at low to middle elevations.
- Active mainly during the day, but may be active any time of day or night.
- Excellent tree climbing ability is used to escape predators and other bears. Threatened mothers send cubs climbing to feed on nuts and fruit in trees.
- Cubs weigh about one-half pound at birth and stay with their mother up to 1.5 years.



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# WALKING & HIKING



Most of Yellowstone's 2.2 million acres is backcountry interspersed with approximately 1,000 miles of trails that traverse a variety of terrain.

Be prepared before setting out on a day hike. Park rangers can help you plan your outing and will provide current backcountry conditions, but you must ultimately assume responsibility for yourself in the wilderness. There are no guarantees concerning weather changes or encounters with wildlife—especially bears! Being informed is the best way to reduce potential risks. Find out which stream crossings are unsafe, which slopes are loose with “rotten rock,” and what to do if you encounter a bear (see the “Nature & Wildlife” chapter of this guide and inquire at a visitor center for more information). Dogs, except service animals with required permits, and bicycles are not allowed on any trails. Find out which stream crossings are unsafe.

## BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS

The process for reserving backcountry campsites and obtaining backcountry permits has changed for 2022. Reservations for backcountry campsites are available on **Recreation.gov**. All overnight hikes and camping require backcountry permits. A \$10 non-refundable application fee is charged for all applications to the Early Access Lottery regardless of success. The fee for a backcountry recreation permit is \$5 per person, per night plus the \$10 non-refundable reservation fee (if the reservation is a walk up and not booked through the lottery system). Stock users (limited to horses, burros, mules, ponies, and llamas) can obtain their free permits on the park's website or by calling the Central Backcountry Office and must possess proof of a negative Coggins



test performed within the last 12 months for all equine entering Yellowstone. An annual Backcountry Pass, which covers the per-person, per-night backcountry fees for the individual pass holder for the season in which the pass is purchased, is available for \$50. The annual pass exempts the individual from the \$5 per-person, per-night permit fee. Call the Central Backcountry Office at **(307) 344-2160** for more information. When you receive your permit, carefully read the backcountry guidelines and regulations and talk with a park ranger. Entry into Yellowstone National Park requires a fee or pass.

## HIKING ETIQUETTE

Minimize your impact by following a few simple rules. Stay on the well-marked trails. Use designated campsites and eliminate the need for fires by using a backpacking stove. Wash yourself and any personal articles with biodegradable soaps away from the streams and lakes. Use toilets or bury waste six to eight inches beneath the surface. Pack out every single thing you packed in. Take photos as your only mementos and leave only your footprints behind.

## HIKING SAFETY TIPS

Every year, major search and rescue missions are undertaken to assist lost or injured hikers



in Yellowstone National Park. To avoid becoming a statistic, consider these safety tips offered by park rangers:

- **Wear sturdy, comfortable hiking boots or shoes** and outdoor socks to prevent blisters, the most common ailment on the trail. Hiking boots or shoes are recommended for all trails, especially those requiring steep ascents.
- **Know your own capabilities and limits.** On average, plan one hour for every two miles, and add an hour for every 1,000 feet you climb. Study a topographical map (available at park ranger stations and visitor centers) and plot your course according to your pace.
- **Be prepared and carry ample supplies,** whether you are taking a day hike or going on an extended backpacking trip for several days. Carry a trail map, wristwatch, knife, matches, flashlight, water, food, insect repellent, rain gear, a compass and a first-aid kit.

- **Always maintain a safe distance of at least 100 yards between you and a wild animal.** Consider carrying bear spray as a precautionary measure. It is available for rent and purchase at the Bear Aware kiosk in Canyon Village. Please call **(307) 828-1009** or visit for information.
- **Hike with a partner** and leave an itinerary and emergency contact information with a responsible person.
- **Stay on the trail so you won't get lost.** If you do become lost, exhausted or injured, keep calm and stay on the trail. Ask passing hikers for assistance. Do not bushwhack or travel in darkness. Should evening fall, stay where you are and wait for help to arrive.

## FURTHER READING

If you'd like to learn more about hiking in the park, we suggest the following books

- *Hiking Yellowstone National Park: A Guide To More Than 100 Great Hikes*, Schneider, Bill. Falcon Press, 2019.



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*Next to the West Entrance of Yellowstone National Park*





A host of ranger-led activities are specially designed for young visitors. Fun, educational films are also shown daily at most visitor centers. For more information about park programs, pick up a copy of the park newspaper, *Yellowstone*, at any visitor center or visit [nps.gov/yell/forkids](https://nps.gov/yell/forkids).

Kids 11 and under stay free at park lodges, and discounts for youngsters are available for most Yellowstone National Park Lodges activities and tours. For information, call **(307) 344-7311** or ask at any park lodge.

## BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Participants are awarded an official Yellowstone Junior Ranger badge after completing the age-appropriate typically between age 5-13 requirements described inside the Junior Ranger booklets available at park centers. Have their work reviewed with a ranger at any visitor center.

## HEAR TALES AROUND A CAMPFIRE

At family campfire programs, hear tall tales about mountain men and American Indians, as well as stories about bison, elk and bears. Ask at a visitor center for times and locations.

## EXPLORE A VISITOR CENTER

Visitor centers feature many exhibits of interest to kids. Kids love the animal displays and the trapper exhibit at Albright Visitor Center at Mammoth Hot Springs, which includes all the tools of the trade. The Old Faithful Visitor Education Center contains an entire area for kids and the young at heart known as the Young Scientist Exhibit

Hall. Enjoy interactive scientific explorations and learn how to predict Old Faithful Geyser while enjoying a geyser model that erupts all day long.

## SEE OLD FAITHFUL ERUPT

No trip to Yellowstone is complete without this magnificent live show, which may be caught, on average, every 92 minutes.

## GO ON A PHOTO SAFARI

Take photos of animals, geysers and amazing scenery, learn more about your camera and photography, and share special shots with family and friends.

## PICK UP A FREE ACTIVITY BOOK

The *Kids Activity Book*, available at hotel dining rooms, includes games and activities that kids can complete to earn prizes!

## HOP THE STAGECOACH AT ROOSEVELT

Take a ride in a stagecoach accompanied by the cloppety-clop of horse hooves. Rides leave several times a day. For more information, call **(307) 344-7311** or stop at front desks or activities desks at any park lodge.

## JOIN THE YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAM

Self-guiding booklets for the Young Scientist Program are available at the Old Faithful Visitor Center and the Canyon Visitor Education Center for \$5. Children ages 5 and older can receive a patch or keychain for unraveling scientific mysteries.





## Help Us Support the Park You Love

**PRESERVE** Yellowstone for future generations. Join more than 73,000 supporters who have made a commitment to fund visitor education and park preservation. Yellowstone Forever is proud to support priority park projects such as trail restoration, wildlife research, and visitor safety.

**GAIN** a deeper connection to the park on a Yellowstone Forever Institute program. Our programs range from one day to three weeks in length, and highlight the park's amazing geothermal areas and awe-inspiring wilderness and wildlife.

**SUPPORT** Yellowstone through our educational Park Stores. Proceeds directly benefit the park. Visit our locations in Old Faithful, Mammoth, Madison, Norris, Canyon, Fishing Bridge, Gardiner, Grant, West Thumb, Quake Lake, and Bozeman Airport, or online at [Shop.yellowstone.org](http://Shop.yellowstone.org).

**JOIN** our online community of over 700,000 worldwide.



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# PHOTOGRAPHY



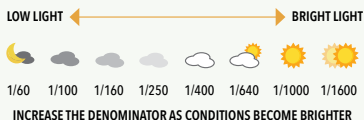
Just as large scale paintings and photographic surveys were once the catalyst for Congress to create the first national parks, photographs and videos created by today's visitors continue to inspire a passion for the preservation of these awe-inspiring places. Today more than ever, these wild and captivating environments offer us the much needed opportunity to reconnect with nature; places to recharge our metaphorical batteries. The following tips will help enhance your photography and video work both technically and aesthetically, and empower you to contribute to the ongoing visual preservation of the wildlife and landscapes of our national parks, and have fun doing it!

- **Timing is everything.** The best time to photograph is during the soft golden hours—at dusk and dawn—when the light is soft. When your shadow is longer than you are, you've got the best light!
- **Stay in the shallows.** To easily achieve the cinematic, blurred background look, move away from your subject matter and use your telephoto lens to zoom in and compress the image's foreground to background to create a shallow depth of field.
- **Go with the flow.** Fight the desire to constantly follow wildlife, and let the action naturally enter and exit your frame.
- **Framing.** Seek out natural framing elements—trees and branches, rock formations, knot holes—to add more layers to your image. Leave space around wildlife to frame them within their natural habitat.

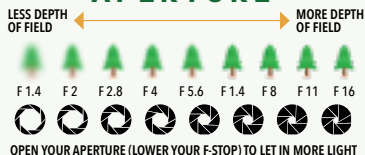
- **The eyes have it.** Change your perspective whenever possible to photograph at an intimate eye level with your subject. Place eyes in the power points (the intersection of rule of third guidelines) and keep them in sharp focus.
- **Use a monopod.** If you are using a heavy telephoto lens for photos or video, consider using a monopod to stabilize it (one can be attached to either the base of the camera or lens). Many hiking poles serve double duty and convert to monopods.
- **Do photo yoga.** Snap a few versions of a composition with a variety of perspectives, both vertical and horizontal. The best image is not likely the first one you take.
- **Shoot in burst mode.** Increase the probability that you'll capture a candid behavior, head position or unique angle of your subject by taking many pictures at once using your camera's burst mode.
- **Steady as you go.** Investing in a pan-and-tilt tripod head will allow you to move your camera smoothly on top of a tripod and avoid hand-held camera shake that will distract from your footage.

## CHEAT SHEET

### SHUTTER SPEED



### APERTURE



### ISO







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# IF YOU ONLY HAVE A DAY



To make the most of your day, start out at one of the ten visitor centers or information stations in the park. Maps, books, relevant park updates and park rangers or their assistants are available to answer your questions before you set out on an adventure-filled day in the park! Yellowstone comprises more than 2 million acres (larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined)—plan ahead to make the most of your experience.

If you're looking for an easy way to tour the most popular sights in the park, try a full-day interpretive motorcoach tour offered by Yellowstone National Park Lodges. Tours depart daily from all park hotels and include all the major natural highlights of the park. Information, schedules and rates are available by calling **Yellowstone**

**National Park Lodges** at **(307) 344-7311** or visiting **[yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://yellowstonenationalparklodges.com)**.

Or try a combination of both—individual outdoor exploration supplemented by a partial day or evening **Historic Yellow Bus Tour**. Step back in time and view the park from a past perspective by touring in a refurbished yellow bus that toured Yellowstone beginning in the 1930s.

If you want to see the park on your own, visit **Hayden** and **Lamar valleys** to search for wildlife or spend some time exploring the **Upper Geyser Basin**. Yellowstone possesses most of the world's active geysers and the Upper Geyser Basin is home to the most in the park, including world famous **Old Faithful**. Hop out of the car and hike as little or as much of the trail as you like—the three-mile round-trip route showcases more than 150 hydrothermal features, including numerous hot springs and a recently developed mudpot! While you're there take a few minutes to check out the **Old Faithful Inn**, which has been welcoming guests to the park for over 110 years.

With **over 1,000 miles of trails**, wilderness envelops park visitors. Head into the backcountry and take a step back in time. Stop at a visitor center for trail condition updates, safety tips and suggestions for hikes that suit your abilities and those of your group. Be sure to pack food and water, along with other items suggested by rangers. Then hit the trails and have some fun!





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