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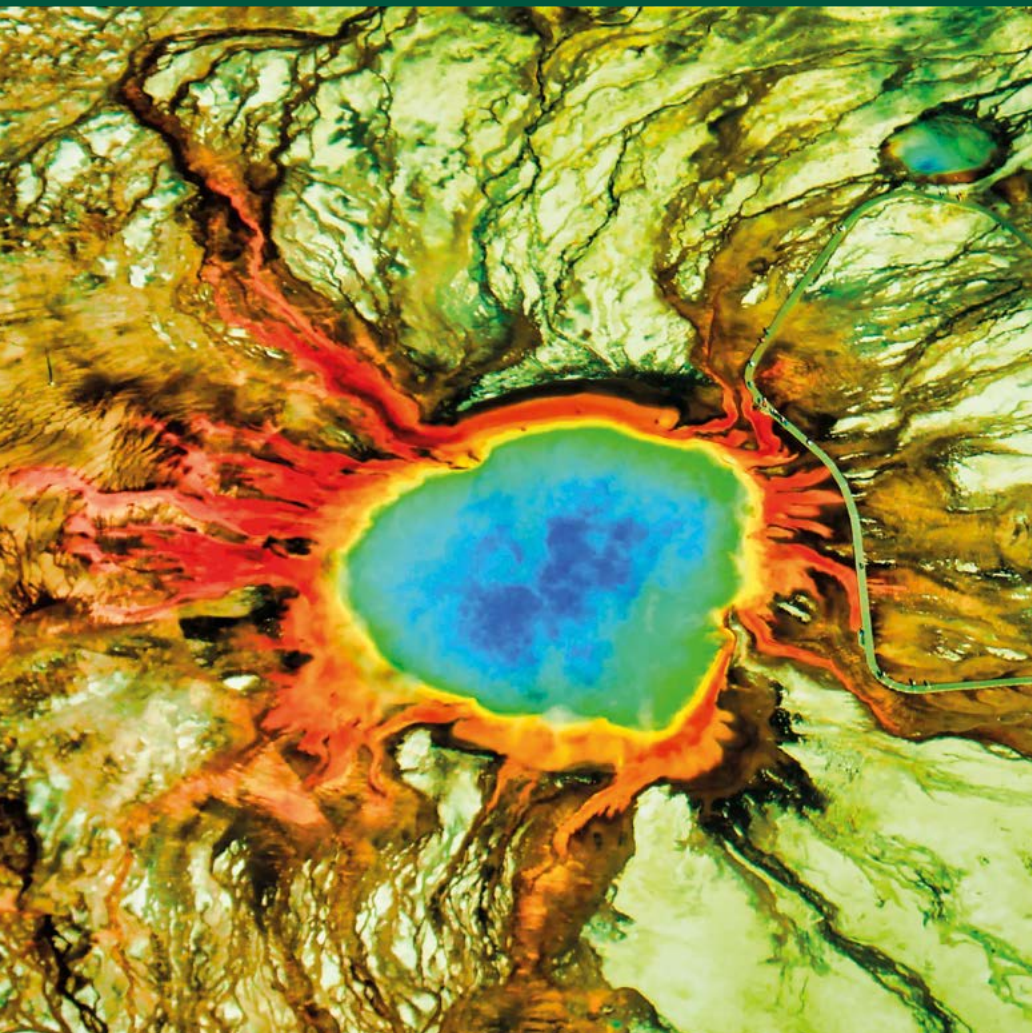
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2019/2020

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE PARKS

# YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ACTIVITIES • SIGHTSEEING • DINING • LODGING  
TRAILS • HISTORY • MAPS • MORE



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## WELCOME

### FUN FACTS

**Established:** In 1872 Congress passed legislation making 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 claimed by Wyoming, small portions of the park also lie in Montana (3 percent) and Idaho (1 percent).

**Lowest and Highest Elevations:** 5,282 feet at Reese Creek to 11,358 feet at Eagle Peak's summit.

**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 Sightings:** Yellowstone's geysers and hot springs such as Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris Geyser Basin; Yellowstone Lake; waterfalls such as Upper and Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River; and iconic sights like Gallatin Range, Hayden Valley, the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, Morning Glory Pool and Old Faithful Geyser.

**Popular Activities:** Enjoy free ranger-led programs, 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. For more information, please call (307) 344-7381 or visit [yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://yellowstonenationalparklodges.com) or [nps.gov/yell](http://nps.gov/yell).

Home to more than two million acres of lakes, waterfalls, geysers and panoramic vistas, since 1872, the world's first national park has hosted millions of visitors from around the world who come to see its renowned natural wonders and the diversity of animal life that thrives in its wildlife sanctuaries.

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!**

## PHOTO OP!

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Cover: Aerial view of Grand Prismatic Spring  
(Shutterstock)



For answers to all your questions,  
go to **OhRanger.com**



## WHAT'S NEW! WE'RE ALL CONNECTED

**"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."**

—John Muir

As a young man, John Muir, the naturalist known as, "Father of the National Parks," had an accident that left him temporarily blinded. It changed his life forever. When he regained his sight, he emerged into the light ever-determined to pursue his dreams of exploration. Fortunately for the world, Muir's trials led him to help move Congress to set aside Yosemite, one of his many contributions to our nation's preservation movement.

When faced with adversity, we have but two choices. We can either rise above our circumstance or succumb to our demons of doubt, fear, resentment and apathy. While Muir was lucky to have his sight return, his subsequent efforts drew strength from hope, compassion, kindness and love to rise up from personal adversity.

Lately, it feels like we're all dealing with too many hurdles. Every hour, "breaking" news spews forth accounts of tragedy and divisiveness. It was with this backdrop that I was preparing to teach a restorative yoga class, to create a safe environment for my students and provide an hour's worth of peace and quiet to carry out into the world. What theme would capture their imagination and neatly underscore our human need for connectedness?

When teaching, I try to use examples that marry ancient tradition with contemporary



Mark, Joel & Alex – connecting in parks!

science. I often find inspiration in parks. In its traditional form, yoga was about joining with the collective universe. So, too, is Muir's quote, best illustrated by an example from Yellowstone. When wolves were reintroduced there after a 70-year absence, the rampant elk population could no longer leisurely nibble on willows, graze in open meadows or congregate by the rivers. In a short period of time, the forests and meadows began to regenerate. Song birds appeared. Beavers flourished, building dams, which created habitats for otters, muskrats and ducks. Cooler waters, shaded by more trees, attracted different species of amphibians and fish. Tree roots stabilized the river banks, diminished erosion and even changed the geography of the park! Indeed, pick out anything by itself and we quickly find that *everything* is connected.

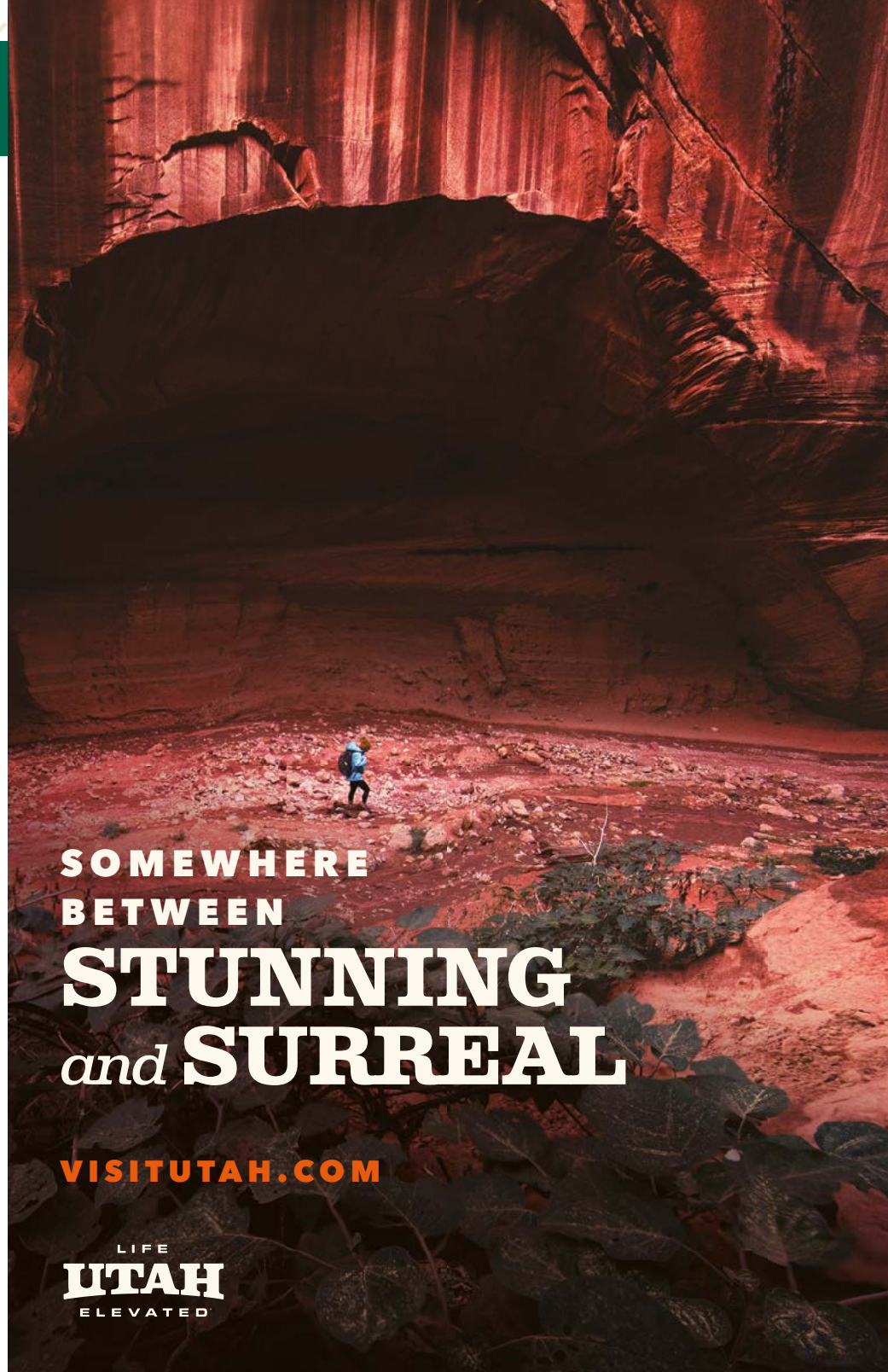
Now is the time to seek out connection—whether in a park, a yoga studio or anywhere you find inspiration—to find strength to rise up and overcome the obstacles that face us all...

mark@americanparknetwork.com



### GET CONNECTED AT YOUR FAVORITE PARKS!

Parks are about enjoying nature, but what if you want to share a great picture or are awaiting an important email? If you're looking to add connectivity to your park, or if you already have Wi-Fi and would like help adding content or generating sponsor revenues, please let us know at [wifi@americanparknetwork.com](mailto:wifi@americanparknetwork.com).



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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 **North-east** (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 at 8 a.m. on Monday after the first Sunday of November.* They reopen to tracked, over-the-



snow vehicles from mid-December 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](http://nps.gov/yell).



## 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](http://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.
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.
Volunteer Pass	Free	250 volunteer service hours with NPS	Inquire locally to obtain information about this one-year pass.

# IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH YELLOWSTONE,

# YOU HAVE TO STOP HERE."

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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 and Livingston, Montana, and Cody, Wyoming. Gray Line/Alltrans serves West Yellowstone and offers connecting bus service into the park from Jackson via the South Entrance. Several connections are only offered seasonally. Yellowstone National Park Lodges offers shuttle service from Bozeman to Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel in the winter. Reserve in advance by calling or **(307) 344-7311**. *Additional bus companies that serve the region include: Karst Stage, Salt Lake Express, Wind River Transportation Authority, Express Arrow and Southern Teton Area Rapid Transit.*

**Tours:** Tours of the park are available through Yellowstone National Park Lodges. See Yellowstone and other tour operators.



## 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).

DNC Parks & Resorts



**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.

## ENTRANCE FEES

The entrance fee is \$35 for a private, noncommercial vehicle; \$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.

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 passes are \$80; \$20 for those 62 and older. Senior 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. Digital annual and seven-day en-

trance passes to Yellowstone are available at [yourpassnow.com](http://yourpassnow.com).

## EVERY KID OUTDOORS

To help engage and create our next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates, the Every Kid in a Park 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 4th 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 in a Park pass at [everykidinapark.gov](http://everykidinapark.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 [everykidinapark.gov](http://everykidinapark.gov) and you must print it and present it at the park. The Every Kid in a Park pass is valid until August 31, 2019.

## PARK NEWSPAPER

Pick up a copy of *Yellowstone*, a free NPS publication, at visitor centers and park entrances. 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 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.



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## 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 in-

formation 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, ranger programs, restrooms, and free Wi-Fi. Call (307) 344-2263 for more information.

At the **Old Faithful Visitor Education Center**, park rangers explain and predict geyser eruptions. Open during summer and winter seasons, the center is home to exhibits on hydrothermal features, life in extreme environments, volcanic geology and scientific investigations of these phenomena. Call

(307) 344-2751 for more information.

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 open from late spring through mid-fall. Call (307) 344-2550 for more information.

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

Located at the north end of Yellowstone Lake, **Fishing Bridge Visitor Center** houses exhibits about Yellowstone's birds and wildlife. A scale model of Yellowstone Lake reveals the amazing geology of the

lake bottom. The Visitor Center, a National Historic Landmark, is open from late May to early September. 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 here focus on the Army era of park administration, as well as the evolution of the NPS ranger profession. The museum is open from late May through late September. Please call (307) 344-7353 for more information.

**Madison Information Station/Junior Ranger Station**, located at Madison Junc-

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## YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Yellowstone Forever is the official education and fundraising nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park. They partner with Yellowstone National Park 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 broad 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. Follow them on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @ynpforever.



tion in the Madison Picnic Area, provides park information, and Junior Ranger activities. See the park newspaper for dates and hours of operation. For more information, please call (307) 344-2821.

The **West Thumb Contact Station** provides park information and a bookstore, and also serves as a meeting place for interpretive walks and talks during summer. It is 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 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.

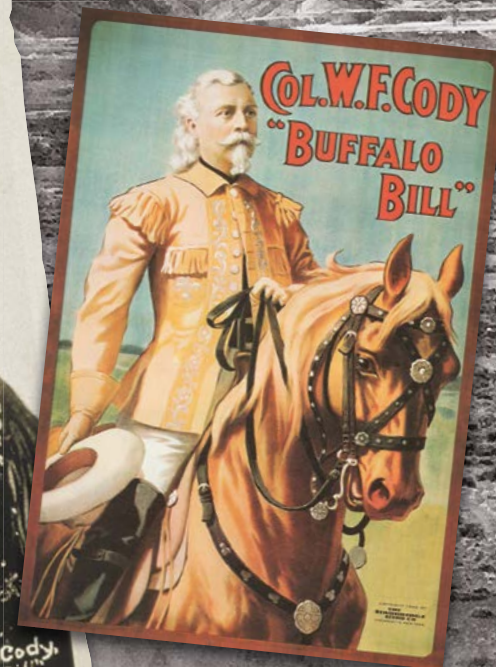
In Pinedale, Wyoming, the **Museum of the Mountain Men** focuses on the life of Jim Bridger and tells the story of other fur trappers and early explorers.



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

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# LODGING & DINING

Reflecting the natural surroundings of Yellowstone, televisions, radios and air conditioning are not available at in-park lodging.

WiFi is available for a fee at some lodging/dining facilities in the park; free WiFi 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.

**Interpretive programs** are offered at almost every evening during peak season.

**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. There is a pet fee. 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. **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. American Express, VISA, MasterCard, Diners Club, Discover, Carte Blanche and JCB are accepted.

**1 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 mouthwatering 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. **B L D** 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴

**2 Canyon Lodge and Cabins** Along with the existing lodge rooms and Western cabins, five new lodges have opened over the past few years. **M66 Grill & Lounge** Full service restaurant and bar with soup, salads, and traditional American fare. Breakfast and lunch are first-come, first-served. Dinner reservations required. **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. **B L D** 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍴

**3 Old Faithful Lodge Cabins** The historic lodge features massive logs and stone pillars and its lobby offers a great view of Old Faithful geyser. The cabins, grouped nearby, allow pets. The Frontier Cabins

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have private bathrooms; Budget Cabins do not. The **Old Faithful Lodge Cafeteria** offers quick meals including hot entrées, deli sandwiches, pastas, salads and grab-and-go items. Want a snack? Visit the **Old Faithful Lodge Bake Shop** for fresh muffins, bagels, sandwiches and ice cream.

**4 Old Faithful Inn** A National Historic Landmark that opened in 1904, the inn was built of local logs and stone, adjacent to its namesake geyser. The lobby features a stone fireplace and a handcrafted clock. A variety of room types are available. The **Old Faithful Inn Dining Room's** specialties include beef, pork, seafood, chicken and vegetarian options. Buffet also available. Reservations required for dinner. **Bear Paw Deli** is perfect for on-the-go options—sandwiches, salads and ice cream for the road.

**5 Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Cabins** 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.

**6 Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Cabins** Completed in the 1930s, the historic hotel's Map Room contains a large, wooden map of the United States made of 15 types of wood from nine countries. 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.

**7 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. Reservations required for dinner. **Grant Village Lake House** Enjoy casual dining and a great lake view.

**8 Lake Yellowstone Hotel and Cabins** (not shown) 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.

**9 Lake Lodge Cabins** (not shown) The lodge's porch affords a rocking-chair view of shimmering reflections of the mountains on Yellowstone Lake. There are also two cozy fireplaces in the lodge. Cabins with private baths are grouped nearby. The **Lake Lodge Cafeteria** offers hot entrees, salads, sandwiches and to-go items.



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. NPS staff will conduct required AIS inspections seven days per week at the Bridge Bay and Grant Village boat ramps and at the South Entrance Ranger Station. Boats intended for use on Lewis Lake must be inspected at Grant Village or the South Entrance before launching.

### 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

Owners must assume complete responsibility for their pets, which must be leashed at all times. For the safety of pets and wildlife, pets 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](http://yellowstonenationalparklodges.com).

### 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. Yellowstone General Stores operate several snack bars and sell groceries and grab-and-go items. Pick up a free **Experience Planner** at any Yellowstone National Park Lodges facility—it features a park map with picnic areas marked, as well as locations of gift shops and restaurants. The Kids Activity Book, full of games and puzzles, as well as valuable coupons for parents, is also available at all Yellowstone National Park Lodges dining rooms. See the “Plan Your Visit” chapter for more lodging and dining information.

## 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, 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 from early May to mid-October, and periodically during the winter season. For appointments or assistance, please call **(307) 545-7325**. **Lake Clinic**, located at the north end of Yellowstone Lake, is open during the summer. 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, art-work, curios and gifts.

## LAUNDRY AND PUBLIC SHOWERS

In summer, Grant Village Campground, Fishing Bridge RV Park, Canyon Campground and the Old Faithful area have coin 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 &

Pick up a guide of facilities, scenic areas and features accessible to guests with disabilities at any entrance station or visitor center. For trip planning information, contact the **Park Accessibility Coordinator**, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190; **(307) 344-2314** or visit [nps.gov/yell](https://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. **Call (406) 848-7333** or **(307) 344-7381**.



## WORK IN YELLOWSTONE

Each summer and winter, **Yellowstone National Park Lodges** hires employees to live and work in Yellowstone. There are a variety of positions for eligible candidates. For more information and to apply, please visit [yellowstonejobs.com](https://yellowstonejobs.com).

Jobs with the **National Park Service** can be found at [usajobs.gov](https://usajobs.gov).





# 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. Archeologists 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

NPS



*Harry Yount, the first gamekeeper of Yellowstone, envisioned the National Park Service as we know it today.*

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,



*David E. Folsom, C.W. Cook (left) and William Peterson (right) explored the Yellowstone region in the 1860s.*

NPS

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.



*Members of the Kiowa tribe are believed to have lived in the Yellowstone area*

Library of Congress



# 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. However, 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 in this vast wild country.

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

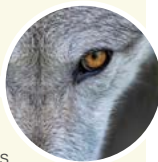
Yellowstone National Park recycles aluminum and steel cans, plastic containers, glass and paper products. Please place recyclable materials in marked receptacles located in most developed areas, all lodges areas and campgrounds.



## Oh, Ranger! 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.



For answers to all your questions, go to **OhRanger.com**

## SUSTAINABLE LODGING AND 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 Yellowstone National 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 **www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/who-we-are/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.

During summer, ranger-led interpretive walks explore wolf natural history and habitat. Check at visitor centers for schedules.

In winter, two travel packages—*Winter Wolf Discovery* and *Trail of the Wolf*—offer opportunities to spot wolves in the Lamar Valley. For more information, visit **yellowstonenationalparklodges.com** or call (866) 439-7375.

## 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**.

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 understand-

ing 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 **nps.gov/gettinginvolved**.

For information about the **NPS Volunteer Program**, and other volunteer opportunities, visit **volunteer.gov**.



SHARE YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOS WITH US!

FOLLOW US! @OhRanger

**PROTECTING AMERICA'S BACKYARD**

- They give us fresh water, clean air and unforgettable experiences.
- They give us beauty, serenity and escape.
- They are OUR public lands.

It doesn't take much to give a little something back to ensure that these places will be here for our children to enjoy. Join the thousands of individuals who play a part in helping to care for our National Forests every day.

Learn how you can help at [www.nationalforests.org](http://www.nationalforests.org)



## THINGS TO DO

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 walk with an interpretive ranger or riding horseback through Roosevelt Country, 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

National Park Service rangers offer interpretive talks and guided nature and history walks during the day. They also present evening talks and illustrated programs at various locations in the park. Topics cover many different themes and stories at each park location. Programs are available for both adults and children. Check the park newspaper, Yellowstone, for a complete schedule of ranger-led programs, or ask at any visitor center for current times and listings.

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.

### 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** 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 Yellow-

stone National Park fishing permit (\$18 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. Scenicruise 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. Fishing rods and tackle are provided on charters. Call **(307) 344-7311** for guided charters. Rentals are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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. Each person on a vessel must have a Coast Guard-approved "wearable" personal float-inflating device. Boating season begins the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend (usually the last weekend in May) and extends through the first Sunday in November.



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation protects and restores our nation's wildlife and habitats. Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)





## 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 Gardiner 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 m) away from bears and wolves and at least 25 yards (23 m) 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.

The *Experience Planner*, available at any park hotel or campground front desk or activity desk, has information on all tours and activities, including schedules and rates. Information is also available by calling Yellowstone National Park Lodges at **(307) 344-7311** or by visiting [yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://yellowstonenationalparklodges.com).

## 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 *Total Yellowstone*, *Yellowstone Couples Adventure* and *Wild About Yellowstone*. 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 note 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). *Note:* 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 activities, contact Yellowstone National Park Lodges or pick up a *Winter Rates and Packages* brochure at any park hotel.

**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.

**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.

**Ski/Snowshoe Shuttles:** Vans and snowcoaches from Old Faithful Snow Lodge provide convenient shuttles to other areas of the park.

**Ski Tour:** Journey by snowcoach 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.

**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. Snowshoes are available at Old Faithful Snow Lodge.

## LODGING & LEARNING PACKAGES

Active and engaging Lodging & Learning adventures 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 a ski program (*Yellowstone on Skis*) or programs that offer an introduction to winter in the park, like *Winter in Wonderland* and *Old Faithful Winter Expedition*. Wildlife photo expeditions and safaris are also an option. To learn more about these award-winning programs, please call **(307) 344-7311** or visit their website at [yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://yellowstonenationalparklodges.com).

## 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 beverages or vending machines at the Indian Creek and West Thumb warming huts.

## PARK PROGRAMS

The NPS conducts talks, illustrated programs and informational tours designed to help you appreciate the park's wonders. Ranger-led hikes and walks are also offered. Check the park newspaper, *Yellowstone*, for a schedule of programs and activities, or ask at visitor centers.



## 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).

If you are already staying in the park and wish to reserve additional lodging or activities, the front desk staff at the park lodges can make arrangements.



# 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 sightseeing 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 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.

## 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.

## 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.





Shutterstock

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is 24 miles long and between 800 and 1200 feet deep.

## 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.

## 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.



# CAMPING

Of Yellowstone's 12 campgrounds, seven are operated on a first-come, first-served basis by the National Park Service. Five of the campgrounds, encompassing more than 1,400 sites, are operated by Yellowstone National Park Lodges and may be reserved up to one year 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, or for more information, visit [yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://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 reservable campgrounds have restrooms, fire grates, flush toilets and some tables accessible to persons with disabilities. Fishing Bridge RV Park (closed for 2019) 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 backcountry program's costs. Anyone obtaining a permit to stay overnight in the backcountry—there are some 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. There will be a \$3.00 per-person, per night fee for backpackers and boaters. Groups of 5 or more will be charged a total of \$15 per night. Stock users will be charged \$5.00 per-person, per night. Visitors may purchase an Annual Backcountry Pass for \$25, which covers the per-person, per-night backcountry fees for the individual pass holder for the season in which the pass is purchased. A portion of the 300+ backcountry sites are reservable in advance for a flat \$25 fee (not covered by the annual pass). Call (307) 344-2160 for more information. See the "Nature & Wildlife" chapter for details about how to be responsible in the backcountry and how to reduce your risk of encounters with bears.



For answers to all your questions,  
go to **OhRanger.com**



## YELLOWSTONE CAMPGROUNDS

Campground Operating schedule • Location	FEE	NUMBER OF SITES	FIREWOOD SOLD	FLUSH TOILETS	DISPOSAL STATION	BOAT ACCESS	PAY SHOWERS
<b>Indian Creek</b> Mid-June to mid-September • Eight miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs	\$15.00	70					
<b>Mammoth</b> Year-round • Mammoth Hot Springs	\$20.00	85	•	•			
<b>Norris</b> Mid-May to late September • Near Gibbon River	\$20.00	111	•	•			
<b>Madison*</b> Late April to mid-October • Madison	\$26	278	•	•	•		
<b>Bridge Bay*</b> Mid-May to late September • Three miles southwest of Lake Village near Bridge Bay Marina	\$26	432	•	•	•	•	
<b>Fishing Bridge RV Park*</b> (closed 2019) Mid-May to early September • One mile east of Fishing Bridge Junction; hard-sided camping units only—no tents	\$47.75	340		•	•		•
<b>Grant Village*</b> Mid-June to mid-September • Southern end of Yellowstone Lake	\$31	430	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Lewis Lake</b> Mid-June to early November • Off South Entrance Road	\$15.00	85				•	
<b>Pebble Creek</b> Mid-June to late September • Off Northeast Entrance Road	\$15.00	27					
<b>Slough Creek</b> Mid-June to mid-October • Ten miles northeast of Tower-Roosevelt Junction	\$15.00	16					
<b>Tower Fall</b> Late May to late September • Three miles southeast of Tower-Roosevelt Junction	\$15.00	31					
<b>Canyon Village*</b> Late May to late September • 0.25 miles east of Canyon Village	\$31	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.



## NATURE &amp; WILDLIFE

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



1



2



3



4



5



6

### 1. BISON (*BISON 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. Photo: NPS.

### 2. ELK (*CERVUS ELAPHUS*)

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. Photo: NPS.

### 3. MOOSE (*ALCES ALCES*)

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. Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife.

### 4. OSPREY (*PANDION HALIAETUS*)

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. Photo: NPS.

### 5. RIVER OTTER (*LUTRA CANADENSIS*)

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. Photo: NPS.

### 6. TRUMPETER SWAN (*CYGNUS BUCCINATOR*)

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**. Photo: NPS.



MAY THEY INSPIRE

## 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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## IDENTIFYING YELLOWSTONE'S BEARS

### GRIZZLY BEAR



#### Prints



### BLACK BEAR



#### 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.



## YELLOWSTONE GIANT SCREEN

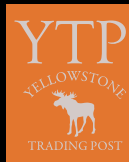
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# WALKING & HIKING

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

All overnight hikes require backcountry permits which carry a \$3.00 per-person, per-night fee. Groups of five or more pay a flat fee of \$15 per night. Stock users will be charged \$5.00 per-person, per night. 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 \$25.00. For a \$25 service charge, visitors may make backcountry campsite reservations for trips made more than two days in advance; please call (307) 344-2160 for more information. When you receive your permit, carefully read the backcountry guidelines and regulations and talk with a park ranger.



NPS

*Rangers at visitor centers will help you choose the best trails for a day hike.*

## 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:

- **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 (406) 224-5367 or visit for more 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.

- **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.

## FURTHER READING

If you'd like to learn more about hiking in Yellowstone, we recommend the following books:

*Yellowstone Trails.* Marschall, Mark. Yellowstone Association, 2012.

*Best Easy Day Hikes—Yellowstone.* Schneider, Bill. Falcon Press, 2003.

# Wyoming's Largest

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# JUST FOR KIDS

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

Pick up a free Junior Ranger newspaper at any visitor center and start tracking animals, predicting geyser eruptions and more. Kids ages 5 to 12 who finish enough activities earn a Junior Ranger patch.

## WATCH OLD FAITHFUL ERUPT

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

## 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 any 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 A WATERFALL

Upper and Lower Falls in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone highlight the incredible beauty and power of waterfalls.

## 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.



LOCATED IN TETON VILLAGE

# RIDE THE TRAM

GET \$7 OFF YOUR  
AERIAL TRAM TICKET OR  
\$10 OFF A FAMILY PASS\*

[JACKSONHOLE.COM](https://jacksonhole.com)

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ONLINE ONLY

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort delivers summer adventure for all in our majestic natural setting — just 12 miles from Jackson Hole on the way to Grand Teton National Park. Take a ride on the iconic Aerial Tram to see the Tetons on a grand scale, hike miles of scenic trails dotted with wildflowers, climb high on a guided climbing experience known as Via Ferrata or enjoy a delicious meal with a view at a mountain-top restaurant. The Tetons are calling.





# PHOTOGRAPHY

For millennia, we've looked towards the heavens and contemplated what's beyond our orbit and universe. More recently, stargazing has become increasingly difficult for millions of people living in developed areas. If you live you in a populated area east of the Mississippi or along the Pacific coast, odds are that you can count the number of stars you see on your hands. National and state parks—remote and minimally developed—not only protect our land, but also our dark skies which are ideal for astrophotography.

There are two primary types of astrophotography shots that yield different, but stellar compositions. A long exposure setting will show stars trailing across the sky, while a shorter exposure will show pinpoints of light—objects that a camera can capture that the unaided eye cannot. Both require a camera with interchangeable lenses and manual controls to set aperture, ISO, and exposure settings. Here's what you'll need to start:

- **A sturdy tripod:** Simply put, a shaky tripod will yield blurry photos.
- **A cable release or remote control or intervalometer:** You'll want to avoid touching your camera to minimize shake. The addition of an intervalometer will allow you to take sequential long exposures
- **Batteries:** Your aperture may be open for several hours, so it's important to have multiple fresh and fully charged batteries.
- **A wide lens:** Use the fastest, widest lens available.
- **A head lamp:** It'll be useful to set up your equipment and illuminate your foreground.

Check the cloud cover; if there's too much wait until you have a clearer night. Before you start, set your focus to infinity and turn off your autofocus and high ISO noise reduc-

tion. Next, set your white balance to daylight settings (5500k) and turn on your mirror lock to avoid mirror shake. Wait until the moon is out, too, as it'll illuminate and add detail to your foreground. Make sure that it's behind you. To capture star trails:

- Set your ISO at 200 to reduce digital noise.
- Compose your image, making sure you have interesting features in the foreground.
- Choose your focal length. The longer the focal length, the quicker your star trails will start to form.
- Set your camera to manual mode so that you can select your shutter speed and aperture.
- Set your aperture between f/2.8 and f/4 for best results.
- Select "bulb mode" as your shutter speed.
- Use your cable release or remote to open the shutter or set your timer for two to four minutes.

Check your results. If your picture is too dark, increase the exposure time. If your trails are too short, increase the exposure time. Keep playing around with your settings to get the results you desire. To learn how to take photos of the milky way and millions of points of light, visit [ohranger.com/brightskies](http://ohranger.com/brightskies).



*Photographing the night sky is as close as many of us will get to exploring space.*

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## Discover Moab in the Off-Season

With unmatched solitude, spectacular views, and discounted rates, the off-season in Moab is fast becoming one of the most rewarding times to visit. Enjoy year-round access to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, Dead Horse Point State Park and thousands of square miles of spectacular red rock scenery. No matter what time of year you visit, Moab's warmth and hospitality will shine through.



# MOAB

Where Adventure Begins

For a free Moab Travel Planner call  
435-259-8825 or visit

[discovermoab.com](http://discovermoab.com)







## 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 ho-



Shutterstock

The world famous Old Faithful Geyser erupts multiple times a day. Get there early and find a seat on the viewing platform.

tels and include all the major natural highlights of the park. Information, schedules and rates are available in the Experience Planner, available at all park hotels and Yellowstone National Park Lodges-operated campgrounds.

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!

Wildness reminds us what it means to be **HUMAN**, what we are **CONNECTED TO** rather than what **WE ARE SEPARATED FROM.**  
—terry tempest williams





# NATURE VALLEY

HAVE SOME  
FAMILY FUN

CLIMB A MOUNTAIN

SLEEP UNDER THE STARS

RECHARGE

EAT A NATURE VALLEY BAR

CAST A LINE

RUN A RIVER

REFRESH

FIND YOUR  
HAPPY PLACE

HIT THE TRAIL

## TAKE A HIKE WHERE THE WIFI IS WEAK!

You're not going to remember the time you spent surfing the web. Get back to nature and see why you'll find the best tweets outside, not online.

**#NatureGives**

